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180+ Students from 40 countries, Six Scale centers – (MIT USA, Zaragoza, Malaysia, Luxemburg, GCLOG- Latin America. 3 weeks in MIT was one of the best experiences for me. Apart from having senior industry speakers from industries such as Johnson & Johnson, CV&S, Roche, AB-INV and many more, IAP offer much more than just giving supply chain theories and concept.

Working on APICS case and presenting our Business Case to industry visitors and faculty was an enriching experience. It gave us a good experience of create a pitch for venture capital, financial modelling and convincing the venture capitals for a startup idea. The challenging questions in the presentation also helped us to improve on our understanding of the ideas and question some of the underlying assumptions we have made while creating a sales pitch.

The fresh connection game gave us a platform to collaborate with student from other SCALE centers and simulate the problems and challenges of managing a dynamic supply chain. Each round was full of surprises and the effort of the whole team was required to improve the Return on Investment of the firm we were managing. This taught us the importance of multifunctional optimization in supply chain and breaking the silos of different function in the game such as Purchasing, Operations, Supply Chain and Sales.

The industry visit to Walgreens pharmacy and Locus Robotics was an enriching experience. The distribution center visit of Walgreens (2nd largest pharmacy store) helped us understand the process and challenges of distribution in a pharmacy. While Locus Robotics opening our eyes to the changing future of distribution center and how Robots are transforming the operations and empowering people in the warehouse to do a better job by improving productivity.

In class learning of python (one of the most popular language currently in the world) helped us further improve our data analysis skills for our thesis and future work. The leadership class by Dr. Bruce Arntzen and Dr. Marina Mattos helped us to understand some of the dynamics of the workplace that we should be able to navigate through in our place. The leadership videos on the different cases was fun to work with. We were excited to create the video and also watch video of other folks. Some of the videos were very creative and showed us how can we improve our presentation in the future workplace.

All these activities were a great value addition and fun to work on and a great learning experience. However, the real value of IAP program- SCALE connect, lies in the network that we were able to build in 3 weeks. IAP gave us an opportunity to meet some of the best minds in supply chain in the world and built a working professional relationship. All different activities such as APICS, Fresh connection only helped us to strengthen our bond.

As I am about to board the flight here and go back to Malaysia, I can say that I will cherish the three weeks of IAP as one of the most rewarding experience of life.

All this has been mainly made possible only by the flawless planning of all the SCALE centers, Program Directors, Faculty and Associates. It was a job done with perfection.

Thank you.
Manish Patwal

Three positive Key highlights that you will take away from your three-week IAP experience.

1. Locus Robotics Tour: Locus Robotics is a warehouse robotics company that manufactures autonomous, mobile robots to support e-commerce. It was an amazing experience to see robots in action in Locus robotics tour.
2. Speakers- It was a privilege to watch speakers ranging from supply chain directors, CEO to inventors. The insights shared by industry leaders in change management, realigning operations with organizational strategy were very useful.
3. Research Fest: It was an amazing experience to present our thesis poster in research fest to a wide range of audience from academia and industry.

Suggest up to 3 points of improvement (for recommendation in next years IAP) – Nil. I liked all the aspect of IAP.

Photos Followed:



