

# IAP Seminar

## Boston - Massachusetts

08.01.2018 - 26.01.2018

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### **My personal experience**

Before talking about my experience on the IAP it is appropriate to make a small premise. I came into contact with MIT a couple of years ago when I decided to sign up for an online supply chain course organized by them. I then continued and completed what is today called MicroMaster. It was a very interesting experience because it gave

me the opportunity to learn some aspects of the supply chain that I did not know and confirm the skills I had already acquired during my studies and my professional career. At the end of the MicroMaster I had the pleasure of being invited to continue supply chain studies in Malaysia that also included three weeks dedicated to the IAP in Boston. MIT has always been a benchmark for the supply chain. In fact it is considered the n1 university in the world on these issues.

I must say that the impact with MIT was immediately very interesting and full of activity. The first key aspect was the meeting with many other experts and students of the supply chain, approx. 200, of 54 different nationalities, also invited to this seminar. The possibility of exchanging opinions and discussing common problems and issues was perhaps the most formative aspect. From my experience the cultural differences of people are one of the most relevant aspect in job. Every time we deal with people, we must be aware of their differences in approaching a problem or setting a list of priorities. Being able to understand those, van make the difference between a succesfull project and a complete failure.

The IAP has been studied in detail and the MIT has certainly confirmed the fame that precedes it. We have had the opportunity to listen to several presentations of managers from different companies who have provided us, their interesting point of view. We also had days dedicated to teaching both on leadership and on negotiation strategies which, in my opinion, perhaps for the limited time, did not fully address the topics. We also had the opportunity to deal with business cases in teams. The teams were composed each time by different people, giving us all the opportunity to confront almost all the people present at the seminar. Business cases have always been extremely interesting and have reflected issues that often arise in working life.

The visits to the companies were also very interesting. Personally I found the most relevant visit to the Walgreen warehouse. In fact, I saw an extremely advanced automated warehouse that led the company to reach important numbers and efficiency. The whole visit at the Walgreen has been organized in an excellent way and also the

presentations made by the company's top management have been very interesting and not discounted.

Finally I want to talk about the day dedicated to the presentation of posters. I think this day represented the perfect completion of all three weeks. During the day the students were able to present their projects to companies and investors with whom they exchanged information and opinions. Probably for many of them that was the first contact to a brilliant career.