

IAP Write up

Introduction

IAP 2018 on Boston was a great experience to broaden my educational and professional spectrum. There were over 200 participants from over 50 countries who has experiences from various industries. The demographics of participants is very rare to observe from any other organizations and I am proud of being a part of that. The programs were very well organized and rich in contents. For the most, I liked the way of how they structured each lecture. Each lecture or class was divided in 3 to 4 modules which includes a lecture, team assignment and feedback from the lecturer. I think it is a brilliant way to actually learn and practice the materials thought on a class. I would like to briefly explain my experiences from the IAP in three parts: Speakers series, APICS competition and Industry tours.

Speakers series

There were 9 sessions of seminar. Most of the speakers were from industry with a lot of wisdom and knowledge. The most interesting topic for me was the one with Dr. Joe Coughlin. He was so smart and logical and the way he delivers the contents was amazing. The topic was about demographic changes and its effects on modern economy. Personally, I was surprised that Korea is the worst country in terms of birth rate. He spent considerable time on explaining the effects of lower birth rate and the that was beyond my imagination. It was quite interesting and frightened for the same time, because I have never really acknowledged the change in this point of view. I really appreciate Dr. Coughlin for giving us a change to have a new insight on the changes we are facing.



APICS Competition

The APICS Competition was a pure joy of learning and I really enjoyed it a lot. APICS is an organization for supply chain education and they were kind enough to come to MIT hosting a business case competition. I happened to be lucky to meet a group of smart, intelligent students, and we were able to get the third prize for the competition. Our topic was based on the question: how can we improve the traceability of product which directly related to the human health? We picked meet packing industry as an example, because it is one of the industries that the traceability is so critical. Next, we gathered to discuss about which new technology would be useful to develop a more robust traceability system. After days of research, we decided to go with Block Chain and Drone technology, because Block Chain technology was helpful to insure the robustness of data network and Drone technology could be used to trace the cattle farm's environment. Applying the technologies was not an easy step though. Even if it was theoretical case, we had to consider the fact if it is feasible. However, we had come up with an idea about linking the data in a private block chain network and it became easier afterward. Through many meetings with teammates to build the case and presentation in front of many professionals, I gained tremendous amount of valuable experiences and confidence. For me, I certainly say that this was the most valuable experience from the IAP



Industry Tours

I was lucky that I can be the most desired company for the second industry tour: "Amazon Robotics". Amazon Robotics is a company which produces robots for Amazon's automated warehouse. The picture shows how the robots work. When an order is placed, the order information is sent to the robot, then

the robot goes under the rack which has ordered item, lift it and come back to the fulfillment location.



At Amazon Robotics, there were hundreds of robots were moving and it was amazing to see that a lot of robots were moving in different directions then there is no accident or slow down. The operation manager explained us how the robots are produced. In clean, modern assembly lines, engineers were standing and assembling their own parts on the module. All the process looked so efficient and neat and I was shocked when the manager told us that it takes 1 hour to build a robot and they are producing a robot in every 2 minutes! This tour was definitely one of the most unforgettable moments from the whole IAP trip, because it is rare to see how the top level, high tech machines are actually designed and produced in the eyes.

Summary

I have to say that I did not expect much from the IAP before I go there. I was in US just 2 months before the IAP, so I was had to fly from US to Malaysia for 20 hours and fly back to US for another 24 hours in short period of time. However, it would be a dumbest thing in my life if I missed the chance to be in the IAP. I would not say it is because of it's an experience from one of the top level universities. I think it is a wonderful experience because of the energy and moments created from a lot of smart people from all around the world who share an interest are rare and insightful. I will never forget the 3 weeks in my life.