

My IAP Journey at Massachusetts Institute of Technology

"Do, or do not, there is no try." Master Yoda, Star Wars



I never dreamt that I would ever get the opportunity to attend a prestigious school such as the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), at the U.S. About a month ago, I guess I was wrong. It all began when I took the leap of faith to enquire and apply for the Master of Supply Chain Management program at the Malaysia Institute for Supply Chain Innovation (MISI). However, that is a different experience worth to be written in a different piece.

Together with a group of more than 20 students representing MISI, we were given the opportunity of a lifetime to attend the Independent Activity Period at MIT as part of our Master's program at MISI. There, we would be part of the 200 students from over 50 countries representing the different MIT Global SCALE Network. Although the IAP was only 3-weeks, it was filled with impactful activities involving leadership building skills, simulation game, speaker sessions, software application classes, competitions, and company visits.

Particularly, I enjoyed playing the Fresh Connection game. For someone who does not have a background in supply chain, the game allowed me to have a better overview on the importance of different supply chain functions and the need for close interaction between each of them. While it may not be easy to have everyone on the same goal, it is imperative to have good communication because failure to do so would affect the company.

Besides the game, I found some speaker series to be very insightful. Some of the new things I learned was on the amazing work being done by the Dr. Joe Coughlin with the MIT Age Lab and the applicability of data analytics in the world of retails as shared by Holger Komms, Head of Data Scientist from Adidas. The sharing by Holger Komms was very interesting as he discussed the important role of data analytics in helping companies to become more effective and efficient. Nevertheless, he emphasized the need to not blindly analyse every data but to know the right data to analyse.



Apart from the activities held, being in the city of Cambridge itself, where the two world class institutions are located is surreal. Somehow, I felt there was a different positive vibe as I was in the city and walking through the hallways of MIT. Overall, it was and amazing experience. I do hope that I will get another opportunity to be there again and be surrounded by the scholars of MIT in the future.