

I enrolled into the MISI supply Chain programme because of my role in developing a blueprint for an integrated advanced planning and scheduling system. Coming from an information systems background, I wanted to be able to view technology application and implementation from a different angle. As part of the opportunity given by this programme, I was put on a trip to Boston with a few others to experience the IAP at MIT.

54 countries in one room, 3 weeks of action-packed activities, with tons of networking opportunities". This is just the tip of what the IAP at MIT really is. At IAP, we viewed supply chain from different angles including from the aspects of Information Systems, Retail, Operations, Logistics and Leadership. Thrown into the mix were also industry talks from highly influential people in the area of supply chain and high tech industrial tours.

12 Industry speakers were invited to share on their experiences in terms of supply chain during the 3 weeks period. Some of the most intriguing speakers include MISI's very own David Gonsalvez & Venkat Sumantran on the Future of Urban Mobility and Holger Komm on Data Science at Adidas. The other topics covered in the talks include Block Chain in Supply Chain, Global Integrated Functions at BASF, Model of Uber Freight, Supply Chain at C&S Grocers, Supply Chain at Dominos & Campbell, Navigating the Longevity Economy, UPS Operations, and Disruptive Innovation.

Opportunities to view current Supply Chain practices came in the form of industrial tours. The highlight of the tours were the Walgreens Distribution Center and Boston Scientific Distribution Center. We see automated picking system which empowers disabled to work efficiently, custom made packaging on the spot: optimized for cube utilization, and seamless product flow in these tours. On one of the long weekends, a group of us from MISI went to the AB-Inbev Brewery Tour on our own initiative to take a look at the operational supply chain of a brewery.

During the IAP, we were also exposed to many leadership courses, learning how to engage people with Vision, Emotion, Logic and Details. We get to network with other students from across the world during multiple activities in each session and also on major competitions like the APICS presentation and The Fresh Connection. APICS has helped improve our creative thinking and compels us to see where current technology fits into supply chain where else The Fresh Connection introduces to us what Sales & Operations Planning is all about: many functions within the organization with their own interests working together as a team and communicating to achieve a larger goal.

The highlight of the entire IAP experience would be the research expo where 104 thesis posters were presented. The accumulation of supply chain innovation from the experienced minds of individuals from 54 countries is something mind-blowing. Being given a voice to share my ideas with top industrial practitioners and researchers was memorable.

I believe the IAP is an important eye opener for those who plan to further immerse themselves in the area of supply chain. This is a talent in Malaysia which is currently scarce and the need for it will only grow bigger. Supply chain is a wide field as it not only looks at movement of goods to customers but also the flow of money and information. An equally wide talent pool will be required to match the demand of businesses who wants their supply chain to remain efficient and adaptable.

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THE IAP EXPERIENCE

