

Norashikin Md Nor PSCM

The journey of IAP really thought me a lot of things not just on academic specifically on supply chain management but networking, socializing, surviving, building strong relation with MISI team and also improving my confidence to communicate to every kind of individual. The day when we arrived, it was very cold day. The cold that I under estimate because I was not properly covered, it was minus 4 Celsius. We managed to arrive hotel safely and rested well.



Our first day of class started on 14th January 2019. My first steps to MIT campus area and it was full of excitement.



We had our ice breaking session where we were assigned by groups. My team member in the ice breaking session were among student from GCLOG, SCMb, SCMr and ZLOGr. After the ice breaking session, we had instructed to find our APICS team that had been assigned to us (all of these can be found in the red MIT file given to us where student photos books, schedule and team assignment copy provided). APICS competition had been designed to follow a similar concept like SHARK TANK, but they called this completion as BOSTON APICS SHARK TANK COMPETITION. After a while of trying to look for my team member, I found them or rather they found me. We got to know each other during our lunch session that we had together. My team member Kenny, Lance and Elissar are from SCMr and SCMb. They are experience people came from different background, very intelligence people that easy and fun to work with. We then spend our time to brain storm on the idea for the competition. I am in love with the opportunity to get together during discussion and brain storming the ideas because each one of them have very great ideas and it was amazing on how we aligned our idea and agreed on our topic. At night on our first day, we had a welcome social event where we got chances to mingle among students from MIT SCALE Network. On the first day, I have learned to leverage my communication skills, my networking skills and also to work better in a team that consist of dynamic skills, different personalities and background.

My experiences of IAP journey continues fruitfully as below:

Attending IAP Speakers series where the speakers invited came from different background such as supply chain, procurement and researchers in MIT. It was amazing to know how different supply chain operated in different industry and to get to know other area of value chain that will impact the supply chain as a whole.

Big data is important in supply chain and we got the opportunity to learn Python during our Python class. It was overwhelming for those who don't have IT background but over the time the lecturer made us comfortable with the jargon terms of Python and it made us more confidence to use the language. We had in class activities, assignment and project to be completed however I was fortunate that MISI team had study groups to support each other during the completion of the tasks given. Python was not just that tools we use to analyse data, we also had been given opportunity to attend Llama soft (supply chain guru) classed where we learned to use big data to simulate and explore predictive analytics for dynamic supply chain operations

Besides APICS we have another competition that we have to join which is called Fresh Connection Challenge. Fresh Connection thought me on how individual operations in the company affecting each other. Working in silos will create conflict in the company where final objective of making profits can never be optimized. I learned that discussion and understand each of the functions better helped to create efficiencies in the operations and grow the business better.

Opportunity to go visit Walgreens and learned they supply chain operations was eye opening to me. Walgreens automated operations can be example for other similar supply chain operations to drive their improvement better. Besides Walgreens, visit to AB Inbev also thought me on how increased of SKUs created more complexities in the logistics network design.

Research expo gave us opportunity to share our study to the industry peoples that attended. I got my chance to explain the relevance of my study and how my research can be applied to all industry for better improvement. I also had my opportunity to get connected to few of people that interested with my study via linkedIn and this gave me benefits of growing my network among supply chain people.



Three key highlights from my take away:

1. Company can never survive with silo operations (Fresh Connection)
2. Creative thinking is a quality that we must have to generate better improvement idea (APICS)
3. Supply Chain is a key to life. Every aspects of demand and demographics are supported by existing of Supply Chain and how supply chain operated to cater for these differences are amazing and opportunity to learn more in supply chain never end (IAP speaker and industry tour)

IAP can be better improve for next years by:

1. Not making Python as compulsory to attend class for all because not all of us use Python in our job and for those that not use, we did not able to relate on the importance of using Python
2. To open more participants to join industry tour to Amazon
3. To open Llama class to all