

## **How IAP was and what we learned from the activity?**

### **Introduction**

On August 22, 2016, I have been informed that I was selected to attend the MIT IAP 2017 (Independent Activities Period) at MIT campus, Boston in Jan 2017. At the time, it was a mixed feeling between proud, happy, afraid and nervous at the same time. Proud and happy for being selected, afraid that my company will reject my very long leaves application (either paid or unpaid) and nervous whether I can survive with of all the tops candidates of the world Supply Chain Master program from all continents.

On Jan 3, I was in flight heading Boston.

### **The IAP Sessions**

The sessions were very well planned between industrial exposures, latest research updates from MIT labs and professors, leadership skill-set building, socials networking, student collaborations, simulation games, research expos and industrial tours.

It was tremendously great to have such experts to come to MIT and delivered their thoughts and shared their experiences first hand. The sharing has opened my mind on how successful men thinks and execute their thought in meeting the goals. With speakers' broad experiences and areas to covers, the facilitators able to direct and scope the talks towards the intended areas, shaping the talks successfully.

On both tours (Walgreens and Quite Logistics), I could see and observe how real warehouses are operating in meeting their target objectives.

Walgreens has created great warehouse environment while at the same time supporting the PWD (people with disabilities) and becomes the best. With all the challenges, they still able to achieve best productivity. It's shows that a very well planned and good process flows are very important in making each implementation a success.

With a very high-tech environment, Quite Logistics has able to show that advancement in technologies can benefits the operations and minimized the dependencies while increasing the productivity at the same time returning the best ROI. It is interesting to see how people adopting and embracing advanced technology in succeeding the warehouse objectives.

At the same time, Boston APICS challenge competition has also exposed and taught us in how to interact within a team that have multiple international backgrounds towards successful case presentation. Within short time frame, the team was pushed to work in our best effort while at the same time contributes the best to win the competition.

### **Conclusion**

In conclusion, the IAP has given me broad experiences, knowledges and different perspectives in supply chain industries. It should be extended to all PSCM students to give them the same exposures.