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### **IAP 2019 Student Experience – Once in A Life Time Opportunity**

Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), is a prestigious university in the world. Everyone knows MIT is well-known for its first-class learning facilities and highly respected academicians located within the modern buildings in Cambridge, Boston. When MISI called to offer the opportunity to attend the Independent Activities Period (IAP) 2019 for 3 weeks, I immediately said yes without hesitation. Of course, before MISI can offer the place, there were conditions that I have to meet by October 2018 last year before MISI can confirm the offer. I diligently comply with the requirements and make sure that I met the conditions before the deadline. MISI of course, have no problem to confirm the offer when all the conditions were achieved.

MIT IAP for 2019 this year commenced from 14 January 2019 to 01 February 2019. Most of the students arrived in Boston on 11 January and on that day, when we were welcomed by the cold and chill wind with almost Zero Celsius weather in Cambridge. Of course, I ready and packed all the necessary winter clothing for the winter.

Our first activities started on 14 January 2019 where we gathered at the lobby of the Residence Inn getting ready for MIT representative to bring us to the venue for the registration. It was on this day, we finally met students from other centres. There were six centres worldwide under MIT Scale Network and for this year, about 180 students attended the program. During the registrations, we were given MIT booklets, program schedules, files and the most interesting pack is the student photo book. It has full of pictures and email address of the students attending the IAP. Everybody was excited that day in the lecture room. The student book was amazing and really useful especially when we found out that we will be divided into groups and team with a mix of students from other centres. We were also introduced to the faculty members of the MIT Centre for Transportation and Logistics and the organizing committees.

Looking at the time-table schedule given, the activities were packed from Monday to Friday, at 8.30 pm in the morning to 6.00 pm in the evening. Below are some of the agenda that I found interesting and really useful for me during IAP:

#### **1. IAP Speaker Series**

Most of the speakers were mainly from well-known institutions and public listed companies in the United States. During the session, the speakers will talk about their career development and their experience as supply chain expertise. The most interesting part for me is the supply chain best practise and challenges that the speakers told us and how difficult it was for them at first but in the end, it was really worthwhile and rewarding. I find this will be useful in my current supply chain environment and how I will use this for my reference dealing with the supply chain issue.

#### **2. Introduction to Phyton Program**

Python class is one of the hot topics among the students during this IAP. The program is new for me and most of us. It was hard at first frustrating to remember the instructions but in the end, we were glad it was part of our activities. After completing the class, I know it will be very useful in my work dealing with large data and analysing the data.

### **3. Leadership Workshop**

No doubt, the leadership workshop was very important and useful for those working in large and reputable companies. Since I worked for Repsol Oil & Gas, an international company with various background and nationalities, I found that the leadership activities and content really useful for my work and life. The Vision, Emotion, Logics and Detail (VELD) workshop helped me to improve my communication and engagement when dealing with the team, peers, management and others.

Key highlights of IAP that are really good and positive are as follows:

- a. IAP gathered students from various nationalities and background but with the same supply chain knowledge and learning. During the workshop, classes, gatherings and other networking events, I managed to exchange ideas, knowledge and share problems and challenges with other students which was really useful for my career and life.
- b. Workshops, games, presentation packs and industry organized by MIT was very good for knowledge and enhance my supply chain experience.
- c. MIT websites and various online library access are given to all the students are really useful for my reference on the supply chain issues, best practice and latest development.

Finally, for IAP improvement, I recommended that a full day registration and orientation is given to the students to familiarize with the MIT facilities, websites and the faculty members.