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THE SCALE CONNECT

First of all, I would like to thank MISI for giving me the opportunity to join the SCALE Connect in 2020. It was indeed a fruitful program for me as I have gained and learned so much from the supply chain professionals throughout the globe.

The travel from Kuala Lumpur to Boston was a long journey indeed, but thank you MISI, for being so considerate to arrange aisle seat for all of us so that we had the flexibility to move around the planes when needed. A small gesture like this touched my heart and made the travel much more comfortable than I expected. All of us stayed in the Residence Inn, which was a pretty decent hotel. My roommate and I enjoyed our stay and hospitality of this hotel throughout the entire three weeks in Boston.

As for the weather, I was able to adapt to the environment and the atmosphere of the snow and the cold breeze. I enjoyed the weather very much since I rarely get the chance to experience these kinds of climates in Malaysia.

The first day of the SCALE Connect was very excited because we met 160 attendees from 40 different countries who attended the SCALE Connect. The committee of the SCALE Connect did a good job by organizing networking sessions during the first day so that we could make friends with students from other SCALE network centers. I would like to say thank you for the SCALE Connect committee for organizing so many different types of classes and competitions for us to attend so that we are fully equipped for the real-world supply chain issues. Below are some of the important classes that I learned:

1. Python

Python has become popular in recent days because companies are focusing more on big data. Thanks to the SCALE Connect, I had the chance to learn Python systematically and learn how to use different functions in python to make data analysis easier and handy. For example, we can use Python to do data cleansing, data merging, plotting graphs and so on. I believe Python will be used extensively in my future career as now I focused on data analysis. However, the lecturer said that it is also critical to understand that Python is useful only when we have numerous data to analyze, else Microsoft Excel is good enough to basic analysis.

2. Llamasoft

Llamasoft is a software application for us to optimize supply chain design and network. The software is very intuitive and I enjoyed the class as the lecturer taught us how to use Llamasoft to model our current supply chain network and find different ways to improve our supply chain network. It is critical to remember the basic principle of creating the models in the Llamasoft which starts with design, cost and then constraint. I will try to use this software on my current job to see how we can improve our supply chain network and operation.

3. Shark Tank Competition

Shark Tank Competition is a group competition organized by APICS. Students from all different SCALE Network were separated into small groups to try to resolve supply chain issues. Although my group did not make it to the finals, all of us enjoy the brainstorming sessions and

the hard work behind scenes. From this competition itself, I learned about the importance of having good teamwork regardless of how tough was the project.

4. The SCALE Connect Speaker Series

Throughout 3 weeks of the SCALE Connect, there were many speakers invited to come to MIT to share their experiences. We had speakers from different industries and all of them are willing to share their thoughts and experiences. After listening to their sharing, we need to write a summary of 5 key takeaways. Even though all of them have different backgrounds and came from various industries, they shared the same passion in the supply chain field. They showed us the effort and commitment that they have invested in their career and how they tackle daily supply chain issues in their respective companies.

In general, the SCALE Connect has been a fascinating experience for me because it connects real world supply chain issues into our workshops. Solving those issues together with students from 40 countries was very insightful. I am particularly amazed by all the great knowledge provided by the industrial speakers in the SCALE Connect. They have been in the industry for years and their willingness to share is tremendously helpful for young supply chain professionals like us to better perform in our career. Besides, the intense schedule of the SCALE Connect, we had the chance to tour around Boston city during the weekends to experience the local culture and networking opportunities. Thank You MISI for this great opportunity.

3 Key highlights:

I. Great industry insights from the SCALE Connect speaker series. They have shared with us their experience and professionalism with us.
II. Amazing opportunities to connect with students from 40 over countries.
III. The SCALE Connect gave us the opportunity to learn powerful and useful application to tackle real life supply chain issues.

Quote: "Amazing opportunities to connect with students from 40 over countries. The SCALE Connect gave us the opportunity to learn powerful and useful application to tackle real life supply chain issues."