

Saturday, 03 November 2018

**Global Expedition to Europe [Paris, Dusseldorf, Brussels, Amsterdam]**

**Tenure: 16.10.2018-23.10.2018**

**Participants: 15 students of IBS Dehradun**

**Coordinator; Dr Amit Joshi**

**Highlights: Industrial Visit, Guest Lecture, Workshop, Leisure.**

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16.10.2018

DAY 1- PARIS



The day started with extreme tiredness, jet lag and yet loads of excitement. We landed in Paris at around 11:30 in the morning (Paris time). The airport was of course huge and flawless; once we were out we met our tour guide Mr. Sudhir. We freshened up and were off to see the city of romance. The weather was warm and not so cold as we expected it to be. We boarded a bus and our first location on the way was the *OPERA HOUSE*. The Opera house was large and beautiful with the architecture and majestic features from the golden centuries. We spent minutes admiring its authenticity and also took a few pictures. We also came across the historic *CHAMPS ELY SEES*. A long bridge, on which the pompous ceremony and marches are held on the, 14<sup>th</sup> of July.(Independence Day).



Our first destination was the ' *DU MUSEE PARFUM*' FRAGONARD; a perfume museum. Once we entered each of us were given a red sticker with the capital 'F' letter written on it. We were first given a small introduction about Fragonard and its past history and then we got see the making of perfumes what they were all about and why were they different. These perfumes were not synthetic and were purely made from the fragrance of flower petals and that's what made them so rare, special and of course expensive. We were given explanations about why these perfumes were so expensive for such small quantities and fun fact the maximum pure perfume that they could sell was just 30ml!.We were also told about how the idea of perfumes started and how the were used and bottled a few centuries ago. We were given an opportunity to smell 6 of their perfumes, they had 10 flavours and also they gave us their more cost effective offers and prices so we could buy them.

We stopped at McDonalds for a short lunch and then our next stop was The EIFFEL TOWER.



To see the huge tower just through the streets of the city felt so good. Yes, the tower is just made of iron rods but there was and is definitely something different, unique and magical about it. The vibes were just



so amazing that we could feel that there was a possibility of any dream come true for all us. The view of the tower took our breath away. We got a chance to take pictures at distance first and then after a long wait right under the Eiffel tower we finally got a ride up the tower till the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. We had an appointment at 7:30 to go up the Eiffel tower. The elevator was big and could take up to 50 people and it would go up slanting!! Once were on the top the view of the whole city blew our minds away. The twinkling little lights and the cool breeze were just too much to take in. While a few of us were busy taking photos and videos a few us were just feeling all off it for themselves and yet another few us were eating and shopping .... We all got take a little piece of the Eiffel tower back with us- little Eiffel tower key chains!! After the wonderful evening we boarded the bus back to the hotel had a pleasant meal and were off to our rooms for a sound sleep.



A really long tiring flight followed by a day we presumed to be tiring and sloppy turned out to be such a wonderful day, a day to remember for a life time.

**17.10.2018**

**Day 2 -Brussels**

Not wanting to leave Paris, the group half-heartedly packed their bags, for our departure to our next destination, Brussels the Capital of Belgium, little did we know that this beautiful city would make us get over Paris, in a heartbeat.



We began our journey to the city of Brussels at 9 A.M, and our first stop was Coca Cola Industry. There we learned about how Coca Cola is manufactured and distributed, we were informed about the safety norms followed by the company then we went on to see the fully automated warehouse of the plant, at the end of our visit we were invited to try out existing and new products that Coca Cola have in their product portfolio, we then bid farewell to the plant and headed towards our destination to the City of Brussels.





Next stop was the, Museum of the National Bank of Belgium; there we learned the history of money from how the humans if agree upon would consider rocks and shells currency, to the part where the monarchs printed their own face as propaganda.





During the evening, for our free time the students visited the Grand Palace, roamed around bought famous Belgium's handmade chocolates and shopped, and ended our day 2, in Europe.





**18.10.2018**

**Day 3- DUSSELDORF**

Our day started at 8:30 in the morning. We had a lavish and extremely delicious breakfast including pancakes sandwiches juices croissants coffee and much more. After the filling and extremely satisfying



breakfast we had set out to tour around Brussels. We first were taken to an amazing chocolate shop where each of us were given a yummy piece of chocolate to taste. We were allowed to look around the shop and buy chocolates. There was not just one type of chocolate there were so many different flavours and also many small little dolls made of chocolates. After that we were taken out in the city and we were just left free for a while to shop and look around. We came across really amazing buildings which still carried their ancient cultures. After several group photos we boarded our bus and set out to DUSSELDORF. The weather was extremely chilly and a warm sun was accompanied by a cool breeze, in short just the best weather to travel in.



Our bus journey was fun filled ride. We stopped for lunch again at pizza hut. Once we reached the hotel at 4:30pm all of us had decided to go out and roam around and relax as today was the only day that we had some free time to ourselves, all the others days were completely packed and something or the other was scheduled for us but at around 5pm we were called down to the lobby when we all got know that there was a small Durga pooja happening there!! We couldn't believe that the Indian spirit about Dussehra had come out till here. It felt so good to meet other Indians and speak in our language amongst everyone else. No matter how better other countries might be than our country our culture is so unique and so different, that anyone would love to be a part of it. Being a part of the pooja almost felt like being back at home. Being outside the country we had almost forgotten that it was Dussehra, yes of course we remembered the date but the feeling about the festival was gone but some how yet we found it in another corner of the world!! How bizarre yet wonderful is that?? After the rituals we had a wonderful tasty dinner including all the festival dishes which was served at the hotel itself.







We set out to our rooms with a happy heart and a happy stomach to get some good rest, for tomorrow was going to be an important day -THE WORKSHOP.

**19.10.2018**

**Day 4-Dusseldorf**

The D-Day arrived, the day of the workshop arrived, the students very enthusiastically got ready in their formal uniforms and set off on a course to the FOM university of applied Science, as usually our journey was amazing, and after an hour we reached our destination, as we got off our bus, A beautiful tall grey building stood before us, it had a rustic appeal as we took in the sights we entered the building, and were welcomed by their faculty guide, who took us to a well-furnished classroom where we were first given an introduction about the university. Offering professionals the chance to gain a state-recognized university degree without having to give up work or restrict their professional activity – this has been the objective of FOM University of Applied Sciences since its foundation in 1993.



Alongside professionals from all sectors of industry and with varying functions, trainees wishing to combine in-company training with a Bachelor degree course as part of a dual study programme also study at the internationally oriented university. To enable both professionals and trainees to optimally combine study and work, lectures are held in the evenings and at weekends. Many courses can also be taken on two days a week during the day.

**Workshop:**



Doctor Stiner, a visiting faculty soon to be turned permanent conducted a workshop on “Digital Thinking”, the workshop helped students learn about the new features that would be in trend in the near future in businesses.



The next part of the lecture was followed by the opportunities that an individual might get, in Germany, as they are facing a problem of decreasing working population they are trying to soften up the visa process for the working class qualified professionals so finding work in Germany would become easy.

During the time the Students were busy with the workshop, Our Professor Doctor Amit Joshi, also after being invited gave a guest lecture, to the Students of FOM, which received a lot of positive reviews.

**Guest Lecture by Dr Amit Joshi:**

As we were busy in analyzing and estimating how we could get our placement in this magnificent country, our professor was guided to a different class where he was required to conduct a session for the final year students belonging to BBA Program with specialization in International Business. It was a coincidence that Dr Joshi holds a diploma in International Business and the topic he had chosen for the session was cross cultural communication.



The session began with a light note where the students and the faculty member exchanged pleasantries; the lecture lasted for two and a half hours during which he explained **Cross-cultural communication** has become strategically important to companies due to the growth of global business, technology, and the Internet. Understanding cross-cultural communication is important for any company that has a diverse workforce or plans on conducting global business. Cross-cultural communication in an organization deals with understanding different business customs, beliefs and communication strategies. Language differences, high-context vs. low-context cultures, nonverbal differences, and power distance are major factors that can affect cross-cultural communication.







To abreast the students about the mechanism that is followed in IBS he showcased many activities so that the students can analyze and implement the practicality of the topic.



The session was rewarding as the students and teachers thanked him and gave him a positive feedback.

And we headed back to our hotel, but after a small detour we visited the river Rhine, and with that we ended our 4<sup>th</sup> day in Europe.

20.10.2018

DAY 5- AMSTERDAM



We packed our bags and left our hotels as early as we could, as the Next destination was the one that all were waiting for eagerly, Amsterdam. All filled with enthusiasm boarded the bus and were on the way, the first stop en-route to Amsterdam was a diamond factory, where we saw how the diamonds were cut and polished we also learned, how were they priced, after which we were offered to buy watches with diamonds on it, at a very appealing price.





After this we reached Amsterdam, the first place was the beautiful Victoria hotel, and right in front of that was the famous canals that flowed beautifully, and we all took a tour of the city via a cruise, it was a beautiful experience , after which the students were given the evening free, where they shopped, and roamed around the Dam Square, the evening in Amsterdam was like a dream come true, and like a dream the day came to an end, and we headed back to our hotels after a nice warm meal.



21.10.2018

#### Day 6- Amsterdam.

The students today visited the famous Zaanse Schans village, “Henri Willi” found this place, were cheese was manufactured.



ZAANSE SCHANS VILLAGE- what a beautiful place personally one of my favourites. The place was so beautiful the scenery the cute little cottages the farms the farm animals every little bit of it. Small little pathways and bridges were connecting each cottage to the other. There so many fresh water ponds around the whole village, each bridge was being built above these ponds and pretty little ducks and other birds swam in those waters. The village was known for their cheese making and for their chocolates. We



were first taken into a small cottage in which cheese was being made. We all must have definitely heard about 'Henri Willig' -the famous cheese company. Well their cheese was being made here. The making of fresh cheese and all the processes involved in it was shown to us and at the end we even got to taste a little bit of that delicious cheese. There were so many different types of cheeses that we did not even know existed. After that we moved into another little cottage where we could buy the cheese and some chocolates. The chocolates tasted so different and they had ten different flavoured chocolate bars, there were cottages with cute little souvenirs which we could buy and then finally out. We were allowed to roam around and click a few photographs. While we all gathered up near the farms to click group photographs the animals joined and they were such posers, especially, ducks and sheep. Around the lush green farms were these small windmills just like the ones we use to draw when we were little. It was a truly amazing experience and delightful sight. Of course time had come to leave and we bid adieu to the beautiful and peaceful village. We never thought that such type of places could actually exist but there it was. It was the type of villages that we would see in story book pictures.



After this we were dropped off at the grand Central station. We were free for the rest of the day to shop. The best part about this city was there were more cycles than people! And the tram tracks were just along the roads. Just a little ahead of the Central station were streets filled with endless shops and museums to visit. All of us just fled into shops to do the last of our shopping. Almost all of us walked out with shopping bags filled with clothes perfumes and accessories. At 6 the bus picked us up again at the station and headed off to an Indian restaurant. We reached there and filled our stomachs with the lovely spicy food and cherished all our last moments and memories.

22.10.2018

Day 7 Fly to India

Like all good things come to an end so did this trip, we woke up, and packed our bags and left for the airport to catch a connecting flight to New Delhi, as we boarded our flights, there was a sense of sadness that the trip had come to an end so quickly and wished if only we could stay a little bit longer, that was to be expected, as our flight took off, and once again I saw the city from an eagle's point of view, I saw the city well arranged, with every house placed as if we were playing a game of SIMs on my computer.



23<sup>rd</sup> October 2018, At 1.45 Am our plane descended for the IGI international airport, and looked out of the window and saw a cluster of lights, a wonder wall stars, there was something poetic beautiful about it, it looked stars, twinkling beneath us, and soon we landed.





2.A.M we landed and exited the airport, our incredible trip has come to an end, everyone bid goodbye to each other, but it was a short goodbye, as the very next day we would see each other again, back to our life, as regular students.

This trip has been an amazing opportunity for all of us to hone our skills, and give us exposures, we learnt so much not from just the workshops, but visiting each location and mingling with local population, this one week will be remembered throughout our lives and we cannot wait, for an opportunity to go back once again to the beautiful Nations of Europe.

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