

Wong Tit Shing Exchange Scholarship

Exchange Learning Report



Name: Tam Tin Lok

Faculty: FENG

Double Degree in Electrical Engineering and Business

Administration

Country: Singapore

Host Institution: Nanyang Technological University

Exchange Period: 4 August 2014 – 5 December 2015

(i) Learning experience on this trip

All in all, during the exchange to Singapore, I experienced and learnt a lot. The environment of studying in Singapore is quite different from that in Hong Kong.

First off, majority of the Singapore students are diligent and inquisitive about the knowledge. Not only do they want to know the superficial solutions and the steps of calculation to get the answer from the notes, but they are also eager to understand more about the facts. They always consult on the professors after the lesson and during consultation time. In my opinion, the learning environment of NTU is even more competitive than that of PolyU. I am so impressed that most of the students finished their questions before the tutorial class as it seldom happens in PolyU.

Should studying be recognized as a heavy burden at the moment or a key to the future success? I think that in the view of the Singapore student, they choose to believe in the latter one. Attitude determines altitude. I should learn to view the study as an access to future opportunity.

In the exchange, I completed some lab experiments with classmates. A part of an experiment was about the blocked rotor test on the 3 phase induction motor. The manual required us to slowly increase the variable ac voltage. However, both of us were too precipitate on the tedious procedures, turning up the power supply much higher than the rated value. Consequently, the main fuse was blown up and the tutors were so irritated that we didn't follow the instructions and cost them lots of times to sort out the errors. We learnt a lesson that we should peruse the instructions and follow them step by step patiently.

ShiHeng is my roommate in hall. We know each other well. He treated me a dinner in Bukit Timah Market & Food Centre.



(ii) Career aspiration

The trip to Singapore definitely widened my horizons and the views about my career path. Apart from the normal lectures, guest professors are frequently invited to give some extensive talks. Those give me advanced knowledge about the topics and their practical applications. I understood more about the job of a power engineer.

Due to the competitive environment, I was motivated to give extra efforts to study. Besides the attitudes of study, NTU students are interested in joining the engineering projects competition held by the NTU student union societies. I think those competitions where students can apply what they learn and develop an engineer's team spirit are beneficial to

their study and careers. I think apart from the studying for exam, I should acquaint myself with some engineering projects held among worldwide Universities.

(iii) Views on other culture

Singapore is a multicultural country. Even though Chinese constitutes the majority of the resident population (74.2%), Singapore also consists of Indians, Malays and other minorities. I learnt to cooperate with classmates with different races. Despite the fact that we own lots of differences such as the chatting topics, the stuff we are interested in and the food, I tried my best to appreciate their habits and traditions with a different perspective. As the adage, Love your neighbor as yourself, being humble and friendly is the greatest way to gain recognition and respect.

The Cuisine in Singapore is very toothsome. In Singapore, there are food centers nearby the housing estate and the business district. I tried most of them! Apart from the Chinese cuisine, the Indian and Malay food also gain a huge of popularities.

Singaporean enjoys freedom of religion. Also, different religions, such as Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism and Islam are in accord. It was common that church and temples of different religions are found on the same street.

Singapore preserves their traditional cultures. There are ethnic area, such as China Town and Little India to preserve spirit of the traditional cultures. On the other hand, the country is modern and commercialized. The skyscrapers are densely planted in Raffles Place and Downtown district. Shopping malls are accompanied with every MRT station. Most of them are even more advanced and imposing than their counterparts in Hong Kong!

Last but not least, Singapore promotes meritocracy in their society. With limiting resources and harsh geographic situation, they believe that only being transcendent and excellent can save them from the plague and lead them to prosperity. The meritocracy is educated and always in their mind. This explains the high competitiveness in their studying environment. Some say that Singapore will lead ahead of Hong Kong very soon. After learning their culture, I can't agree more.

(iv) Detailed study schedule in the exchange-out institution

There are totally 13 teaching weeks in a semester. Besides, there are two recess weeks, located between and at the end of the 13 weeks for the self-study before the mid-term and final exam.

I took 4 subjects, 12 credits in total during the exchange. They are EE3010 Electrical Devices and Machines, EE3011 MODELLING AND CONTROL, EE3015 POWER SYSTEMS & PROTECTION, EE4530 Power System Analysis and Control.

Each of them has 2 hours lecture and 1 hour tutorial a week. Also, several laboratory lessons are required.