

Mid term report for Europe Korea Foundation.

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I can still clearly remember how it was the beautiful summer in the year of 2004. Because I could get the great chance to study MBA Program in Germany sponsored by Europe Korea Foundation. I prepared for few years to enter this Master Program at the University of Hamburg. Therefore, it was the important turning point in my life.

After my arrival in Germany, there was an orientation period, which was conducted mainly German language course with international students who are composed of 50% MBA program students. They came from all over the worlds. America, Canada, Turkey, France, East Europe, China, Singapore, Taiwan, Denmark, and I am the only one Korean student among them. It means that I have the whole responsibility to represent for my country. For example, during studies I had to explain about Korean economic situation or introduction of the culture.

Since I arrived in Hamburg, I live in a student's hall, which is a floor dormitory which has to be shared with 25 students. For the time being, it was hard for me to be accustomed to live with many students to share one floor. Especially, the bath rooms and toilet should be shared with 25 students. Sometimes in the morning I had to wait for a long queue to get my turn. Even though some discomfort ness, I could get to know many new friends in the students' hall. As soon as I have a question about the German

culture or language, I asked them why and how. Moreover, I have learned various cultural aspects from the floor mates.

As my MBA program started, for a while, it was hard to follow some difficult courses in English or in German. Every course was very intensive and required many homework. Besides, there were many presentations which we had to be hold in front of many students. It was really challenging for me doing many presentations in English or in German in front of many international students. After one semester, I feel more confident with the advanced presentation skill.

Also attending lectures in German university, students do frequently discussions on one topic or ask many questions to professor. I could notice that German students or western students present their ideas without hesitation. On the other hand, most Asian students do not join into the discussion. It does not mean that they have no idea on the topic or not interested in lecture. They are just not familiar with the "discussion culture". Personally, I was also more accustomed to be listening rather than discussing. I think it is the biggest difference between German education and Korean education.

Except the MBA program, I do some extra curricular activities. One is the Rotaract Club which is a Rotary-sponsored service club for young men and women ages 18 to 30. The reason why I joined this club is I wanted to distribute myself to the volunteer organization which help people in need. Furthermore, it is also interesting for me to experience German culture among German people. For example, they have a regular lecture of German politicians or do voluntary missions to help people need help. As I am the only one foreign member among them, some of them are interested in

Korea and ask me about some questions. For me, it is important to give them the correct information and good impression of Korea.

And the other Club which I attend is called MTP (Marketing between Theories and Practice). It is a student organization which is composed of students who are major in business, especially in marketing. Every week, we have a seminar and discuss on team project related with many multi national companies' projects regarding on marketing promotion in Germany. For example, my team is preparing for the FOCUS (One of the biggest magazine in Germany) congress in July. My team has to organize every detail for this Congress. For me, it is challenging to be integrated into them as a foreign student. There is no excuse that my mother tongue is not German. I get also the distributed objectives and have to organize the Congress with the other team members.

At the moment, I am on the winter vacation. Even though there are no lectures at the university, I am writing my report papers for some lectures. In German university, for some courses you have to prepare for your report paper which contains subjects you have learned during the lecture. Usually, it should be finished before the next semester started. Even though it is winter vacation now, libraries are always crowded with students who are looking for references. Except writing report papers, I am also doing my part time job for a German consulting company just for winter vacation. One professor recommended me for this part time job as an English-German-Korean translator to help some research projects for one multinational German company. It is interesting for me to see how it works and work with German coworkers.

For the next couple of months, as the second semester started from April, I would like to more concentrate on achievement of my studies. The first

semester was quite hard for me to be accustomed to and I am not satisfied with the results. Moreover, besides studies, I will regularly participate in my two extra curricular activities such as Rotaract Club and Marketing Club. The other special plan for the coming semester is to begin French language course for beginners. I always wished to learn another European language especially French. But, in Korea to learn European language costs too much compare with Germany. Personally, I think that the best advantage of German education is students have rights to choose various extra courses at university without any fee or with inexpensive fee. Especially, they offer various European language courses during semester. Therefore, as long as I study in Germany, I would not miss this opportunity to get to know better other European countries' culture and language. As the proverb said, "The rolling stone does not get any moss." I will do my best for my every second in Germany for my successful studies and also for my self development.