

# Exchange program in The Netherlands: Eye opening traveling experience and enlightenment

*Written by*

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Traveling is best hobby in the world it always gives us new experience. For eye opening it is the best way. Enlightenment broadly means wisdom or understanding enabling clarity of perception. As a part of our Master course we attended a month long exchange program in the Netherlands. It was an amazing and well organized exchange program managed by STC-NMU, The Netherlands. Our full course is running here in STC-NMU Campus in Gwangyang, South Korea. Question may arise that whether it was a study tour? I can simply say, no. It was not like a simple study tour, it was an amazing exchange program simultaneously with our normal course running as usual. We had an examination and also regular classes there as normal schedules. We used our time as like as Korea even though we have enjoyed a lot, and have seen different things. Accommodation was very nice and well organized. I didn't get any shortage of anything. For example, washing machine to iron and vacuum cleaner to thermometer all were there. As a new comer in the Netherlands I didn't face any difficulties to live one month. People are so experienced who looked after our accommodations there. Thanks to Looplink foundation. Wish a long-lasting relationship with STC-Group.

Just after arrival we observed Harbour day in the Netherlands. The objective and program set of harbour day amazed me. People almost all age groups came to see the program and visited ships alongside, equipment like a festival. Participation was so spontaneous. Same day we sailed a training vessel Eendracht in Rotterdam We started from the place we observed harbour day program to towards sea and observed how look like the Rotterdam landside installations from the water. STC new building is an extraordinary creation of landmark there.

I am really impressed to see the people are living in Rotterdam from different nationalities peacefully. More than 50% young guys are not originally Dutch but they are living together harmoniously. Almost every person can speak English so communication is not at all a problem in each and every level. Different kinds of foods are available as different kind of people living there. Public transport system is so impressive. Most impressive to me the separate lane for bicycle in all over the city along with footpath. One of the main objectives to visit a new place to know the people who are living there, their food and drink, their behavior, their cultures and their thoughts. In that sense our exchange program was quite a successful event.

Tour of Euromax terminal was a fruitful event. I heard many times about the construction of that terminal. I felt very lucky that just couple weeks before our tour it

was formally inaugurated. Practically, we have seen how an automated terminal is being operated there. Apart from all, I was impressed to see the loading process of container train by a crane which can pick the container in perpendicular and can load it by turning spreader and changing process of rail track of locomotive engine also amazing. Without seeing it practically it cannot be imagine actually.

Amsterdam tour was always a dream for me. Apart from different Museum bike tour was a new event during my life. Believe it or not, that is the first time I ride a bike in a busy town like Amsterdam. How I succeed only God knows. Believe, it was possible due to separate lane for bicycle was available there. In addition to sight seeing I enjoyed the briefing of our guide during bike tour. He was like a small historian who described all aspects of city of Amsterdam within a short period. Night view was also really a beautiful event in Amsterdam to look around.

We enjoyed PC based Simport simulation on the development of Maasvlakte 2 in Rotterdam. We did it like a playing and got an impression that how it was implemented a massive development plan in Rotterdam. Port is virtually now in the North Sea, 42 kilometer far from the city. It is now out of the congestion as well as near to the sea.

During our classes I liked classes of Mr. Ronald Waterman who elaborated building with natures and how he worked with this during past couple of decades. It is really an approach that the whole world should take into consideration. The way he described that people should play with the nature like judo. Behavior with nature should be quite reasonable and careful. Otherwise a chain reaction from the nature can create a disaster.

STC simulations are quite attractive. Among all 360 degree full vision bridge simulation was quite interesting to see and simulate. A simulation can make sea sick the people on that by creating artificial environment. I couldn't imagine it before seeing it practically there. The importance of simulation based education is enormous. It's broadened my horizon of thinking and enlightened me a lot on port, shipping and transportation knowledge. Knowledge bank and competency based education is really necessary for a country to be developed. STC group has set a tremendously successful example in this field in Rotterdam. After seeing this, I find a dream to set a same knowledge bank in Bangladesh if I get a chance to do this. At least I will try to give an idea to the apropos authority of my country. Enormous potentials we have in our country, due to lack of vision, ambition and planning we are far behind of development in this area.

Our whole exchange program was successful due to well organized setting of program by the people of STC- NMU, The Netherlands. We are really grateful to them. Thanks to The Netherlands and thanks to Republic of Korea to give us such an opportunity to enhance our knowledge as well as to enjoy our life in abroad. Really, I am running short of words to reveal my gratitude to the STC-group to give me chance twice.

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*Writer was requested by the representative of city hall of Gwangyang to write feelings on exchange program as a foreign student.*

Pictures of mine and a group photos;

