

Report of short visit to Turkey

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Duration of visit: 9 days, Feb 20th, 2016 ~ Feb 28th, 2016

Site visit

First, we observed various type of large machines including mills and crushers at ERSEL Heavy Machinery INC. I did nothing but be overwhelmed by those which exceed the size of a person by single gear because I had never seen such a thing before.

In the next visit of Istanbul Straight Road Tube Crossing Project, we had a precious rare experience that going down into the tunnel under construction. I felt it was huge even the mills we saw in ERSEL's factory which were approximately 8 meters in diameter at the most, but the Tunnel Boring Machine used in this project was 13.6 meters in diameter and 120 meters in length including supporting unit connected with rear part. Knowing this, I mused in a great deal of labor and technology required to excavate undersea 5.4km using this size of machine.

We can infer from the scale of this project how Turkish people in Istanbul are annoyed with the daily traffic jam and recognize as an important problem to be solved. We were actually caught in this terrible situation because we choose to charter a bus as the most of our means of transportation during the stay, considering the threat of the terrorism which had occurred just before our passage.

With increase of transportation means connecting the European side and Asian side of Istanbul (for example Marmaray which was opened by cooperation with Japan in 2013), it can be expected that this problem should be solved. Eurasia tunnel also seems to be opened in October 2016, this means that those who participate in this exchange program after the next will not be able to experience this traffic jam which marks Istanbul.

What I gained through activities during the program

Communication skills were always required during this program. I think I could make a certain level of understanding of each other and good relationship with many Turkish participants, even my not sufficient English. However, in the workshop, experiencing the difficulties in telling technical subject to others comprehensibly, I had come to re-recognized the lack of my language ability.

Besides, getting the ability to speak in English fluently not only improve the communication in English but can help us learning their native language.

Other than language skills, it is necessary to gain the skills to perfectly understand what the cooperator thinks and express what you think, to become an academician or an engineer who can be successful overseas as a leading personnel. To do so, deep insight of one's field of expertise, of course, wide variety of knowledge are required because the importance of integration between different fields is emphasized recently. In addition, it is essential to understand other cultures especially for Japanese who don't want to talk politics or religion often in daily life.

My harvests of this exchange program are that I could confirm essentials to be obtained in the future by myself, deepen my understanding of Turkey's culture, and gain little self-confidence of communication in English. And needless to say, it is the treasure that we could encounter good Turkish friends.

Suggestion for improvement / any other comments

If the condition of public safety will be getting better, duration of stay should be lengthen because our visit was so busy that we could do not all of things what we want to do. I hope all of this program end in success.