

Report on completion of the short-stay study abroad program

Name: BUI VAN THACH

School and Dept.: School of Multidisciplinary Sciences. Department of Informatics

Destination country: France

Receiving institute:

French Institute for Research in Computer Science and Automation, INRIA Rennes

Period of study: 03/10/2015 – 17/11/2015 (6 weeks)

My name is Bui Van Thach. I'm a 5-year PhD student at Department of Informatics, School of Multidisciplinary Sciences. I applied the short-stay abroad program in January 2015. The receiving institute is INRIA Rennes, France. There are many branches of INRIA in France. I chose INRIA Rennes because the professor I want to work with works at that place. From its website, INRIA, the French Institute for computer science and applied mathematics promotes "scientific excellence for technology transfer and society". It receives graduate students from the top universities in the world. Because INRIA is an institute, it cannot receive any student or issue any degree. Therefore, it has to collaborate with some university to recruit students. This model is similar to SOKENDAI and NII where I belong to.

I have been in France for 6 weeks. Accommodation in France is expensive. I asked my friend in France or went to Airbnb's website to find a suitable room. Then, you just kept focusing on my research topic.

In my research area, there are a few well-known researchers and a few famous laboratories in the world. INRIA Rennes is one of them. If I cannot join those laboratories, I will not know the trend of my research area in the future. I was lucky because the professor Teddy Furon accepted me as an intern. I really appreciate his kindness. The laboratory I joined named TEXMEX. This laboratory is dealing with multimedia. Professor Teddy and I shared the same interest in Noisy Group Testing. We discussed every week by English. At INRIA Rennes, people usually work from 9 A.M to 5 P.M from Monday to Friday. It is rare if someone stays after 6 P.M. So, please don't go to your lab on weekend or stay overnight on weekdays. Regarding daily expense, it is a little bit expensive. Because I did not sign any contract with INRIA, I could not get special price for foods. The cafeteria treated me as a guest. That means I have to pay as 3 times as special price for foods (approximately 11 euro for a meal). The public transportations in Rennes are buses and metros. If you buy a monthly ticket, you can use your ticket for all public transportation. In Europe, people use time-system ticket for public transportation in local area. Normally, a ticket is valid for 1 hour. Please do not forget this important rule in Europe. You should have a credit card before going to France. Most of transactions are only done by using credit cards. To travel around France, you can choose SNCF train, Oui Bus, Blar blar car, or plane. If you would like to travel another European country, you can take a flight or train. Supermarkets close on Sunday. Most of services are off on

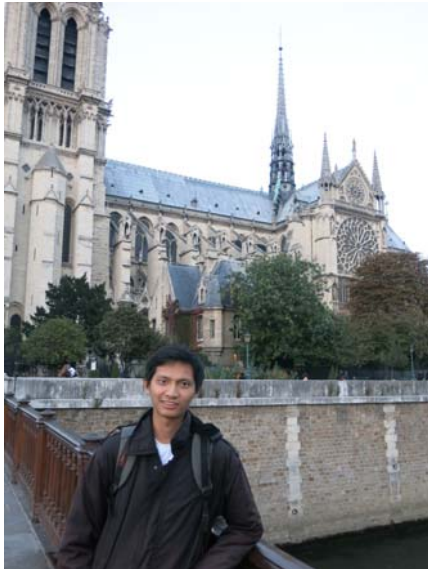
weekend. Please carefully check public transportation if you're not living in Paris when you want to go to Charles De Gaulle Airport.

I warn that you should pay attention when travelling around France. It is not a safe country comparing to Japan.

To future applicants, I wish you maximize benefit from short-stay abroad program. Because you can only apply this program once in your student life, you should use this chance to precede your great plan. I hope you will make your trip great in terms of academia and social life.

Here are some photos I took in France:

Notre Dame de Paris



Eiffel Tower



Arc de Triomphe, Paris

