Visiting the China-ASEAN Research Institute of Guangxi University, China

It has been a month since I touched down at the Wuxu International Airport in Nanning, Guangxi province of China around 6.30pm on 4 May 2015. Upon clearing the custom and passing the security checkpoint, I received a warm welcome by my research assistant who had been awaiting me at the arrival hall even before my flight landed. Together with another researcher, I was driven to Guangxi University at which I am going to spend three months as a visiting scholar. Since then, I have been attached to the China-ASEAN Research Institute of Guangxi University doing research topics of my choice and of the Institute’s domain.

On the third day of my arrival, and subsequently in the third week of my visit, I was invited by one of my Chinese colleagues at the Institute to deliver guest lectures on Professional English for their Finance major students at the undergraduate and postgraduate level, respectively. After learning from my colleague that there is no such course as Research Methods in the Finance programme structure at the undergraduate level, I decided to share with the students a topic on the research process of economic and finance studies, and to run through the process using an empirically tested labour economics issue of job market discrimination in Malaysia. By so doing, it was expected to provide clearer picture to students on how each step in the research process could be applied in empirical studies before they embark on their own final year research project next year.
On the other hand, the guest lecture for postgraduate students focused on the same topic as the undergraduate students, with a different issue used for application purpose – the nexus of private credit and economic growth in China. Hopefully, this topic could trigger further research interest among students in investigating the said nexus in their theses.

Besides getting involved in guest lecturing, I have been consistently working on my own research since the past one month on the causality between energy consumption and employment. The database available at the Institute is extremely complete and rich. I managed to extract all the data needed for my research even in the first week of reporting for duty. Since then, I have been analysing data using appropriate econometric techniques, and this task has just been completed at the time of writing this message. I am going to proceed with results interpretation starting from next week.

Since the Institute is equipped with a very rich database, not only could I retrieve the data that I needed for my self-proposed research topic, I plan to make full use of this resource by working on another topic of the Institute’s research domain with the researchers here.

During the first month of my visit, I was grateful to be able to meet up with a number of professors here for fruitful discussions on labour economics and political economics issues. Hopefully, all these efforts could enhance future research collaboration between UTAR and Guangxi University. In addition, I will be attending an international forum organised by the Institute two weeks from now. In a nutshell, the first month of my stay here has been full of excitement.

I am eagerly looking forward to the coming two months of my stay here.

From
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At
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On
4 June 2015.