

# AC21 Newsletter

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## 6th AC21 Student World Forum 2015 Held at Strasbourg

### Moving Beyond Differences: A Week Full of Inspiration and Friendship in the Heart of Europe

Francis Kern

Vice-President, University of Strasbourg



to contribute actively to this space conducive to intellectual achievement and excellence. Of course, this event provides a chance for lecturers to share their expertise. But we also sought to provide the 38 students from our institutions with the opportunity to discuss ideas, exchange experiences, compare perspectives and build inter-cultural friendships, from 19 to 24 April 2015.

On the theme "The European Experience in Local and Regional Democracy", participants from five continents were introduced to the challenges of cross-border cooperation and encouraged to develop their own ideas for

cross-border projects. Although they all had different backgrounds, the participants showed a common interest in the European Union and in cross-border collaboration, as well as a strong will to understand the EU beyond the national specificities.

The AC21 meetings are always very stimulating opportunities for sharing. By hosting the 6th Student World Forum at the University of Strasbourg in collaboration with the University of Freiburg, we sought to reaffirm our wish

The week started with a visit to the European Parliament and the Council of Europe, followed by a conference on the role of regional cooperation in supporting the promotion of human rights and the defense of environmental projects. The students also became acquainted with the principles of the European Charter of Local Self-Government, which defines subsidiarity.

In small working groups, they managed to present relevant and well thought-out projects. They mostly thought of ways to bring populations of various nationalities and languages together and imagined cultural policies to foster understanding and harmony between different communities - an ever-current topic.

The group went on a day trip to Freiburg in order to learn more about the sustainable development policies led by the city, notably in eco-districts. More than beautiful, the city is internationally known for its approach towards sustainability; architecture, mobility

and energy are at the heart of the city's agenda. The students were delighted about everything they discovered during their day in Germany. We are very grateful to the Uni-



versity of Freiburg for organizing this day, as we know that environmental issues are the keys in addressing cross-border cooperation matters.

The Forum ended with the 38 participants and representatives from the AC21 universities meeting up at the medieval castle of Haut-Koenigsbourg. This special event provided the students with an opportunity to visit the castle and then present their group

projects, as well as look back on the key moments of their week in a friendly setting, away from the university campus. The participants showed a great interest towards the week's programs and the visits, conferences and workshops conducted in a real enthusiastic atmosphere. Cultural exchanges and friendship were at the core of the forum's programs, and the participants made the most of their cultural differences to develop friendly ties and make this week an unforgettable experience.

Many thanks to the General Secretariat of the AC21 for its support, and to the University of Freiburg and also to you, the heads of the AC21 institutions, for your collaboration. We were honored to host this 6th AC21 Student World Forum and to make our contribution to this wonderful human, intellectual and cultural experience that brings our universities together and enables us to invigorate the AC21 network.

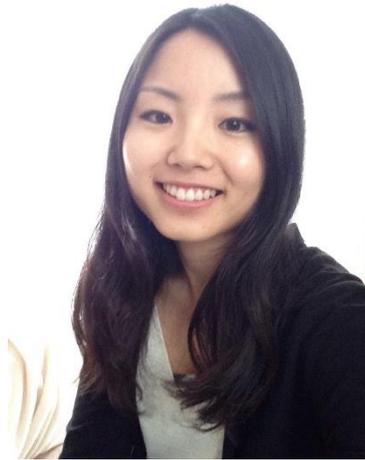




## AC21 Student World Forum 2015

### Student Report 1

Akane Ota  
Nagoya University



**W**hen I first saw the main theme of the forum, "The European Experience in Local and Regional Democracy", I couldn't help but panic at the mention of the word "democracy". I had always favored science and avoided topics such as politics and social sciences for all of my life, and I had no clue as to how to take this word, or what to make of it. So I tried thinking about it in relation to my specialty, Forest Science and Environmental Sociology. What must humans do to co-exist with nature? Is the destruction of nature necessary for the development of regions and nations? Having fostered these questions within my mind for a long time, I finally met with the term "Ecological Democracy".

Ecological Democracy refers to a method of



thinking that the development of human society should take place in ways that promotes nature instead of destroying it. Having finally realized towards the end of the 20th century that the natural environment is in danger and will affect the lives of humanity, the mindset of "Let's protect the environment" is becoming spread throughout the world through international agreements beginning with the UN. However, I believe that the key is to not only protect the environment, but moving forward and finding ways to "use" it in a sustainable way. Because Ecological Democracy represents well the concept of sustainable use of natural resources, I chose to adopt it as my theme for participating in this forum.

On the 3rd day of the forum, we visited Freiburg in Germany. The forum this day was the one that was the most impressive, as I was constantly surprised and overwhelmed. The city that we visited was designed to be a friendly environment for both humans and nature, and was an ideal city that could be a model for the world. The houses were simple yet elegant, trees were planted along the road, and there were grassy areas where the children could play all over the city. And, to create a low carbon emission society, not everyone owns cars and instead mainly uses bicycles and mass transit, and uses a car shared with others in the neighborhood if necessary. There were many houses with solar panels installed as well, and it seems that it is possible to sell the electricity generated. Associations are established along each sector in consideration of the safety of the community, which demonstrates the citizen's



motivations towards creating a clean and safe city from the local level. I was lost for words having seen this beautiful city, and could not help but admire how advanced European responses towards the environment, which until then I had only heard about frequently in class, actually were.

Such experiences, along with interacting with high level students from all over the world throughout the forum, gave me strong motivation and made me realize that there are so many things out there that I felt I must learn more about, and think more about. I have gained confidence that I will be able to enter the international stage, and believe that I will be able to work enthusiastically towards completing my last year of study, my graduation thesis, and going abroad for graduate studies. I am full of thanks for all of the staff of AC21, the host universities, Nagoya University, and everyone who participated for providing me with this precious experience. I hope that you will continue to provide Nagoya University students with high level places of learning such as this..



## AC21 Student World Forum 2015

### Student Report 2

Siphosihle Mzongwana  
 Stellenbosch University

The picture (of an endless road) below really captures how I want to articulate my experience of the AC21 Student World Forum 2015.

It was a journey from the first day of the forum. I journeyed into people's lives, I journeyed into understanding the theme "The



European Experience in Local and Regional Democracy", I journeyed into understanding Europe and I journeyed into adapting to the French community.

The whole AC21 Student World Forum was a journey and every aspect of it was filled with a myriad of learning opportunities. My experience of the AC21 Student World Forum was life changing. I left the forum a different person than I came.

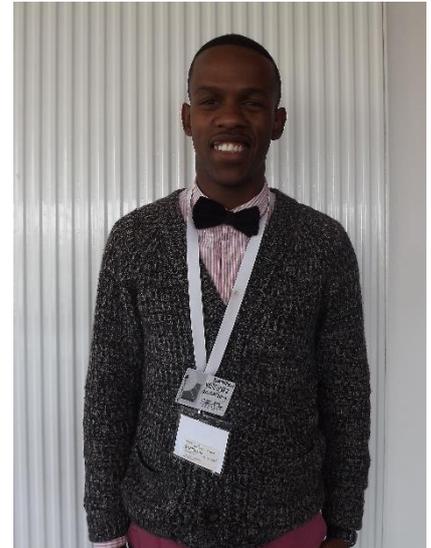
From the people I met to the topics we discussed during the plenary sessions and workshops. My life has been radically changed!!! My hope is that I can continue to be involved with AC21 even after the SWF



because I believe so much in what the Academic Consortium is doing to improve and change the world we live in. It was a privilege to visit the European parliament and the Council of Europe. To learn about the Human Rights underpinning of these organizations. For example, the Council of Europe was created to secure military, economic and personal security for all Europeans. It was fascinating to learn how Europe has moved past its history but is still deeply influenced by its history in the way that it shapes its politics.

It was also wonderful to learn all of this in the second diplomatic town in Europe, Strasbourg. The program also included excursions like a guided boat tour of Strasbourg on river, a visit to the wine cellar of Strasbourg city hospital and an amazing trip to Freiburg, Germany where we had a

guided tour of the city. The theme of "Sustainable city development in the Upper-Rhine Valley" in Freiburg was very intriguing. This is because we got see the fruits of the new energy concepts with innovative and resilient materials through the Rieselheld new city quarter project. This project demonstrates how successful and



sustainable city development is in the Upper-Rhine Valley. And how we can move to the future today in the way we do city planning innovatively.

In Strasbourg we worked on two projects, namely: (i) How to monitor the charter for local autonomy and (ii) How to increase the enterprise-university cooperation for the design, manufacture and distribution of products. We presented both of these projects on the final day of the forum together with our overall experience of the Student World Forum. I would like to thank my university, Stellenbosch for choosing me to be part of this great forum and also thank the University of Strasbourg together with the AC21 General Secretariat for organizing such an amazing forum. I have made lifelong friends and a family network through this forum. It is an experience I will always treasure in my heart and I am eternally grateful for this once in a lifetime opportunity.



## AC21 Student World Forum 2015

### Student Report 3

Melanie Zimmer  
University of Freiburg



**H**ow can one foster cooperation between nations and which principles have to be considered when it comes to forming cross-border clusters?

During the five days of my participation in the Student World Forum, I did not only learn the answer to these questions but so many things that it is simply impossible to list them all.

However, there is one aspect which impressed me most: That cooperation between nations is not only a term but can become reality way sooner than we think.

When I first arrived at the hotel in



Strasbourg, I felt nervous. After all, I entered a room full of unknown people. What I did not know back then was that leaving would be even harder. Why? Because in only that short amount of time, all 37 students had turned from strangers into friends.

Our first day started with visits to those institutions that really make Strasbourg earn its title as "the capital of Europe": the European Parliament and the Congress of Europe. There, we got the chance to listen to one of the delegates and furthermore discussed the forums headline: "The European experience in local and regional democracy".

We discovered that for us, democracy means - among many other attributes - to listen to each other, to be able to speak up for one's own opinion and to accept each person's diversity. Keeping these thoughts in mind, we made democracy come alive: During the plenary sessions in the mornings, we listened to diverse guest speakers while discussing topics such as "The role of regional cooperation for democracy" in the afternoons. During the whole period of time, we did not only accept the diversity that came along with each one of us, but we really profited from it. And soon, we noticed that, after all, we were not even that different. At least not when it came to music, dancing,



singing at a karaoke bar or enjoying the beautiful scenery Strasbourg and the German city of Freiburg had to offer.

In one of the two workshops we were given the task to develop "a project in a tri-national context" - each group in relation to a certain area of focus. While striving to come up to this challenge, we could again profit from our different backgrounds. After all, it were our interdisciplinary fields of studies that made finding a solution to this job so interesting.

In the end, it did not matter whether one of us was working on the project in the framework of human resources, finances or considered the legal system - at the final presentation, which took place at the castle Haut-Koenigsbourg, we all had something to present of which we were proud - and which had been fun to create!

Now, that the week is over, I have left Strasbourg behind, but I took something with me: Experience, and above all, new

friends from all over the world. Thank you for a wonderful time!



## AC21 Student World Forum 2015

### Student Report 4

Lu Wang  
Jilin University



**D**uring this experience, what I had learnt most was to be self-confident and open-minded.

In this week, we were welcomed by the headmaster of University of Strasbourg and then had listened to the lectures delivered by several people such as the president of Charter and other representative of the local famous enterprises and organizations. We have lectures about Human Rights, Environment Protection, City building and Local Democracy, which let me learn a lot about the culture and business in Europe.

After that, we were separated in groups to discuss the things related to the topic about the European experience and local authority democracy. At first, when six of us sat

together around a table and started to discuss, though I knew that I had some viewpoint to express, the lack of confidence and worry deep inside of my heart that my viewpoint may probably be wrong made me just listen to other people's idea.

However, the people in our group were so nice that they encourage me to say what I was thinking about on this topic. Seeing their kind smile, I started to express my perspective about how to deal with the problem we met and they were all inspired by my idea and thought that it was a good idea for all of us to progress our plan project. After this encouragement, I began to be active in discussion and express my idea about the things we discuss, though sometimes we could not get into agreement very easily, we were trying to do so and every one of us were enjoying this process. During the several days we spent together, we had known each other quite a lot. We became good friends even though we just met only several days. We visited Vauban, the smart city in Freiburg, together and communicate opinions with each other. We went sightseeing and express how awesome the city is together. Mostly, we had a discussion together and let the different minds come together to create more valuable thoughts.



Final, it's the crucial time for us to make the final presentation, after preparing for it for a whole week, we came into front and show our 'EATUP' plan----The European and Asian Tackling Unemployment Program, which impressed the students as well as the teachers sat below from all cooperated schools a lot. We had a great success in showing not only the excellent content of our project but also our confidence, humor and collaborative teamwork spirits.

I felt it was lucky to have this opportunity to attend the AC21 Student World Forum, which not only taught me how to be confident and open-minded but also let me met a lot of good person from all over the world for me to learn from. All of the things mentioned above will have a great influence on my future life.



## AC21 Student World Forum 2015

### Student Report 5

Risa Mineno

Nagoya University



**F**rom April 18th, 2015 to the 25th, I participated in the Student World Forum, jointly hosted by University of Strasbourg (France) and University of Freiburg (Germany), as a representative of Nagoya University. At this forum, which was held with the theme of "Learning about Inter-regional Democratic Politics and Cross-border Cooperation from Europe", I gained the valuable experience of spending a week with 37 students with various talents from 11 different countries. It was day after day of finding myself realizing how immature I was as I was overwhelmed by the other students' high aims and vigour.

Strasbourg is known as the city that is second only to Paris within France in terms of its internationality, and I experienced this first hand in the university, in the tram on the way to the university, and even in the youth



hostel where we were staying. Freiburg, with its high consciousness of environmental conservation and a somewhat futuristic feel, may not be famous as a tourist destination, but it was a nice small and laid-back

city. I was able to directly experience the difference in the culture, customs, and people between two European cities despite their proximity, each located close to the border between France and Germany, and I think that this was the most significant characteristic and appeal of this forum.

The forum consisted of Lectures from specially invited experts, workshops in which 6 to 7 students formed groups to discuss the contents from those lectures, and visits to government institutions such as the European Parliament or the European Council. Every day, we were able to learn about the European Union, the movements of neighboring countries, and future challenges and efforts from slightly different perspectives. And on the last day, as the culmination of everything we learned over the week of activities, we stood in front of the faculty from participating universities to give group presentations on the contents of the discussions held during the workshop and our comments regarding the forum inside the historical Château du Haut-Kœnigsbourg.

However, this was not a week that we spent only studying. The curriculum was designed to allow students to interact with each other and enjoy the cities and their culture as much as possible. For example, we went on a cruise and learned about the history of the city, tasted local wine in the wine cellar, and at the dinner show tasted French cuisine while enjoying live performances by local



singers and magicians. There were free time every day, and there was sufficient time to freely explore the city, go shopping, and interact with other students in the break room of the places we were staying at. What remains

strongest in my memory is when we climbed the Strasbourg Cathedral. It was a tough trip to the top platform, but the view from above was magnificent.

For someone like me, who is studying law and politics in Nagoya University's International Programs, this international relations-related theme was especially interesting. However, I think that perhaps it was a fulfilling week for everyone regardless of their major, as many students from various areas of specializations had gathered. I feel that by meeting and interacting with many people through the Student World Forum, my perspectives were broadened, thoughts were changed, and I have achieved significant mental growth.



## AC21 Student World Forum 2015

### Student Report 6

Kevin Cradden  
University of Strasbourg



Attending the Student World Forum 2015 in Strasbourg was a very memorable experience. The subject of this forum was 'the European experience in Local and Regional Democracy' and we heard from many experts in this area. It was a chance to meet and interact with other young people from all the different corners of the globe and exchange our knowledge on the topic. As a student in Strasbourg, I was already familiar with the European institutions such as the Council of Europe and the European Union but nonetheless it was really interesting to visit the European Parliament and the headquarters of the Council of Europe to hear about the work that they do first-hand. The schedule for the week was packed with informative events such as these visits and we also learned about Cross-Border cooperation from several organisations that

carry out these kinds of activities throughout Europe. These included University cooperation between Strasbourg and the University of Freiburg as well as the so-called 'Biovalley' cooperation among enterprises in Alsace. After each presentation from an expert in the field, we would divide up into smaller groups of roughly six or so people and discuss further on the subject, usually tasked with coming up with an original proposal of our own related to the overall presentation we had just sat through.

As well as attending presentations and discussing in our groups, we found time especially in the evenings to unwind after the hard day's work. A boat tour of Strasbourg and a guided tour of the city hospital's wine cellar were my personal favourites. We were also able to sample some of the region's cuisine in local restaurants. Moreover, the last day of the Forum when each group delivered their final presentations related to the weeks' activities was held in the very impressive surroundings of the Haut- Koenigsbourg castle in Alsace. It was an excellent location to round off the event.



Overall, I thought the event was really well organised and planned. The amount of effort and attention to detail was clear for all to see. This effort began months before the beginning of the actual event through regular e-mail contact with the organisers. During the event itself, participants always had the necessary information and knew where to be and what was expected of them. Furthermore, what made this event particularly enjoyable for me was the intercultural exchange among people coming from all the different continents of the world. The diversity of the group was really a strong point. Moreover, it is hard to believe that people can become good friends in such a short space of time but this was undoubtedly the case as by the end of the week quite a tight-knit group had formed among all the participants.

Finally, I would like to say thank you to the organisers and to all the other participants who made the Student World Forum 2015 such an enjoyable event. Here's hoping our paths will cross again in the future!



## AC21 Student World Forum 2015

### Student Report 7

Qichun Dai  
 Tongji University



It has been two months since I spent a splendid week in Strasbourg with the other 37 students from different countries. Even though the memories faded away, they still were etched on my mind. So colorful and so impressive!

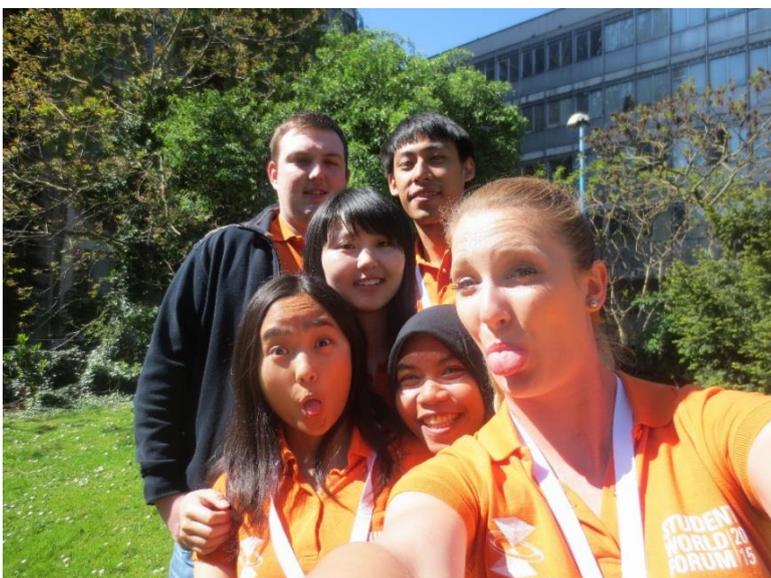
When I first arrived at the Ciarus Hostel, Coralie gave me the T-shirt. It was orange, and I thought everyone's is the same color.

Of course I was wrong! Like the color of our T-shirts, the people and events there are in different way, which gave me fresh memory and diverse experience.

First of all, I want to talk about the people. When we chat with each other, it is easy to sense that we are different but we are willing to listen to others and try to understand their stories. To make acquaintance with our participants, the first thing we have to do is to remember the names. Naturally, so difficult it is to remember all the students' name within a really short opening ceremony! To make my name easier to remember, I usually tell foreign friends my English name Winifred. Besides, Chinese is really hard to pronounce for them. But Siphosihle insisted on remembering the whole and the original name of every participant. He told me that there is meanings in the name, and it is not intact when you do not call them the real name. He is a really different one. Then, we are divided in six groups according to the color of our T-shirts. I really love my orange team. Speaking of orange team, it comes to our

workshop and group activities! We brainstormed on Tuesday and Thursday for the cross-border projects. Veronika is extremely creative. So do our whole orange group. We used an interview to introduce our projects and one adjective for one kind of feelings to sum up the events of SWF. We ruled out the plans firstly came into our mind for it was possible to be the same with other groups. To be honest, the format of group discussion and cooperation is a reflection of the theme: cross-border cooperation. When we use English to make our ideas exchanged with other members, it is a process toward transborder cooperation and cultivate the friendship of future generation.

11 countries, 19 universities, 38 students, 6 days. We try to remain our difference while cooperate with each other and still can work together. We are different in color, but we unite like a rainbow.



## AC21 Student World Forum 2015

### Student Report 8

Yuki Kawasaki  
Nagoya University



I am honored to have represented Nagoya University at the Student World Forum 2015 which convened in Strasbourg, France. 38 students from 11 countries gathered to participate in lectures, workshops, field work, and presentations with the theme "The European Experience in Local and Regional Democracy". What I realized through the program was the importance of "Cross Border Cooperation". When we were moving from Frankfurt Airport to Strasbourg by bus, I was looking at the endless view of German farms through the window. And as we crossed the Rhine River in to France, the atmosphere of the streets changed. While Strasbourg was artistic and majestic, Freiburg gave me the



impression that it was simplistic yet rational, and environmentally friendly. In addition, travel through the borders was smooth, as all may freely cross the borders without passport controls. This was quite a shock to me, because this is not something we could even think about in Asia.

What stayed with me the most was from the second day, during the explanation of the European Parliament, which were the words "In the European Parliament, all countries must compromise" "Because all parties are the minority, it is impossible to reach any solutions without making concessions". The perspective of considering not only the benefit of individual countries but of the European community demonstrates Europe's political advancedness. Unfortunately, I feel that compared to Europe, Asia still lags behind in inter-regional cooperation, especially in political aspects. Japan also has many political conflicts with neighboring countries and has a mountain of issues to resolve. I believe that high level cooperation between regions and strengthening of economical bonds in concurrence with the promotion of internationalization will contribute to the development of all regions of Asia.

The European Union is a community which Germany and France, enemies during the war, became the central players and, under the strong resolve that the



war will not repeat itself, overcame their political conflicts to establish and develop. Thanks to this situation, Alsace was able to succeed in achieving smooth development. I feel that we should turn more people's attention towards the benefit of peaceful regional development and use it as a reference as the new model of economic development of the Asian region.

I think that when considering problems between countries, dialogue must precede anything else. It is very important for students from various countries to gather and learn about democracy and international cooperation. Because relations of interest between nations are complicated, it is difficult for individuals to influence national politics and international relations. It is my belief that therefore, "Cross-border Cooperation" is formed through the accumulation of each of us recognizing and understanding the problems, and finding solutions through conversations.

Although this program was only for one week, it was a great experience that will be hard to forget, including the lectures and workshops at University of Strasbourg, or the tours, dinner show, and final presentation inside the castle. I would like to thank everyone at Nagoya University, University of Strasbourg, University of Freiburg, and other AC21 members who supported the program.

Thank you.

## AC21 Student World Forum 2015

### Student Report 9

Dostonhuja Mahmudov  
Nagoya University



In April 2015, I was privileged to participate at AC21 Student World Forum on the theme of 'The European Experience in Local and Regional Democracy' at University of Strasbourg in France and University of Freiburg in Germany as a representative of Nagoya University.

Democracy with its foundation in ancient Greece of Europe in 6th century B.C.E., has been at the center of European struggle for progress, decentralization of power and empowerment of the people. Today, after passing through many challenges on its path, Europe prides itself with its high level of achievements in the promotion of local and regional democracy which has become an inspiration for many countries including mine (Uzbekistan) to follow its genuine path.

However, as the saying goes "better to see and experience once than hear and read about it hundred times", this forum provided me with an actual chance of learning the local and regional democracy and cross-border cooperation in Europe through participating in interactive conferences with EU officials and University professors, cross-borders workshops and visiting European Institutions. It was my first time to visit Europe and the experience of lifelong lasting learning opportunity and making lifelong lasting friends from all over the world was absolutely stimulating.

Throughout a week-long program, we stayed in the beautiful city of Strasbourg, located in the heart of Europe and a seat to several major European Institutions including Council of Europe and European Parliament. The city was very peaceful and spectacularly beautiful! With my colleagues, although we spend the most of our days in the conferences, workshops, visiting European Institutions and experiencing the local culture, we never left a night without socializing, getting to know each other's cultural backgrounds and sharing our diverse experiences.

From the welcoming reception to the sad leaving reunion, it was apparent that the University of Strasbourg organizers were well-prepared in order to make our experience in Europe a memorable one. Tours around the city of Strasbourg, visit to



Freiburg city of Germany, fun dinners and closing ceremony at the Haut-Koenigsbourg castle were all excellently organized. Especially, we all loved the dinner show before the last day of the program as we all stood at the restaurant podium and sing with the singers out of our joy while others enjoyed dancing and clapping for the performance.

To conclude, the experience of learning local and regional democracy in Europe, staying in Strasbourg city and making new friends from diverse cultural backgrounds were all stimulating and enlightening one. For giving me this opportunity, firstly I would like to express my sincere gratitude for Nagoya University and AC21 General Secretariat. I also would like to thank staff members of University of Strasbourg and University of Freiburg for their genuine effort in hosting us and making our European experience a unique one. Lastly, I would like to express my appreciation for all the participants of SWF 2015 for their friendship and unforgettable memories.



## AC21 Student World Forum 2015

### Student Report 10

Laisa' Pamidhi Widita  
 Gadjah Mada University



"This week is not just about Europe as a political concept, it is about the way of building together".

The above statement by President Alain Beretz, University of Strasbourg, in the welcome and opening speech of AC21 Student World Forum 2015 may describe the unforgettable week of the Forum last April. It was definitely an enriching experience, not only because the theme of the Forum, "The European Experience in Local and Regional Democracy", relates very well with my background as an International Relations student concentrating on European governance and contemporary global issues, but also because of the opportunity to build international friendship. We came from different backgrounds; yet, in a relatively short time we got along like there was no barrier among us.

The fact that the Forum was held in Strasbourg as the seat of European institutions and Freiburg as one of leaders in sustainable urban development, gave exciting atmosphere to the whole week. The visit to European Parliament and Council of Europe was a perfect beginning since it provided me with insightful information about the implementation and challenges of

regional cooperation, particularly from the perspective of the decision makers. Whereas, participating in a series of plenary sessions with high-level speakers in the following days, I acquired deeper understanding on how to increase cooperation within multicultural society in Europe – a form of cooperation that works across state-borders that was constructed from many points of view. In addition, the walking tour

in the city of Freiburg and surrounding region provided new insight about citizens' involvement in sustainable urban development.

Moreover, in a session discussing the EUCOR, an example of cross-border cooperation in higher education, that was led by Mr. Janosch Nieden, I learned that border should not be regarded as barrier but instead as a gateway to mutually progress beneficial projects. The lectures from Mr. Ulrich Bohner and Mr. Johannes Moisis about regional cooperation in human rights and environmental projects also showed me the role of decision makers at the local level in fostering sustainable multinational projects as well as in guaranteeing democracy. These exciting sessions was followed by the lecture from Mrs. Mona Boyé, in which I learned about Alsace BioValley as a perfect example of business cooperation in the context of cross-border.

This fruitful and enriching forum sparked an understanding that the lessons from Europe might be applied to other continents as reflected in the enticing discussions I had with my group and later in all-group presentations during the workshops as well as final presentation in Château du Haut-Koenigsbourg. Each group came up with fresh and creative ideas about cross-border

projects that might create win-win partnership by covering wide-reaching aspects such as R&D, human resources, finance, marketing, legal framework and intercultural issues. In regard to the current democratic progress in Indonesia, it has enhanced my global outlook of the role of regional cooperation for democracy that should be fostered by Indonesia.

In addition to the academically-enriching activities, I also treasure the memories we shared and the fun times we had, ranging from the guided tour on river boat, wine testing, dinner show, day in Freiburg, as well as our conversations in the hostel, in the tram, in the university canteen and so on. To that end, it is without any doubt that I say Student World Forum 2015 is an enriching academic exchange that pulls a lot of excitement, both academically and culturally. Thank you AC21 and all the organizing committees from the University of Strasbourg and the University of Freiburg.



## AC21 Student World Forum 2015

### Student Report 11

Solenn Tenier  
University of Strasbourg



France will host and preside over the twenty-first Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in 2015 (COP21/CMP11). The Student World Forum 2015, has given us the possibility to visit Freiburg, the European ecological capital situated in the south part of the Rhine known for its sunshine. It is also nicknamed "the German Tuscany". During this visit, thirty-eight participants assisted in the conference held by Luciano Ibarra, journalist, director and co-founder of "gartencoop" (a cooperative that supports the agriculture of the city). As a matter of



fact, the latter today has brought a general view of developing environmental projects. It is complicated, here itself, to develop in detail all the initiatives of the city as well as its history. On the other hand, we can state that some projects have been consecrated to the reduction of pollution in the air.

All throughout this decade, the city has invested for a "car free space". To do this, the municipality and scientists have led a study amongst the inhabitants to know the maximum distance that they accept to take on foot, between their home and the nearest tramway stop. In fact, thirteen special lanes and a multitude of parking places uniquely reserved for bicycles have been put into place. In addition, in order to fight against the territorial discrimination, supermarkets have been decentralized and merged (multiple markets that were in the same district of a city).

In the afternoon, we were able to have visit the eco-district of Vauban, which began its transformation phase in 1997, soon after the abandonment of the French army barracks which coincidentally, occupied the districts during the Second World War. The main objective of this project is to put into place an urban district, in a cooperative and participative way that is conforming with a certain number of existing economical, ecological, social and cultural surroundings. During the construction of the houses and apartments, the future inhabitants will have had the opportunity to regroup to build and live with many families in this type of lodging. A certain amount of apartments have been reserved for social housing; even smaller, each set of buildings possesses a reserved apartment space for visitors. Contrary to the technical vision, a smart city is one where citizens can become more human. "In this sense, the modernness is a collective intelligence of a new type which can enable a reflection and collective actions" (Antoine Picot, September 2014). Yet, the evolution of these environments such as: cultural, technological, urban, ecological and economical done by Freiburg makes it a truly smart city that constructed to be durable in the European countryside.



## APAIE 2015

### APAIE 2015 Held at Beijing, China

**O**n March 23 - 26, 2015, the AC21 General Secretariat attended the Asia-Pacific Association for International Education (APAIE) 2015, held in Beijing, China, as joint exhibitors with Nagoya University.

According to the organizers, this year's APAIE saw approximately 1,500 participants, 1.5 times as much as 2014.

As always, we set up a booth in order to introduce and promote the AC21, and many of the visitors at our booth expressed interest in our network and activities.

Among the participants were our colleagues from member institutions, and we were able to deepen our relationships by talking about a variety of topics including the STC Meeting in the following month, ongoing and future collaborations, etc.



The colleagues we met were from the following universities: Technische Universität Chemnitz, Chulalongkorn University, University of Freiburg, Jilin University, Kasetsart University, North Carolina State University, Peking University and Stellenbosch University.

It is evident that participating in the conference provides a good annual opportunity to raise awareness of the Consortium's presence, as well as to exchange thoughts and



views between AC21 members in addition to the AC21-led events.



## NAFSA 2015

### Pathways to Internationalization – Exchange of "Best Practices"

Katrin Schulz

International Coordinator, Office of the Chancellor  
Technische Universität Chemnitz

#### AC21 Working Breakfast held already for the 7th time on the occasion of the NAFSA 2016 in Boston

**B**ased on the initiative of Technische Universität Chemnitz, in the year 2009 the idea was generated to make use of the NAFSA as the largest conference in the higher education sector worldwide for holding a meeting of the already present representatives of nearly all AC21 member universities in order to discuss themes and trends which are of great interest for the



network.

From this time on, the AC21 Working Breakfast has become a yearly good tradition and was now held already for the

7th time on the occasion of the NAFSA happening this year at Boston. Technische Universität Chemnitz was very delighted to welcome on the 27 May 2015 delegates from the AC21 institutions, such as Nagoya University, North Carolina State University, University of Minnesota, University of Freiburg and Gadjah Mada University, to the 7th AC21 Working Breakfast dedicated to the overall topic of the exchange of "best practices" of pathways towards internationalization among the AC21 members.

The chancellor of Technische Universität

Chemnitz, Dr. Eberhard Alles, opened the 7th AC21 Working Breakfast with the description of the status of progress of the preparations of the university for hosting the upcoming mega-event of the network in the next year – the 8th AC21 International Forum which will happen from Apr 30 - May 3 2016 at Chemnitz and be captioned by the overarching topic "Networks of Innovation for the Transformation of Society through Science". The chancellor explained that the concept developed by the Rector of Technische Universität Chemnitz, Prof. Dr. Arnold van Zyl, aims at the exchange of "best practices" of bringing together universities with partners from industry, politics, science and society in order to jointly generate revolutionary progress having the potential to transform the society. A special characteristic of the 8th AC21 International Forum will be the combination with the celebrations of the 180-years jubilee of Technische Universität Chemnitz. At the end of the presentation of the chancellor, the subsequent discussion lead to

a variety of fruitful ideas especially concerning the use of this event for the further development of cooperation within AC21.

Then, the Head of the International Office of Technische Universität Chemnitz, Dr. Wolfgang Lambrecht, gave an input-presentation treating the rapid growth of the share of international students at the university which more than doubled within the last years and reached nearly 20% this year. He explained resulting challenges and ways of Technische Universität Chemnitz to overcome them. The comments of the audience showed that also a lot of other AC21 member universities face the same challenges so that a very constructive exchange of ideas of alternative ways for solutions could take place.

Finally, Prof. Jiro Takai from the Graduate School of Education and Human Development of Nagoya University held a very informative presentation treating the "Top Global University Project" initiated by the Japanese Government having for objective to place a greater number of

Japanese universities on leading positions within the most famous world university rankings. An important component of this program is the provision of additional funding for internationalization aiming at e.g. doubling the share of incoming and outgoing students as well as the number of courses taught in English until 2020. Prof. Takai discussed in a very sophisticated way from the perspective of a practitioner outcomes but also unexpected challenges of these kind of programs like that the objective of promotion of studies abroad to Japanese students might be contradictory to the simultaneous goal of gaining additional highly qualified young workforce for an ageing society.

This AC21 Working Breakfast proved once more that this format itself may be designated with total justification a "best practice" of the AC21 network and that it has developed to an indispensable platform of discussion and exchange between the members for the future-oriented enhancement of their cooperation within AC21.



## AC21 Special Project Fund (SPF): Results of the 2015 Round SPF Awarded to 3 Projects This Year

It was announced in March 2015 that this year's Special Project Fund (SPF) was awarded to the three proposals listed below in the table, based on the selections by the Steering Committee members. For the 2015 round of the SPF, the General Secretariat reviewed a total of 11 applications, which is the largest number of applications it has ever received. This certainly demonstrates that the grant program has

### AC21 SPECIAL PROJECT FUND 2015

gradually gained the recognition of researchers in the AC21 network. Each awardee was granted an award of USD 10,000 and will share the outcomes of their project in a final report to be submitted in

December, 2015. They are also expected to contribute a short article to the AC21 Newsletter which will be appeared in the next issue.

Established in 2009, the SPF provides support to projects involving multiple AC21 members in order to encourage collaboration and partnership. Applications are open from November 1 until January 31 each year.

Project Title	Project Title	Project Title
<b>Workshop: Antimicrobial Peptides in Biomaterials</b>	<b>Frontiers in Plant Phenomics</b>	<b>Workshop on "Future Perspectives on Applications of Porphyrin and Phthalocyanine Derivatives"</b>
Awardee (Participating Universities)	Awardee (Participating Universities)	Awardee (Participating Universities)
University of Strasbourg University of Stellenbosch University of Minnesota University of Freiburg	University of Adelaide North Carolina State University Shanghai Jiao Tong University University of Nottingham*	Technische Universität Chemnitz Chulalongkorn University North Carolina State University University of Strasbourg

(\* denotes a non-AC21 member)



## AC21 International Forum 2016 to Be Held at Chemnitz

### The World as Guest at Technische Universität Chemnitz

## Technische Universität Chemnitz will Host the Upcoming AC21 International Forum 2016

Arnold van Zyl

Rector

Technische Universität Chemnitz

**W**hich are the key drivers and success factors for innovation through science? In which

ways can research contribute to a sustainable regional transformation? How can a network like AC21 learn from "Best Practices" of its members concerning the effective cross-linking of universities with economic, societal and political stakeholders?

These are only very few examples of the topics of the AC21 International Forum 2016: "Networks of Innovation for the Transformation of Society

through Science". The Technische Universität Chemnitz, a member of AC21 from its very beginning in 2002, is proud to host this time the most prominent event of the network held every two years and bringing together leading personalities of administration and science from the member institutions and beyond.

The 8th AC21 International Forum in Chemnitz will take place from 30 April to 3 May 2016 and will be embedded in the cer-



emonial week of the 180-years jubilee of the Technische Universität Chemnitz, which was founded in 1836 and since then grew to a leading key driver for the economic and societal development of the city of Chemnitz and the surrounding region of Western Saxony. With currently more than 11,000 students (thereof every 5th from abroad) and

over 2,000 staff members, the university counts among the main employers in the region. Furthermore, the Technische Universi-

tät Chemnitz is characterized by an extraordinary strength in research: More than half of its budget derives from successful applications for third-party-funding and in 2012, the university participated successfully in the national excellence initiative enabling to create the trans-disciplinary Federal Cluster of Ex-

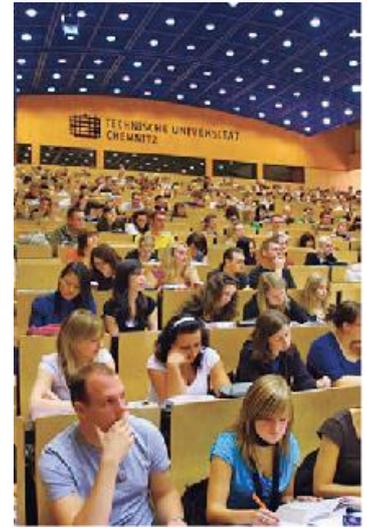
cellence "Merge Technologies for Multifunctional Lightweight Structures (MERGE)" which is the first and only Cluster of Excellence in Germany on the future-oriented field of lightweight engineering. This cluster is funded by additional 31 million Euro until 2017.



To the main success factors with regard to this development count the tradition of the Technische Universität Chemnitz of close networking not only with companies, but also with the City of Chemnitz and extramural research institutions – like the local Fraunhofer Institutes for Machine Tools and Forming Technology as well as for Electronic Nano Systems – and the collaboration with international partners. The Technische Universität Chemnitz is honored to host the upcoming AC21 International Forum. The delegates can look forward to a varied and attractive program including not only presentations of leading keynote speakers and topic-oriented workshops, but also the opportunity to participate in the Spring Gala event on 30 April 2016 within the ceremonies of the 180-years jubilee and to get to know the city of Chemnitz and the surrounding region by an interesting accompanying cultural program. Traditionally, also the meetings of the main bodies of AC21 will be integrated in the program of the AC21 International Forum 2016: The AC21 Steering Committee will convene on 30 April 2016 and the AC21 General Assembly on 3 May

2016 before the Closing Ceremony.

The Technische Universität Chemnitz is looking forward to welcoming more than 100 delegates from all five continents to an instructive and productive AC21 International Forum.



## Upcoming AC21 Activities and Events

YEAR	DATES	EVENT/ACTIVITY	LOCATION
2016	April - May	8th AC21 International Forum 2016	Technische Universität Chemnitz (Germany)
		14th AC21 Steering Committee Meeting	Technische Universität Chemnitz (Germany)
		8th AC21 General Assembly	Technische Universität Chemnitz (Germany)
2017	TBA	2nd AC21 International Graduate School	Gadjah Mada University (Indonesia)
		15th AC21 Steering Committee Meeting	Gadjah Mada University (Indonesia)
2018	TBA	9th AC21 International Forum 2018	Jilin University (China)
		16th AC21 Steering Committee Meeting	Jilin University (China)
		9th AC21 General Assembly	Jilin University (China)

## AC21 General Secretariat Activities (Apr 2015 - Sep 2015)

YEAR	DATES	EVENT/ACTIVITY	LOCATION
2015	April 15	135th AC21 General Secretariat Meeting	Nagoya University (Japan)
	April 23 - 24	13th AC21 Steering Committee Meeting	University of Freiburg (Germany)
	May 22	136th AC21 General Secretariat Meeting	Nagoya University (Japan)
	May 25 - 29	Attendance at NAFSA 2015	Boston, MA, USA
	May 27	7th AC21-TUC NAFSA Working Breakfast 2015	Boston, MA, USA
	June 26	137th AC21 General Secretariat Meeting	Nagoya University (Japan)
	July 31	138th AC21 General Secretariat Meeting	Nagoya University (Japan)
	September 17	139th AC21 General Secretariat Meeting	Nagoya University (Japan)

## AC21 Members

<b>Australia</b>	The University of Adelaide	<b>Indonesia</b>	Gadjah Mada University
<b>China</b>	Jilin University	<b>Japan</b>	Nagoya University
	Nanjing University	<b>Laos</b>	National University of Laos
	Northeastern University	<b>New Zealand</b>	University of Canterbury
	Peking University	<b>South Africa</b>	Stellenbosch University
	Shanghai Jiao Tong University	<b>Thailand</b>	Chulalongkorn University
	Tongji University	<b>USA</b>	Kasetsart University
<b>France</b>	University of Strasbourg		North Carolina State University
<b>Germany</b>	Technische Universität Chemnitz		University of Minnesota
	University of Freiburg		

## What is AC21?

AC21 Website: <http://www.ac21.org/english/index>

AC21 is an international academic consortium comprised of higher education institutions from around the world. It was established in 2002 at the initiative of Nagoya University, with the aim of creating an academic network that transcends borders to address global issues by sharing knowledge and expertise. The network is managed by the AC21 General Secretariat located at Nagoya University.

### AC21 General Secretariat



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