

Internship at the University of Eindhoven of Technology

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National museum (Rijksmuseum) at the museum square

I did a one-month internship from 1st October till 1st November in Prof. E. W. Bert Meijer's group at the University of Eindhoven of Technology (TUE), an excellent university in the Netherlands. A cooperative project about Boron-Nitrogen structure helped me to know Prof. Meijer's name, and after browsing the homepage of his lab, I

found that he is an expert in supramolecular field. When I arrived at the Netherlands, I just felt so uncomfortable because of the bad weather and a big difference from Asian countries. After a couple of days, however, I started to love this place, which has beautiful large area of pasture, cute animals and delicious cheeses. There is an interesting thing in the Netherlands. The first



Kasteel De Haar in Utrecht

floor is called zero floor and at first, I was very confused about it and always went to a wrong floor.

North-European preciseness in their daily lives surprised me. When I first saw the labs, I was amazed by the tidiness and

highly ordered organization. Everyone is required to wear lab coat and goggles when working in the lab, otherwise warning is given and next, dismissal for up to six weeks can be issued. When a freshman joins in a group, he needs to accept a series of training before starting experiments. The first thing I was told there was “No music, no work”. There is a big audio set in every lab for playing music and students are forbidden to use earphones. After turning on the music, a new day begins. All these rules are beneficial for ensuring everyone’s safety and providing a good environment for experiments, and I learned a lot from the rules.



Clean lab and fume hoods

After revealing the winners of 2019 Nobel Prizes, a party with simple dinner was held for introducing the contributions of the winners to the members of TUe. After the opening addressed by Prof. Meijer, other professors from different fields introduced the backgrounds and the achievements of the winners. I was very lucky to attend this party before leaving TUe. I learned about the Nobel



Prof. Meijer is giving the opening speech

Prize much more at the party and I think we could have similar way to introduce this prize to students. I also joined a monthly group meeting and a doctor defense in the Meijer group. Especially the defense is quite different from that in Asian countries. The defendant was wearing a tuxedo and professors were

wearing black robes with hats. It is more like a ceremony for celebrating the graduation of the students rather than a defense, which will deeply remain in the students' memory.



View of TU/e (left) and a bookstore sat in a church in Maastricht (right)

Finally I would like to thank Prof. Meijer for giving me the opportunity of a short-term internship. Many thanks to Dr. Chidchob for fully supporting my stay as well as the experiments. I have learned a lot from him. Also, this internship was supported by JGP program in Kyoto University, and I really appreciate the support which gave me such an exciting experience.