



The Macdonald Campus Graduate Students' Society

Room R3-043, Raymond Building

21,111 Lakeshore Road

Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue, Quebec H9X 3V9

mcgss.weebly.com | mcgss-prez.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca

Hot Cities of the World Tour 2017

An exposure to different cultures through the
Student Experience Enhancement Fund

A report from Jaaved Singh

When I applied to the Student Experience Enhancement Fund (hereafter SEEF), I wanted a chance to get exposed to different cultures, different people and a different field. Thanks to SEEF, I was able to experience all of what I expected and more through the Hot Cities of the World Tour.



*Hong Kong: A photo of the former Legislative Council Building from Statue Square
Photo by Jaaved Singh*

At the end of February, I got to meet the fellow students I would be travelling to South East Asia with. I was excited to meet students of Desautel, McGill's Faculty of Management; a group I had not interacted with previously. I was pleasantly surprised to not only meet a group of future leaders but also students from political science, international development and industry relations. Later we would travel with alumni working at large corporations like HSBC, Microsoft, Just for Laughs and the United Nations. It was a very diverse group where our unique learning experiences had let us see the same people and issues with different perspectives. This group of students and, as Professor Moore referred to, inspiring alumni, helped expose me to different ways of thinking and helped expand my world view.

If I had to pick one specific topic I learned from the group, it is how your sense of value is ingrained in doing business. Knowing who you are, what value you bring, what value your idea or product has, is key to running a successful business or selling a product. This sense of value is something that I've seen missing from new graduate students in the sciences. The strength of knowing your value further inspired my Meaningful Science Project. The Hot Cities of the World Tour not only helped strengthen one of my projects but also exposed me to different organisational structures and management practices.

As a student leader, I led a team of fantastic graduate students. A lot of what we learned of leadership I had already practiced with my team but there was a repeating lesson from the leaders we met. From Ogilvy and Microsoft, our speakers talked about the importance of how to be compassionate and caring for your team. But they also said that sometimes, you to be strict to a team member. If someone is just not doing their job, you can approach them with compassion and find the issue, but if there is no improvement later on, you just have to play hard. That was something I never did and our team suffered for my mistake. I was just not comfortable being strict with a team member and tried multiple times to approach the member. But I was very soft in all my approaches and the person never felt a need to step up. If I had experienced the Hot Cities of the World trip earlier, I believe our team of graduate students would have met even more of our objectives for the student body. I also learned a lot about conglomerate business structures (similar to federation style governance), the nature of telecommunication monitoring in China, the importance of reading local newspapers, and how one sided the western world is in regards to the rest of the world.



A Photo of myself before meeting Former President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo at the Philippines House of Congress (Batasang Pambansa Complex)

I am incredibly grateful for being able to participate in the Hot Cities of the World Tour organised by Professor Karl Moore of the Desautel Faculty of Management.

Thank you,
Jaaved Singh

President,
MCGSS

jaaved.singh@mail.mcgill.ca
www.linkedin.com/in/jaavedsingh/

M.Sc. Candidate