

INNOVATE 2006: A Conference on Globalization and the Role of Asia in Our World



Andrew Blank, Rice University
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Chinese Visits

Sanmina-SCI
 Shanghai Association of Science and Technology
 Shanghai Urban Planning Exhibition Hall
 Fudan University
 Microport Medical

Japanese Visits

Toyota
 Innovation Plaza, Kyoto
 Matsushita Electric/Panasonic



Conference Themes

Contract Manufacturing and China as the World's Factory

A visit to Sanmina-SCI provided a first hand look at contract manufacturing in China. Sanmina-SCI is an electronics fabrication company, supplying products for companies such as IBM, Nokia, Motorola, and Dell. Sanmina is one of the leading Electronic Manufacturing Service (EMS) companies in the world, and it is headquartered in San Jose, California. Sanmina-SCI sells its components to sophisticated global corporations, thereby earning its reputation as a member of the "world's factory."

Japan's Leading Edge Automotive Technology and Manufacturing

Visiting Toyota was one of most popular visits of the INNOVATE Conference. With stops at the Toyota Museum's "Techno-land" and a tour of Welding and Plant Assembly, how could anyone not have loved the place? In addition, having the opportunity to see manufacturing theory and technology implemented in such a superbly integrated fashion proves Japan's position as the world's leader in the automotive industry.

Ethical Obligations and Realities of Technology - Entrepreneurship, IP, and the Design and Development of New Technology

This topic was part of nearly every discussion in China and Japan. One speaker addressed this topic; Gerald Kuo, Managing Director of Texas Instruments' Shanghai branch, gave a speech titled "Intellectual Property Issues in China." In addition, during a panel discussion in China, Eric Rongley (CEO of Bleum and Offshore Development Center) detailed the drastic measures employed to protect his company's intellectual property. On the topic of ethical obligations, it was interesting to see Toyota's commitments to sustainable development and reducing pollution. For instance, in December 2000 Toyota's production process achieved "zero direct landfill waste."

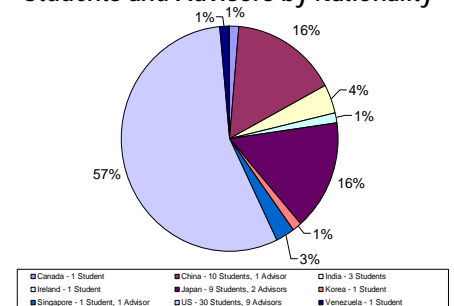
Consumer Electronics - Japan's Cutting Edge New Technology

Our trip to Panasonic provided a first hand look into our last theme of INNOVATE by demonstrating the cutting edge technology that Japan famously deploys. From more energy-efficient plasma televisions, to widescreen digital cameras with advanced image stabilization technology, towards a digitally integrated household and living room, Japanese consumer electronics manufacturers are at the forefront of innovation.

The Importance of International Study to the Global Citizen

- American companies increasingly operate in a global market. Today's top jobs will go to those with the skills to function in this global market, and tomorrow's jobs will require global outlooks from all applicants.
- Advancements in technology have decreased the relevance of national borders. It is no longer possible to ignore other cultures in this environment.
- An interconnected world means that a lack of exposure to other cultures and ideas is no longer acceptable. Our success in international economic and foreign policy depends on a citizenry capable of identifying and understanding complex global issues.
- Asia is experiencing rapid economic growth, bringing millions out of poverty and onto the global stage. By providing an opportunity to study Asia in person, international study programs such as INNOVATE provide students with exposure to and understanding of this dynamic region.

Students and Advisors by Nationality



Males-36, Females-34

