

Dubai study tour

Group Report



Division of Business

Community College of City University

Introduction

During 03.01.2018 to 07.01.2018, we are honour to have that special chance to join the Dubai study tour which impressed every one of us with its amazing culture and country development. It is an unforgettable memory and wonderful experience for all of us. We will show you the first day of journey in the following section.

Day 1

Dubai museum

After taking a long flight with duration of 9 hours, we immediately went to the Dubai Museum which is the oldest existing building in Dubai. We can see the living style of the past in Dubai by the demonstration shown on the television and the figures that placed inside the museum. The entrance of the gallery is located at the south-western corner. There is several video rooms and some dioramas. Rather than viewing those realistic figures showing their traditional way of life in Dubai, there also have some buildings which reflected the talent of locals in the past such as the wind tower which enhanced their living quality in the past. You can see the wind tower directly after the entrance of the museum's main door. Under the wind tower, we can also see the indoor design of house in the past Dubai. The Museum is worthy to tour not only due to its special culture shown inside but also the unique design of the museum.



- We can't miss any seconds to take a selfie, even in stairs.

Spice souk and gold souk

After taking a glance at the traditional way of life in Dubai Museum, we crossed the Dubai Creek by water taxis called abras and went to the Gold Souk and Spice Souk to see a traditional market in real life.



●waiting the water taxi

At the entrance of the Gold Souk, the word 'Dubai City of Gold' is on the gate of the entrance. Indeed, as soon as we walked in the souk, we can see the world's largest 21-carat ring on display in a store.



●the largest gold ring in the world

Walking into the Gold Souk, it is eye-opening to see that every store's window filled up with jewelry that made of gold. Not only using a huge amount of jewels to catch customers' eyes, stores will also have some statement pieces to make their store stand out, for example, belly button-length necklaces, a gold corsets and thick gold bangles.



Our next stop is the Spice Souk which is near to the Gold Souk. As we walked into the Spice Souk, we instantly noticed a strong aroma of herbs and spices. Although it's called Spice Souk, it sells scarfs, sand bottles and snacks etc. Walking inside the Spice Souk, staffs from different stores stand in the middle of the road and greet every pedestrian in different languages.



- We bought the scarfs.

Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC)

One of company visits was Dubai International Financial Centre which plays the important business role in United Arab Emirates. DIFC sets up legal and regulatory framework for the growth of banks. Comparing with Hong Kong, DIFC is still in start-up step. It faces lots of challenge from cross-border trade and investment activity.



- Group photo in the DIFC.

Burj Khalifah & The Dubai Fountain Show

At night, we visited the tallest building in the world. Burj Khalifa is 808 m (2,651 ft) tall and 165 floors. There is a highest outdoor observation deck in the world. At the top, we step into level 125 of Burj Khalifa where we enjoyed a vibrant night scene. It shows that Dubai is the glitzy city for everyone. Under the town, we appreciated the unique design of Burj Khalifa which is inspired by the spider flower of the desert (Hymenocallis). After that, the fountain show brought the brilliant performance of lights, music and water columns. The show is started at sunset and repeated every 30 minutes. With the play of light, music and water geysers, we marveled the captivating view.



●starting the show



●We were enchanted by the night scene.



Day 2

University of Wollongong in Dubai (UOWD)



The UOWD is a part of the University City (Dubai Knowledge Park). The buildings of the University City are similar but not identical and the buildings all have their own characteristics. In this University City, a major road runs through the entire University City. Also, there are beautiful greenery on both sides of the road. The construction of the UOWD is very particular and cultural. For example, the major color of the buildings in UOWD is white which give the visitors an impression of elegant and quiet. Besides, the architecture design with strong local cultural characteristics. The design not only applies a good study environment for students but also highlights the local culture. I think the UOWD is not just a university, its unique design makes it to be a special work of art.



●You jump, I jump, Together jump!





There is a program offer by UOWD called Islamic Banking and Finance. We are honored that one professor from this program introduced the brief idea of Islamic banking system to us. The most important thing what we learn from the system is Sukuk which is like a bond in Western finance but it is not like the traditional Western debt instruments because the Islamic law forbid "Riba". The most meaningful to the Sukuk is that the assets that back Sukuk are compliant with Shariah. Assets backing bonds may include products or services

that against Islam and Sukuk are priced according to the value of the assets backing them. Bond pricing is based on credit rating. When you sell sukuk, you are selling ownership in the assets backing them. The sale of bonds is the sale of debt.

Thus, from all of these, we learnt how tradition and culture can integrate into the business field. In Hong Kong, what we are learning is just the international banking system, which is practical. We have to bear our own responsibility like interest rate, fine and penalty to every economic actions we take. However, in Islamic banking system, the religion is integrated to the practical banking system. There is no longer the relationship of borrowers and lenders between the customers and the bank, but to share the risks together like brothers and sisters. It is believed that all the money is belongs to the god, what humans do is to manage. It is a kind concept that we think the whole world should learn from, as with this mind, mankind would try hard to prevent harm applied to others through economic activities, like becoming loan shark.



DP World

We are so grateful to have this golden opportunity to visit DP World, especially getting a short lecture to clear understanding more about the operation in their business. This visit is conducted in the form of road trip. We visited three container terminals in Jebel Ali Port. There are various facilities and services in Jebel Ali Port. For instance, General Cargo Facility, Logistics Capabilities, and Operations Training Centre, etc. Moreover, Jebel Ali Port's Container Terminals are equipped with a total of 23 berths and 78 cranes. Different container terminals are responsible for different things. Furthermore, we also know more about supply chain in the DP World. We knew that DP World adopt several

methods to enhance supply chain efficiency of its customers. Apart from that, they strengthen global supply chains by expanding their portfolio of world-class infrastructure assets. Even though we just spend a few time here, we have already had an eye-opening experience and broadening our horizon. We would like to thank DP world for their hospitality and all the rewarding experiences. Last but not least, the tour would not have been possible without the co-ordination and preparatory groundwork undertaken by our tour mate.



●Group photo in front of DP World

The educational visiting in DP world has broadened visions and perspectives of all delegates through visits and the presentation sessions. Through the company visit, all delegates were facilitated to acquire an understanding of a multitude of supply chain business organizations. Also, we gained insight of the management strategies and experience. DP world support by rich social, financial, technological and economic context. Also we appreciated the administration philosophy of close collaboration between the government and its government-linked organizations (The Gas Storage). Through this visit, the delegates were exposed to and fully comprehended the richness and diversity of Dubai culture in promoting a productive and nurturing business environment.



●The Yellow Column in DP World is generally doing the cargo service.

Day 3

Palm Jumeirah Monorail

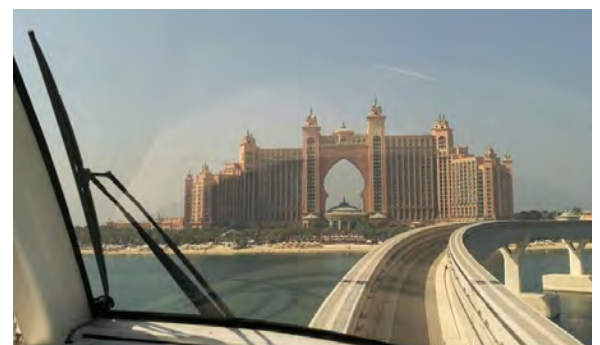
Palm Jumeirah Monorail is the first monorail in the middle east and it is opened on April 2009. What so special is that the trains are driverless running along the trunk of Palm Jumeirah in Dubai. While taking the train, our eyes were well-feasted on the stunning scenery of the Palm Jumeirah, ranging from the exotic buildings to the limpid artificial beach.



●We rode the monorail.

Atlantis, The Palm

Atlantis, The Palm is the terminus of the Palm Jumeirah Monorail and we can see that it is situated on Palm Island, which is a man-made island on the coast of Dubai. It has become a landmark of Dubai because of the iconic symbol of the buildings. The main building has two towers joined together by the Royal Bridge Suite and the outlook of the hotel is really amazing as the design incorporates classical Arabian architecture with fossilised shells and fish stones.



●taking the monorail to Atlantis



●Hotel like a castle, extremely beautiful!

The Lost Chambers Aquarium

The Lost Chambers Aquarium is part of the Atlantis, The Palm. Walk through the glass tunnels of it, we can see sharks, stingray, piranhas clearly and we all come face-to-fin within this spellbinding underwater world. It provides us an immersive experience as we watched professional divers feeding big sharks with a quite big size of fish.



●Cheers!!

Souk Madinat Jumeirah



Souk Madinat Jumeirah is the third market we have visited throughout the tour. Compare to the markets visited on the first day, it is more grandly constructed and so the goods sold here are relatively more of high quality but costly. Some good quality souvenir can also found in there such as small gold Arabic tower, small camel, remarkable dishes with

special pattern and painting. The market is actually an indoor marketplace with air conditioner, therefore visitor can walk comfortably which is a excellent design. Since our schedule is tight and the market is large, we do not have enough time to visit every corner. It would be great if we have more time on the market.



- These are some typical souvenirs in the Dubai shops.



Desert Safari

The highlight of the day was the time we spent on the Desert Safari. We first had a sand-slucing experience, it was like playing roller coaster in desert. Speedy wheels clashed with the rutted and uneven sandland and created exhilaration to us.



- Let us take a selfie in Dubai Desert!

Close to twilight, some of us had camel rides. The limbs of the camels are long that we were a bit frightened because of the height when we were riding on them. Whereas some boys tried the desert motorbike. They look cool in pictures below, aren't they?



- Although it is dangerous, it is excited and enjoyable.





●This is the first time for riding a camel. See how excited we are!

Before dinner, we tried Henna Tattoo. A technician used a pen made up of herbal pigment to draw some figures on our hands. The figures will fade out gradually within a month.



●Here is the pattern of Henna, which costs around HKD \$40, \$60 respectively

A visit to Dubai would not be complete without trying adventure desert safari and watching fire show. Watching the fire show and tanura show is an unforgettable and unique experience in our lifetime.



Day 4

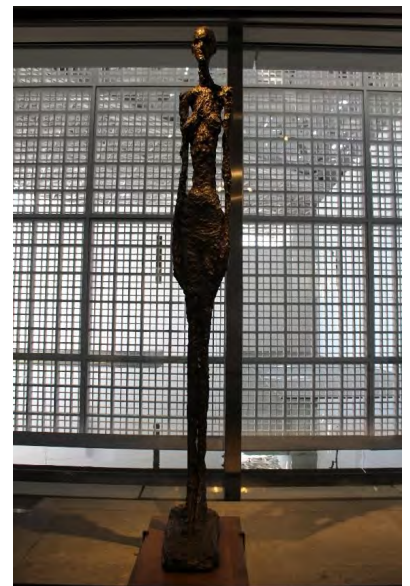
Louvre Abu Dhabi

After using 2.5 hours to go to Abu Dhabi, we arrived Louvre Abu Dhabi. Since we had a tight journal, the tour guide only gave 2.5 hours for visiting Louvre Abu Dhabi.



Since Dubai used 525 million USD to buy the name for 30 years to have a chance to exhibit tangible antiques, it included some displays in Musée du Louvre borrowed to Louvre Abu Dhabi.

We are so lucky to have this valuable opportunity to visit the Louvre Abu Dhabi, where is full of the famous paintings. Thus, the art gallery shows us all the opus or creatures in different decades such as the photos beside, "the Whistler's mother", "the Standing woman II", etc. During the appreciation of those art, we understand that every opus has its own story and history. Visiting this art gallery not only enhance our knowledge of history such as the Napoleon, but also increased our self-cultivation in art. In China or Hong Kong, we seldom have chance to appreciate the art like this, somethings that has already disappeared in nowadays, can't believe that we are so lucky to see. This Dubai tour really gives us a lot of memorable experiences and treasures.



●Standing Woman II



●Whistler's mother



●Let take a selfie with the Head of a bishop

Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque

Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque is the largest mosque in the United Arab Emirates and the eighth largest mosque in the world.

Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque is named after its founder - Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the first president of the UAE.



•This photo was taken inside the Mosque.

It was built between 1996 and 2007. The materials of the Mosque were from many countries including Italy, Germany, Morocco, Pakistan, India, Turkey, Malaysia, Iran, China, United Kingdom, New Zealand and the United Arab Emirates. Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque has 82 domes and 4 107-meter minarets.

In day 4, we used near 2.5 hours to travel from Dubai to Abu Dhabi. The tour guide told us we could not wear shoes inside the Mosque and did not wear socks inside the minaret for experience the largest carpet on the world.

She also told us we must take a photo with the largest chandelier in the Mosque which had a 10 m diameter and a 15 m height. Because it was the second largest chandelier inside a mosque and the third largest in the world.



•The largest carpet in the world tourists.



Acknowledgement

Special Thanks To

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**Tour Guide
Isah**