

NPU Winter Program 2019



XI'AN, CHINA

ASIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

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January 5, 2019

The NPU Winter program commenced in the morning of 5th January 2019, by visiting the aerospace office in Xi'an. The participants learnt about the satellite control system. Moreover, all of us learnt more about the satellite component and the operation system of each components. And in the afternoon session, the activity was to attend the School of Life Science. The lecturer presented about the Northwestern Polytechnical University: NPU. NPU is a famous university in Xi'an and the top ten engineering universities in China. Now, there are two campuses. There are 16 academic schools with more than 28,000 students and 3,800 staff here. Moreover, the NPU has collaborated with other institutes to provide laboratory for research and to develop Bio - information and innovation such as 10 National laboratories, 1 Ministry laboratory and 8 Provincial laboratories. In addition, the NPU provides scholarship for students. There are various sources of scholarship such as the National scholarship, the University scholarship, the Provincial scholarship and the Entrepreneur scholarship. All participants in the Winter Program were facilitated by the NPU volunteers.

January 6, 2019

The opening ceremony started in the afternoon session and the key person of the winter program informed us about the program objectives. All the participants introduced themselves and interacted with one another. There were 30 participants from four countries including; six students from Thailand, 11 students and one staff from Indonesia, seven students and one teacher from Russia, three from Korea, and from Argentina.



January 7, 2019

Our first Chinese Language class was conducted from 9:00 to 11:00 AM in the morning at Chinese Language Center. Our Chinese teacher was Ms. Pei (Pei Laushi). We studied the initials, final alphabets, and different Chinese tones in Ping Ing. The class comprised of people coming from various nationalities such as Cambodia, Thailand, Myanmar, Indonesia, Philippines, Nepal and Russia. The multi-cultural classroom was very interesting. We got to know more people from different background.

At 13:30 PM in the afternoon, we gathered at the dormitory lobby, and continued our field trip to Xian City Wall, the ancient city wall of Chang'an City, which is the iconic place in Xian. The tour was led by Jenny (our guide) and NPU volunteers. We enjoyed the stunning view and learnt the history of the city wall introduced by the tour guide. We spent around 2 hrs. 30 mins in walking around and exploring the city wall . Also, as the city wall was immensely big, some people chose to cycle to tour around under the cool temperature.



January 8, 2019

The second day was equally interesting as we could learn new words used daily in China. We were very excited and enjoyed the class. We had to start reading, writing, and speaking like we were kids again. However, it was a fun experience. Moreover, we learnt about numbers, days and dates. Our teacher was trying hard to teach us because it's not easy to convince or teach (especially foreigners) to pronounce the correct tones of Chinese language.



In the afternoon, we visited Da Ming Palace. Initially, we watched 3D movie which portrayed the history of Da Ming Palace at Da Ming Palace Cinema. The movie displayed the history, some main places of Da Ming Palace, and love story of a Princess. After that we went to see the real location of Da Ming Palace. Unfortunately, we could not witness the surreal palace because it had been destroyed during the war. So, we just saw the model of the palace, roamed around and took some pictures.

Later the same day we visited a bookstore at La Once. There were a wide collection of books and the decoration specifically was very eye-catching. The reading space was very exquisite. However, we could find only few books in English.



January 9, 2019

Like any other day we were very enthusiastic and still had the same eagerness to learn for our third day of Chinese class. The session started with our teacher asking us to recall what we had learnt in the earlier two classes. After that, we were taught the basics of introducing ourselves (including our name, the country we belonged to, our phone number and email address). The third class was more of a practice session for us. It included a lot of practice rounds from starting a conversation, introducing ourselves to introducing our classmates and favorite celebrities.



Later the same day at around two in the afternoon, we left for Shaanxi History Museum, which was a 30 minutes bus ride from the university. We visited all the five exhibition halls inside the museum. Learning that the museum has gathered a history of 1.7 million years was overwhelming for us. We were awestruck to witness how the museum displayed the sculptures, murals, pottery, paintings, coins and also many bronze, silver and gold items from the three great dynasties namely, Tang, Qin and Han dynasty. The relics were well preserved which reflects how the people of China respect their history and protect their culture. All-in-all, we were lucky to witness and experience a great combination of traditional art and architecture with state of the art technology.



January 10, 2019

This day was the last day of our Chinese class. We had a small presentation individually by introducing ourselves to the class using Chinese language. Greetings followed by name, nationality, birthday, phone number and email address were mostly used. The purpose was to wrap up the lessons that we learnt since the first day of the class. Also, the teacher was totally smiling during the entire presentation while also taking pictures of us, students. We had a great time learning Chinese especially because of our teacher who is very impressive in her job, making the lessons enjoyable. Before we left the class, we had a group photo and exchanged our goodbyes.

In the afternoon, we were scheduled to go to Giant Wild Goose Pagoda but, unfortunately, it was under maintenance to prepare for the coming Chinese New Year. Instead we just roamed around in the adjacent street and enjoyed the nice view. It was also a very good day as it snowed, and we enjoyed so much especially those who came from tropical countries--delegates from AIT and Indonesia--as this was our first-time experiencing snow. It was a very memorable experience. Lastly, we roamed around Joy City, one of the biggest malls in Xian.



January 11, 2019

In the morning, we went to a museum in which it described as the “Start of Silk road”. The silk road was a network of trades connecting east and west and it was used by ancient civilizations. It was believed that it started in Chang’an City known as Xian now. We explored the galleries of the museum which showed the maps, description of people, currencies used and many more. There were also items being shown which can be used to barter with other items. The ground was also preserved where many relics were excavated. On the main hall, the flags of different countries were mounted along with the big silk road map to show which countries were included in the trade network.

After lunch, we headed to the Small Wild Goose Pagoda and a museum as well to showcase some relics found in the area. There was not much to explore except for the good sceneries which we used as backgrounds for our photo sessions. We also bought some souvenirs as the shop offered cheaper prices compared to other stores we had visited.



January 12, 2019

We visited Emperor Qin Shihuang's Terracotta Army Mausoleum which is one of most interesting places in Xian. The Emperor Qin Shihuang's Mausoleum is also regarded in the World Heritage list by UNESCO. It is also known as "the Eighth Wonder of the World" and "one of the greatest discoveries in 20th century in the archaeological history". We were looking forward to visit this place since the start. It took around one hour to reach there. When we arrived there, we went to the museum where we could



see two types of chariots statues. The first type of chariot is the man who is standing while he is driving the horses. The number of horses for two types of chariots are mostly four. The man who stands in the cart and drives the horses from the cart is called chariot No. I. Chariot No. II is the man who is sitting in front of the cart and drives the four horses. Besides, there are three main pits: pit 1, pit 2 and pit 3 in this mausoleum. In pit 2, we can see different positions of archers like standing archer who looks like holding a weapon in his hand and ready to shoot. The other one is kneeling archer whose hands look like holding a crossbow although there is nothing in his hands. The another one is cavalry officer with his saddled war-horse. Nearly 40,000 bronze weapons like spear, halberd, sword, hook, crossbow and so on have been found in these pits. There is one more amazing thing in that Qin era. That is chrome-plating technology which is a technology that prevents corrosion. When the sword from that Qin era was tested about chrome-plating, from 10 to 15 micron chromium thickness was found on the



sword surface. They said although Germans and Americans invented that technology first in the past, that technology had been already started using in China 2,200 years before. In different styles of warriors, there is middle ranking officer who wore two layered flat hat and square-toed shoes. There were two different styles for these officers: one wears only chest armor and another one wears chest and back armor together.

Finally, we were amazed when we saw around 8,000 figures in one place. It was such a great experience to see this Emperor Qin Shihuang's Terracotta Army in Xian. We should visit this mausoleum at least once in our life. We were very satisfied with this visit and had a lot of fun.

January 13, 2019

We visited Gao Family mansion. This mansion was built in the Ming Dynasty during Emperor Chongzhen's reign. Until the Qing Dynasty, the Gao Family had been noble and served the imperial government for their seven generations. The Gao Family mansion is one of four traditional houses which left in Xian, now and it is located in Muslim quarter. The mansion is around 8.9 acres area and houses are built of wood and brick. Most of the doors and windows are built of wood. We could see different room structure and different styles houses here. There are side halls, guest halls, rooms for ladies, rooms for the master and mistress, a library, a library, a small garden, a family temple, an open air opera house and rooms for other purposes. We could study their papers and documents which were used 400 years before.

There are various styles of furniture in each room. Some beds and dressing tables are still beautiful and we can imagine how they value their culture and we can see their full heritage culture. Ancient chairs and tables, teapots and cups, pipes for smoking, ceramic plates, large ceramic pots, abacuses(counting frames) can be seen in this mansion. Each of the room structure are so amazing. There is an interesting chamber: the central chamber which is for the Master and the Lady. It has three parlors. In the middle parlor, they met their private guests. The dining room is located in the south parlor and the north parlor is served as the bedroom for the Master and the Lady. The library is located in the upper floor but when we arrived there, they did not allow the visitors to go upstairs.

There are two small houses more: the south wing for unmarried daughters and the north wing for unmarried sons. The whole mansion is filled with wonder. Besides, we had so much great fun for the puppet show "The Journey to the West", which is so popular in China. Although it took short time, we really enjoyed it. After that, we had some delicious street food at Muslim street and came back to NPU campus.



January 14, 2019

This day was remarkable as we learnt about Chinese painting at Guanzhong Shuyuan Academy. When we reached there, we put on traditional Chinese wardrobes to learn Chinese painting. Before going to Chinese painting class, the teachers closed the gate doors first and they stood on the other side of the doors. They also wore their wardrobes and after playing some music, they opened the door and we listened to his welcome speech to the students (us). Then, in the class, the teachers were so patient and taught us how to draw a cat with ink and brush. It was a wonderful experience. Although we had no experience to paint with brushes (especially Chinese painting) , it was interesting, engaging and we were happy to attend this class.



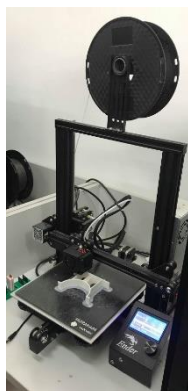
After lunch, we headed back to the academy to attend the Chinese folk music program. A group of 15 people played several traditional Chinese instruments which reflected the richness of Chinese art . We observed that the group comprised of mostly elderly people and only two or

three young members. Upon conversation with the guide, we came to know that playing folk music was a part-time job for most of the members and for them it was a hobby rather than a profession. Young people were not so involved as they had other commitments. The most amusing part for us was when they allowed us to play the instruments on our own after their performance was over. Also, some students were enthusiastic enough to learn from the music teacher himself.



January 15, 2019

In the morning session, we visited the engineering training center at the new campus of NPU. After the staff presented the new campus and showed the robots and airplane, we were divided into three big groups in order to learn about the 3D printer. It is useful for robot and airplane model creating. Moreover, we learnt about how 3D works. We toured around the campus and the places introduced by the volunteers. The new campus is a good place surrounded by mountains on all sides. In the afternoon session, we learnt about the laser cutter machine and the staff showed us how to use the laser cutter machine to create the animal zodiac for everybody then we went back to the old campus.

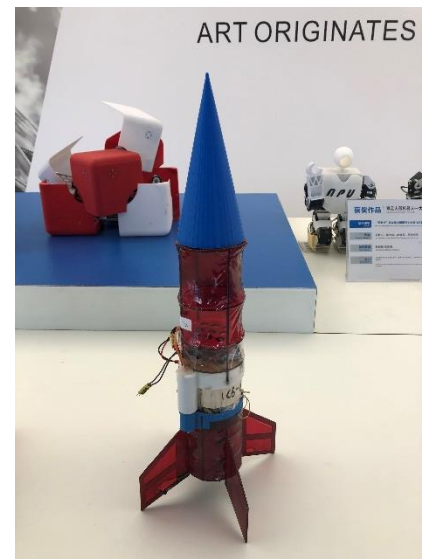
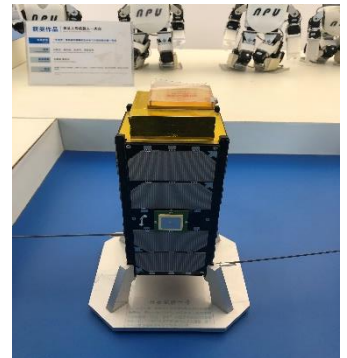


January 16, 2019

We began the last day of the NPU Winter Program 2019 by a workshop of Chinese laser paper cutting session. We spent more than an hour travelling from the international dormitory in the 1st Campus to Chang'an campus near the mountain area. The second campus is bigger than the old campus. Situated near the mountain gives a very captivated view of nature, and environment, yet the temperature was very cold, and windy. Our Russian friends were not be able to join this session as they had to return on that day. A class of laser wooden cutting session was conducted, and the students were divided into different groups and were instructed to construct patterns of buildings, airplanes, dragon, horse etc. However, we could not complete it due to the time constraint.



After lunch, we walked around the campus to see the school exhibition hall, museum, and the scenery views.



These are some pictures in the NPU Exhibition Hall which show the master piece of contribution to the Chinese society by professors, alumnus, students. To our surprise, NPU made huge impact on the social, technological, and economical development of People's Republic of China.

Moreover, we visited the NPU museum which was guided by a volunteer student. We were informed about the history and development of NPU from the beginning till today. We can understand how history has been through and written from the early birth in 1938.





A student of NPU introducing the history and development of the school.



The old study material from the past which have been preserved until today.



Su looking at the building model of the building in new campus and enjoying.

January 17, 2019

All journeys must come to an end. Throughout the program, we were able to build close relationships with other participants. And January 17 was our last day in Xi'an and everyone was nostalgic, and some became emotional. Farewell messages poured out to everyone and we also exchanged gifts with one another. As one Korean participant said "When I first arrived, I wanted to go back to Seoul right away. But when I began to know you all, the feeling gradually disappeared." Indeed, the highlight of this program was the friendships we built with one another as we became like a family during the entire two weeks.

