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Summer EU Student Exchange: Top-up Programme Brussels 2013



Students visiting the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Brussels

21 HKBU students have spent a unique summer in Europe this year during their participation of the first EU Top-up summer programme along with students from HKU and CUHK. Although the students in the summer programme come from different universities and disciplines, they have a common goal to enhance their understanding of the EU. They stayed in Brussels, the capital of the EU, between 23 June and 28 June to attend different thematic activities about the EU. The top-up summer programme in Brussels is organized by the European Union Academic Programme Hong Kong with the support of the European Union and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Brussels.

Seminars in different policy areas including human rights, green energy, European integration, Hong Kong-EU relations, drugs, etc. were held by the EU in order to provide student first-hand information from the EU officials. Discussion with the EU officials is the most extraordinary experience for the students as they can comment on the policies directly and generate further discussions.

The visit at the European Parliament included a presentation of the European Parliament,

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an EU institution directly elected by the EU citizens and representing their interest, and also a dialogue session with a member of the Parliament. Dialogue session with Mr. Bill Newton Dunn was remarkable, in which he highlighted his works at Parliament since 1979 with our students. His insights on "Organized crime, Corruption and Money Laundering" provided students a valuable reference on how the EU copes with these problems.

During this 5-day summer programme, students also visited the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Brussels which represents the HKSAR government in the EU. The Deputy Representative, Mr. Eddie Lee, introduced the works and duties of his office and shared his working experience as an oversea HKSAR official.

Besides the EU institutions, students learnt about the academic excellence and its historical background through the visit of one of the EUAP's academic partners, College of Europe, in Brugge. The College is renowned for European studies and the training of "an elite of young executives for Europe". Taking the opportunity of presence in Brugge, students also joined the local guided tour to understand more about this UNESCO world heritage site.



Visiting the European Commission

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