

Graduate School of Systems and Information Engineering

Department of Policy and Planning Sciences

FY 2018 Graduate General Education Courses – International Internship

Life in Metropolitan Areas in the XXI Century *-Learning from Paris Metropolitan Region-*

Doctoral Program in Policy and Planning Sciences

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Overview

I participated in the 36th urban planning program discussing Ile de France organized by Les Ateliers. Every year the program gathers international students and professionals in the domain of urban planning to discuss different topics together about urban areas and their future. The topic of this program is about *the life in the metropolitan areas in the 21st century*. Participants were chosen by asking them to write an essay about a metropolitan area of their choice and discussing its urban issues (I chose Tokyo Metropolitan Area). Through this application selection, 20 participants were chosen out of 100 applicants. The participants have to present their proposal about how life in metropolitan Paris will be in 2050 in front of a jury by the end of the program.



Objective

The purpose of the program is to gather planning students and professionals from all over the world to think about the current urban issues in the Paris Metropolitan Region and to imagine the life in this region in the 21st century. The participants are required provide proposals that respond to the issues they have observed in field visits and explain their proposals through concrete examples.

Activities

The program was held over a period of four weeks. The first week included field visits covering different areas around the region of Ile de France and the surrounding regions

as well such as Normandy Region and Confluence Region. The remaining three weeks included working in teams and exchange forums between the participants, the organizers, and planning professionals. A final proposal was provided which included: A public presentation in front of the jury; an A0 layout of the proposal; a ten pages proposal which was included in the final report of the program (130 pages). My



teammates and I proposed the concept of the “Micropolis” which focus on balanced urban development and share of resources. The concepts is based on creating a polycentric metropolitan region be creating a “Network of Micropoleis”.

Results

Joining this program of Les Ateliers was beneficial for me in different ways as explained below:

- By studying the case of Metropolitan Paris, my participation in this program helped me have a better understanding of metropolitan regions, the way these regions function, and challenging urban issues which they must tackle.
- This program was a great opportunity to work with people from different nationalities and backgrounds. Working in a multinational team for a period of three weeks helped us look at the topic of the program from different perspectives and further enriched our work.
- The topic of the program “life in the metropolitan areas in the 21st century” was a catalyst for me to go beyond the analysis of the current available data to reach conclusions into having a futuristic vision for urban development. This approach helped me learn from the current challenges to project my proposals to the future of urban areas.
- It helped me develop more confidence in presenting in front of specialized and experienced audience on an international podium. In addition, this experience encouraged me to be further involved in academic debates and to be able to defend my ideas and proposals.
- The exchanges and debates were done with scholars and academics, former directors of planning and on-duty planning officials. This variety helped my teammates and I come out with a more practical proposal by giving concrete tools.