



Hochschule für Technik
und Wirtschaft Berlin
University of Applied Sciences

International workshop Ethiopia-German in HTW, Berlin

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Day of Arrival – June 25, 2023

On the day of our arrival, Mr. Dorian and Professor Oliver Scholz warmly received us at the airport and graciously drove us to our hostel. Their smiling faces and offering of cold water upon arrival filled us with joy and appreciation. Once we reached the hostel, we were heartily welcomed by HTW students who had prepared a delightful dinner and organized a mini-party for us, an experience we thoroughly enjoyed.



Day one, Monday – June 26, 2023

Day one on Monday started with Laura greeting us at our hostel. Together, we took the train to HTW Campus, where we were warmly received by students and esteemed professors, namely, Professor Katarina, Professor Oliver Scholz, and Professor Asnakech. During our visit to HTW, we had the privilege of exploring laboratories focused on renewable energy, led by Professor Asnakech. The tour provided us with insights into various renewable energy sources, including solar and wind power. Of particular interest was our learning about the efficient energy source, Hydrogen, its extraction, and storage.

Afterwards, we had our lunch at the Mensa before proceeding to a meeting with the HTW president. Our team lead, Professor Diriba, presented a gift to the president, consisting of Ethiopian Coffee and promotional material from Adama Science and Technology University. Furthermore, Professor Katarina Adam briefed the president on the progress and future objectives of the Adama-Berlin Joint project. During the meeting, we all had the opportunity to introduce ourselves. The president received us warmly, expressing appreciation for our progress and promising support to enhance the joint project. As a pleasant conclusion, we took a group photograph outside the building.

Following our meeting with the HTW president, we visited the former president of HTW University, Professor Busch, to express our gratitude for his support to the joint project and engaged in meaningful conversation. Subsequently, Professor Scholz took us on a brief tour of Berlin, including a unique experience on a ferry around the lake, where we explored various picturesque locations and landmarks. The excursion provided us with an opportunity to appreciate the beauty and charm of the city.

Later in the evening, we visited the Ethiopian Embassy to meet the current Ambassador of Ethiopia in Germany. During this formal engagement, we had the privilege of discussing matters of mutual interest and working towards educational excellence and the bond between the nations educational institutes. We also had the pleasure of enjoying a delightful dinner at the residence of the ambassador. The dinner was a memorable experience as we were treated to a scrumptious spread of authentic Ethiopian cuisine. We were served a variety of traditional dishes, such as injera (a sourdough flatbread), doro wat (spicy chicken stew), kitfo (minced raw meat), and an assortment of flavorful vegetarian options. The Ambassador's hospitality and the warm ambiance created a wonderful atmosphere, allowing us to appreciate not only the delicious food but also the rich cultural heritage of our Ethiopia. It was a truly memorable dining experience.

Overall, our first day in Berlin was filled with warm hospitality, enriching experiences, and fruitful interactions, setting a positive tone for our joint project journey.

Day Two, Tuesday - June 27, 2023

We started our day off early by traveling to the HTW Campus. We had the pleasure to attend Professor Bottger's outstanding project management lecture there. The talk was mostly concerned with cost rundown and gave us relevant instances of large-scale projects that had major cost variances from their original budgets. Professor Bottger provided more details on the causes of these cost overruns and suggested viable solutions. The seminar turned out to be an interesting and informative event.

After the lecture on project management, we had the honor of attending another educational session, delivered by Professor Lehmann, that focused on robotics. The talk provided us with important insights into this cutting-edge topic and served as an introduction to active robotics projects being developed at HTW.

Our team lead, Professor Diriba, gave a short presentation describing the accomplishments and profile of Adama Science and Technology University to the vice president of the department of industrial engineering during the course of the morning.

We then participated in a session of student presentations designed to address various issues. These lectures mainly served to inform the audience on the project partners' academic specializations, employment prospects, and outlooks. We gave identical information about ourselves and our goals as the Ethiopian side representatives.

We (Ethiopian Students) visited the Topography of Terror (Topographie des Terreurs) outdoor and indoor museum by the guidance of The German HTW students following lunch at the Mensa. We gained a thorough comprehension of German history and its historical relevance as a result of this encounter.



Before retiring to our hostel, we indulged in a delectable Turkish cuisine experience at the mall. The culinary journey took us on a delightful exploration of traditional Turkish flavors and dishes. The overall enjoyment of the evening left us with lasting memories of the delightful Turkish dining experience.

As the evening approached, we returned to our hostel, reflecting on the enriching and eventful day we had spent at HTW Campus. The formal lectures, engaging presentations, and cultural exploration collectively contributed to a rewarding experience and further strengthened the bonds between our institutions.

Day Three, Wednesday - June 28, 2023

Once again, we started our day by waking up early, as we had been informed in advance about our scheduled visits to Siemens Energy and EBK. However, upon our arrival at Siemens, we received an update informing us that our visit to EBK had been canceled. Consequently, we proceeded with our visit to Siemens Energy, where we were warmly greeted by two remarkable women engaged in fascinating projects within the company.

During our visit, we were given the opportunity to witness the manufacturing process of a gas turbine at various stages. The sheer size of the completed turbine, weighing up to 600 tons, left us in awe. Additionally, we had the privilege of meeting an expert in Green Hydrogen production, who delivered an impressive presentation outlining the extraction process of hydrogen and their plans to scale up production in order to mitigate the alarming CO₂ emissions. The insights shared were truly remarkable and further emphasized the significance of sustainable energy solutions.

Following the factory tour, we proceeded to the innovation center at Siemens, where our minds were captivated by a perfectly simulated presentation. It vividly depicted the operation of a running turbine and illustrated the impact of carbon-emitting industries, as well as the implementation of renewable energy sources. We actively participated in controlling various parameters to observe their effects on the environment. The experience left a profound impression on us, sparking thought-provoking discussions long after our departure from Siemens Energy.

Later on, we made our way back to the Mensa to have our lunch. However, even as we left Siemens Energy, our conversations were still consumed by the extraordinary presentation and the potential it held for a sustainable future.

In the afternoon, we headed to a park to enjoy some pizza and drinks while embracing the peaceful atmosphere and beautiful surroundings. It was a refreshing break from our activities. Afterwards, we made our way back to the hostel, reflecting on the amazing experiences we had throughout the day.

Day Four, Thursday - June 29, 2023

Early in the morning, we started our day by going to the campus as usual, where we had the pleasure of reconnecting with the two remarkable women from Siemens Energy. They informed us that a hackathon was to be held, presenting us with two challenging problems to solve. The first involved devising a technical solution to provide a digital twin for supplying electricity to rural areas, while the second required ensuring data plausibility. Working collaboratively, our Ethiopian and German teams came together to tackle these problems.



Engaging in intensive discussions, we dedicated considerable time to formulate comprehensive solutions. The exchange of ideas was captivating, leading to fruitful deliberations that stretched over several hours. Amidst our work, we paused to enjoy lunch at Mensa. After that, we resumed and presented our findings, both to our team in Berlin and our Ethiopian teammates, who joined us through a Zoom call. The combined efforts and diverse perspectives showcased the strength of international collaboration.

Upon the conclusion of the hackathon, we indulged in a sundowner event by the riverbank. Immersed in a serene atmosphere, we savored delicious food, drinks, and the breathtaking view that surrounded us. It was an enchanting setting in which to unwind and reflect on the day's accomplishments.

Overall, the hackathon provided us with an opportunity to apply our knowledge and skills, fostering collaboration and innovation. The Following sundowner event offered a delightful occasion for relaxation and friendship.

Day Five, Friday - June 30, 2023

We commenced the day earlier than usual, as we had made prior arrangements for a guided tour at the Bundestag Building. Upon arrival, we ascended to the dome, equipped with digital wireless tour guides that played recorded explanations as we made our way up. During the tour, we discovered the historical significance of several buildings, some dating back a century, which had withstood the challenges of World Wars and remained standing. The Bundestag tour provided us with valuable insights into the architectural heritage and resilience of Germany.

Following the Bundestag visit, we strolled to the Futurium building, where we marveled at the visionary plans and ongoing innovations shaping Germany's future. The exhibits showcased a myriad of ideas and concepts aimed at propelling societal progress.

To replenish our energy, we dined at a nearby mall, accompanied by our knowledgeable German student guides, who had been instrumental in enlightening us about the buildings and historical landmarks we encountered along the way. The meal was a delightful opportunity to savor German cuisine and engage in conversations with our companions.

Afterward, we divided into three groups and indulged in some shopping, taking advantage of the vibrant retail offerings in the city. Following a day filled with retail therapy, we were graciously invited to a farewell dinner hosted by Professor Adams, Professor Scholtz, and Professor Asnakech. The dinner provided a remarkable evening of camaraderie, allowing us to reflect on our experiences in Berlin, share our newfound knowledge, and exchange questions with both our German counterparts and professors. As the evening progressed, the bittersweet moment of parting ways arrived, and we bid farewell to the professors and students, cherishing the memories we had forged during our time together.

Overall, the day encompassed engaging tours of significant landmarks, enriching conversations, and moments of appreciation for German culture and innovation.

Reflection

Throughout our trip, we had the opportunity to observe and learn from the work ethics of our German counterparts. It became evident that they placed great importance on discipline, punctuality, and attention to detail. Their commitment to excellence and professionalism in their work was truly admirable. We appreciated how they seamlessly integrated their rich history into their daily lives, showcasing a deep respect and pride for their heritage.

One aspect that stood out was the emphasis on practice-based education. We noticed that the German education system placed a strong emphasis on practical application and hands-on learning. This approach contributed significantly to the quality of their education, as it enabled students to develop real-world skills and gain valuable experience within their respective fields.

These learnings have had a profound influence on our perspectives and will undoubtedly shape our future endeavors, as we strive to incorporate these valuable lessons into our own work and continue to foster cross-cultural collaborations.