

Meeting World-class Talents in New York City

Exploring the globe is always fun for university students. Visiting New York City and attending an international student conference were definitely among the most unforgettable experiences of my third year of study at CityU.

The Conference

Being the only delegate from Hong Kong to join the 43rd International Conference held by Business Today, a student-run organization managed by Princeton University that aims to fill niches and bridge gaps in the undergraduate business world, was truly motivating. The 3-day conference, held from November 19 to 21, 2017 in New York City, was one of the most thrilling and memorable events I have ever attended. I was surrounded by elites from Ivy League universities and Oxbridge sharing dazzlingly thought-provoking ideas on international affairs. I was honored by the golden opportunity to network with various C-Suite speakers and proud to speak with the President of Microsoft as well as the Chief Marketing Officer at the *Wall Street Journal*—big thanks to the *WSJ* for featuring my name in an article!

Case Challenge

During the conference, we competed in a mini case challenge during which we were divided into groups of eight to come up with solutions to global issues relating to the environment, education and globalization. My team members were from the University of Cambridge, LSE and UCLA, and I was deeply impressed by their highly sophisticated analytical mindset and laudable team spirit. They consistently voiced brilliant arguments but were always generous in asking for their team members' opinions.

My lovely team members and I developed a platform for linking university graduates with skills needed in various developing countries. We didn't win the prize, but we did all gain a valuable learning experience.

Great Sharing

The insights shared by Brad Smith, Microsoft's President and Chief Legal Officer, were inspiring and thought-provoking. One point with which I strongly agreed related to organizational innovation. Brad Smith explained that Microsoft has always sought to pioneer technological innovation and to gain the first-mover advantage that "guides the firm to a global lead." I was particularly impressed by this statement because it is so resonant in today's business world and in our own lives—if we are the first and the only ones to initiate something, we can achieve something that no-one else can take away.

Perhaps this seems impossible. But everyone at the conference was working so hard to achieve it: a female delegate from the U.S. was forming an association to fund woman entrepreneurs; a Harvard delegate gave up his free time to build a platform to help impoverished students to obtain tuition fees. I had often heard about such outstanding students in the news, but this was the first time that I had been so close to them, making me truly believe that we students can make new things possible.

My Words

As a business student, I have always wanted to grow my personal network in NYC—a city of miracles. I seized every opportunity to network, making the most of being part of this unforgettable conference. This experience helped me to grow my footprint outside Asia. What could be better? It also inspired me to act proactively. Never stop pursuing your dreams; shine like a star while you are still young; and act as a leader whenever you can.



Photo with my conference group members in Times Square



Group photo with my conference buddies



New York City views on the top of Rockefeller Center