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Until now, I still find it hard to believe that it's been a month since the stay with ESI. Whenever in retrospect to whatever I experienced and learned during the program, everything is still so vivid and still helpful for my current life and definitely to the future stage. Ten days, to be honest, aren't long enough, especially when it's spent on with this group of amazing companies, yet, as it's because of the shortage amount of time together, it's the most intensive, productive, and most importantly, the best ten days ever. (If I had learnt in this way for the past 21 years, I might have won a Nobel Prize now haha.)

The program started with a day of Empathy practice. You might feel difficult to connect Social Innovation with empathy, just like how I felt at first. However, it turned out that Empathy is really that important for innovators, and also to other fields. Through the activities, we got to know deeply about each other, which was important since we only got ten days. Also learned some concepts: Sometimes leading/helping creates segregation; Sometimes things would never complete until start to help others. I can still recall how astonished I felt back then as we learned during games or activities, not a typical lecture, and the outcome turned out to be even better.



We visited several institutions, such as Code for America, Delancey St., Baycat, FSG, and my ideal dreaming work place: YouTube! We had opportunity to ask the employees in each organization, sharing and listening to our personal stories. All of them are so kind and generous to answer

our curiosities, even leaving their contacts to us for further questions.

Especially the visit to YouTube, since I'm interested in Marketing and so impressed with their work, I've done several researches about them. I never thought about actually having chance to know how their daily routine is like, and how they came up with these amazing ideas. Let



alone knowing that YouTube is paying attention to doing social goods!

There's a question we had been asked several times: What kind of person would you like to become? At first, the answer seemed so vague to me. I knew I want myself to be different,

different from the typical capitalist, and make the world better. "But how different? And how to be different?" it's the question I kept asking myself. Through the reflection time held every night, I found the answer gradually changed. I developed my point of view in a different perspective, and also learnt from others' reflection.

I can't be more grateful for having this opportunity to learn in an efficient and fun way, to know this group of people from different fields then becoming friends and mentors, and most importantly, to get steps closer to my dream. Applying ESI program without hesitation is one of the best decisions I've made so far in my life. I knew more about social innovation, the people, the practical ways of conducting social innovation, the world, and last but not least, myself. None of this would happen if it not for these ten days spending with VIA. Sometimes the best things happen not in the end, but in the between. So stay open-minded, let go of language barrier, and just try to deliver your thoughts. Most importantly, cherish every moments since it became so precious afterwards.

