My name is Phumsiam Seansuk. I’m bachelor degree student at Kasetsart University in Mechanical Engineering. I come from Thailand and this is my first time in Germany. I came here for 3 months internship in Science & Engineering Research Projects program. I worked in Institute for Multiphase Processes. I lived alone in single room with shared kitchen and living room. I received the scholarship for 1,200 euro. I knew that Germany is well-known in punctuality, orderliness and the best of public transportation.

I didn’t have German language skill and I haven’t attended any class during stay in Hannover. I can just greeting and some short words. I studied all of those from my advisor, study buddy and some German people that I have known. But I can’t communicate with a long conversation. I tried to study about that but I didn’t have enough time to practice due to my work at my institute and also I stayed here in short period.

Germany is the best of engineering. I have a passion with automobile and this is the reason why I study in Mechanical Engineering. Germany has many famous brands of automobile such as BMW, Mercedes, Audi, and Volkswagen. This kind of thing attracted me to come to Germany. Specifically, in Hannover, I have known that the International office of Leibniz Universitat Hannover had a very interesting project and I thought I will get much of experience here. So, I decided to come to Hannover.

During I stayed here, I had many impressive things. First one, I had a chance to visit famous companies such as Volkswagen, Sennheiser, MTU and Airbus. I saw the production line of Volkswagen from sheets of metal until it became cars that can drive. For Sennheiser, I saw how they manufacture the microphones and headphones also how they tested the quality of products. For MTU and Airbus, I haven’t been there yet, I will be there after due date of this report. I also visited the Power Plant in Hannover and CeMAT exhibition 2014.
Second thing, I joined many activities in my institute that I worked. I joined a barbecue party of my institute and also watched football match between Germany and United States together on June 26, 2014. I also joined the cooking workshop which provided by the institute and also joined the dinner party after cooking workshop with a group of European people called “Common Ground”. I met many people that come from many countries. This was a nice thing for me to see some of the culture of Europe and Germany. The last one, Hannover is a green city. There are a lot of gardens, a lot of trees, a lot of lakes here and all of those impressed me.

Unfortunately, there is worst thing also during I stayed here. I didn’t impress my dormitory much in sort of shared area such as living room or kitchen even though I had prepared myself to face with this problem. Some of my friends also faced some problems, someone didn’t have a pillow and blanket in his room, he had just mattress... Moreover, I have been stolen ice-creams from shared refrigerator. It was really bad.

Hannover has many nice places to visit. I recommend “Herrenhäuser Allee” which placed in the front of Leibniz Universität Hannover. It’s a long road with a lot of tree along the road. The New Town Hall of Hannover is place that you must visit if you come to Hannover and it close to the nice lake called “Maschsee” Herrenhäuser Gardens is the one that I also recommend. There are the other places that you must visit but I won’t go too much in detail. Please see some picture that I have taken during stay here.
Figure 6 The New Town Hall, Hannover – Picture taken by me

Figure 7 Maschsee – Picture taken by me

Figure 8 Maschsee – Picture taken by me
Figure 9 Marktkirche - Picture taken by me

Figure 10 Herrenhäuser Gardens - Picture taken by me

Figure 11 Herrenhäuser Gardens - Picture taken by me
I had a chance to go to Hamburg during a weekend. It is very close to Hannover. You can take 2 hours by train and it would be free if you had a semester card. It is very nice place to visit.
I took part in the study buddy program. It helped me a lot in the first day of arriving here. I didn’t have chance to meet the other German students much. I have met just someone when we went to company visit tour or city tour together and we have some short conversation because time is less. There are also German students working in my institute but we don’t talk to each other much because they were busy with their thesis. For higher education system, I would prefer to study in Germany. Because there are various ways of engineering and Germany has esteem a lot about the research which make the higher education become interesting. It was not a problem for me about a fellow student from my home university. The advantage of having friends from the same university is we can help each other when we have a problem. But you shouldn’t stick together all the time because it would reduce a chance to contact with local students or the other colleagues and I have done well with that.
I joined the barbecue party at the international office. It was great because we had a chance to communicate with the other students. They are German students and also students from Purdue University. This event is very helpful to foreign students to know each other.

There was no weird here in Germany because I have studied about the culture before I came here. There were different things exactly but it was no problem for me. I liked to recycle the plastic bottles at the machine and got some euro. I liked the punctuation of public transportation except once I had to wait for a bus to Dortmund for 3 hours. That was a very worst experience. I had some problems with foods because I felt bored and the taste of foods was different from my country. So, I tried to cook food by myself for lunch in some day.

If I have a chance, I will come back to Germany for sure, especially in Hannover. I plan to work for 1 year first after I graduate and then I will decide later about studying in master degree.

In summary, I had a great experience here in Hannover even though it was good or bad. But I believed that all of those things will improve me and made my perspective change more or less. I had met very nice people here from international office, the institute, colleagues and the others. Everyone is glad to help or to advise me. I impressed about company visits which the program provided and I had an opportunity to see things that was not easy to see. This internship will be precious memory for me and I hope this would encourage me about my education and working in the future.

THANK YOU