

Study visit to China

Gonçalo André Simões

Student nº I41512

A partnership between the Ordem dos Economistas, IDEFE and CEGE/ChinaLogus from ISEG organised another official study trip to China from the 10 to the 22 October. The aim was to study the financial and distribution systems of China. The group consisted of economist and managers of differing ages and diverse backgrounds, with very different experience and include people working in Angola, Brazil and Portugal.

First-hand knowledge of this country permits, not only an understanding of how China stands in relation to other Asiatic countries, but also a means to get to know the Chinese people, as well as, from a student's point of view, an opportunity to enhance one's education by discussion with experienced managers and being confronted with topics that were otherwise unknown. In my opinion, this exchanged of opinions helped my personal development and added to the value of the trip as I got to know this emerging economic giant that is China and had my pre-conceived ideas challenged as well as those of our own market in Portugal

The visit consisted of 5 days in Peking, 1 day in Tianjin, 3 days in Macau and 2 days in Hong Kong, and its programme included attending seminars, visits to companies and universities, such as the University of Tsinghua, and also attending the International fair of Macau. A great variety was found amongst the companies visited, ranging from those from the financial sector, such as CITIC Bank or GE Asset Management, to energy companies, such as the China Three Gorges Corporation, and also companies such as Dynasty, from the wine sector, ABB Beijing Drive Systems Corporation, a manufacturer of AC and DC drive from Asea Brown Boveri, and furthermore Hovione, a Portuguese pharmaceutical company with operations in Macau. In general the visit went well and most of the participants liked it and found it very enriching, based not only what people said during the trip, but also by the fact, for example, all were reading the China Daily newspaper after just two days in the country,.

It was notable that the participants became more and more interested as the visit progressed and I think that, as it was well organised, many increasingly enjoyed it and gave positive feedback.

It is worth highlighting the preparatory seminar that was given by Professor Fernanda Ilhéu, under the title of "The new leadership of China and its model of economic development", where we were able to learn about the complex Chinese political system and were introduced to the varying political visions of Chinese leaders, ranging from that of Mao Zedong in 1949 to 1976, through to that of Hu Jintao, from 2004 to 2013. We also learned about the integration of China into the global trade scene and why so many companies have chosen China as one of their centres of operations and, finally, we were given a general overview of the 12th five-year plan for China.