**“A trip to remember as a lifetime experience!”**

**23rd June 2021**

**Debrecen- Kerecsend and Demjén (Gombaipari Egyesülés)**

**Visiting a mushroom cultivation, production, and processing plant along with a Winehouse.**

The faculty students from the Faculty of Agriculture, Food Science, and Environmental Engineering had visited the Mushroom cultivation plant and a winehouse at a small city named **Kerecsend and Demjén, which is 2 hours drive from the city of Debrecen.**

It’s been almost 1.5 years that we all as international students eagerly waited for this short industrial visit. During this academic year of 2020/21, it was quite challenging for all of us to go out because of lockdown restrictions due to the Covid-19 pandemic outbreak. **Students from our faculty (MSc and BSc) were together during this trip.** Everyone was so happy to see a new place and to gain professional experiences.

We departed at 7.30 am from the faculty towards the destination. Altogether 50 of us took part in the event, including the faculty coordinator for international students Mrs. Mariett Papp, and 2 Ph.D. students: Mr. Ayaz from Food Science and Mr.Oqba from Plant Protection institute along with all the international students from different institutes of the Faculty of MÉK.

We started the trip by explaining the information about the trip and all the important instructions. Mrs. Mariett Papp was an excellent host for the trip. She explained all the important information regarding the trip and made sure that all of us enjoyed ourselves to the utmost.

We played small games like **speed networking, sharing memories and the funniest experiences in Hungary, and even singing**. It was a great experience to interact with all international students from different continents and countries.

We reached our location around 9.30. After this, the owner of the facility talked about his plant history and operations. We visited different sites of the mushroom cultivation plant **starting from composting and manure of mushroom to the unit of cultivation.** We went through the different areas of the **production units** with an excellent guide, the owner’s son. We visited the **packing site and canning site** as well. It was a great experience to see and understand the overall process of mushroom cultivation from start to end. **Indeed, once in a lifetime experience.** This was the time where all the **students were deeply involved in Q&A with the supervisor of the factory**. The students asked many questions with an entrepreneurial mindset which allowed them to think differently.

**Internet info: https://koronagomba.hu/en/Mushroom\_grower.html**

After completing this visit and we tasted **original Hungarian cuisine** at their facilities where we ate dishes made from mushroom. We tasted mushroom soup, then mushroom stew along with pasta, and dessert in the end. It was really tasty.

The second part of the trip started by **visiting the wineyard of Egri Korona Borház,** the facility where wine is fermented and aged. We saw big **fermentation tanks along with big handmade oak barrels kept for the aging of wines in the cellars.** They had both **red and white wines in their yards**. Eventually, all the students had the opportunity to **buy wine at a discounted price** given by the owner.

**Internet:** [**https://www.facebook.com/egrikoronaborhaz/**](https://www.facebook.com/egrikoronaborhaz/)

The final part of the trip was to visit the resort, which had an **aqua adventure park including a thermal spa and swimming pools** in this scorching heat. All the students were so excited to go and play water sports and enjoy their time. That is how all the students enjoyed their trip after spending almost 1.5 years at home because of the pandemic. **They were so relaxed and had a very peaceful time after so long. What an unbelievable experience we had!**

**Internet:** [**http://demjentermalto.hu/**](http://demjentermalto.hu/)

During our drive home to Debrecen, Mrs. Mariett gave all the students some **goodies** (key chains, pens, badge with the University of Debrecen writing on them) as a memory of the trip to all students. They were so happy and thankful for the organizer! On our way home, **we drove across Hortobágy** and Mrs. Mariett also shared some useful information about its geography, culture, flora, and fauna.

We concluded the trip by taking all the feedback from students and applauded them for their patience and perseverance during their study period.

In short, I would say, **“This is the time which you remember forever when you leave your countries and go to new places in search of your aim and passion”.**

**A truly memorable experience in post covid times.**

(Written by Mr.Ayaz Shaikh, Ph.D. Student, University of Debrecen)