

International Summer School at the Siberian Federal University, Krasnoyarsk, Russia

Eight students of the master programme in Civil Engineering for Risk Mitigation at the Politecnico di Milano (POLIMI, Polo di Lecco), have attended the International Summer School “Engineers special forces” organized by the Siberian Federal University (SFU, figure 1). POLIMI and SFU are partner Universities for academic exchanges. The Summer School was held from July 24th to August 5th, 2017. POLIMI students spent two intense weeks with several Russian colleagues in the beautiful natural Siberian environment, taking part in a camp in the surroundings of Krasnoyarsk city (figure 2).



Figure 1: group photo at SFU



Figure 2: camping place

The Summer School offered moments of learning and recreation in a fascinating context, where students carried out some engineering projects and performed different sport and entertainment activities.

Seminars on risk mitigation themes and on team-work psychology complemented the project work on subjects that included: the design of an efficient energy saving system for a cottage in the Siberian environment; the structural analysis under seismic load of the building of a dormitory of the Siberian university; the optimal distribution of checkpoints against terrorism attacks to be installed in a stadium of 5000 seats. The main results were presented to businessmen of Siberian companies.

These technical activities were complemented by the visit to the Sayano–Shushenskaya dam (figure 3), which represents the largest power plant in Russia and the 9th largest in the world in terms of energy power generation.

The cultural (in a broader sense) trips organized by SFU during the Summer School included also Krasnoyarsk city (figure 4), Baykal lake (the deepest lake in the world with its bottom at 1632m from the surface, figure 5), Irktusk (figure 7) and Ergaki national park (figure 8).

Furthermore, POLIMI students organized stopovers in Moscow (figure 6) during their journeys.



Figure 3: Sayano–Shushenskaya dam



Figure 4: Krasnoyark view



Figure 5: Baykal lake



Figure 6 : Irkutsk



Figure 7: Ergaki national park



Figure 8 – Moscow

The following images and comments collect the thoughts and the feelings of the students who attended this Summer School.

Nitusha



Hi I am Nitusha, I had a wonderful experience in the whole trip. I really loved the people there, they were down to earth and liked the way they communicated, helped us. It was a good way to know new things, language, culture. The project with international students was very nice and knowledge gaining. We did not want to miss them all, thus we are still in contact and we will be always in touch with all. I heartily thank my organization for giving this opportunity.

Jeff



Personally speaking, it was a great experience for me to attend the summer school in Russia. We studied together with Russian students which was perfectly kind and interesting in a camping place for one week, where might be tough place for us all. Furthermore, we made a lot of friends during the summer school, and we climbed the mountain in the forest together for 10 hours which is difficult but meaningful for us all.

Therefore, the summer school experience enhanced my horizons, enriched my knowledge and enlarged my thinking, which could be an unforgettable memory in the life journey.

Stevenli



The summer school was held in a camp far away from the city of Krasnoyarsk. However, it is a wonderful land, peaceful and beautiful, away from the noisy city. The facilities of the camp are not modernized and we had to obey some rules as we were in the army. But, we accommodate to the life there easily and fast. And, this was quite a special experience in our life to study and live there. For the lectures and group work, the language was quite a big problem, but we managed it properly. Ms Valentina Souray helped us translate all handouts and lectures. Therefore, working together with Russian students provides us an opportunity to get familiar with each other and get to know how they solve problems. In the end, we learnt from each other. It is important and necessary to work in an international context, especially nowadays, in our globalized world. Besides that, different kinds of sports and activities made our living there relaxed and wonderful. Moreover, the meals in the canteen let us taste the typical Russian foods and feel the community.

The natural scenery and cultural and historical sites are attractive and unique. From the west of Russia, Moscow, to Siberian area, Krasnoyarsk, and in the end to far east, Irkutsk, we felt the huge territory of Russia as well as various sightseeing and culture. Ergaki, which is a national garden in Krasnoyarsk region, is the most amazing and fascinating place I had ever been. Different kinds of flora and fauna are attractive all along our way. Although the way to the top is quite difficult, it is reasonable that the most beautiful scenery is after tough work. Every step we made, either in the muddy soil or on the slipped rock, was worthy for the final arrival at the top of the mountain.

In the end, I want to thank both universities, Politecnico di Milano and Siberian Federal University, providing us this hard-won experience. Similarly, to all the professors and friends who are helpful, hospitality and trying every effort to make this summer camp unforgettable to all of us. I hope more students could benefit from this kind of activities in the future. And, all of us could keep contact with each other and build the bridge connecting both universities and our countries in the future life.

Jorge



Being Peruvian, the time difference between my hometown and Krasnoyarsk was 12 hours. I think I have never been so far from home. However, I have always felt as I was at home. This experience helped me not only to meet so many amazing Russian people but also to strengthen the friendship laces with my colleagues from POLIMI. Working on an island with almost no internet connection allowed us to look for connection in other places or people

Paolo



Being in Siberia with one Peruvian, three Indian, two Chinese and one Pakistan guys definitely changed my mind. Indeed, the capacity to adapt in unusual situation is something that I have brought home. Thus, I will always bring in my heart the experiences lived and the bonds fastened over there.

Looking at the fact that people on the other part of the planet with opposite traditions live following our same ambitions and feelings let me realize that we must look beyond our borders. In conclusion, I cannot forget to highlight the sense of peace I felt looking at the full moon in a beautiful Siberian nature at the Baykal lake and the national park.

Samsul



This photo can pretty much talk about my summer camp. Everyone's first question would be the location of the summer camp. Yeah, it was such an amazing place with scenic beauty amidst of catchment of a dam. We did a project work with Siberian Federal University students and provided solutions on the proposed problems concerning Krasnoyarsk region. This camp gave me an opportunity to have a good interaction with Russian students not only exchanging knowledge but also cultural values. And we had lot of fun doing sports activities, swimming, hiking. Last but not least, this photo includes 2 important persons, Ms Valentina Souray (2nd row 4th from left) and Prof. Aleksandra Frolovskaya (2nd row 6th from right) who guided us and took care of us thorough the camp like a family. Overall it was an unforgettable experience. I am thankful to Polimi and SFU for providing this wonderful opportunity.

Abrar



The international summer school “*Engineering Special Forces*” at Siberian Federal University, Krasnoyarsk is one of the best experiences I had in my life. Two weeks in Russia were a whirlwind of education, hospitality and adventures. It is unbelievable how much one can achieve within the span of two weeks. The balance of structured classes, social events and traveling was extremely helpful in rounding out my experience of Russia. Initially everything was new for me, but it gave me opportunity to learn more about new cultures by interacting with other students. During the course I got the opportunity to work in group with students from Russia, China, India, Peru and Italy. This experience allowed me to see the things in a different perspective. I appreciated the friendly approach from Professors and staff during the course. Last but not

least I discovered that Siberia is a wonderful place to live and I would certainly recommend everyone for this program.

Kavitha



This picture is very representative for me. Such an amazing group of unknown people that became friends and lived a fascinating experience. We have travelled a lot together through Siberia, taking trains, planes and buses. This has been super-fun. It has enriched my soul being in contact with an incredible nature and group of sudden friends. Moreover, the camp with the university of Siberia has helped me to grow up also from the point of view of my engineering career. Thus, I will never forget this adventure!