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Award for Excellence in Foreign Languages and Literatures Report

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Gute Reise!



I'm one of those people who like learning for the sake of learning. If whatever I learn happens to be relevant to my life, even better! Therefore, when I recently told my brother that I wanted to take up Mandarin (in addition to the 5 languages I already speak), he jokingly replied, "I thought you already had that covered!"

Exploring new cultures, traveling to new destinations, learning new languages, these are just but a few of the exciting experiences that define me, so much so that I consider myself a citizen of the world. Winning the award for foreign languages and literatures afforded me the chance to travel through Germany and it's neighboring countries. Since I had already decided to do an internship in Germany through the MIT-Germany program during the summer of 2013, I took advantage of my time there to travel locally, and to Austria and Switzerland as well.



Having been granted some time off of work due to company-wide system upgrades, I took a 10-day adventure with a friend from MIT who was working in Northern Germany at the time. We both bought 10-day Eurail passes that guaranteed unlimited travel on the rail system in Germany, Austria and Switzerland, and embarked on an exciting journey to the following cities: Vienna, Salzburg,

Linz, Graz, Munich, Nurnberg, Dresden, Basel, and Berlin. While it took a quite a bit of careful planning to ensure that we got to all our intended destinations within the 10 days, we remained open to life's uncertainties throughout our travels. Needless to say, we met many interesting characters, had



several confusing encounters, stumbled upon random events, and wandered aimlessly through beautiful parks.



Speaking German definitely came in handy on several occasions, especially when we got lost in less touristy part of town. Not being native speakers though, we also had a few misunderstandings and once almost ended up on a train bound for the wrong destination. Thank God for the old German man who thought it necessary to eavesdrop on our conversation about

going to Dresden when the train was apparently headed to Bayreuth. Anyway, a picture is a worth thousand words, so I'll let photos from some of the places I visited do the rest of the talking. It goes without saying that I'm undoubtedly going back to Germany, Austria or Switzerland sometime in the near future.

