

## My Alpbach Impressions

It all started with a misconception of “Some random scholarship program, where I am going to just chill and have a break”, when I was reading the participation email from EFA16, sitting in the studio at 3am at the University of Liechtenstein, overloaded with projects deadlines.

The European Forum Alpbach 2016 started out as an ordinary scholarship program. I attended five different seminars during the seminar week due to extremely catchy topics and the seminar neither shattered my expectations. I find most of the speaker from vibrant fields and open towards sharing knowledge. European Alpbach Forum 2016 was an intensive exciting forum with varied topics with the best possible organized way that each expert can deliver what they intent to deliver. It made us think, inspire, boosted our confidence and gave us so many unique exposures like informal meetings with **Jean-Claude Juncker, Liechtenstein PM Adrian Hasler** and many other great peoples. I also got opportunities to discuss the possible opportunities to collaborate on future urban development policies with the students of university of Liechtenstein on current topics like redevelopment on rhine valley and also the potentiality in the integrated economic policy of Liechtenstein for achieving zero carbon emission country and energy autonomous with the prime minister of Liechtenstein, **Adrian Hasler**.

It was vibrant and a culminating place for ideas beyond my expectations. Topics such as “**Beyond maps** by Katherine Govier and Christoph Irmischer” gave me much bigger incites and attitude of people from various nations on the border and classifications and helped me to understand deeper issues and its impact on their personal life. And also unique topics under *film & discussion* like “ **Future Baby**” which is a movie about egg donors and surrogate mothers, made me think and understand various emotional impacts and its future consequences on the society which we are facing along with the celebration of genetic engineering.

I reckon that the global connect of the forum, coupled with expertise from various fields enabled me to carve a notch in the rapidly progressing fields. Given this gratification, I would resort it to my best of knowledge.

Yup, insane parties gave good buddies and broke the rest of the ice left in us. Outdoor and informal programs were the main platform for general discussion, friendly activities and the proper scheduling all together made EFA16 a creative hub with an optimistic vibe. The traditional cuisines, hikes, games, debates, concerts and fireside talks are capable of one page each at least to write about. My Alpbach moment is definitely when the whole crowd started to dance unified during the concert before the economic symposium.

Humble recommendations from my side will be on being more international, more information and programs in English, as I was really disappointed in missing various fireside talks and programs due to the language barrier. And also an update on the app with simpler schedule information will be great as the app was sometimes a bit tricky to use and check the ongoing programs.

Alpbach is to me the most incredible intuitive and informative forum which works whole together like one family. My EFA quote is "Just a random forum" which stands as an irony and give a gaze of its uniqueness and sharpened mottos.

The EFA16 did complete justice to its topic "New Enlightenment" as it truly enlightened many of the young minds including mine. I am really looking forward and working towards EFA17 to participate and to contribute the best I can and to deliver from it as well.

- *Salah Hamzha*