

DI Jonatan Zischg

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## Field Report

- General impression of your research stay abroad

The research stay at Purdue University as a visiting scholar from September 20<sup>th</sup> 2017 to December 19<sup>th</sup> 2017 was a unique experience not only from an academic point of view, but from a personal perspective. After the contact was established with Prof. Suresh Rao, whom I had met already at three workshops/summer schools in Dresden, Germany and Seoul, South Korea before my visit in the USA, a suitable period for the exchange period as defined. In addition, I applied for the Marshall Plan Scholarship, a J1 visa and searched an accommodation near the campus. I lived at Faith West Housing, a student home within about 20 minutes walking distance to the campus. The bus connections were not that frequent, however, having the Purdue ID card the ride was for free. The atmosphere at Purdue University was very professional and I was impressed by the size of the campus. Before my research stay I knew already some PhD students from Prof. Rao's lab, which certainly helped me to get integrated easily. Regular PhD meetings and personal discussions with the host supervisor and his students, were very positive and fruitful. I am sure that the scientific relation between Purdue University and the University of Innsbruck was strengthened and that future collaborations will be made. I hope that I am going to visit Purdue University again soon.

- Quality of the host institution

Purdue University – West Lafayette has excellent university rankings in all research fields and was listed as the world number one for civil engineering according to Shanghai Ranking in 2016. I had a unique chance to be supervised by Prof. Suresh Rao and work with his PhD students. Prof. Rao’s research has been documented in about 300 refereed publications, book chapters, technical reports, and conference proceedings. He has been named as one of the 100 -most-cited authors in Environmental Science and Engineering, by the ISI Highly Cited Researchers. Professor Rao was one of the four founding Editors-in-Chief for the Journal of Contaminant Hydrology (Elsevier), and has also served as an Associate Editor for Water Resources Research (American Geophysical Union), Environmental Chemistry & Toxicology (SETAC), and Journal of Environmental Quality (American Society of Agronomy).

- Contacts within the host institution, inclusion in the organization

**Accommodation:** Faith West Housing, 1920 Northwestern Ave, West Lafayette, IN 47906, USA.

**International Office:** Miranda Robledo Fisher, College of Engineering Visa and Immigration Coordinator, Purdue University, 701 W. Stadium Avenue | ARMS 2005 | West Lafayette, IN 47907-2045

**Host supervisor:** P. Suresh C. Rao, Lyles School of Civil Engineering & Agronomy Department, 3145B Hampton Hall, 550 Stadium Mall Drive, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN 47907, USA

- Recommendations for future Marshall Plan students and fellows

Considering all the efforts needed for grant application, visa application, looking for accommodation, writing reports, I would recommend for future Marshall Plan students to stay longer than 3 months. However, I suggest any student to take this great opportunity provided from the Marshall Plan Foundation to spend some months at an US American university. Furthermore, I suggest to take enough time for preparation all documents.