

【2022 SyDE 海外研修 実施報告】 2022.8.17~2022.10.10

Ahmad Ghazi Aljuhmani, a Ph.D. student in the Engineering department and SyDE Program has been to Chalmers University of Technology in Sweden as a visiting researcher. In his master thesis, the overall aim of the project is to promote the mid-rise timber buildings in Japan. The focus is on an engineered wood product called cross-laminated timber (CLT). CLT is believed to play a role in increasing the use of the domestic forest resources in Japan and revive the forestry sector in Japan. However, several technical and practical problems related to the construction, design and cost of CLT buildings are still needed to be solved to promote the use of CLT in mid-to-high rise buildings in Japan. In order to solve these problems, it is necessary to understand the current situation of designing and constructing CLT buildings in Europe, as a leading region in the world. In addition, it is crucial to understand the state of the art in the research on mid-and-high rise CLT buildings and get to know the leading researchers in this field. The study visit was about 7 weeks, from August 17 to October 10, 2022, and it comprises several meetings with leading researchers in the field in Chalmers University (Along with the regular meetings with the researchers in my host laboratory at Chalmers University). Several field visits and meeting with researchers and practitioners in Sweden and Norway was also planned. Also, he had the chance to participate in an international conference on timber engineering called “International Network on Timber Engineering Research” (INTER). He was able to meet world leading researchers from Europe, Canada, and the US. Furthermore, he had the chance to attend other meetings and exhibitions in Sweden. The outcomes of this study visit can be summarized as follows. Information about the latest research and technologies in the field of mid-to-high rise timber buildings was obtained by several meetings with professors at Chalmers University as well as participating in INTER meeting in Germany (Fig. 1-2) and several field trips (Fig. 3). Deeper understanding about life cycle assessment were obtained by our meetings with professor Dodoo from Linnaeus University (Fig. 4) and Florian Kosche AS structural engineering company. Ghazi also had the chance to meet and get to know leading researchers in the field of timber engineering by participating in INTER conference in Germany and COST Action meeting at Chalmers University. I also widened my professional network with the researchers I met at Chalmers University. The gained knowledge will help him achieving the goal of his doctoral research to promote mid-and-high rise timber buildings in Japan.

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Fig. 1. A photo in front of the conference hall of INTER conference.



Fig. 2. A photo from the conference hall of INTER conference.

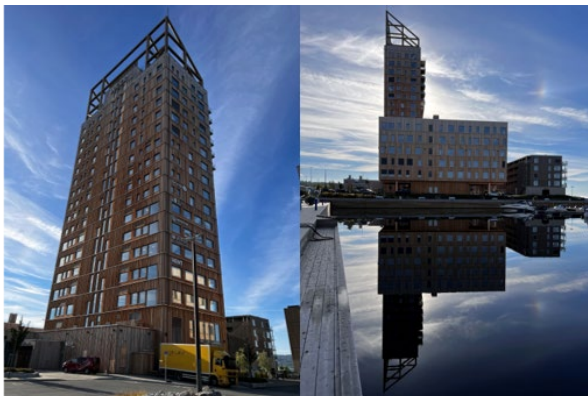


Fig. 3. Photos from the visit to the Wood Hotel, the tallest timber buildings in the world.



Fig. 4. A photo of the meeting with professor Dodoo at Linnaeus University, Växjö, Sweden