ESOF 2014 Report - Yeewhan Yoon

Which sessions I attended
As a young doctoral student who attended the ESOF meeting for the first time in life, I was very excited to attend many sessions which were related to food industry, healthcare, natural resource, learning and society.
Specifically, I attended various sessions including, but not limited to:
Food and nutrition security: how research informs policy
Personalized medicine: patient involvement, engagement and empowerment
Natural disasters: can we learn from the past?
Accelerated learning for success
How should researchers be involved in formal education?
Life after a PhD: How professional career advisers support researchers in Europe

What I thought of them
I thought that ESOF 2014 sessions were overall very insightful to learn scientific knowledge and to share scholastic perspectives among many researchers. For example, through the session on the Life after a PhD, many European scholars and career advisors shared their perspectives on many career opportunities after doctoral studies. I was able to understand a scholastic life and multiple career tracks after PhD. In addition, by discussing with other your scholars, I was also able to improve my knowledge-transferring skills and self-awareness. I learned time management and responsibility are key virtues for all researchers. I was also able to enhance my job prospects and to practice my communication skills with other scholars. Likewise, as I attended many sessions, I gained peer-to-peer advice and met young scientists from all over the world including European and Asian continents. I not only made new friends but had lots of fun!

The milestones of my ESOF 2014 experiences
Through ESOF 2014 event, I met European researchers across disciplines and countries. We shared and sharpened our research agenda to advance science and innovation.
Among the many sessions that I attended and gained insightful knowledge, I think one of the key milestones of my ESOF 2014 experiences was that I attended the sessions on natural disasters. I was interested in the catastrophic disasters and their impacts on human society because extreme geophysical and meteorological events impact vulnerable human communities. I realized that not only natural causes but demographic causes such as mobility and population growth together with the growth of cities are placing human and society at risk of being affected by catastrophic natural events. Historical and archaeological records presented during the session provided information on the nature of these catastrophes and people’s reactions to them. I was able to learn lessons from how past extreme events have affected communities and together with scholastic efforts, I think we could infer which aspects of these past disasters, natural or social, made communities either vulnerable or resilient. I hope scholars share and collaborate to further sharpen this knowledge to improve precautions and remedies to the natural disasters in the future.

What I will bring with me in the future
As a young scholar, I have certainly benefited by joining the ESOF 2014 event where more than 2600 individual members from all over the world collaborated and cooperated to build a strong network and community. With my knowledge and skills that I learned from ESOF 2014, I will continue to grow to be an excellent research so that I will contribute to the advances in science, technology, and innovation. In the future, I hope to bring expert perspectives on a variety of issues affecting scientific research and innovation.