Honestly speaking, I felt so excited when I was informed that I was given the travel grant. Not only the ESOF2014 seemed very interesting, but also Denmark is one of three favorite countries I wanted to visit in the world.

I want to give ESOF2014 a summary following the outline below.

1. Organization of the ESOF2014

   The first thing I want to mention is that the organization of ESOF2014 was fantastic. All the events were orderly organized, and the Organizing Committee staffs were full of passion.

   The ‘Science in the city’ was also very interesting. I had taken part in lots of sessions. And they were all round the meeting area, so lots of participants could enjoy these activities, it was very convenient.
Also, I think the social events, the ceremonies, the Career Beer, and especially the ESOF Party on Midsummer Night at VEGA was amazing, it provided all delegates a fun and exciting environment to communicate.
2. Sessions Attended

I have attended all plenary lectures and ceremonies, and also, I attended ESOF Party on 23th June. On the afternoon of 22th June, I attended the gathering party for all candidates of travel grant.

Also, I think all sessions are very interesting; I have attended lots of sessions which were listed as below.

21th June
Life after a PhD: how professional career advisors support researchers in Europe (part1)
Think global, act local: how to engage and empower your scientific community

22th June
Life after a PhD: how professional career advisors support researchers in Europe (part 2)
New concepts of mobility to foster career development and gender balance in Europe
To be or not to be too many PhDs: what is a PhD for?
Opening Ceremony and Panel Debate

23th June
Academic leadership: what does it take?
The Arctic: endangered habitat or opportunity for exploitation?
How do big companies get new ideas?
24th June
Computing- a 21st Century literacy
Geoengineering: challenges and global impact
Is higher education in Europe the best it can be?
25th June
Building a governance framework for responsible research and innovation
Creativity in science: what is it and can it be willed?
Building global partnership: sharing discovery while protecting competition
26th June
Handover ceremony

Most of sessions I attended were about Career Program, Science Policy, and ‘A revolution of mind’ and ‘learning in the 21st Century’ of Science Program.

Most of them were very interesting, tight coupling, and most of all, full of passion and inspiration. I learned a lot and thought a lot.

A lecture said ‘if you want to make some progress in science, you should know the spirit of science’, and also we should have the courage to ‘break the shell’.

I was told that ‘Passion, Focus, Creativities’ is three basic elements of research. And I was told, ‘relationships like muscles, you should like to use it, and it could do lots of help in your research’.

All in all, I did receive a lot, and also laughed a lot. Like a professor said, ‘Modern Science based on two things, mathematics and poor English.’ All delegates participated in that session broke out in a riot of laughter.
3. Inspiration

I had a great chance to know the research system of EU, especially about the post-docs opportunity. If possible, I want to try to apply MARRI CURRI or HOUMBORT when I graduated from my PH.D.
I feel so inspired and encouraged to try my best to do research, though I thought doing research work was very hard and maybe tedious before I go to ESOF2014, especially I read a sentences in Carlsberg Foundation brochure, as below.
4. Bridges and Connection

The theme of the ESOF2014 was “SCIENCE BUILDING / BRIDGES”, and I did make a few friends there.

And, I also found something very interesting which associated with my research.
work directly, for example, a kind of submarine robotics named “U-CAT” from Tallinn University.

I used to do lots of field survey, maybe it could be used to feedback bathymetry and pictures underwater. If possible, our research group would contact with the research group of Tallinn University.

5. Technical Tour

Because I major in hydraulic and fluid mechanism, so another harvest of this trip to Denmark, is that I had a chance to visit one the most famous hydraulic research institute of the world-DHI (Danish Hydraulic Institute).
Also, I visited the coastal engineering research department of DTU (Technical University of Denmark).

These visits were just like technical tour, open my minds in my research area and also I met a few outstanding professors.
6. Summary Remarks

ESOF2014, amazing forum/conference, was just like a bright lamp, beaconing my way on the journey of research. I learned a lot, thought a lot, and I feel full of passion, highly inspired.

I am so honored to have the chance to attend ESOF2014 in beautiful Copenhagen; if possible, I would try my best to take part in ESOF2016 in Manchester.