

Confirmed Outcomes of the GSP Working Committee Meeting 2014

University of Oxford, 22–23 September 2014

Opening

Prof. Sally Mapstone, Pro-Vice Chancellor for Education at University of Oxford, opened the meeting, extending a warm welcome to all delegates. She stressed the importance of the Global Summer Program as providing students a unique international experience and exposing them to different teaching and learning environments. Prof. Mapstone thanked everyone behind the scene for their commitment and energy to make GSP happen.

Anders Hagström welcomed the meeting participants and thanked Nina Tomlin and her team at University of Oxford for hosting the meeting.

Session 1: GSP 2014

1.1 GSP 2014 Course Review

Australian National University

ANU received a high number of applications but in total fewer than in previous years, mostly due to changed funding arrangements for outgoing students. Some GSP courses run into the semester of ANU, causing outgoing students to miss the first weeks of the semester. As the intensity of the offered GSP courses among all universities was not consistent, it was difficult to manage the student expectations.

ANU offered two courses which run successfully.

ETH Zurich

ETH offered two courses that were also open to local and non-IARU students. As not all the Santander funds were used for outgoing students, ETH also awarded Santander scholarships to incoming students after having double-checked with the home university to ensure that the total amount of received Santander monies did not exceed the maximum of USD 2,000 per student.

National University of Singapore

NUS offered the same two courses that have been running successfully for a few years. The five-week “Southeast Asia in Context” course included a travel component to Indonesia or Cambodia; the three-week “Asia Now!” course was held within Singapore. The faculty of the courses changes every three years. The latter course counted 17 students although the capacity would have allowed enrolment of two or more students from each partner university.

Peking University

Three courses have been offered within GSP 2014, one of them in collaboration with Yale that attracted many students also from Yale. The overall quality of the three courses has improved, which

has contributed to the increase in the number of incoming students. In the course surveys, students asked for more specific pre-course information and more free time to explore the city.

PKU received a significant higher number of applications of outgoing students. The Santander scholarships were essential for enabling more students to participate.

University of California, Berkeley

Overall, compared with last year UC Berkeley had fewer students, both outgoing and incoming. The reason for the smaller number of outgoing applications is unclear. Reducing the numbers of incomings was deliberate. UC Berkeley tried a new course with a student cap on it. The course proved to be successful. There was a good representation of 8 partner institutions.

One course ended in mid-August making it a challenge to meet the reporting deadlines.

University of Cambridge

The University of Cambridge interviewed all outgoing students to guarantee a good selection. Incoming students particularly enjoyed the intensive supervisions within the program. One struggled with language skills. Overall this years' GSP at Cambridge was good, but a few of the students wanted more cohesion between the individual elements of the program, which ties in with the plan to change the format for 2015. As usual, the program caused a lot of administrative work for a relatively small cohort of students.

University of Copenhagen

UCPH offered two courses that have run for a number of years. There was faculty involvement from Yale and Oxford. In terms of incoming students, UCPH would have liked to have full IARU representation. With regards to outgoing students, interest has increased compared to previous years.

University of Oxford

14 students attended the course offered by Oxford. The size of the cohort was kept small to enable small-group teaching. There were no students from UTokyo, ETH, Cambridge and Oxford. The course was open also to Oxford students but none applied. Finding the right balance of academic rigor and intensity versus free time is a continuous challenge.

The University of Tokyo

Prof. Takeo Fujiwara thanked the partners for having signed the memorandum of understanding for receiving students from overseas. New regulations at UTokyo required the Memorandum on Student Exchange for GSP.

As in the past years, UTokyo offered 4 courses – one of them being an introductory language course – attracting close to 200 applications. About 20 UTokyo students were sent abroad on GSP while about 40 GSP students from overseas attended the UTokyo courses.

Yale University

Yale offered a course that had been held before. A trip to the United Nations with lunch at the Yale Cub in New York City was part of the course. Unfortunately no Yale students participated in the course. The results of the post-course survey were disappointing. The reasons will be analysed.

Feedback of the outgoing students was positive. In particular the PKU course with faculty involvement from Yale and 9 Yale students is worth mentioning.

Yale requires a minimum course duration of 4 weeks for courses to be credit bearing. GSP course durations of 3 weeks and less are therefore less attractive to Yale students.

1.2 GSP 2014 Snapshot

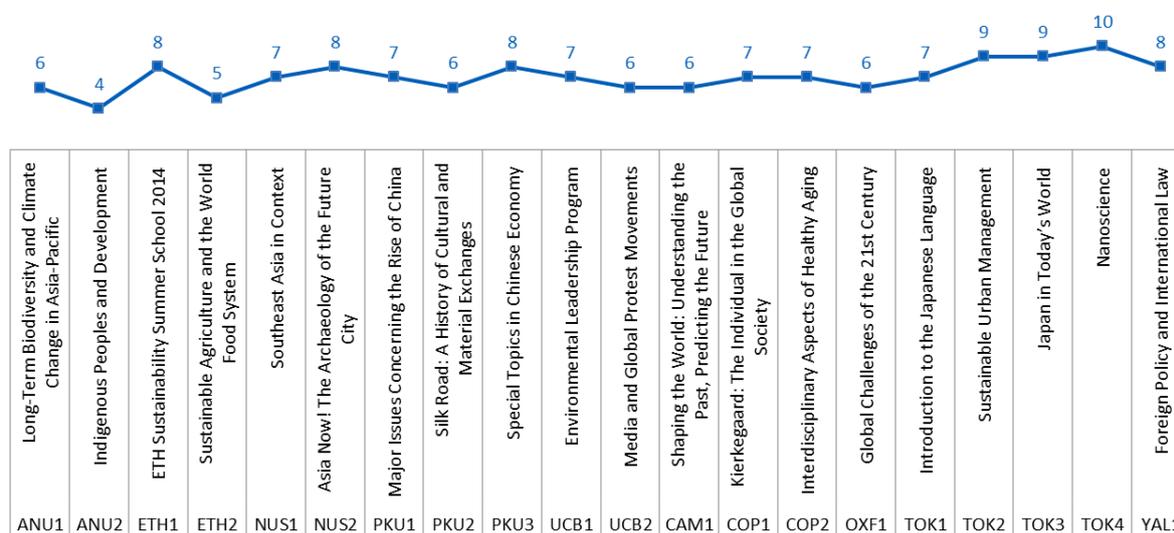
2014 marked the 7th year of the IARU Global Summer Program. A total of 20 courses were offered, with durations between 2 and 6 weeks, attracting over 700 applications. A total of 304 IARU students participated in GSP 2014. As there are more and more opportunities for students to go abroad in the summer, students tend to apply for multiple options, so the number of applications should be viewed in this context. Nonetheless, the overall picture confirms the continued interest of students in the GSP.

On average, each course had 15 student participants – less than in previous years. More students could thus benefit from GSP within the current course offer and organizational workload.

Keeping cost low continues to be a major challenge. Five courses had a total cost of USD 5,000 or more, with on-campus accommodation and board representing the bulk of the total cost (not including travel and living expenses).

ANU handled the most applications of outgoing students, followed by UCPH and NUS. UTokyo attracted most incoming applications and hosted the largest number of IARU students, closely followed by PKU. UCPH sent out most students on GSP.

The table below gives an overview of the GSP 2014 courses with the number of partner institutions represented in each course:



1.3 GSP 2014 Course Survey Analysis

Course organizers sent out the survey links provided by the IARU Secretariat to course participants (including non-IARU students). The response rate was 48% (2013: 58%). Courses receiving less than 5 responses were excluded from the analyses for privacy considerations.

Overall, GSP 2014 performed well, even slightly better than last year. The key findings are the following:

- 97% of the students “agreed” or “strongly agreed” that GSP 2014 was a good experience. All courses scored at least 4 of maximum 5 points. 92% of the students would recommend GSP to their peers.
- The feeling of being part of a broader IARU network is less pronounced. 70% of the students were not aware of IARU before they participated in the GSP.
- The diversity of the participants is a key success factor of GSP. Having students from most, if not all, IARU institution as well as a sufficient number of local students is appreciated by GSP participants. They enjoy receiving different perspectives, ideas and approaches of peers from other cultures. Being exposed to different teaching styles and learning environments than at home is found to be challenging but also enriching.
- Pre-departure course information continues to be a weakness, even though the value has improved considerably in the last years. Based on the student feedback, the IARU Secretariat will modify the template of Course Info Part II to include a rough estimate of the course intensity and the living expenses. Course organizers need to be aware of the different information channels used by incoming IARU students, local students and non-IARU students.
- Deciding factors for choosing a GSP course are cost and the availability of scholarships, date, content, geographical location, reputation of the host university, faculty, feedback from past GSP students, course duration, anticipated work load vs. free time and field trips.
- The respondents found that the GSP Aims & Principles as described on the webpage (a. address critical issues in a global perspective, b. work with outstanding peers from around the globe, c. learn intensively in a cross-cultural setting, d. learn from top researchers) were fulfilled in a satisfactory manner.
- When asked for improvement of GSP, students mentioned the following:
 - Improved pre-departure information (see above)
 - Longer courses (4 weeks and more)
 - Reduced cost, more financial support
 - Less less rigorous/intense courses, allowing for more free time to explore the city/country

Session 2: Course Administration and Logistics – Discussion of Key Issues

Application Form

The PDF application form caused some cross-platform issues between Windows and Mac. In forms that had been filled in using Apple’s “Preview” software, the field content was not visible on other operating systems. The meeting agreed to switch to a MS Word format.

Cost

Universities will continue to try hard to minimize the cost to students. The IARU Secretariat will state on the webpage that travel expenses, visa and living cost is not included in the cost overview.

Student Cancellations

When applying for GSP, students receive a rough overview of the total cost but they receive the decision on the financial only later. This is a frequent reasons for student cancellations. The IARU Secretariat will describe the process as clearly as possible on the webpage, but delegates agreed that it will never be possible to provide the students beforehand with exact numbers.

Universities are free to apply cancellation charges if seen fit, but these must be declared up-front.

Pre-Departure Course Information

Many students wished that the course were less intense, allowing for more free time to explore the city/country. Lot of the research, essay writing, preparation of group presentations etc. was done in the evenings and during weekends. To manage student expectations, the IARU Secretariat will clarify on the webpage that students should anticipate a full time commitment to the course while on the program and plan traveling time before or after the course.

Facebook Page

The IARU Secretariat reported that the Facebook Page (www.facebook.com/groups/iaru.gsp/) is widely used (except by PKU students as Facebook cannot be accessed within China). Students get to know each other before the courses start; GSP alumni share their experiences. GSP Coordinators are encouraged to visit the page and contribute actively and/or send pictures and news to the IARU Secretariat to be posted on the page.

Branding

ANU, NUS and PKU distributed IARU/GSP t-shirts to build up the identity of “IARU-ness”. In addition, PKU organized special IARU events for GSP students.

Student Surveys

Partners running their own surveys with the returning students are invited to forward these reports to the host universities.

Session 3: GSP 2015

3.1 Timeline for GSP 2015

GSP Coordinators agreed on the following timeline:

Course Announcements	Complete Course Profiles / Start of Application Period	Selection	Nomination	Offer	Acceptance
Basic course details submitted to Secretariat for tabling at the Senior Officers' Meeting 2014 (14–15 Nov.)	Completed course profiles forwarded to the Secretariat for upload on the website. GSP 2015 course information go live. Application period opens.	Application period closes. Selection process commences.	Selection process completed at sending universities. Nominated applications forwarded to host universities. <i>Please include all financial aids offered to the applicant if available.</i>	Host university sends offer letter to applicant. <i>Please cc sending university.</i>	Student responds to nomination / acceptance. University sets deadline but no later than 10 April 2015. <i>Please notify sending university.</i>
Course Info Part I	Course Info Part II				
24 October 2014	12 December 2014	6 March 2015 (NUS/TOK: 22 Feb.)	20 March 2015	2 April 2015	10 April 2015

Lunar New Year: 19 February 2015
Easter: 3–6 April 2015

Notes

- **Course Info Part II:** If the complete course information is already available, GSP coordinators can send both Course Info Parts (I and II) by 24 October.
- **Application:** All IARU students must go through the application process of their home university and cannot be accepted directly by the host university. Students who apply directly without having been nominated by their home university should be referred to their GSP Coordinator.
- **Eligibility:** Any student that is inscribed at a partner university is eligible to participate in GSP. The course description should make it clear if a course is suitable for graduate students (under “Target audience & prerequisites”).
- **Nomination I:** A student should be nominated only for one course as multiple nominations are bound to cause confusion for both the organizers and the student. If a student has applied for several courses, the sending university should select the student for one of the courses. If a course has vacancies, the GSP Coordinator of the organizing university should advise the other partner universities so that they can give students a second chance who had been turned down by the original course they had been nominated for.
- **Nomination II:** Coordinators should notify a partner university if there are no nominations for this particular university.

3.2 Outlook of GSP 2015 Courses

University	Courses (tbc)	Comments
ANU	1	1 instead of 2 courses
ETH	2	One course on a sustainability and one on a food systems topic.
NUS	2	Repeat of the 2014 courses, "Asia Now!" with 4 weeks instead of 3
PKU	3	Repeat of 2014 PKU1; PKU2 as offered two years ago, PKU3 on Chinese economics
Berkeley	2	Repeat of 2014 courses
Cambridge	1	New course, 4 weeks
UCPH	2-3	Repeat of 2014 courses, looking into the possibility of offering a 3 rd course
Oxford	1	Course on sustainability and development, 4 weeks
UTokyo	4	Repeat of the 4 courses from 2014, maybe different schedule due to a slight change in the academic calendar of UTokyo next year
Yale	2	Plan to offer two courses. 2014 course will not be repeated.

Session 4: Santander

4.1 Santander Agreement Fulfillment 2014

During the 2014 GSP, a total of 154 students, or 51% of all IARU GSP students benefitted from the IARU-Santander GSP Scholarships. A total of USD 210,731 were awarded, averaging USD 1,368 per student. Most of the carried-over funds from GSP 2013 have been disbursed 2014.

4.2 Santander Agreement 2015–2017

The first agreement with Santander was valid for three years and terminated with GSP 2014. The IARU Secretariat approached Santander to explore the extension of the agreement from 2015 onwards. The draft for the agreement was reviewed by the Secretariat and circulated to all partners for comments. Not being a legal person, IARU could not be the contractual partner of Banco Santander. Prof. Tan Chorh Chuan, President of the National University of Singapore, kindly agreed to sign the contract on behalf of IARU.

In character, the new agreement is a continuation of the existing agreement without major changes. Articles that had caused uncertainty in the past have been formulated more clearly. Each partner university will receive USD 20,000 per year to be disbursed to at least 10 students to cover airfare, tuition and living cost. The agreement limits scholarships to a maximum of USD 2,000 per student. In addition, Santander has asked that scholarships should be at least USD 1,000 per student to be "significant". If there is additional financial support from the student's home university, "topping up" with Santander funds is possible, in which case the Santander funds can be less than USD 1,000 per student. All partners should try to use the full amount of USD 20,000 per year by awarding scholarships to outgoing students. If the full amount cannot be used for outgoing students, the remaining funds can be offered to incoming students who have not yet received the maximum of USD 2,000 of the IARU Santander GSP Scholarship. If the yearly quota cannot be fully spent in the current GSP cycle, the university can carry over the unconsumed scholarships to the next GSP year.

The agreement with Santander requires partners to complete and sign the Confirmation Form, send information for the annual report to Santander, including the names and e-mail addresses of the

scholarship beneficiaries, and to acknowledge Santander as the sponsor of the Global Summer Program on their respective webpages. The IARU Secretariat will prompt GSP Coordinators to comply with these regulations in due time.

In the past, Santander had expressed interest to expand its support to IARU. The GSP Coordinators had suggested to seek additional funds to make the GSP experience available to more students. IARU Presidents acknowledged the importance of the Santander scholarships which contribute significantly to the student mobility and therefore to the success of GSP. However, they decided to give preference to expanding IARU initiatives to graduate students or other forms of student exchange programs.

Expansion of IARU Membership to other Universities

Presidents have discussed expanding IARU with one or more further members from South America or Africa. At the Presidents' Meeting in April 2014 they decided to invite Universidade de São Paulo (USP) to join the Alliance. The IARU Chair has formally invited USP but has not received a clear answer so far. If USP became a new member, they would become part of GSP in two years at the earliest (GSP 2016). A clause of the new Santander contract foresees the option to negotiate an addendum to the agreement to accommodate such an expansion.

Emilio Botín, Executive Chairman of Santander

Emilio Botín passed away on 10 September 2014. Mr. Botín had been the entry point to set up the GSP agreement with Santander. Jane Edwards offered to write a letter of condolence on behalf of the IARU GSP group to Santander.

Session 5: GSP Alumni

5.1 Results of Alumni Survey 2011–2013

In summer 2014, the IARU Secretariat conducted a survey with the past GSP participants from 2011, 2012 and 2013. 85% of the students contacted, the e-mail address on record was still valid. A total of 298 students responded to the survey, which corresponds to a response rate of 37% (2008–2010: 18%).

99% of all respondents agreed or strongly agreed that GSP had been a rewarding experience. A major strength of GSP lies in the diversity of the participating students. The students highly appreciated studying with peers from different academic backgrounds and with diverse nationalities and cultures. Many stated that they would like to have had students from all ten IARU universities represented in their course. On the personal level, GSP has helped to establish many international friendships.

In general, the respondents thought that the GSP principles had been satisfactorily met. However, they did not view their GSP experience to have been research-intensive. Students wished that there were more science courses offered and that the courses had a stronger focus on research. More opportunities for graduate students would also be welcomed.

5.2 GSP 10th Anniversary 2017

In 2017, the IARU Global Summer Program will celebrate its 10th anniversary. Partners and GSP alumni have been asked for ideas on how to celebrate that anniversary. Ideas ranged from activities for

alumni such as local or virtual alumni reunions and GSP alumni conference to extended or new formats of GSP.

The IARU Secretariat took up the idea to use the IARU World Alumni Forum taking place back-to-back with the IARU Presidents' Meeting 2015 in Tokyo as a platform and invite GSP alumni living in the Tokyo area. A slot in the Forum could be reserved to organize a GSP specific event.

Jane Edwards and her team at Yale might look into the possibility of organizing a GSP media course for students researching on the outcomes of the past Global Summer Programs.

Session 6: GSP Further Directions

6.1 IARU Student Research Hub (GSP Hub)

Despite the success of the current GSP model, one recurring challenge is the significant organizational and financial effort required to provide courses for a relatively small number of students. A few years ago, the idea evolved to create a hub to gather a larger pool of students in one location. Under this approach, participating partners would host the GSP every few years on a rotating basis with the aim of reducing the overall financial and administration burden.

ANU and Berkeley committed to explore the idea in more detail and presented the proposal of the "IARU Student Research Hub". The suggested model would bring together undergraduate students and faculty from partner universities to look in detail at a topic of significance to the Alliance and the world. The proposed inaugural topic is *Human Security*. The hub would run for at least 4 weeks and incorporate a strong research component. ANU is investigating the possibility of offering its 2015 GSP course in a format reflective of this model. It is aimed to launch the first IARU Student Research Hub in 2016 with a maximum of 45 students. Some lectures would be delivered in a plenary, but the students would also be divided in groups to conduct research on different strands.

GSP Coordinators thanked ANU and Berkeley for taking the lead and welcomed the pilot course to gain first experiences and then discuss the further development. They also reminded that a distinct benefit of the current GSP model are the small groups that allow to forge a strong bond among the students and faculty.

6.2 Realization of Global Classrooms – Proposal by UTokyo

The University of Tokyo is developing an interactive ICT system that creates a "global classroom" by connecting several universities. The project aims at offering students the possibility to experience a global environment. The system will allow to connect to the global classroom with commonly used technologies. The only draw-back of such live streams would be the time differences of different locations.

The system is still under development. As soon as it will have been finalized and tested with different universities in Japan, UTokyo will advise the IARU partners step by step about how to access the system.

The GSP course "Sustainable Urban Management" might be offered as an open course.

6.3 Multi-Lateral One- or Two-Semester Exchange Program

GSP has become a firmly established program that is running smoothly. Expanding the scope of the discussions beyond the summer program has been brought up several times at IARU Presidents' Meetings. Presidents tasked the Senior officers to look into other forms of IARU-wide exchanges. IARU should reach out to more students by creating more international student opportunities. The GSP Coordinators were asked to feed into this discussion.

GSP Coordinators drew the attention to the already existing broad student mobility under the IARU umbrella. The exchanges however are based on bilateral agreements. Multi-lateral agreements would cause more administration burden and therefore not be worth the effort.

To make Presidents aware of the presumably astonishing number of the already existing exchanges of students and faculty among the IARU universities, the IARU Secretariat will collect the numbers and aggregate them into a matrix.

6.4 Other Global Education Initiatives

Global Internship Program (GIP)

In 2014 three IARU universities offered a total of 13 internships. 3 of them were carried out with an IARU intern. NUS offers diverse internships every year to international students although it has proved to be a challenge to find suitable projects. ANU offers semester-long research internships to students who must be enrolled in some classes to avoid visa issues.

Partners acknowledged that the institutions are too diverse to set up an IARU-wide internship program. Available internship opportunities however can be communicated to the IARU Secretariat that forwards the information to all IARU Key Contacts and advertises them on IARU's webpage – ideally in December/January when the GSP application period opens in order to reach most students.

Sustainability Fellowships

In 2014 a total of 17 students from all 10 IARU institutions participated in the Sustainability Fellowships reciprocal exchange program, working on sustainability topics at a partner university during 4–6 weeks. The program is well established, much appreciated by the participating students and sustainability offices and runs smoothly. The IARU Secretariat will include these student exchanges in the above mentioned matrix and circulate it among the GSP Coordinators for their information.

Global Cross-Disciplinary Tournament (GXT)

The student association at ANU hosted GXT in July 2014. 25 students from 6 partner universities participated in this year's student-led initiative under the topic "The Future of the Body". Erik Lithander (ANU) and Takeo Fujiwara (UTokyo) were among the review panellists. The event received financial support from ANU.

The initiative depends on enthusiastic students who volunteer to run it. The organizing team is always new and can therefore not draw on the past experiences. If this initiative is to be continued, the hosting university should look into ways to connect the students with the GSP courses held on site and the IARU Research Hub.

Graduate Student Conference (GSC)

UCPH hosted the second IARU Graduate Student Conference in June 2014. 21 PhD students from 6 partner universities participated in the conference. UCPH reported funding issues for participants coming from far away. Overall, the conference was a great success.

Partners were encouraged to use this model. Such conferences proved to be a useful networking platform. NUS, initiator of this initiative, is looking into offering a graduate student conference in 2016.

Session 7: Presentation of the University of Oxford International Summer Schools

Prof. Angus Hawkins, Director of International Programmes at the Department of Continuing Education presented the University of Oxford International Summer Schools. These intensive programs are taught either by Oxford faculty or by external experts. Students attend small group seminars and daily lectures. Participants in these programs usually have a university degree, or have spent a minimum of two years at university. Oxford does not award credit for the summer programs, but participants receive a “Detailed Certificate” which information on contact hours (for plenary sessions and workshops), grades achieved and private study hours enabling them to seek credit at their home institution.

In 2013/2014 some 17,000 students took part in one or more of the 872 courses offered. The courses range from open access to part-time undergraduate qualifications, part-time Master’s degrees and part-time Doctorates and are conducted face-to-face, residential and online (approximately 70 online courses, each targeted at approximately 20 persons). Programs are offered in History, English Literature, International Politics, International Human Rights Law, Creative Writing, Theology, Oxford University Summer Schools for Adults, and Oxford Teachers’ Academy, the latter in partnership with Oxford University Press. The financially self-sustaining program generates an annual financial turnover of GBP 10.6 million and counts 400–450 academics from all across the university plus external experts and 140 administrative staff.

Session 8: Closing

The IARU Secretariat will prepare a report of the GSP Working Committee Meeting 2014 to be presented to the Senior Officers’ Meeting in November. The draft report will be circulated to the GSP Coordinators for comments. GSP Coordinators are encouraged to contact their Senior Officers to brief them on the ongoing activities.

At the Presidents’ Meeting 2014, Rector Ralf Hemmingsen (UCPH) was elected as the next IARU Chairperson. Rector Hemmingsen will assume this position from 1 January 2015 until 31 December 2016. With the Chair, the IARU Secretariat will also move to UCPH. The hand-over will take place in April/May after the selection/nomination process of GSP 2015 has been concluded and before the GSP 2015 courses start. The GSP Coordinators thanked the current IARU Secretariat, Anders Hagström and Romana Rutz, for their commitment and support over the last two years.

University of Yale has offered to host the next GSP Working Committee Meeting 2015 on 21–22 September 2015. The meeting will start with a Welcome Dinner on Sunday, 20 September, and end with lunch on Tuesday, 22 September.

Anders Hagström thanked all participants for the constructive discussions, and University of Oxford for their kind hospitality.

