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Synopsis of my Experience
The Global Challenges of a Sustainable Development
**Kennesaw State University Faculty Professional Development Program
at the European Academy of Otzenhausen, Germany May 11-18, 2018**

This spring 2018, I applied for and was granted the opportunity to attend the *The Global Challenges of a Sustainable Development* at the European Academy of Otzenhausen, Germany. From the moment we left the airport in Atlanta to the moment we arrived back in Atlanta this opportunity was a remarkable experience. Upon our arrival in Germany, we were greeted by our main host, Dr. Antje Schönwal and were transported to the Academy via coach. Arrival and checking into our rooms was effortless and was followed by lunch and an opening plenary of participants' introduction and overview of the purpose of the workshop by Klaus-Peter Beck, Chairman of the Foundation ASKO-EUROPA Stiftung and Dr. Antje Schönwald, European Academy of Otzenhausen.

The first afternoon was one of the highlights of this workshop. We had a great lecture by Klaus Wiegandt, Chairman of the foundation, Forum für Verantwortung on *Sustainable Development: Responsibility for a global Challenge*. This lecture highlighted the issues that our world is facing related to climate changes, economic inequality, hunger, poverty, etc. The fact that our world cannot sustain its people if we continue on the track we are currently pursuing is alarming. I noted my agreement with this argument and offered my observations regarding the natural disasters we experienced in the US in 2017, and ironically we are on the brink of another disaster (hurricane Florence) heading for the East Coast, as I am writing this overview! The second day included a lecture and workshop by Dr. Antje Schönwald, European Academy of Otzenhausen on *Sustainability: Challenges for the World of Tomorrow*, a presentation on the *Introduction to European Political Structures*, by Dr. Sebastian Zeitmann, EAO, and a hike to

the Celtic Wall, another highlight for me. I will be using some of the information gathered from the workshop on the *challenges of sustainability* in a plenary speech at the South East Region of the American Accounting Association spring 2019 Annual Conference.

The various workshops, lectures, field trips, meals, etc. were well organized and appropriate for our level of expertise. Other highlights were the visits to the wind panels and turbines and CSA farm. These all relate to using natural resources to help mitigate the negative effects of climate change and promote sustainability for our future. I was very intrigued while learning about the return on energy and investment ROE (I) in these natural sources of energy; this is based on quantitative and cost values. I intend to include this information in designing one of two case studies I can use in my cost accounting courses. The WWII underground bunkers and visit to Colon were fascinating and gave me a sobering effect of wars. The visit and tour of the Pump Storage Station in Vianden, Luxemburg and to the Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment and Energy were also interesting and very educational. I was able to learn about the CO₂ emission of fossil fuel, coal, versus that of natural gas and uranium. I intend to use the information learned to also aid in writing a case study about companies' use of these natural resources in their operations, and the related costs.

Overall, this workshop was a great educational experience, I learned so much about the intricacies and challenges of sustainability efforts in our world that I can use in my teaching, my research and scholarly activities and in my service to my profession. The social aspects of the trip was also a blessing. Best of all I had fun with my colleagues from KSU and also winning Dr. Matson and his team in the first bowling completion☺ the following night they won! I am thankful to KSU for organizing this workshop and I recommend other faculty to take advantage of this experience.