



Yangming Fan (far right) at GKSS with colleagues (from left): Heinz Günther, Volker Dzaak, Franciscus Colin, Dr. Suang-Jing Pong (director of Taipeh Vertretung in Germany), Chia Chuen Kao (director of COMC)

An old saying goes, “Reading ten thousand books is like traveling ten thousand miles”. In 2003, I was lucky enough to get the NSC-DAAD Summer Program Scholarship to GKSS, Germany for academic research for 3 months from July to September. As this is my first time in a European country, and although I feel a lot of cultural shocks, such as human feelings, lifestyle, work attitude, I also fall in love with cultural atmosphere. For this reason, in 2006, I had another the opportunity to do research in GKSS for a year from September 2005 to August 2006. After graduation in 2008, I choose to stay at Coastal Ocean Monitoring Center (COMC), National Cheng Kung University, so that I could have a chance to close contact and cooperation with GKSS.

During the period of stay in GKSS, Dr. Heinz Guenther was my advisor, and Prof. Hans von Storch was the big boss of Institute for Coastal Research. Talking about the impressions of them, I still remember that Heinz took me to meet the big Boss. He told me that the big boss only had few minutes to meet me. So the feeling I had was that he was very kind, but very busy. I had a deeper exchange with him when I left GKSS to return to work in COMC, for example, co-organized the workshop in Taiwan in 2009 (Workshop on Retrospective Simulation and Analysis of Changing SE Asian High-Resolution Typhoon Wind and Wave Statistics), joined in the Hamburg port birthday on the vessel Ludwig Prandtl in 2012, and CGJOINT 2018 In Taiwan in 2018. For the working attitude, before I went to Germany, my impression was to go to work on time and not to work overtime. Heinz taught me otherwise: Once he assisted me in checking a program which has been unstable during the execution of the program. When the time to get off work was coming, I expected that he might tell me to return

to the problem tomorrow, but he called his wife to say that he will come back home late. I am deeply moved that he worked overtime to help me.

Relative to the living environment in Tainan, GKSS is located in the forest with lots of the inconveniences in life, such as the interval of bus to ZOB once an hour, and no internet in the dormitory. However, the longer you stay, the more you get used to the pace of life, for instance, the working hours are normal, the air is fresh, the night sky is full of stars.

It has been more than 12 years since I left GKSS. If I have the opportunity to travel to Europe, I always try to arrange to come back there to visit old friends, even if the travel is a bit inconvenient.