

Mr Nguyen Ngoc Khang

School of Chemical Engineering, Hanoi University of Science and Technology

European labs visited:

Leibniz Institute for Catalysis (LIKAT) at Rostock University in Germany & University of Grenoble Alpes in France



Nguyen Ngoc Khang is working at the School of Chemical Engineering, Hanoi University of Science and Technology. His research focused on developing various types of catalysts for air pollutant treatment. His project of nitrogen oxides treatment has won the first place at Falling Walls Lab Vietnam 2019. He hopes that the project will contribute to solving pressing air pollution problems in his home country Vietnam.

You recently took part in the Falling Walls Lab Finale and the Falling Walls Conference in Berlin. Please tell us about your experience. What were the highlights for you? This might inspire others to follow in your footsteps!

The Falling Walls Lab Finale was the biggest competition I have ever participated in. This event enabled me to meet amazing finalists from all fields of expertise and from all over the world. Speaking in front of hundreds of international colleagues was nerve-racking but it was also an amazing once-in-a-lifetime experience. I feel very proud to represent my country Vietnam and to share about the work that we do every day to solve the pressing environmental challenges my country constantly faces.

I was interested in the training provided by the organizers for all the finalists. The training made me more confident and relaxed before the competition. It was also a great opportunity to meet the representatives from Nature Publishing during my trip. They gave me essential information on how to publish scientific work and to produce high-quality publications. In short, this trip was a truly priceless experience!

How did participation help you to expand your professional networks?

At the Finals I had the opportunity to meet many scholars in my field from all over the world. We exchanged ideas and their feedbacks helped me to improve my research. I do hope that we can keep in touch and work together in the near future.

As a EURAXESS Prize winner, you also visited research labs in Europe. Can you tell us where you went and who you met?



I would like to thank EURAXESS for this amazing prize. Thanks to the EURAXESS Prize, I had the opportunity to visit labs at the Leibniz Institute for Catalysis (LIKAT) at Rostock University in Germany and the University of Grenoble Alpes in France. At Rostock University, Dr Dirk Hollmann introduced the RoHan

programme and the Master programme at Rostock University to me. At LIKAT, I met some Vietnamese students working there and they shared their experience in finding scholarships and working abroad with me. At the University of Grenoble Alpes, I was truly impressed by the warm welcome I received from the professors and their support for my further studies at the Department of Chemistry.

What are your key takeaways from the visits and what are your future plans?

The visit gave me the chance for face-to-face meetings with professors and to polish my application for my further studies. I have also gained more understanding of academic life, programmes, and opportunities in Europe, so I can prepare well before making my decision. Besides, I expanded my personal and professional network by visiting Vietnamese students there. I believe that they can help me adapt to a new environment easily when I go back there to study in the future.

What advice would you give to colleagues who might be interested in participating in the Falling Walls Lab in your country next year?

First of all, you must love your topic. When you are on the stage, you are conveying your passion for your topic to your listeners. If you are not interested in what you are saying, why on earth are you inflicting it on other people?

Practice, practice, and practice. You need to be so familiar with your presentation that you can still communicate your core message even if there was a power fail and your slides were lost.