

Conference Holiday in Kos Island, Greece

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Tuesday, 10 July 2007
Last Updated Thursday, 12 July 2007

I was back yesterday from a 10 days conference holiday in Greece. Conference Holiday, is named by me. The reason is that it seems very popular in academe to choose conference venues in those beautiful and comfortable tourism places, where people go for holiday. To some extent, the purpose of academic conferences is widely regarded to provide a chance for all hard working researchers to meet friends, relax, and enjoy life.

For me, this conference was for the European Control Conference 2007 and the holiday was for me and Melissa having a so called 'Honeymoon' trip before she leaves the UK. Kos island, as the host of the conference, is one of the largest islands in Greece, closely located near to Turkey. Some people think Kos as paradise since it's got beautiful beaches, relaxant atmosphere and many more to enjoy and explore.

We spent most of our time on beaches in Kos. Aegean sea is so pure and blue. No one would not love it. Apart from the sea and beaches, Kos also surprised me by its long history and Hippocrates, 'Father of Medicine'. People in Kos were also warm and friendly.

We then headed for Athens from Kos by ferry. Athens didn't give us a very happy time there, not only because of the hot weather, but the strike of tourism workers. Almost all the famous places were closed. We could only look around outside the Acropolis and other sites. Athens also let us down because it's not very clean and well organised, not like a city which held the Olympic game in 2004. Most people in Athens can not speak English. But this is not so important. The thing is some of them are very arrogant. They think themselves the FIRST in the world. It's funny.