

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON DOUBLE DEGREE STRATEGY
KEIO UNIVERSITY – MITA CAMPUS – TOKYO – JAPAN
MONDAY OCTOBER 19th 2015
ALUMNI ACTIVITIES (17.00 – 17.30)

Transcript of Proceedings (Transcript by Keio University, Edited by P. Crowther)

Professor Shinnosuke OBI (SO):

Now we have the session of the products of Double Degree program. Actually, the Alumni will come up to the stage and... Just wait it will not take too much time we just changed the name, so thank you.

President, T.I.M.E. Alumni Association (Ms. Marie AICHAGUI) (MA):

So I have how many... how much time? Ten minutes?

SO:

Ten will be too long.

MA:

Five minutes.

SO:

Yes five minutes because most of the people know about the Alumni Association.

Now, let me first just introduce all of you. Okay so I request all Alumni to be seated on the stage. So just let me introduce the people on the stage from the right to left, to our right is Marie Aichagui. She is the President of the T.I.M.E. Alumni Association and her bio is available on the brochure. Then we have Claudia Schulz, a double degree graduate of The University of Queensland and École Centrale de Lyon. The next gentleman is Yuki Homma. He is one of the first double degree students of Keio and École Centrale Paris. Next to him is Asana Sasaki. She got a Double Degree from École Centrale de Nantes and Keio. Next to her is Emiyu Ogawa: she

got a Double Degree from École Centrale de Lyon and finished ph.D this year at Keio. And last, on the left, is Louis Klepal: he came from École Centrale de Nantes and finished at Keio.

So, Marie will first present as President of the T.I.M.E Alumni Association her personal history before asking the graduates about what the Double Degree programme changed in their life and how they feel about it now.

MA:

Thanks for that introduction. First, hello everyone. I have chosen to call my presentation “The double degree and a sustainable career serving societies and future generations”, because a couple of years ago I felt a deep need of actually doing something with my career that I found meaningful and in line with my personal beliefs. So I will tell you in five minutes about my career path and how international study and the international environment had an impact on my career choice and my career path.

I was born international my mother was Swedish, my father Moroccan, I grew up in Sweden and I was put in a French school in Stockholm when I was four years old. So that was preschool and I went I went through that school until I was 17 and passed my Baccalaureate. This was a school with more than 50 nationalities, so actually I've always been used to being among international people, with lots of cultures and nationalities. Then I chose to become an engineer. I started at KTH in my home town Stockholm with applied physics. Then I went on the T.I.M.E Double Degree program to École Centrale Paris and I enjoyed that very, very much and I think that the Swedish engineering culture and the French engineering culture are very complementary in the sense that in Sweden, it's very focused on applications and it's pretty down to earth whereas in France, as I guess most of you know, it's pretty... it's very theoretical and very Maths based and especially at the “Grande École” schools, we become generalist engineers. I did my Master thesis at the Airbus Group (back then it was called EADS) at the Corporate Research Centre in Munich... so that was the third country I lived in: Germany. I actually stayed there for eight years in total and most of the time I lived in Munich, I worked for the Linde Group, which is one of the two largest industrial gases companies in the world. I was a Project Manager for mainly Indian projects, building air separation plants as big gas plants. And these are some pictures from my

travels there- from my business trips. It was very, very challenging. Negotiations were very hard but also I made some friends, some very good friends with whom I'm still in touch with from the people I used to work with - partners and also clients and suppliers.

So I... I must say I enjoyed that part of my career very much and I miss India today. Then I... I... I... changed because after... after some years, working in the industrial gases business, my... core values caught up with me. These were those of sustainability. Ecology has always been very important to me so I decided to take a role in an energy company. So I started working, still in Munich, for Hanwha Solar which is a... a Korean group and I was managing... I was an international Key Account Manager. So, this is one picture at the left side of... of a football game that... that I attended because we also sponsored a football team in England. My male colleagues were very jealous of me. Then, I started to found my own company. This was something I had always wanted to do. I'd always somehow seen myself as an entrepreneur. I had lots of ideas. I still have at least one idea every week of solutions I would like to develop.

So, I've a long list on my iPhone with ideas that may take shape someday. So, I founded my company, A Global Vision, in Germany to start with then I moved to... France and I conducted a project in telecoms. It was an SMS payment system for a Swedish company. I was project managing the French pilot, so there again is the impact of my international background. It was really interesting to see how it works to be a Project Manager not for a big corporation but for my own company, a one-woman company. And, I also got more and more involved in sustainable business clubs and sustainable business networks in Paris. For instance, the Presidency of the T.I.M.E. Alumni Association has played a very important role there. I am also a co-founder of the sustainable business club that we now have. Also, I joined the Climate Reality Project which is... which was founded by Former US Vice-President Al Gore and that's a very impact-rich network worldwide for individuals who really want to make the choice of a sustainable future. Then a year ago, I found out what I really want to do as an entrepreneur, what I really burn for and that is Beauty-waps. So, Beauty-waps is my venture in which I develop, manufacture and commercialize reusable sanitary pads. You might guess from the logo what it's about. And, why is that important? In fact that influences twenty percent of a woman's life and the ultimate goal of this company is that when I have succeeded, the female period is not going

to be a problem anymore. So, to start something, I think you have to think big, start small. Start with one... one piece, at least. So, that's why I started with the reusable sanitary pads. And I appreciated Brendon's comment about engineers making a social impact and social entrepreneurship. Because in developing countries like Kenya where I have a pilot project, 60 percent of women actually don't have access to period protection.

So, there is a huge, not only market for this venture but also a possibility to making a real huge impact for mankind or in this case womankind. And again, I would like to throw the parallel to my international background and how the international studies have had a strong impact on me, also in my current work. So, I would like to show you the map of where I act today with this venture Beauty-waps. So, as you can see, as I'm based in Paris, there is a strong presence in Paris. I also opened a Swedish company, Beauty-waps Scandinavia AB in August this year to develop the market there and allow me to have local Swedish payment solutions which are very, very innovative. And actually, payment solutions are key to success for this kind of business which is both B to B and B to C. I ac... I also have users in Morocco, which is my second home country. I've users in Senegal. I'm also negotiating a big contract for a project in Togo. I'm also in negotiation with an NGO which is based in Kenya but they have a program for girls' schooling in Somalia which includes 30,000 schoolgirls. So that's Somalia and Kenya you can see on that map. I have a first user in Brazil, so I'm also going to the west of the map which is very interesting for me. And, as I mentioned before, I kept some very good friends from the time I spent working in India with Indian partners and colleagues. And one of those contacted me a couple of months ago and said 'I want to work for you and how can we develop Beauty-waps in India?' So now we're just... we... we're in discussion to see... to build a business plan for India and see how we can launch Beauty-waps there. And that of course, will take it to another level. So, Mr. Obi I don't know what the plan is, if I should open for a discussion if you or if you would like to start the panel yourself.

SO:

Yes. Thank you.

MA:

This is my presentation. Thank you very much for your attention.

SO:

Okay. So the idea of this session is basically about the interview older Double Degree holders and on the screen we showed just some students... mainly that would be the students who came to Keio or who went abroad. And while showing this picture, I would like to ask individual panellists here why you applied for a Double Degree at the beginning and when you actually participated in a program, what was very different from what you expected at the beginning?

So I'll just start with the small questions. May I ask Louis to start answering the questions? Why did you decide to do this and what was very different from your expectations?

Louis:

So, hello everybody. My name is Louis. I'm from France, from École Centrale de Nantes and I applied for Keio University as a Double Degree student. That was in 2007 when eight students came to Keio University in Japan for a six-week program. That was a linguistic program actually, which I presented at the beginning. And as we mentioned, we're saying that these programmes are a great motivation for the people that actually go there to apply for longer and heavier programmes. Among those students you had a number who actually applied for the Double Degree the year after that. But for me it was eight students: two boys, six girls and I was charmed... and I was sold. I was seeing in their eyes the culture shock that I wanted to experience then. I applied for it, and in a word I got just what I asked for, that culture shock. And yes, there's a lot of things that are different between French education and Japanese education (which is based on the laboratory). But again this is just what I had asked for.

SO:

And what was very different from or against your expectations when you came to Japan?

Louis:

I didn't have any expectations.

SO:

Okay.

Louis:

To say it really simply I didn't have any expectations, I expected to get that culture shock and to get in to a great university program, with great engineering sciences. I got that. I got the culture shock here above what I could have expected, and maybe I will tell you in a different question what it led me to after that.

SO:

Well thank you, and you.

Female Speaker (Ms. Asana SASAKI):

Hello everyone, I'm Asana Sasaki and I was a student at Ecole Centrale de Nantes, so seven years ago I was a student who could neither speak nor write in French as mentioned by Professor Itoh and why I was in France seven years ago, it is because, the first time I heard about study abroad was in Keio High School. And also my father studied in France, so I was really interested to experience the culture of France and life in France, so it was really curiosity for French culture and life, this was the biggest motivation for me to go France. And what was not as expected when I went to France was, I thought that I'm going to see the cultural things, the difference of French culture, French people, but what I most recognized was Japanese culture in France. Because I really hadn't noticed that Japanese culture is really unique and different from other countries so the biggest surprise is that I really didn't know about the Japanese culture; that was the biggest discovery for me in France.

SO:

I see you were shocked by Japanese culture!

Female Speaker (Ms. A. SASAKI):

So, I went to Centrale de Nantes between 2007 and 2009, as the second generation of Japanese Double Degree students. Why I went to France, first I was very interested in French culture and

in 2007 just before going for the Double Degree I participated in the Linguistic and Cultural programme at ECN, and it was a marvellous experience for me, and I was very welcome by my host family and Asian professors and so I decided to go for a Double Degree but when I first went to ECN what surprised was, I thought I was well integrated into French culture thanks to my linguistic and cultural stay, but engineering courses with young French people were not the same, because young French people speak very fast and the engineering course is very, rapid and so it was very hard to overcome. But anyway after the first year I could integrate into it quite comfortably.

SO:

And what was against your expectation? Language?

Female Speaker (Ms. A. SASAKI):

Language, yes.

SO:

Okay, okay it was not taught. And you?

Male Speaker (Mr. Yuki HOMMA):

So hello my name is Yuki Homma, I was studying in a school in Ecole Centrale Paris, and the reason why I decided to participate in this program is really simple. When I entered this university I wanted to have some experiences in foreign countries, and I just wanted to live in foreign countries and at the same moment, fortunately this Double Degree program, this very long exchange program started, so I applied. So I think that my case is not so useful maybe for you. What was more than I expected is that the relationship I encountered was that everyday life was a series of discoveries. I learned many different ways of thinking, how different people spend everyday life and how they work. And even after the program finished the relationship with France and among the alumni continued, so after Double Degree program I continued my research at Keio University as a PhD student and during this PhD course I continued to exchange information with my colleagues and it encouraged me a lot, so this precious relationship, this continuing relationship is very much what I expected, and more than what I expected.

SO:

Thank you. I will ask the same question to Claudia.

CS:

I graduated from the University of Queensland in Brisbane Australia and Centrale de Lyon in France. Why did I chose to do the Double Degree program? I think it's easy to answer that question now, when I left I was 19. I actually had no idea what I was doing, why I actually took the step because my mother told me to. She encouraged me to, to be diplomatic, she is actually a developmental psychologist and clearly she had the right idea. What I then embarked upon was obviously a journey of discovery and a challenge, and foreign as my Double Degree colleagues have already evoked I think looking back it's easier to say now okay, the reason I chose it is because I'm a very curious person So I wanted to either sink or swim, to have a challenge, either I was going to succeed or not succeed. So I guess it was a personal test and young engineers I think are particularly susceptible to this concept of test so that's definitely what I embarked upon and why I chose to do it, but at the time I had no idea what I was doing, absolutely no idea. So you continue your fantastic work in helping your students along their journeys because they need you.

The second question is what was so different to what I was perhaps expecting, given that I didn't really know what I was doing I didn't really have concrete expectation, I think though looking back what I was extremely surprised about, and pleasantly so is that in France the education system perhaps more than in Australia allows for a lot of interaction with industry. So you are encouraged and sort of educated from early on in your program to think about what is this going to bring me where I'm I going and that's clearly exactly what I needed to do, because I had no idea. And so I was often in contact with executives and people who were encouraging me to make the right choices and do internships and think about my journey and also ask myself questions about what I wanted, and I was surprised by that because I hadn't experienced that before and I really enjoyed having that experience. I'm still in France, so it worked quite well on me, thank you.

SO:

You touched the local culture?

CS:

There are some people who will disagree with that statement, I like to think I have, it is true graduating from a Double Degree program, you do end up as well crowding into international environments, and right now I'm working actually for an Indian company as a key account manager for the French transportation industry so even in my day-to-day business it's very diverse. So I think when we talk about integration there are two aspects, there's the local integration and also the international aspects.

SO:

Okay you? Marie do you have something to add?

MA:

Yes, so first to answer the first question, why did I enrol in the double degree program going to Ecole Centrale Paris? Well my father was actually time coordinator at KTH, so he sold this program very well to me, telling me all the advantages. And I must say I strongly agree with him and when I came to Ecole Centrale Paris what surprised me having gone to a French school, was that I thought before arriving that I was pretty French and once I was there and confronted day to day in France with the French culture I realized how Swedish I am. And the words actually are Culture Shock, which I had not expected at all. And as I said before the Swedish and the French university systems are quite different, so that was also cultural shock in the learning experience and how... well the teaching at the Ecole Centrale which is very project based and also all the interaction with industry which I had not experienced before and that I appreciated very much.

SO:

Okay, thank you.

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SO:

I would like to continue this conversation a bit longer, but because of the time constraint the next question will be the last. And what I would like to ask you is that usually at this point I would like to ask a former student to say something, some message to the younger students. But because of a lack of younger students in this room, I would like to ask you to say some message to the coordinators, professors of the T.I.M.E. Double Degree to improve the program if there's some possibility to improve from your perspective. Very quick, not too long, please. Yes?

Louis:

Okay, I will try to be quick. To give you just an explanation of what I want to say, I just to want to explain what I went through after this Double Degree. So, after my graduation I came back to France, the problem is that in March 2011 a big earthquake hit Japan... these parts of Japan, so I was back in Japan in May 2011 for my first Japanese job. That was a job in a Japanese company, a true Japanese company in the real countryside of the Kanagawa Prefecture. And there I experienced a few things like morning stretching, comp and factory uniform even for doing daily work, I was doing my turns at hoovering the whole floor, having the daily meetings, end-of-day speeches, in a true Japanese company. It was a one-year experience that was a truly fun experience actually. The moments you get with your colleagues are actually really great; we had lunch all together at 12:00 and I got from this a lot of "credits". A lot of credits means, a lot of credits I got a really good France-Japanese level. I got the proper way of greeting, the proper way of thinking, the proper way of exchanging your business card, the proper way of dealing with Japanese customers, Japanese customer relationship management skills. That got me to my second job. I was in business development and we got the opportunity to work with India. That was one... two years, the two-three years of experience in which I went two times in one month in India. My integration with the local team was really beautiful, because I was really trying to get into the culture. I tried to do as everybody. And then got my third job, I kept really this Japanese... this western core by saying that I'm not afraid of changing jobs, so I changed jobs again, that's my current job. I'm not in PV Power Plant Assessment Job in a German company. It's only been six months but already after my fifth month, our team got the reward of higher revenue and I got the higher revenue as a person that was the biggest record, even better than my boss.

Last Friday I was speaking to an audience of my company for our clients that came from all over Iwate, that is further north than when you were last week in Nagoya, to give a lecture for half a day. The point I want to make here is like, I have three points here. First, international skills, anyway one of those is really observation skills. Those observation skills are really highly effective for adaptability and they are also great interpersonal skills. Second, I want to make it so that we are great “Top Industrial Managers for Japan”. I was told by the Japanese company that if I got the offer, if I accepted the offer they gave me, I would be the first non-Japanese to enter the company and they were really looking forward to it. But what I mean here is that, Japan needs this globalization. My third point is, someone said actually that I really encourage... I really wish that I had been more encouraged to do what I actually did. I know that a lot of students, a lot of foreign students here in Japan are afraid of this Japanese working environment. And what I want to say to them, is: “Go for it”, not only will it be a huge experience, because I consider myself as a huge pioneer for relationships between Japan and the rest of world, it will be a fun experience and they will be welcomed by the company, because the Japanese do love it when foreigners love Japan.

SO:

Good, thank you very much.

Female Speaker (Ms. Emiyu OGAWA):

So the message for coordinators. Okay, I just finished my PhD this September so I just started to work as an Assistant Professor at Keio University. So for the professional life I hope to have a diversity of foreigners after that. But for the personal life I really appreciate the Coordinators at Keio University and École Centrale de Lyon. I was really the only one Japanese student in École Centrale de Lyon when I arrived there. And yes there's difficulties in studying in France, but there was a lot of help from the International Centre of École Centrale, because there's a strong relationship between Keio University and École Centrale. And it helped really very much and I think that my favourite experience in France was the creation of craft calligraphy in École Centrale de Lyon. That was really the real integration between the... foreign students and the other students. So I hope to have the opportunity to realize the real integration between the

foreign students and the other students. And I felt a little bit sad in Keio University, because there's a community of French students, only the French students, only the German students, so I hope to have a mixture between all of the Keio University students and also that we can help to realize this situation in École Centrale and also in Keio University. So I hope to have more improvement of the Double Degree Programme, but I really appreciate the coordinators at Keio University and the Écoles Centrales group.

SO:

Thank you very much. Actually at Keio Science and Technology, French students are the majority among the intentional students and that is similar to the Chinese students in Écoles Centrales probably. And they stick together and there's not much interaction with local students. It is not that bad at Keio, and we try to mix everyone together. Thank you.

Female Speaker (Ms. A. SASAKI):

So, this is for the Coordinators at ECN and Keio University, your people helped me a lot for my Double Degree study. So I hope Coordinators of Double Degree will do this in the future also. Now I'm working at Nissan developing electric cars and I'm working with Renault's people to develop common parts. And I speak French and English for my everyday work. What I wanted to say is going abroad for Double Degree is... was very helpful for job hunting also. Many Japanese students were very worried about that, but don't worry about that. And I think it's the same for other foreign students. So to convince future students, I think it's important to have the occasion to hear alumni opinions. So to the Coordinator what I would say is, please help us to promote the Double Degree program together with us Alumni. Thank you.

SO:

Good.

Male Speaker (Mr. Y. HOMMA):

So what I want to say is simple, please keep promoting the Double Degree programme and for example this kind of the symposium or seminar for exchange of ideas or opinions, it is a very good chance for students who want... who are thinking about going abroad, because me too,

when I was going to France I participated sometimes in this kind of exchange opportunities and I could talk with friends, professors and it was really encouraging for me. So I thought “Yes, I want to go... I know this is really work for many professors to come each time to Japan, but please continue this kind of symposium and I believe when students can successfully finish the Double Degree programme it must become a really big experience for them. I believe that it is worth doing this Double Degree programme. So, I hope professors do keep promoting this programme.

SO:

Thank you. We never stop. So... please, Claudia.

CS:

It's a lovely question as I have a fantastic opportunity right now to pass on my message to both UQ and Centrale de Lyon and to Brendon who works tirelessly with the faculty back at UQ in pushing this very radical idea that Australians need to be educated overseas. So thank you. And also to Centrale de Lyon, and I remember the day that you taught us exchange students about the health insurance system in France and we were separated in a massive auditorium into the European side and the non-European side, so it was me and a bunch of Brazilians who were very confused and you work tirelessly as well to explain to us how the system works. So my first message is of course thank you to my two institutions. The second message I have is related, don't underestimate the power that you have as educators or administrators of this program. Because it's easier as I said as a student to feel lost at the beginning and to not really know what you are doing. And thanks to you and your programs to sort of help us along the way, we are able to achieve the wonderful things that we have presented today. So don't be afraid to go a little bit pedagogical on us, with tools, with frameworks, with ideas about how to teach us the language of discovery. Because we need managers in the future who are going to be empathetic leaders, who are going to be tolerant, who are going to want to develop the world to be a sustainable place. And how are we going to do that? We are going to do that by learning how to talk about our international experience. And that's... that's what I hope that we can look towards you for, so that's my message, thank you.

SO:

Thank you. So, if you have some advice...?

CS:

I think the most important for students when they are at the age of... how old are they? Between I guess 19 and 20 something, is to figure out who they are, meaning what place and society do they want to have later. Do they really want to have... it's not about what place they can get, but what place do they want to hold in society? What do they burn for, what's their motivation, what's really at their heart? And I think a way, a strong way of selling an international Double Degree is saying that you... or if you can help the students to figure out who they are and how they can get the place which is their place in the future. It's much easier to actually hold that place, if the whole world is their playground, instead of being confined to one country. So that's an argument for actually being able to be happy in the future, you're more likely to be able to find the place which will make you happy, if you have more choice than if you are restricted to one locality. Then I would like to say, one of my favourite quotes which is from Samuel Beckett is: "Ever tried. Ever failed. No matter. Try Again. Fail again. Fail better." Meaning you have to dare to fail. Then my other favourite quote is much less intellectual it's "Just do it", meaning go for it.

SO:

Okay, thank you very much. So in summary, we got a great encouragement from the students, former students to continue the program, so let's just do it. So we come to the closing of this Symposium today. Thank you again for the students, former students, so please come back to the auditorium and while they are moving I'd like to appreciate everyone who spent the whole day long with us to participate in the fruitful discussion. To close the symposium I'd like to request Professor Biauusser to say a word. Please welcome him.

HB:

Thank you Professor Obi, it's very difficult task, so first I would like to summarize what has been said, because it's your requirement and because many, many important things have been said. So I will try to summarize briefly. The first part of the summary is that what we have seen

is that there's an extreme diversity of possible ways of cooperation and possibilities to consider programs for the development of international cooperation. And now I can say an extreme number of obvious advantages of international cooperation between our institutions for people, that means for students and professors and the realisation that culture is probably the most important. To think in the boxes and experience... the expressions have been given, so "I would very much like to live in another country, to be in touch with another way of life", and so it's obvious for people. It's also obvious we don't discuss that so much between partners because international activities and globalisation are the real world and we are mostly focused on institutions, and two points have been defined. The first one is that the purpose must be clear; then we probably start with education and especially at Master's level. It is the way things are going and it's also a question of survival and therefore of course education and research must be international, but I think it's also where to transform our institution in order to have a career matching the expectations of our students, the way we are working and the social demand. And especially our staff of professors must change our mind-set with international cooperation, it's very important. The way to do that seems to be clear, depending of course on the situation of the institution, whether it is globally competitive institution or a locally contributing institution, but the way seems to be clear. The most important challenge is to change the mind-set of people. And we saw that there's really an obvious limit there, there's really an obvious limit. So what about the future... the future is, and we see that especially with the very interesting presentation by our friend from Malaysia, that the demand for international education will grow exponentially with more and more demand, more and more domains, more possible positions. So therefore the first question is, "How can we simplify that to free, let's say this to make more fluent, the exchanges?" Professor Azzone talked about free moving. So, maybe we have to think about that.

The second point is that, the consequence of that is that cooperation will grow and continue to develop, because we are covering more and more domains. And nobody can be at the best level in all areas, so cooperation is probably part of our future. And more and more because... more and more countries and institutions will be involved in the so-called Knowledge Economy.

And the last one is that international presence is a very, very powerful means to help our own institution to adapt and it's very important for that. And we have therefore to think about the

future of elite engineering education, saying that probably engineering is maybe one of the places where it is easier. Therefore it's important that we address that, we will have to address social questions, ethics, the systemic approach, social responsibility and we will take advantage to go on discussing about exchanging and benchmarking. And finally, we would probably be in a position to address the global problems of the society of the 21st century. So the position and the responsibility affecting education is very high. But the challenges are very exciting and I think all of us are in a very positive situation about that. So I think for all of us this seminar, especially and finally with the conclusion of our students, our brilliant graduates gave us a fantastic energy to continue in that way.

So, in the name of the participants I would like to thank our Japanese friends for Tohoku University for last week and today really great thanks to Keio University. Special thanks to Professor Itoh and very, very special thanks to Professor Obi and his team. I think in your name I would like to thank you very, very much for the exceptional day. So thank you for that.

And I think for all of us, this trip to Japan has been exceptional. Thank you again.

SO:

Okay, now it's time for the reception and I hope to give... to show you the place. Is it here somewhere? Okay, so this is a different building from where we had lunch today. We go just across the central plots. And go to the fourth floor of the quite new building surrounded by glass. So, just stick together and you need to take an elevator up there and our President is waiting for you and we have very small ceremony of renewing the agreement of Double Degree between École Centrale and Keio University.

So, thank you very much for your attendance and don't get lost going there.

Original Transcript by Keio University Faculty of Science and Technology

Reviewed and amended by Paul CROWTHER, T.I.M.E. Association

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