The relationship between university and industry has a long history, especially in developed countries. The increase in industrial competitiveness among countries at the end of the 19th century led to the creation of technical universities that were related to industrial needs. The main goals of these universities were to train the workforce, create situations for collaboration between university and industries, increase the level of education, and improve the local and national economy (Halsey, 1995; Mortazavi, 2002).

Most of the research in technology transfer deals with the transfer of technology from developed to developing countries. Some work has been done in exploring the processes of transfer of technology from university to industry. This work is, however, mainly focused on developed countries and almost non-existent in developing countries

In this special lecture, the speaker Ms. Marianne Hoffmann who employed at Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft since October 2007, being the biggest European research organization for applied research headquartered in Munich.

Ms. Marianne Hoffmann introduced their company to listeners and shared the development projects and stories of their organization raunhofer-Gesellschaft, the largest organization for applied research in Europe. Founded in 1949, the research organization undertakes applied research that drives economic development and serves the wider benefit of society. Its services are solicited by customers and contractual partners in industry, the service sector and public administration.

With its clearly defined mission of application-oriented research and its focus on key technologies of relevance to the future, Fraunhofer plays a prominent role in the German and European innovation process. Applied research has a knock-on effect that extends beyond the direct benefits perceived by the customer: Through their research and development work, the Fraunhofer Institutes help to reinforce the competitive strength of the economy in their local region, and throughout Germany and Europe. They do of new technologies, and helping to train the urgently needed future generation of scientists

and engineers. Therefore, they are also very closely linked to the regional universities.

It is my pleasure to attend this special lecture. As a student, I think the theme in the special lecture is very suitable for students. They work with schools to transform their science and technology into company productivity. Students are not just the student, they become employers in the company. In this way, they can understand their knowledge more clearly than before, not only in the lab or in books, in theories, but also in the practice.

In this special lecture, Ms. Marianne Hoffmann firstly introduce the basic composition of the company. At present, Fraunhofer maintains 72 institutes and research units. The majority of the more than 25 000 staff are qualified scientists and engineers, who work with an annual research budget of 2.3 billion euros. Of this sum, almost 2 billion euros is generated through contract research. Around 70 percent of the Fraunhofer’s contract research revenue is derived from contracts with industry and from publicly financed research projects. Around 30 percent is contributed by the German federal and state governments in the form of base funding, enabling the institutes to work ahead on solutions to problems that will not become acutely relevant to industry and society until five or ten years from now. International collaborations with excellent research partners and innovative companies around the world ensure direct access to regions of the greatest importance to present and future scientific progress and economic development.

By browsing from the internet, I found that, fraunhofer is Europe’s largest application-oriented research organization. They research efforts are geared entirely to people’s needs: health, security, communication, energy and the environment. As a result, the work undertaken by their researchers and developers has a significant impact on people’s lives. As a student, I think working in the fraunhofer will be very happiness, we can work with many standard students and in this way, we can creative with each other and at the same time, we shape technology, we design products. We improve methods and techniques. We open up new vistas. In short, we forge the future.

In the second part, the speaker discussed the role of fraunhofer in German national innovation strategy. In the first step, it told us that, having the high level committees or working groups is very important. With the rapid development of science and technology and meanwhile, with the continuous development of globalization. As a student in twenty-first Century, we need to have a global perspective, especially, the creative. We need a global leader to help us to get the innovation dialogue. And then, the federal government is also an important factor, which could perform high-technology strategy. Finally, we transform the projects in the groups into resulting activities, such as national innovation lab which is related to the public security, the national agenda, which refers to biological transformation and so on.

And through its success, we can not help asking why it is so successful? In this special lecture, the speaker told us the four strategies to answer the question how does fraunhofer help its customers? The first step is to improve products, in this part, the organization need to enhance the performance of the productions and also evaluate the cost efficiency. Then in the second step, the fraunhofer moves from product development to short-run production. For example, to build the prototypes and develop the manufacturing methods in a short-run batches. At the same time, market analysis and innovation consulting services are also very important. They need to monitor the technological trends and market developments, meanwhile, find the feasibility studies and return on investment. In the final step, which is the most important is that incorporating new technologies, in this part, fraunhofer is at the cutting edge of technological developments and understands how to funnel these into products.

In conclusion, I hope fraunhofer could obey their principles and responsibility to help more students to achieve the thoughts into products. As it said“responsibility and integrity are a fundamental basis for both economic and scientific success.” To fraunhofer, corporate Responsibility means the realization and constant further development of an employee-oriented personnel policy, sparing utilization of resources, protection of the environment, regional community outreach and compliance with social and environmental standards in the supply chain. In the future, I hope fraunhofer could make the world become better not only in Europe but also in the developing countries.