Let’s sketch

In the Sept of 2008 I visited Berlin. All hotels in downtown were reserved out. So I went to a small hotel in a small town nearby Berlin. It was pretty good except one problem: the waiter can’t speak English and I can’t speak Germany. How can I order? I thought and thought and found a solution: I draw what I want on paper with a pen. Can you guess what I ordered? The waiter smiled and said “OK”. He understood me very easy. From that day I found drawing is very good way to communicate. And I began to like drawing. Maybe it can’t be called drawing, it is sketch. I sketch in the meetings. I sketch when I have some ideas. I sketch when I did not know how to say. I found sketch is so good and it can solve many trouble for me.

Sketch can help us in the company.

Firstly sketch helps us to express ourselves on the meeting. Sometime when we talk about some technical issues, I find sketch is more effective than words. We can describe a component with just a simple picture, but it will need more than 10 sentences to describe it clearly. Next time when you find it different to express yourself, you can try to sketch it on the board.

Secondly Sketch helps me to remember in meeting. When I need do some notes I found sketch is much better than text note. When I draw and text at the same time I receive more information and connect them together. Later I learn the dual coding theory from Allan Paivio. In this theory our brains receive visual and verbal information at the same time. These form a complete picture in my brain. And this can provide more details. So I can recall more when I see the sketch later.

Thirdly sketch makes me focus on the meeting and understand more on the speaker. When I try to write down what the speaker said in the meeting I find I can’t catch them. Mouth is much faster than hands. But when I sketch I found I can follow them. I can grasp the main points and record them easily because sketch is more effective than text. And I become more focus because my brain and my hands are working hard at the same time. I have no time to think other issues.

Sketch can help us in the daily life.

Firstly Sketch helps us to record our life like the dairy. Compared to dairy sketch is not so formal and easy to enjoy. We can sketch our feelings, the happiness or sadness of the life. An EZFM talk show host Yuzhou published her dairy in a sketch book. It is colorful and interesting, just like her colorful life.

Secondly sketch helps us to organize our thoughts. We can sketch our ideas, our thoughts before we write down. We can change the sequence and re-organize them easily by just drawing some lines. We can have the whole picture before we go down to the details.

Thirdly sketch is easy and intuitive. Children can sketch before they can write. And they can understand sketches before they can read. And sketch is not paint we just need to outline the information and do not need it to be perfect. It should be OK if you can understand it. Sketch is not painting. We can draw anything in any way in the sketch. We can draw a cat with 2 heads and they are quarrelling.

Please put down your mobile phone in the meeting. And pick up a pen; draw what you see and what you want to say. Then you can find you remember more, learn more and benefit more. Please take a pen and a note book in your bag with you. Sketch what you see and what you think. Then you find how interesting the life is.