

Special Report
The Niroomand World Tour: Asia in 2001
 An Investigative Series on CoB Travel

This “Special Report” continues a multi-part examination of Employee Travel Vouchers in USM’s College of Business. In this report, we examine the details of another “Academic Visit” made by CoB Associate Dean Farhang Niroomand (also Professor of Economics). Niroomand made an “Academic visit” to Hong Kong and Tokyo in August of 2001. The details of this trip are interesting, as readers will see below.

Purpose and Place of Visit

The voucher filed by Niroomand in this case lists the same, curious entry under “Purpose and Place of Visit”. Below, we represent a facsimile of what Niroomand entered:

Purpose and Place of Visit	Department Name
Academic visit to Hong Kong & Japan	Economics/Development
See Permission to Travel	DEV/Instructional DEV
	Dean’s Office Development

Again, the “Purpose . . .” entry is not overly descriptive. Note also that the funds for this “Academic visit” come from several of Niroomand’s “pots of money,” including the Dean’s Office Development account(s). However, William Gunther’s signature is not on this document, which one would expect given that Gunther was the Dean of the CBA at the time. The voucher was signed by Farhang Niroomand and *Roderick Posey*.

Employee Travel Voucher Number The Voucher Number (Date) for this trip is #999 (8/30/01).

Analysis of Expenses

Voucher # 999

MEALS AND LODGING

Date	8/4/01	8/5/01	8/6/01	8/7/01	8/8/01	
Breakfast	Hong Kong	\$25x5=				
Lunch		\$30x5=				
Dinner		\$60x5=				
Lodging		\$232.45	\$232.45	\$232.45	\$232.45	
Date	8/9/01	8/10/01				Total
Breakfast						\$125.00
Lunch						\$150.00
Dinner						\$300.00
Lodging	\$232.45	\$72.27				<u>\$1,234.52</u>
						\$3,227.14

* See total from next page.

From "Next Page"

Date	8/11	8/12	8/13	8/14	8/15	
Breakfast	Tokyo, Japan	\$28x8=				
Lunch		\$35x8=				
Dinner		\$60x8=				
Lodging	\$72.27	\$72.27	\$72.27	\$72.27	\$72.27	
Date	8/16	8/17				Total
Breakfast						\$224.00
Lunch						\$280.00
Dinner						\$480.00
Lodging	\$72.27					<u>\$433.62</u>
						\$1,417.62

TRAVEL BY PERSONAL VEHICLE

Date	From	To	Miles		
8/4/01	Hattiesburg, MS	New Orleans Airport	125		
8/17/01	New Orleans Airport	Hattiesburg, MS	<u>125</u>		
			250	x .345	\$86.25

TRAVEL BY PUBLIC CARRIER

Date	From	To	Mode	
8/4/01	New Orleans	Hong Kong, Tokyo	Air	
8/17/01	Tokyo, Japan	New Orleans	Air	
			Total Travel By Public Carrier	\$1,326.61

OTHER EXPENSES

Item	Date	Place Where Expenses Occurred	Amount
Tips (Bagg Han)	8/4-8/17	New Orleans, Hong Kong, Tokyo	\$42.00
Taxi/Limo	8/5-8/17	Hong Kong, Tokyo	\$126.00
Parking/Tolls	8/4-8/17	New Orleans Airport	\$140.00
Ground Transp.	Train	Tokyo --- Hong Kong	\$210.00

Total Other Expenses \$518.00

Total Expenses \$5,158.00

MAXIMUM REIMBURSEMENT ALLOWED → \$4,500.00

[Adv.] <\$3,600>

Supplementary Documentation

The **Permission to Travel** form was filed on May 14, 2001. On it, Niroomand states that he is "meeting with university officials in Japan, Hong Kong, and East-West center," in Tokyo, Hong Kong, and the University of Hawaii. Nowhere on the travel voucher does he indicate a visit to Hawaii, though it remains a possibility.

Later on the **PTT**, Niroomand states that he is going on an "Academic visit." It is described further as "Collaboration with colleagues at Kaetsu College & Exchange Programs in Japan and Hong Kong. Recruitment of students for MBA & English

Language Institute. Academic visit to the East-West center and CIBER at the University of Hawaii.”

The **PTT** is signed by Niroomand, Posey, Barbara Davis, Jim Hollandsworth, and Anthony Harris (for the President).

Analysis and Commentary

The trip brings Niroomand’s 22-month total in travels, covering Aug 2001 through May 2003, to a little over \$30,000. At this point, he’s used the annual travel allowance of about 37 CoB faculty in less than 2 years.

These and other issues will be addressed as the “Special Reports” series on CoB travel continues.