

## CAUSE 2015 - Journal, Day 2

On the second day of the CAUSE 2015 course trip, we started off on a good note with a complimentary breakfast provided by our hostel in Reykjavik. Full, and still slightly jet-lagged, we began our two-hour drive to the Bufellsstod hydropower plant, which would then be followed by a trip to one of Iceland's famous geysers.

The 120 meter high dam of the Burfellsstod plant operated by Landsvirk was quite impressive, especially for never having seen a hydropower plant before. Down below the plant's interactive visitors center were six gigantic 50 MW hydro turbines, which were rotating at incredible speeds and filled the machine room with a constant hum. I do give a lot of credit to the workers of this facility after finding out that they work for 8-days straight away from their families with only a few days off in between shifts.

On our drive up to see the reservoir that supplied this hydro plant, we had stopped to check out a small, authentic Viking hut off the road; only later did someone realize that this hut was one of the film locations for Season 4 of Game of Thrones. Nearby the Burfellsstod reservoir was a 0.9 MW wind turbine we stopped to investigate, which Landsvirk had built for research and development purposes.

From there we proceeded to take the long way home in order to see Geysir (famous Icelandic geyser) and a few other small hot springs. This turned out to be great excursion since Geysir erupted every few minutes and although it was windy, we were told that on a calm day the steam can reach up to 70 m. To put this in perspective: Old Faithful (USA) only erupts to heights between 20-25 m.

We all slept in our two vans on the long drive back to Reykjavik. When we got back we were all well rested and ready to go back downtown. We didn't stay out for too long, knowing we would need to be up at 4am to catch our flight to Amsterdam, so we went to see the view from the top of the city's cathedral, grabbed some food for dinner, and played a few games of cards before heading to bed.