

## Report on Participation in Thailand Field Trip 2013

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Many people may mostly describe Thailand with beautiful tourist attractions, Buddhism cultures, the Financial Crisis in 1997 and so on. In my case, the biggest interests have usually related to its international cooperation efforts in political economy and its vulnerable agrifood system to the prevailing corporate food regime in the globalization. In particular, considering the historical leadership of Thai economy for ASEAN community I have wondered what kind of identities or values would be formulated and come up around the Asia region surrounding agrifood-related issues. In this interesting sense, the field trip in Thailand provided me with plentiful opportunities to broaden my academic horizons and impressive motivations to study further in the region.

For a week in Bangkok the field trip was to grasp and experience Thai cultures, economy, politics, and international relations while there were a series of formal and informal events such as MOU signing ceremonies with Thammasat University and Chulalongkorn University, a student workshop, farewell parties, joint dinners, and so on. After the schedule in Bangkok, additional four days were for the other study trips in Chiang-Mai to look into its local specificities. Mainly, there were pre-intensive lectures and discussions each day led by Thai professors or experts for pre-basic background knowledge in each field before specific study tours such as on the Grand Palace, the Parliament House of Thailand, CP group, Ayuthaya province, Murata Electronics in Thailand, AC foods and so forth.

Through the field trip, first, not only could I widely look into the Thai society, economy, and politics but also recognize the importance of cultural diversity and also think about Asian values considering nowadays prevailing capitalist globalization. In particular, the ASEAN cooperation, differentiated with EU and MERCOSUR, was so impressive for me in its consensus decision-making system, loosely institutional organization, promotion of human rights and social justice, operation by the governments rather than in the globalizing market, and so forth. On the other hand, it was a good opportunity to experience and observe the actual capitalist corporate penetration into developing economies and its expansion cross the borders. Also, during some study tours I felt the importance of field research and my lack of interview skills for good qualitative studies.

Even though the trip schedule was a little bit tight, for me it was much more valuable and fruitful than I expected. After the field trip in Thailand I have much more paid attention to ASEAN plus Asian values and identities as an alternative to the greedy globalization. Simultaneously, I have considered registration of relevant courses in the near future including the program provided by Pridi Banomyong International College (PBIC) at Thammasat University. Above all, as the trip made me realize that the reality would be different with what I had learned and imagined, I will usually try to put a field research on my priorities for studies.