

[ASEAN decision-making on controversial issues in terms of regionalism and nationalism]

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(a) Academic Outcomes

It was a harsh stimulant which woke me up from the quiet and sluggish state of studying mind. Participation in Kyoto exchange program provided me with lots of academic facts to know of how to approach to research with which appropriate methodology and theory. Also it furnished useful skills to analyze and understand issues, and how to set up hypothesis and spread it out. In addition, I learned how to look at a varied phenomenon from different point of view in social, political, or economic framework. Especially, arguments about the definition of development will play a great role in implementing my master's dissertation of "ASEAN decision-making on controversial issues in terms of regionalism and nationalism". These two opposite-looking perspectives are now on the top of discussion in the region.

(b) Experiences in Kyoto University

I spent most of time in doing assignments and reading articles in preparation for next classes. For the past 2 months of short period, I made 6 PT presentations at class, read almost 20 long articles, wrote 3 research papers, and answered another six most untouchable questions that I have ever met in my scholarly years. Even though those works were really stressful and beyond my capacity, I finally accomplished all assignments with given deadlines. I am now happy, restful, and delightful with achievement. Two field trips - one to Biwako, the other to Nara- was so exciting and informative about rural revitalization from declining agricultural society of Japan. The two places must be the best example which can be introduced to other provinces and even foreign countries at the time of internationally-dwindling of farming community.

(c) The content of the program

I, personally, deeply interested in sustainable environmental management. In terms of this, a class of Environmental Management was good enough to excite my curiosity how it should be going on. The class was carried out in an active discussion way about controversial issues between students, and between instructor and students for 3 hours. Whereas some of students are in charge of PT, the others participate in as commentators or stakeholders. In an intensive course of Comparative Development Studies, three foreign instructors with high reputation in the field of Sociology and Economics were invited to join to teach and learn as well. I learned how to approach to research goal in an empirical, theoretical, or historical method. To put foreign instructors in class is of great importance in terms of attempt to give students some new and fresh energy to make them indulge in their study.

(d) The impact of the program on your career plans

As an exchange student, I experienced a very exciting and important period of research in the prestigious Kyoto University. My participation must be much helpful to my career-making in the near future. In coming back to Thammasat University with 6 credits from Kyoto, I maybe accomplish my goal of Master's Degree a little bit faster than I expected. Moreover it should fortify my coming position as director in charge of Jakarta Headquarters of my company to control the whole branches in ASEAN region. I am looking forward Kyoto University to becoming a new land of opportunity on my way to the future.