

## [Study Life in Kyoto University]

[Apiwat Kmolwattananisa]

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First of all, I am so glad to be the first group of student from PBIC Thammasat University, Thailand and be able to take a part of student life in Kyoto University in Japan. The purpose of my study is to understand and achieve all objectives of both GSE of Kyoto University and PBIC of Thammasat University in a given two months including develop an academic research topic with high standard that could be beneficial to regional and international level. As one of my motivation, I believe that my profession's background and economic knowledge will fit the requirements of this program. That is sound serious, but I also have another personal goal while living in Japan. My personal goal is learning Japanese culture such as noodle, traditional food, Japanese lifestyle, manga, and etc. I hope that I can achieve all of them. My first impression before coming to Japan is kindness of office staff (Ms. Aki Hama). She did prepare all necessary documents and contact the apartment owner for us. Actually, we will have a lot of trouble finding some room without her.

Moving back to academic life in Kyoto University. There are five transferable credit courses that three of us have to attend which are Field Research in Japan A, Comparative Industry Policy Studies, Environmental Management, Comparative Development Studies, and ASEAN Economy and Sustainable Development. At first glance, most of them require economic background and I familiar with Environmental Management because I used to take it while undergraduate. Anyway, ASEAN Economy and Sustainable Development course is most likely related to my master degree. During each class, I have met many friends from different countries like China, Korea, Indonesia, Nepal, Germany, and Japan. With these different backgrounds, we really have a great discussions and exchange of knowledge from different perspectives while studying. I can feel that the education structure in this university is totally different from most universities in Thailand. In Kyoto University, all lecturers have high experience in what they are teaching and they can applied many theories into the courses. I participate a lot in class but it is quite difficult to understand everything perfectly because I have low experience of economic and politic theories. As I can remember, since the first day of study, I think we have quite a lot of assignments. There are 5 presentations, 5 reports, and more than 20 reading texts (not including research readings). This two months really not easy for us but I am proud of myself that we can make it. Especially the Comparative Development Studies, I think this intensive course is one of the most difficult courses with the most difficult assignment questions that I have ever experience in my study life. However, I quite satisfy because I did my best. We have a chance to participate the field trips to Biwako Lake, Hikone Castle and Farming Project (AWA) in Nara. At this place, we will be able to learn more about Japanese history, culture, social and community.

Finally, I really thank to all professors, my friends, and all staffs that take care of us very well and giving a chance to exchange knowledge with other students. I hope to come back again if possible. I am looking forward to bring back everything that I learn from here and develop it to be a good academic research for my country. I believe that the relationship between Thammasat University and Kyoto University will grow strong and last long in the future.