Varit Tangvijitsakul 12/04/2013-02/05/2014

After I participated in this program, I found that there are other interesting economic issues surrounding me. When I was in Thailand, I got used to topics like maximization of profit and utility, GDP, growth, inflation rates, interest rates, stock price volatility, etc. However, those are not all of a whole story. I think that, to be a good economist, we must consider as much dimensions as we can, not just the dimension we like the most. This program also urged me to think about other people, a community and a social. A classroom environment is imperative for students. This program arranges the classroom atmosphere so that students can be encouraged to express their own ideas appropriately. In addition, all classes I took were full of international students. I learned a lot about how these students give their own ideas and what kind of questions that should be carefully asked, especially some cases that are controversial issues. Fortunately, most of the time, the teachers would guide us when we could not discuss any further. In my opinion, this way of studying is totally different to the way used in Thailand. For the future, I will do my own business. But if I have a chance or time, I will study Economics aboard.

I do love Kyoto University, especially the outstanding buildings, old big trees, a well-managed cafeteria, a huge-quiet library and kind people. According to my experience, I got kind help and good care from my teachers, my classmates and the faculty's officials. My friends always help me when printing articles and other documents and they usually asked me to join their parties or lunch. All of the teachers, including the visiting professors, made me feel comfortable when I was in the class. They gave us fresh knowledge and encouraged us to consider some specific topics and response in the class.

The most important thing is the content of the program. I took four interesting subjects: Comparative Industry Policy Studies, Environmental Management, Comparative Development Studies and ASEAN Economy and Sustainable Development. The level of difficulty depends on each subject. In addition, in some subjects, most of the content relies on the technical words and it was hard for a new student like me to follow. I strived to improve myself by doing all homework and asked for my classmate's help. However, I eventually found that I was assigned too much homework. This made me think about other students who take more subjects than me. Some questions sometimes came up in my mind, such as how students can manage all these things properly.

This program induced me to reconsider about some economic topics, such as mass consumption, sustainability development, the history of my own country industry and the ASEAN approach. Frankly, I have never thought about these topics. Mass consumption is not taught in the class and, previously, ASEAN seems to be too far from my life. I am realizing that these topics are very close to me. I think that, if I have a chance in the future, I will conduct my research about these topics.