

Experience in Japan

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Spent 9 days in Kyoto, Japan was amazing experience that I've ever had. Especially because of we got an opportunity to study in Kyoto University with professional lecturers, comprehensive courses and together with Kyoto University Students. As a student in ASEAN Studies in Thammasat University, followed and got lectures in Economic field was opened our mind and enriched our knowledge especially in Economic issue. ASEAN nowadays is heading many affairs in order to reach the goal to established ASEAN Community. One of the most important issue is AEC (ASEAN Economic Community). Many lectures we followed when we were in Kyoto University gave us many perspectives and knowledge not only in terms of economic issue in ASEAN, but also the economic relations between ASEAN and the other countries (especially Japan). The most interesting part for me was the course about the history and the dynamic of Japan Industry (including how Japan developed the industry aspect for the first time in Meiji Restoration Era, during the world war and at the current time).

The substances of all the courses that GSE Kyoto University offered were very interesting and important as well. On the first and second day, we got basic knowledge about Kyoto, packaged in Sensei Niels van Steenpaal's lecture, there was "The History and Culture of Kyoto". It gave us many knowledge about the history and culture in Kyoto and also the story behind the festival, many ceremonies and inheritance places in Kyoto. We also visited those places that were mentioned in the lecture (Yasaka Shrine and Kiyomizu Temple) so we can reconstructed the history according to the lecture and place that we've visited. On the third day, we got very impressive lectures that gave us a lot of precious information. The lectures' titles were "The Introduction to the Southeast Asian Political Economy in the Era of Asia-Pacific" by Okamoto Sensei and "Japan and Southeast Asia/ ASEAN with Emphasis on Thailand" by Professor Charnvit Kasetsiri. Okamoto Sensei's lecture provide us a lot of impressive data about the economic development in Asia in general and ASEAN especially, the growing and changing in industrial structure in Asia, many issues in Asia and Southeast Asia that not directly related to economy affairs but also had significant impacts like political issues and demography condition in each ASEAN member country. Meanwhile, Professor Kasetsiri gave us knowledge about the "love and hate relations" between Southeast Asia and Japan (in case of Thailand) comprehensively, in terms of before World War II until the emergence of ASEAN and nowadays. On the fourth day, we got lectures from Hikino Sensei with Colpan Sensei and Kurasawa Sensei. Hikino Sensei and Colpan Sensei's lecture titled "Evolutionary Dynamics of Business Groups in Japan: An International Perspective" contained the distinctive elements between Japanese Model and Global Standard model, the particular characteristics of Japanese Economy and Business and also lesson learned about the success and failure Japanese Business Model. The explanation about Japanese Business model was clearer after Kurosawa Sensei gave his lecture about "Japanese Industries: Competitiveness and Its Historical Roots". It became more comprehensive because after those two lectures (on the fifth day) we visited Kyocera and Nishijin, two of the greatest companies in Kyoto, even in Japan. The officer who guided us in those two companies gave many information about the key success of the companies. Kyocera Company for example, the founder named Inamori made a very strict and "unusual" regulation in his company. He believed that every single company could be success only if the company has vision to give many benefits for human being, make the employees comfortable with the environment, and determined the work ethics for every single person who involved in those company. The formula to balancing life and work according to Inamori's value is attitude+effort+ability+(and the most important part)attitude.

On the sixth day, we got three lectures by Donze Sensei, Tokumaru Sensei and Lambino Sensei. Donze Sensei gave a

presentation about “Technological Change in Global Business History”, another impressive explanation given by Tokumaru Sensei who gave us presentation on a specific case in Japan titled “TEPCO and Business Ethics”. And the last lecture on day sixth, presented by Lambino Sensei with the presentation titled “An Examination of Modern Energy Use: Presentism as an Embedded Temporal Characteristic of Modernity”.

On the seventh day, Souksavanh Sensei and Hisano Sensei gave us the last presentations in Summer School in Kyoto University. Souksavanh Sensei’s lecture titled “Indochina in Transition: Reforms, Development and Changes” which opened our eyes with the condition in Indochina nowadays. Meanwhile, Hisano Sensei gave two impressive lectures. First, explained about responsibility of Japan in Sustainable Development of ASEAN, that gave us many data, like ODA, FDI, Trade and ETOs between Japan and ASEAN member countries and gave us information about how Japan should take international responsibility for environmental, economic and human rights problems those regions. The second lecture by Hisano Sensei was about food security politics and alternative agri-food initiatives in Japan.

On the eight day, we visited an organic farming who belongs to Ozaki in the village located in the border Osaka and Kyoto. It was amazing experience because Ozaki taught us a lot, not only about management and technique to plant organic planting, but more than that, He taught us about the simplicity in life.

In my opinion, all of the courses offered by committee of Summer School in Kyoto University were very great. It gives us a lot of information, enlightenment, perspectives and experiences as well. After followed all of the courses in Summer School in GSE Kyoto University, I have a plan to make a thesis related about economic issue, especially about SME in Indonesia.