

ASEAN Policy on the Development of Small and Medium Enterprise in Narrowing Development Gap on ASEAN

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a) Academic Outcome

I feel lucky to have got the chance to study in well reputed Kyoto University. During two months of study exchange, I studied in the same class with master and doctoral students of various backgrounds. Our class was always interactive and full of interesting discussions, basically because of the various nationalities' and study background's. In every class we took in East Asia Sustainable Economic Development Studies, Graduate School of Economics Kyoto University motivated us to learn and read more beyond the given topics in class, in order to participate in the class' discussions and share our experiences or perspectives. I think it is very good that in every class each lecturer always gives every student chances to express their opinion or ideas, no matter its agree or disagree, the most important is to explain the argument that other classmates would appreciate it. The multidisciplinary approach that Kyoto University offered, really enriched our perspectives in facing various issues, particularly in sustainable development related issues, which is inevitably in nowadays discussion in political, economic, and socio-cultural aspects. Finally I would say that the high quality academic outcome that we experience in Kyoto University, gave me a set of knowledge and background that would help me to conduct my research on ASEAN policies, in narrowing the development gap in Southeast Asian countries. Particularly Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, and Vietnam the 'CLMV' countries. This academic experiences in Kyoto University also inspired me to continue my study towards the doctoral program in Kyoto University, in order to understand more about development issues in Southeast Asia.

b) Experiences in Kyoto University

My experiences in Kyoto University during the two months exchange program is very impressive and excellent. The Kyoto University KUASU staff always provided us with excellent services, taking care of the exchange students from the day of our arrival and answered all of our inquiries precisely. We really thank the staff of KUASU for taking good care of us during our stay in Kyoto University. Although we only had chance to take 6 credits (5 classes), we are so motivated by all lecturers in every class we had, all of the lecturers are so accommodative and made sure that we got access into the study materials. Every lecturer took care for us very well and also we where always able to have a consultation with them in or outside the class.



Figure 1: Orientation Session with GSE Kyoto University Lecturer and Staff

Kyoto University also provided us with excellent facilities that supported us during our study time, wide range collection of literature and cozy study environment in Kyoto University library helped us in finding information for our assignments and research. Computer and free printing facilities for students also makes it easier in printing assignments, reading materials, also administration documents. The Kyoto University Club membership and insurance also provided us assistantship. More important, during our study in Kyoto University we made good

friends with other international students which gave us the opportunity to join out of class activities like attending Kyoto- ASEAN Business Model Research Group with other international students came from all universities in Kyoto. We are also very thankful to the Japanese students of Kyoto University who, during two months, always guided and helped us to explore Kyoto University and Kyoto City.

c) The Content of the Program

During two months we took the 5 courses below in Kyoto University :

1. ASEAN Economy and Sustainable Development (2 credits), John Lambino, PhD (Instructor) :

During class we had lectures and students presentations about various issues on ASEAN Political Security pillar, ASEAN Economic pillar, as well as ASEAN Socio-Cultural pillar. Lambino-sensei also provided some extra classes for us to present our individual research plan, to get feedback and recommendation from other students in the class. I think this research presentation is really useful to make our research better.

2. Comparative Industry Policy Studies (1 credit), Prof. Shuji Hisano and Dr. Takafumi Kurosawa (instructors) :

With two professor in this class, we learned many things from the lectures and sometimes we learned new things for us which came from non-economic/ agriculture background. From Prof. Kurosawa we learned about historical perspectives of industry, globalization and also about the 'competitive advantages of nations'. Later, with Prof. Hisano we had discussions about recent trends in agriculture industry nowadays, like : Genetically Modified Fertilizer (GMOs), discourse on biotechnology, and debating the Fairtrade system.

3. Environmental Management (1 credit), Prof. Choy and Dr. E. Inoue (instructors) :

I found out that Environmental Management was one of most interesting classes during our exchange program. We only joined the class lately compared to other regular students, but then Prof. Choy provided us with a supplementary class which gave comprehensive explanation about the basic concepts of sustainability and environmental management, we learned about intergenerational equity and three dimensions of sustainable development which involved : economic, social, and environment interlocking circles. With Dr. Inoue we had a lot of discussions about the case study of environmental report by Scandinavian Airways and Kandalama Resorts Sri Lanka. At the end of the class we also presented our individual research on environmental management which conducted by company/community in our country. Unfortunately this class did not have a field trip in environmental management, because I think it's really good for us to get hand in hand experiences on the sites/ company which practices good environmental management.

4. Field Research in Japan (1 credit), Dr. Souksavanh and Dr. Tokumaru (instructors) :

Class of Field Research in Japan became a unforgettable class during my exchange program. Particularly because we where able to join the third field trip to Harie community where they apply the traditional sustainable *Kabata* system of providing fresh quality water for daily life of the people, and we also got a explanation from the expert of nuclear energy from Fukui Nuclear Center. Here are some pictures of our field trip to Harie and Fukui Nuclear Center:

5. Comparative Development Studies (1 credit), Prof. Shuji Hisano and Prof. Raymond Jussaume (instructors):

Even this course was only intensive for one week at the end of our exchange program, we enjoyed the course as well. A very interesting discussion with Prof. Jussaume gave us very different perspectives about the mainstream theory. Prof. Jussame challenged us to make our own definition of sustainable development which is a very complicated dialogue of value. During the class we had a discussion about the concept of development, growth, social justice, symbolic capital, and many more.

d) The Impact of the program on career plan

My career plan is to become lecturer or employee in ASEAN Secretary or NGOs related to Southeast Asian socio-cultural issues. Off course knowledge which I learned during the two months of study in Kyoto University is very valuable and applicable for all field in which I want to work in the future, because sustainable development issues are a hot topic that in every sector, organization and even states must give extra attention in nowadays era. Moreover, during my study in Kyoto university, with a tight schedule and many assignment, I have trained myself to have better time management skills, I am sure time management skills, professionalism, and also intercultural competencies I learned from Kyoto University will be valuable assets for my future career.