

Two Months Intensive Course at the Graduate School of Economics, Kyoto University

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My name is Nuttaphol Meksobhon, I come from Thailand. I had a great opportunity to be an exchange student in two months intensive course at the Graduate School of Economics (GSE), Kyoto University. No doubt that studying at GSE for two months gains my knowledge and gives another point of view in economic science and especially in sustainable ideology and moreover, it changes the way for understanding and analyzing the global context with thinking in environmental and social issues. I found out that sustainability is beneficial for me because in this context, the global faces the big issues in environmental and social issues which are the main cause for the impact of the large-scale industrialization and economic growth. While the core idea of sustainability teaches me to not focus just only on the economic development, but also balancing with environmental protection and social equity to concrete a step for development in the future. In the same way, professors try to encourage students in the class by discussion, debating, doing assignment and learning in various case study and show how we adapt the sustainable development in the case study.

Course content provides comprehensive understanding of various issues in international economic relations in global context along with various dimension in economic science thinking and sustainability. In many case studies such as agricultural company and food security, airline company, industry, role of government, public, media and company in environmental management and how we response with these problems. The class' activity includes debating and discussion in case study, doing an assignment and presentation. I like discussions in the class because it expresses the idea from other students and professors which can improve your idea when you listen to the others opinions.

The experience in Kyoto University is precious and meaningful for me. I learned so many things from GSE and had a great opportunity to discuss and learn with various professors and foreign friends at Kyoto University and have a chance to go to see nuclear power plant at Fukui and community, based environmental management outside the urban area. I can say that experience in Kyoto University not teaches just only the knowledge in the class, but also gives experience in the field trip to see how Japanese governmental sector manages in nuclear power plant and how local community gives the lesson for students in terms of environmental management. I will bring the experience and lesson from Kyoto to use in my country as well.

The knowledge from GSE in sustainable development is very useful for my research in ASEAN studies. In my opinion, ASEAN can use the idea of sustainability to strengthen and give a concrete step for ASEAN development in the future. I realize that, in this way, sustainable development is important in this context. Nevertheless, using sustainable developments in the ASEAN needs the efforts for adapting and find the suitable way for ASEAN because Southeast Asia region has another political context, another problem and the way of thinking somehow is different from the western or East Asia. While some scholars tell that it is too fast for ASEAN to think in sustainability at the present, because our economic growth is not as well as some rich countries. We need to concern economic growth at the first agenda for the ASEAN, but I think it in different way. In my opinion, ASEAN can use the sustainable idea for improve and develop the ASEAN's members. Concerning in economic dimension is important as well, as the social and environmental dimension. At last, thanks to this program, I can improve my research and career plan to development my country in a good way and I will find the suitable way for my research and ASEAN. Hopefully, in the future, I plan to work in the governmental sector and hope that I can use the sustainable development approach to further develop my country.