

Programme for Special Exchange Students (Winter Term 2014/2015)

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(a) Before I came to study in this program, I only got a topic idea in big issues, such as country or global levels. For example middle-income trap in Thailand, government expenditure in country transportation. But I know that deep inside, my real interested lies in human behavior, in particular about the question: 'what is the reason that people decide to choose any option, whether the chosen decision is carefully examined by using lessons from human history or using only human instinct'. However I fail to connect my interests with economics and failed to create a new topic without using the same idea from the other papers or journals.

In this program I learned a lot about sustainable development. At first, I felt that this kind of topic was very wide and many things must be considered. It was like I studied everything in this world. After that, the professor gave us an example, the example encouraged me to look closer and consider something around me, something that is close by.

Finally, I found my topic which is about the sustainable development of farmers in Baan Hua-Fai hamlet. Baan Hua-Fai hamlet is the hamlet I used to live in when I was a kid. About 15 years ago, price of rubber was gradually increasing, most of the villagers cleared their land to plant rubber tree. No exception for my family, we cutted all of the fruit trees down and sold our paddy in order to buy and plant rubber trees. Price of rubber was continuously increasing until 2011 and then dropped down rather fast, now the price of rubber is almost equal to the price it was 12 years ago. Because of this my research topic is to study this problem and suggest the villagers what to do in order to survive because inflation occurs every year, achieving the same amount as 12 years ago would never be sufficient.

(b) This program was an international class so we had foreign students from all around the world. Because each student came from different countries, they had different ideas and opinions which where learned, trained and shaved by their culture, experience and history. When the professor gave a topic for discussion, I learned so many things from my classmates' opinion, learn to consider any topic from different aspect and angle. The most important thing was, I learned to listen and accept a different opinion even though it was completely different from my opinion. Because there is no totally right or wrong, even if something, I believe it is correct might has some weak point that could change the solution. Instead of rejecting, I learned how to accept other arguments in order to combine both of them and contribute new knowledge and ideas.

(c) I learned about the history of ASEAN and what we should expect from the upcoming ASEAN Community. I learned about the importance of the environment for the business in a case study of environmental management. I learned what has a good and a bad impact when opening a nuclear power plant. Moreover, I learned a lot more about sustainable development.

(d) This program had the greatest impact in my study. If I could not find any topic after studying this program, I would have to go back to my old research topic in which I was not really interest in order to finish my master degree and I might suffer a lot if this situation happen. However, because of the awesomeness of this program, I finally found my topic, the one I am really interested in. This provides happiness to my master degree life.

Thank you very much for give me the best opportunity.