

Report on Participation in Thailand Field Trip 2015

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i. Academic Outcomes

It was a great study trip as not only we had study program with two renowned universities in Thailand but also visit and meeting with international organization, hence I have learned so much from the trip, obtaining new knowledge and gaining global perspective. This study trip was very relevant and related to the East Asia Sustainable Economic Development. During the trip, we attended an interesting and informative lectures, participated in a joint-student workshop between Kyoto University, Thammasat University and Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok. This also serve as a very good networking platform between students in all the universities.

The series of lectures at the Thammasat University were very informative and rich with the current issues and challenges such as development of ASEAN and ASEAN Economic community as well as its impact on the region. Well, what interested me more was the talk on Thai Conglomerates and Food Chain as it opened up our understanding on the future food industry in ASEAN and the global network of many MNCs. One vital point of concern was about the hegemony of this big company and its power dominance in the host country. In addition, the sharing during lecture on Thailand's Free Trade and its Impact was also worth it. The speaker talked about how the civil society fight for their rights and the role of NGOs in putting pressure on government to adopt rightful policy for the country and protecting the welfare of the citizen. Moreover, it was an excellent field visit to the Khao Kwan Foundation and Thungthong Yangyeun Community Enterprise which organizes organic farms as well as Green Net Foundation which operate cooperative for organic agricultural products.

Then, we attended a session at The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and Mr. Edward the Regional Director briefed us on the role and initiatives undertaken by the office. We had a very interactive discussion on the energy conservation and industrial promotional work on technology and product recycling. At the World Bank Office, we learned about its function and development projects promoted by the agency with many countries. At the same time, we discussed about the challenges on sustainable economic development of its members as the current global scenario is not promising. Mr. Sulaiman, Director of Tourism Office Malaysia in Bangkok shared on the perspective tourists' mobility between Malaysia-Thailand and in ASEAN region. He further elaborates on the importance of economic and public safety stability to promote tourism industry as one of the biggest revenue contributor to many countries in this century.

ii. Experiences

There are so much I have gained from this field trip, new knowledge, critical issues related to sustainable economic and friendship and networking. The first is on security and public safety as our program was cut short and location was a concern after the bombing in Bangkok City couples of week before the trip. So even when we travel for the field study we have to more careful on the surrounding situation. Anyhow, the study trip was excellent with full of academic activities. The student delegation which comprises of 9 countries had stimulated an active discussion session as we are from diverse background with different research interest. I enjoyed very much the joint student workshop as it gave me a platform to present my research paper and interact/networks with other students in Bangkok.

iii. Content of the program

During the Thailand field trip, the program was well planned and structured. It provided many different skills as discussion in class, on the ground during the field visit and interaction with the international organizations. On top of

that, the talk and sharing by the social activists on important topic such as Free trade and Thai Conglomerate and its Food industry was worthy. Overall, the program was very relevant with EAC Sustainable Economic Development offered by the Graduate School of Economics, Kyoto University.

iv. The impact of the program on your career plan

Through this field trip, I learned the importance of social activist role in a society and to better formulate an economic policy with comprehensive perspectives. At the same time, the meeting at the international organizations provided an insight how the agency works with its member countries for a better world and in a sustainable manner particularly on energy and technology as well as monetary.