

## Report on Participation in Thailand Field Trip 2015

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### (a) Academic outcomes

The participation on this research trip encouraged me in my studies about ASEAN economies and particularly in the situation of the food production and consumption at the Bottom of Pyramid, one of the main issues observed was the differences with Manila, not only in the infrastructure and design of the city but also in the way the food is produced and consume in the streets, that is essentially different from other countries and local contexts.

This trip also clarify differences in the way national universities work in Thailand (the national universities that came from imperial projects) one of them still remains critical of the political and economic process of Thailand that still has a big debt of democracy.

### (b) Experiences

The three main experiences in Bangkok for my academic purpose was 1) The visit to Khao Kwan Foundation, where we had the opportunity to listen and learn from Mr Ajarn Decha Siripat who is an extraordinary leader and activist of the organic and wise agriculture (as I called it). 2) The visit and talk with Farmer-members of Khao Kwan Foundation, where we can noticed the particularities of this organization in Thailand, their success and challenges and 3) the International Students Workshop at Chulalongkorn University where I had the opportunity to show my ideas, to receive some comments that makes me improve and also I had the chance to learn from others while presenting their research.

### (c) Content of the program

August 31 (Mon) Bangkok (Arrival) and first visit to cheap local food place.

September 1 (Tues) Campus Tour Pridi Banomyong International College (PBIC), Thammasat University, where we knew the importance of this university and this campus for the democratization process of Thailand.

September 2 (Wed) Lecture: Development of ASEAN by Dr. Tej Bunnag, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs. Also the lecture: ASEAN Economic Community and Its Impacts by Mr. Ajarn Winichai Chaemchaeng. Former Deputy Permannet Secretary of Commerce Ministry.

September 3 (Thurs), Visit Khao Kwan Foundation, Lecturer: Ajarn Decha Siripat and visit to Visit Farmer-members of Khao Kwan Foundation, Suphanburi Province.

September 4 (Fri) Lecture: Thai Conglomerates and Food Chain, Lecturer: Ajarn Witoon Lienchamroon, Diretor of BioThai Foundation and visit to United Nations Industrial Development Organization and discussion with the Regional Head: Mr. Edward Clarence-Smith.

September 5 (Sat), International Students Workshop at Chulalongkorn University and Reception Dinner Hosted by Chulalongkorn University

September 6 (Sun) No Schedule, but I visited several local food markets.

September 7 (Mon) Visit Green Net. Green Net is involved in Urban Consumer Relations and Organic Products.

September 8 (Tue) Lecture: Free Trade and Local Impacts by Ajarn Kannikar Kijtiwatchkul; visit to The World Bank, discussion with Dr. Ulrich Zachau who is the World Bank Country Director for continental Southeast Asia based in Bangkok covering the countries of Cambodia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar and Thailand and visit to Malaysian Tourism Office.

September 9 (Wed), Kansai (Arrival).

(d) The impact of the program on your career plans

Because my research work is to study food for poor people in Large-Cities (More than 10 million inhabitants), such as Bangkok and Manila, I found many research opportunities of comparative studies between this two cities in near future. In this trip I found many visible differences not only in the ingredients of way of prepare the food for low income people, but also the religious, cultural, social, political and geographical factors that heavily influence the current circumstances and way of produce, distribute, exchange and consume food at the Bottom of the Pyramid.