

## **International Graduate Course for East Asia Sustainable Economic Development Studies**

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I was very excited when I learned that I was selected to be an exchange student from Thammasat University. I regarded it as a very good opportunity to learn many things I haven't ever known. The program provided me a beneficial knowledge in sustainable development, and what I got will contribute in deepening and widening the perspective of my thesis. For the first thing, I learned a neutral attitude for conducting a good paper, and I noticed that other students in the classroom were very interesting. They came from many countries and have different social backgrounds. This was my first time to discuss with people who disbelieved in statistics, considering that my education background, both in B.A. and M.A. (during the course works), was in quantitative economics. In addition, I am not only receiving human capital, but also the social capital. I got new friends who are Chinese, Korean, Indonesian, Japanese, Filipinos, German, and American. As a result, this opened my perspective in the real world, and I would apply what I have learnt in my future career.

Likewise, I also experienced Japanese Culture, non-plastic consciousness impressed me the most. It proves that the idea of "green" can be, really, employed in practice, not only in the textbook and academic group. Kyoto University is a beautiful place to study in. I had a chance to learn Japanese Language by myself because I thought it would be useful when I live here. So far, I can speak a bit in Japanese. For a sense of traveling, I visited Tenryuji Temple, Ninnaji Temple, Ryoanji Temple, Kinkakuji Temple, Ginkakuji Temple, Nijo-jo Castle, Kyoto Imperial Palace, Kiyomizu-dera Temple, and Fushimi-inari-taisha Shrine. I found that most of them were traditionally decorated. Even I am not a Japanese, I also feel proud of an existence of these architectures in the world.

For the content that I chose, firstly, Field Research in Japan A, I have received a deeper understanding about current economic and social situation in Japan; especially a nuclear power issue. The fieldtrip was very amazing in terms of intensive content and relaxing environment. I would apply this experience about nuclear power in Thailand. Secondly, ASEAN Economy & Sustainable Development 2, I have learnt many interesting economic development in developing ASEAN economies, both in mainstream economics aspect and political economics aspect via academic articles. Finally, in Environmental Management, I have experienced the new approach for study, learning by case study. Most of the case studies are the virtue guideline for sustainable project management. At the beginning, I thought that this course would contradict with my background because it would be an intensive environmental care subject, but it was totally different. Many case studies proved that environmental friendly business can run together with positive economic expansion. Moreover, I have, indeed, realized that global warming is an issue that becomes the close problem to our home, and it is really a serious matter.

In addition, lecturers and faculty staff not only helped me in improving my thesis, but they also took care of me in daily-life activities. I appreciate them, and I am really happy to be a Kyoto exchange student.