

International Graduate Programme for East Asia Sustainable Economic Development Studies

**Napat Srithongperng
Pridi Banomyong International College,
Thammasat University
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The period of my participation in the exchange program at the Graduate School of Economics at Kyoto University was a valuable time for me. It helped me to broaden my thought and experience and adapted it to continue the study and research which I am doing in my home university in Thailand.

In this program, I studied four courses relevant to sustainable development. These are ASEAN Economy & Sustainable Development 2, Environmental Management, Comparative Development Studies, and Field Research in Japan A. Before explaining in detail, I have to say that I did not have direct experience or solid academic background which was related to economics and development in term of sustainability. It made me quite concerned with what I would face in the classes in the beginning. However, it can be said that the outcome was well positive for me. The professors in each class provided the class with fundamentals to get to know and comprehend the details. Pertinently basic information was also delivered by the lecturers to the classes in order to let the students follow on the right track of the content which could be lead to the productive discussions. Professors were open to the questions that had been raised by the students and also gave comments and critical points to let the students to think further. I can say that a discussion-based study is the main teaching method of the professors. Teaching in style of discussion was very beneficial for me and also my classmates, I believe. It offered chances to students to share ideas in their own perspectives and reflected it to the classroom. This is not only to share, but to receive as well. By listening to the ideas of other people, it can help me to broaden my experience and point of view or come up with the points that I would have never think about it. Different backgrounds, different ideas, and difference of origin are blended and delivered to the classes which I consider that are very valuable in the class discussions. Since the classes I participated, there was a combination of Japanese, Thai, Indonesian, Korean, Chinese, German, Swedish and some more other nationalities of students. For example, in the class of ASEAN Economy & Sustainable Development 2, we once talked about sustainable development policies in the context of the agriculture sector. My friends and I from Thailand shared the information concerning this point as local people that Thailand also has agricultural development policies as well. We have the National Economic and Social Development Plan which is like a guideline to implement and make it successful to the points or topics which are critical for the overall national development. The rest of the class also reflected their thought and information of their original countries as well.

All of I have been through for two months are valuable for my academic experience and also personal experience which cannot be found in other places. The time allowed me great opportunity to sit in the classes and let me be a part of it to make all of the classes productive. I am always thankful to the prestigious Kyoto University, especially Graduate School of Economics and also the concerned people who provided me with such a great opportunity to study here and was a part of here for a wonderful period.