

## **Report on Participation in 2016 Thailand Field Research Trip**

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By participating in the Thailand research field trip, it greatly reveals that even as a Thai student going back to the home country with different objective has resulted in different perspective of seeing the same issues. The lectures by professors at both Chiang Mai University and Thammasart university are very insightful. Also by listening to various questions that students from other countries asked during the trip gave me a very fruitful experience. This greatly gives me an alternative perception of looking the issues that I am quite familiar with. Those are the questions that I myself would probably not have asked, however; they are all very good and well-thought questions. It is true that many times even only by observing there is so much to learn. We just need to be mindful and careful in our observations. Apart from familiar issues there are many occasions and visits that even as native / local Thai would not have the chance to participate in such valuable program. This is very meaningful academic trip that constantly make me rethink about many issues both familiar and unfamiliar ones.

The organization and arrangement of this trip to various important international organization headquarter offices are also very fruitful. For example, I learn a lot at Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in the area that seems to be quite simple but it is actually very complex. In different countries there are problems with food and nutrition. It is not only about malnutrition. Over or not appropriate selection of nutrition is also big problem. FAO is accepting request for their assistance from many government so resistance to their initiatives are relatively low. I was not too interested in agriculture before but after participating in seminar at FAO, it really made me become much more interested in various issues.

This Thailand field research trip had impacted on me very positively. I certainly become more aware of the aspect I once overlooked. The trip also made me connected with many more people both from Kyoto University and Thammasart University. It also made me feel that although there are many problems in our respective societies nowadays, however; there are as much people in many fields with many kind of expertise that are willing to work hard in search for solutions. All of which is not a short process but it was very impressive to see the will power of the people involved. The biggest impact from this trip is actually not from the academic content of the program but rather from the experience in working as a team with people from different background while I am the only local Thai student. From the experience of being able to help our group members during the trip reinforces my intent to do meaningful work rather than just working for money. This rewarding intrinsic feeling of being able to help others through this trip, no matter how small the issue was, gave me satisfaction that only external reward cannot give. There is so much to learn – and this kind of research trip certainly gave student more than just textbook knowledge.