

## **Report on Participation in Field trip in Thailand**

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I am the first year of Master's program (M1) – Graduate school of Economics. Luckily, I got accepted to participate in the Field research in Thailand and it turned out the fruitful moments, experience and outcomes that I've got through a variety of visits in two cities (Chiang Mai, Bangkok) – that's exactly what I thought before making decision to apply for. Not only is my academic knowledge improved a lot through this trip, but it also help broaden my general international knowledge as well as experience. All of it together will have great effects on my future career.

Firstly, it is undeniable that the field research to Thailand enables me to enlarge my academic knowledge in university's study. By dint of visit BOI – Board of Investment, Thailand, I know how the Thai's government attracts investment from other countries. With the help of broad range of branches of BOI around the world, foreign investors find it easier in dealing with administrative procedures, leading to more investments being made. In addition, I've got new idea for my own future study – the title maybe like this “the effects of BOI on boosting investment in Thailand – an empirical method”. And it goes without saying that thanks to the international workshop organized by PBIC, Thammasat university, we have great opportunity to discuss our research topic with PBIC student, Chulalongkorn student, exchange the ideas and of course have got very helpful comments from others, which is positively conducive to better researches in the future.

Secondly, visits to organic farms (in Chiang Mai, Bangkok) as well as two lectures – “Thai Conglomerates and food chain” by Thammasat university's lecturer and “food security in Asia” by representative from FAO – actually widen my own general knowledge. It is by virtue of visits that I can see the problems with my own eyes faced by not only Thailand but many other countries including my home country – Vietnam. That is, together with economic growth with many industrial corporations being established, environment is being adverse affected, so the sustainable development needs to be considered more deeply by government and all people in the country. Furthermore, now I know one solution for this problem - that is to encourage more people to develop organic farms and maybe establish their own community to compete against big corporates. The first step might be challenging, but with the help of the government and the support of consumers, it will be effective. By doing this, we can develop the economy (more researches on organic farms, more technical supports in doing this in the more efficient way), but also protect the environment as well as people's health.

My general knowledge will also be enlarged through the very fruitful seminar about “intellectual” provided by PBIC, Thammasat university with the two well-known speakers: Mr. Sulak Sivaraksa and Prof. Thanet Aphronsuwana. Through discussion in this seminar, I learnt “the role of intellectuals in modernization amid cultural diversity and differences” and also realized that whatever we've achieved now or in the future we had to pay something in return in the past, which is the reason why I think we should always respect things we've got now.

Apart from study, We also have time to experience ourselves the life in Thailand. Thai cuisines are quite fit me because I'd like spicy food so much, I've tried “Tom Yum”, “Yum”, “Pad Thai” and it turned out to be great choice. In addition, there are so many places for exchanging currencies, so it is extremely convenient for foreigners when visiting Thailand. However, the striking feature to me is that the black market exchange is also popular. Yet, of course it's more convenient as I mentioned above, but it carries too much risky for the financial system and causes

difficulties for operating monetary policy of the central bank. I want to propose this question to the related officials, so I hope the future field trip I can join and have chance to visit the central bank of Thailand.

It is great opportunity to join the trip because we've actually gained a lot. Therefore, I want to say special thanks to International Affairs Office staff - Graduate school of Economics, Thammasat university, Chiangmai University for co-organizing this field research, and special thanks for Hisano Sensei, Lambino Sensei and Souksavanh Sensei for guiding us all the time.