

Report on Participation in 2016 Thailand Field Research Trip

Jackie Wang
Year level: M2
Graduate School of: Economics
Kyoto University

(a) Academic outcomes

This field trip to Thailand offered me chances to think on my own studies and lives. Through communication with Thai people and of course local students, I think we are different while at the same time the same. This 21st century, international times, shapes people's thinking, behavior, manners, and vocabulary greatly. Though we are from different countries and raised in different culture, when we use the same language to express ourselves, one can find that we are actually not that different. We all use Facebook to share meaningful moments of our lives. We all care about environment, people, and life. We all try our best to live, to care, and to get immersed. Maybe time is different. Nowadays, we, the younger generation, have more in common. More topics, more discussions and also more ideas. We may still not know how to act efficiently, but at least we care. It is a good thing to meet, to talk, and to share. But it is also important to think and to re-arrange one's mind. Everyone's talking, sometimes one even forgets one's own voice. You ask the reason why they think as such and such. They may not know. They may just repeat what everyone else is saying. It is good to learn a lot. But it is more important to apply such knowledge into one's own life and study. What can I use it to make progress in my own case? How can I and also those I care be better? We all should consider about it.

If there are future chances of overseas trips, I surely will consider about it. Based on experiences this time, I shall learn some local languages before going which. Make a plan and also set a goal before going. Never try that hard but feel free to be oneself.

People all got their own stories to tell. We all want to be heard and to be cared about. That's the main reason, I think, for any overseas programs to exist. People want to share and want to know the world they don't know before. Time has already changed. People are now more open than before. However, though a desire to share is a good thing, the quality of such sharing act itself needs confirming. Are we sharing ideas on how to make human lives better, or just finishing one's jobs by conforming to some sets of forms? Never think without learning, or learn without thinking. First concentrate on how to be a better ME, then how to live out a better WE.

(b) Experiences while overseas;

Trips everyday with the group. We visited religious places one day. It made me wonder what should be the shape for every religion. If circle can be applied to Buddhism and Hindu, what's the shape of other religions? They may be all symmetrical, not necessarily be in shapes.

(c) The content of the program;

Study Trip: BOI (Thailand Board of Investment)

Study Trip: Farm Visit

Lecture by Dr. Chayan (Director of The Regional Center for Social Science and Sustainable Development)

Courtesy Visit at the Faculty of Economics, Chiang Mai University and Workshop

Courtesy Visit at the Japanese Studies Center, Chiang Mai University

Study Trip: Fujikura Company

Lecture: Thai Conglomerates and Food Chain by Aj. Witoon Lienchamroon (Director of BioThai Foundation)

Lecture: Food Security in Asia by Representative from FAO

Courtesy Visit to UNIDO International Students Workshop

Trip: Agro Tourism Service Center, Maha Sawat Canel

Field Trip: Dhevasathan/Chakrapong Mosque On site lecture by Ajarn Songyote Waeohongsa

Field Trip: Santa Cruz Church

Study Trip: Department of Children and Youth, Ministry of Social Development and Human Security

Study Trip: Department of International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

(d) The impact of the program on my career plans.

I am always interested in NGO or UN type organizations. After the UNIDO and FAO visits, I think they are actually doing something and improving social conditions for under-developed areas. I am considering of doing internship in the UN compound or UNICEF during or after my graduate program.