

## **Skills Mobility in ASEAN**

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I am very fortunate to be selected by my home university, Pridi Banomyong International College in Thammasat University, as one of their representatives for both the Kyoto Graduate Seminar last December 2016, and the two-month intensive course. I was able to attend four different classes at the Graduate School of Economics, and it gave me a deeper understanding with regards to sustainable development, as well as other social and economic issues affecting ASEAN, the East Asian region, and basically, the whole world. Topics of interest include environmental management, food system, and agro-food industry, among others. I was also given the opportunity to attend the study trip at Panasonic Eco Technology Center, which personally for me, is inspiring since the main objective of the recycling facility is environmental conservation and preservation. It is an ardent hope that other countries would emulate what Japan has done in this aspect.

In particular, the Kyoto Graduate Seminar brought together students all over the world to learn from the experts in the field of sustainable development. A lot of different topics were discussed, and the topics that were chosen were very relevant in this age of globalization. In the seminar, we were also able to express our opinions regarding the topics that were discussed, and we also shared the current situations of our respective countries in relation to whatever issues being debated on. It was great to hear opinions from other students, and learn from their perspectives too. Not only were we able to appreciate each other's cultures, but there was knowledge exchange as well. We were able to develop a global perspective about key issues.

My academic background is on healthcare, psychology, and management. However, having studied at Kyoto University even for a brief period of time, made me realize that no matter how different my academic background is, it can still be related to various environmental and economic issues. As an example, my term paper in the Environmental Management class is on hospital waste management practices in the Philippines. This is, after learning about different environmental management theories, and after the class discussion and analysis on various case studies related to sustainable project management and corporate social responsibility.

Prior to going to Japan and studying at Kyoto University, my aim in life is to be a teacher in a university. My experience in Japan somehow challenged me in directing my goals towards being both an academic researcher and a teacher. I especially commend how the classes were handled as there were lots of exchanges of opinions and insights, and most especially, critical analysis was developed as a result of the numerous case studies that we have had.

Both the Kyoto Graduate Seminar and the two-month intensive course brought forth a tremendous impact in my academic life, that it inspired me to bring back to my home country (Thailand and Philippines) the knowledge and practical skills that I have acquired, and pass it on to other people. Japan has greatly contributed to personally and professionally inspire me to be a more productive and contributing person to the society. This learning experience is something that I am very much grateful for.