

Report on Participation in 2018 Thailand Field Trip

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This Thailand field trip, organized by the Graduate School of Economics, provided me an opportunity to observe the current agricultural situation in the Southeast Asia and understand their economic developing process. Through the entire field research, communications and participation were the most important factors. With regard to the organization, this field trip mainly divided into three parts, namely field visits, lecture and presentation. In the following paragraphs, I will demonstrate them respectively.

Firstly, several meaningful, introductory and diverse field visits were conducted. These outdoor activities offered appropriate chances to communicate with local Thai farmers and producers and understand the local economy from an internal perspective. Take, the Nonghoy Royal Project Farm, for example. This visit displayed a direct image for me to explore the success of Thai national agriculture. The reason for their success also brought the inspiration of transforming of Chinese national industry to my own research. In contrast, the visit to the Department of International Trade Promotion provided a more contemporary way of Thai international trade. That modern design center showed plenty of commodities for both domestic and global markets and illustrated a suitable way to expand Thailand's influence. Meanwhile, the other field visits were also quite meaningful and helpful, though some underprepared situations happened at times.

Secondly, during the field trip, we had four lectures in total. Besides the "sustainability issues on the Mekong region" on February 12th, "Thai economy and development" on February 15th and the UNIDO lecture on February 16th, the last one in the United Nations ESCAP provided the newest information for me. In the process of the lecture, three current ESCAP officers introduced their works and the way to apply. This information is quite practical and issues are also new. Though other lectures were relatively plain, these lectures still provided a feasible way to understand Thai and Southeast Asian economy.

Thirdly, the presentations provided by Kyoto University students at Chiang Mai University and Chulalongkorn University were quite instructive and logical, while presentations from the Thai universities' students also introduced some instructive thoughts. In addition, this experience improved our adaptability and mutual understanding, which are also important skills as scholars. More specifically, I presented the initial research of my PhD dissertation regarding the pulp and paper industry in modern China. I, then, received useful suggestions from colleagues and these indeed will help my future research. In the morning on February 17th, for the first time, I acted as the chairman for two presentations during the workshop at Chulalongkorn University. From my personal perspective, this is a significant opportunity to study and participate in academia.

In a nutshell, this fulfilling field trip gave me a great chance to communicate with my colleagues and local Thai producers as well as broaden my horizon and understanding of Asian economy. I suppose that my personal research also gains the inspiration from this trip and I would like to do some fieldwork about Chinese paper industry in the future. I indeed believe that face-to-face communication would help to promote the understanding about an industry.

At the same time, the local field research also offers the opportunity to get access to the real situation.

