

## **Report on Participation in 2018 Thailand field trip**

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First of all, this field trip let me know more about cities in developing countries and made me understand the culture of Thailand more deeply. Also, it was helpful to my own research. My research is about how transportation affects urban economic development in developing countries. At present, I mainly focus on the influence of high-speed rail on urban population agglomeration and industrial agglomeration. Thailand recently started high-speed rail construction, and in Bangkok I also saw some places that were building new subway stations. As I have never been to Thailand before, through this field trip, I have a deeper understanding of Thailand's traffic conditions, industrial development, people's standard of living, and government policy. These will be useful to my research on the impact of high-speed rail construction on the urban economy in developing countries.

Second, what impressed me the most is the urban transport system in Chiang Mai. As Thailand's second largest city, Chiang Mai does not have a bus system that we usually see. Instead of bus, public transportation mainly consists of tuk-tuks and songthaews. A tuk-tuk is a motorized pulled rickshaw or cycle rickshaw that has three wheels. Of course, it is not only in Chiang Mai that we can see tuk-tuks; this mode of transportation is common in Bangkok too in addition to a bus and subway system. A songthaew is a truck with two bench seats fixed along either side of the back. We can see this red truck everywhere in Chiang Mai. At the same time, because tourism in Chiang Mai is well developed, there are motorcycle and bicycle rentals specifically for tourists. As a result, urban traffic of Chiang Mai is a little chaotic and special. And matched with the income level, the transportation cost is not high in Thailand.

In addition, the field trip was well planned and everyday it was so rich and unforgettable. In this trip, we had workshops with students from Chiang Mai University, Thammasat University and Chulalongkorn University. We had some lectures and presented our own study where we could receive many valuable suggestions. We also visited some farms, which made me realize that agriculture is still the main industry in Thailand, and agricultural mechanization is relatively low. Currently in Thailand, the contradiction between agricultural and industrial development is a very important issue. Also, we visited the Tribal Museum which highlights the history and culture of the mountain tribes of northern Thailand and DITP (Department of International Trade Promotion) which exhibits a lot of artifacts and food traded with other countries.

This field trip allowed me to think seriously about how my study can contribute to developing countries. I also understand the importance of on-the-spot investigation for my research, and theory and reality should not be separated completely. Considering the practical significance of research is also one of the most important mission of researchers.

Lastly, I would like to thank Kyoto University for giving me the chance to participate in this field research. It was great and I really learned a lot from it.

