

## Report on Participation in Overseas Field Research

LU YANG  
Year level: M1  
Graduate School of Economics  
Kyoto University

The week long program (20st Nov-27th Nov) of Field Research in Thailand (Bangkok) this year conducted with Thammasat University and Kasetsart University has proven to be most fruitful. It not only helped me to broaden my understanding of SDGs and motivated me to have more concern about a regional level or global level rather than a more narrow and limited concern about one country or a certain place when I consider some social issues. It also provided me a chance to present my research proposal in a formal session and from this I received quite a lot precious comments and suggestions that I believe will be very helpful and inspiring for my future research career. After this experience, I would certainly like to attend more overseas academic seminars and workshops again, not only to learn more insights from abroad but also to make contributions to show the world more information and insights about the reality and facts of agriculture in Japan which is my research topic.

In the Second morning after arriving, we visited Thammasat University and attended a roundtable discussion on Sustainable Development Goals with the faculties and students of the Asia-Pacific Studies department. They introduced and explained the current status of implementation of SDGs in their home countries, including Brunei, Thailand, Cambodia, Indonesia, Philippines and Vietnam. Afterwards we enjoyed local food in the university canteen, then we were so honored to be able to visit UNESCAP and learn about how this International Organization assists states in the region to implement and achieve SDGs.

The next day, we listened to a lecture given by Mr. Atisook from the Thailand Office of Agriculture Economics of the Ministry of Agriculture about Thailand and ASEAN in Agricultural Liberalization. After answering some questions about the current agricultural situation in Thailand, he used some words from George Washington, 'Agriculture is the most healthful, most useful and most noble employment of man', to finished this meaningful and profound lecture. In the afternoon, we moved to the Bank of Thailand and had a discussion about the digitalization of currency and Thailand's monetary policy. Then we visited the money museum in the Bank of Thailand building and learned a lot about Thailand's monetary development and history.

In the fourth day of this field trip, we visited and travelled around Bang Karachais by bicycles with KU faculties and students. This place is also called 'Bangkok's green lung' as it is a preserved area with no high buildings, meaning it offers a bit of nature just outside the bustle of the city. It was very pleasant and refreshing to travel on rental bicycles together on those small paths going through the trees and bamboos. We could easily stop and taste fresh coconut drinks sold beside the roads by local people. After exploring all parts of this place, we learned that it is being transformed as a tourism spot facilitated by local rural people so as to protect its nature and environment. In order to experience as a resident of Bangkok, we went to the market by Chao Phraya River and enjoyed much of trying indigenous food and drinks.

The fifth day began with a lecture about Sufficient Economy Philosophy, a concept proclaimed by King Bhumibol delivered by Associate Prof. Bunyasiri in Kasetsart University. In the afternoon, there was a networking opportunity and a talk by an alumni of Kyoto University, Akkharaphon Thongpoon, who is an academician, a facilitator, a social entrepreneur, an investor, a politician and a social activist.

The final day was taken up by a workshop which aimed to help students deliver our research ideas and get feedback from peers and faculties. The students form Thammasat University, Kasetsart University and Kyoto

University presented their research and I presented my research proposal about Uji tea industry and farming in hilly and mountainous areas in Kyoto through a case study in Wazuka.

It was an insightful and enriching experience, and I am confident that this visit will prove valuable to my own research about sustainable tea farming and industry.