

## Report on Participation in Thailand Field Trip

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This time we have spent seven days in Bangkok and experienced various aspects of the city from academic communication to culture.

In the first two days, we spent some time with the economics faculty of Thammasat University. The first lecture was very impressive to me because in that lecture there were students from almost every different country in east Asia. During the discussion on sustainable development goals, I learned a lot from their discussion of SDGs from different perspectives which broadened my vision and idea on SDGs. For example, Cambodia may need to solve the issue of the quality of water and education in the first place, however, Vietnam pays more attention to the poverty reduction. We also had a lecture on Thailand and ASEAN focusing on agricultural liberalism and here we discussed the importance of ASEAN with local students. With Thammasat University, we also went to visit a United Nations (UN) office and the Bank of Thailand (BoT). These two places were very interesting. When I stepped into the UN's hall, it was very impressive and touching and everyone was excited to step onto the stage. In BoT, we talked about the future technology and cashless society in Thailand and then visited the money museum in the BoT. In the current era, cashless payments and digital currency are widely promoted and permeate our daily lives. The lecture from BoT strongly gave me a feeling that the world is changing, and that in particular the city is developing at a fast speed.

In this Thailand trip, we also went to a rural area and had a one-day cycling trip to feel the local life in rural area. The fruit we found in the rural area is fresher and cheaper compared to the city centre. I think there is still a large imbalance between rural and urban areas. During this trip I felt that the lack of resources and systematic government support were the main issues that need to be solved in the future. Also, the local markets in the rural area are totally different from more touristic ones. The market basically sells everything from food to daily necessities to decorations. In my opinion the market was more or less like an outdoor supermarket connected with deep local culture.

In the last two days, we went to Kasetsart University to have lectures as well as presentations from students. I learned a lot in the last two days. Firstly, this was due to my research field which focuses on the agriculture sector and Kasetsart University is strong in the agricultural field, so via this interaction I was able to reflect on my current research which helped me to go back and approach my research from different perspectives. The comments received at Kasetsart University helped me to discover what I have until now omitted in my research and how can I improve it. Furthermore, I learned a lot from other students' research projects as well. I believe the workshop was a precious chance for me and my future research.

Overall, although we only spent one week in Bangkok, we get to know more about sustainable development from different perspectives and various culture backgrounds. This field trip provided me with a chance to study and network in a different environment, widen my perspective and draw a plan on my future research carefully.