

Report on Participation in Thailand Field trip

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As a student of the EA program, I participated in the exciting field trip to Thailand with other students of the Graduate School of Economics. This research trip provided me with a valuable opportunity to acquire practical knowledge about Thailand's development from different perspectives. From this seven-day study trip, I learned more than expected. Our field research was well organized and every day was so fulfilling and informative. I really appreciate the professors and school staff, who helped to organize this fantastic trip for us. And I would like to share some thoughts on the activities and details during this trip.

What impressed me mostly was the lecture given by Dr. Isriya. She shared her research on the concept of the "sufficiency economy" in Thailand. SEP (sufficiency economy plan) is an approach to reach the ultimate goal of happiness, which focuses on long-term development rather than only pursuing rapid economic expansion. This kind of neoteric concept attracted our eyes and nearly everyone raised questions on where they were interested in. Through an impassioned discussion, I achieved a deeper understanding about the economic development of Thailand. That helped me to think about the distinction among the models of sustainable development in different countries. As a Chinese student, it is an interesting experience to think about and compare the experience in three countries Japan, China and Thailand.

Another important academic activity was the workshop held at Kasetsart University on the last day. During the workshop, we were asked to make a presentation of our research together with the students from Kasetsart University. Listening to other students' research presentations was fascinating and inspired me to improve on my research. The presentation itself helped me to go through the whole structure and main idea of my research again, which is beneficial for my future research progress. Also, the workshop provided me with a precious opportunity to present my research to other universities and gain some new feedbacks and ideas, which are helpful to me.

Besides the above, we were also lucky to have the chance of visiting UN ESCAP (United Nations and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific) and the Bank of Thailand in Bangkok. At UN ESCAP, we visited its assembly hall, and then participated three lecture sections by their staff members. The lectures included information about UNESCAP and their activities in the Asia Pacific region. The focus of the lecture was to help us understand how UNESCAP plays a role in helping countries achieve their SDGs. During the visit to the Bank of Thailand, we specifically learned about Thailand's monetary stance and digital currency. By visiting the money museum in the Bank of Thailand, the group intently learned about how the current designs of coins and banknotes have been shaped by and continue to shape Thailand's history, culture and society. We were tasked to solve a mystery case as group of "money detectives" as we went through the different levels of the museum. Through personal involvement, we all learned a lot about Thailand's monetary past, current stance, and plans for progress.

Also, it was not only an academic experience, it was also an unforgettable cultural experience, which gave me a valuable opportunity to feel and experience local customs and culture. In the day of cultural activities, I visited the Grand Palace

and tasted authentic flavored Thailand dishes, and all of these were impressive for me.

Overall, this seven-day overseas study trip goes beyond simply learning from within the classroom setting. It allowed me to apply and even expand and develop my own research through fieldwork. I really appreciate this field trip for giving us a wonderful academic experience.