

International Internship in Thailand

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1 My purpose of internship

My purpose of internship is to acquire language ability, business experience and special knowledge which we can't learn at university.

I think that it is not enough the knowledge and experiences to work which we can obtain at university.

In many company, the ability of communicating with foreigner is becoming more and more significance in recent years. So, to get the experiences and language ability, I decided to participate in international internship. In addition, I wanted to experience international culture.

2 My schedule

September

Date

11(Tue):Orientation

12(Wed):Introduction of company

13(Thu):Introduction of IT department

14(Fri):Tour plants in factory

15(Sat):free work

16(Sun):free day

17(Mon):Decide my job

18(Tue):Introduction of business process

19(Wed):job

20(Thu):Experience traditional food

21(Fri):job

22(Sat):Welcome party

23(Sun):free day

24(Mon):job~29(Sat):job

30(Sun):Trip

October

Date

1(Mon):Presentation of my job progress

2(Tue)~4(Thu):job

5(Fri):Farewell lunch with SUT members

6(Sat):Farewell dinner with IT department members in SWI

7(Sun):free day

8(Mon):come back Japan

3 Introduction of SWI

I belonged to the IT department in the SanganWongseIndustries(SWI).SWI was established in 1947 in Khorat.

This company makes tapioca starch and their plant is the largest single tapioca starch plant in Asia with maximum capacity of 1000 metric tons of starch per day.This tapioca starch export about 50 countries.

Tapioca starch is used many kind of products. Such as noodle, glue, paper, medicine, and so on. Tapioca starch is used to make food, medicine, and clothes. I didn't know tapioca was used other than food.



The left side of picture is ITdepartment. In IT department, they manage server which has data of customer and security system of company and so on. Employees in SWI are kind and friendly. Everybody was close. So, I was able to get along with everybody.



In SWI, there are many cassava. The cassava changes to tapioca starch. In Thailand, it is popular to cultivate cassava, because cassava can grow on the acid solid. So, many farmer cultivate cassava. For that reason. SWI can collect cassava easily, and they were able to grow to big company.

4 My job

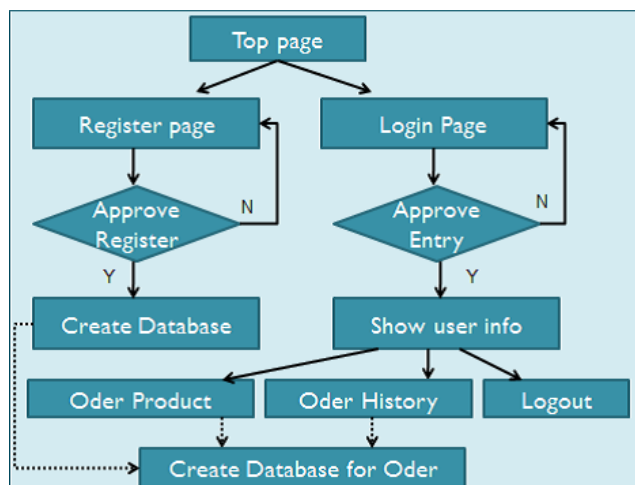
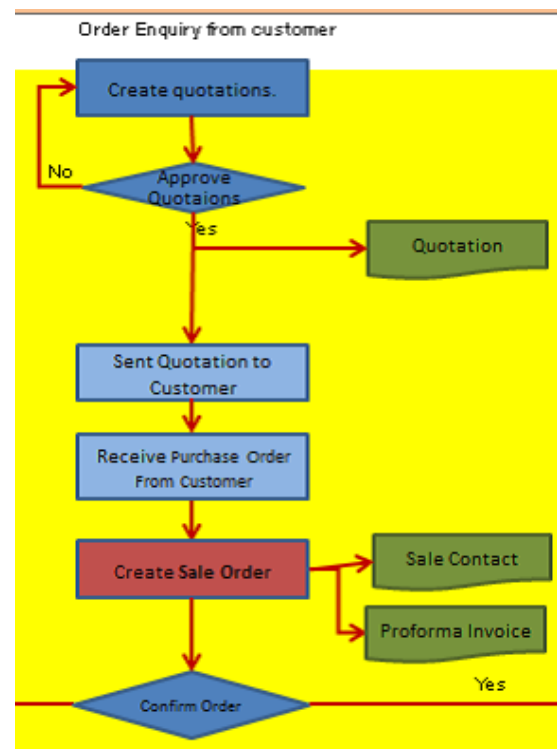
First, they taught me about business process in SWI. There were many process to trade tapioca starch. Those are Marketing, Transport, Weight System, Quality Control System, Planning&Production, Account&Finance, Warehouse Management, and Purchasing. In each process, they do order management, carrier management, product's weight check, product's quality check, project management, account and finance management, inventory control, and purchasing cassava.

I concerned to the first part of the Marketing process. My job is creating order form for customers of company. The order form has three system. It is new register system, login system, management system. All system uses database. To create order form, I had to study many computer language such as javascript, php, and SQL. I have never studied php and I don't have textbook so it is difficult for me. In addition,

I had to study AJAX technology for creating dynamic HTML. I studied by myself basically because everyone did their work. But if I have question, I was able to ask my IT manager. I show a part of the flow to sell product.

This is a part of the flow to sell product. I created the order form to make quotation. I explain this figure. First, SWI get order from customer on the order form. If this order is approved, SWI make quotation and send it to customer. Second, if SWI get purchase order from customer, they create sale order and proforma invoice. And they start to prepare product for customer. Most of product is exported. The country that purchase the most tapioca starch is China. 50 % of tapioca starch which is exported is for China. 20 % of tapioca starch which is exported is for Japan.

The order form which I created is very simple. I show the flow of ordering form which I made below.



Everyday I studied about AJAX, php, and javascript, and I pro-gramed order form. On October 1, I had to make a presentation about progress of my job. I didn't think I was able to make a good presentation, because I didn't finish my job at that time and I made many mistake in my presentation. But I managed to finish my presentation.

5 Thai culture



I got many experience in Thailand. This picture is night bazaar. Night bazaar is held from 6.pm everyday in Khoran. There were many kind of shop such as meat, noodle, fruits, and clothes. All items were cheap, so I was able to buy everything I wanted. I thought most of meat sold in bazaar were tasty. But I had to be careful not to buy raw food. Because it was not good hygiene. If I eat raw food, I think that I will have a stomach ache.



I went to the museum. In museum, many unearthed article concerning Hinduism and Buddhism such as Ganesha statue, and Buddha statue. were displayed. Thai people are religious. When they saw Budda statue , historic hero statue, and their king, they put their hands together. They surprised that japanese was irreligion.



This picture is Phimai Historical Park. This place is referred to as Angkor Wat in Thailand. All buildings were made by stone. These ruins are ancient Khmer ruins in Phimai and show that there was big force of Khmer in Phimai. Here is very popular in Thai, so there were many sightseers.



This statue is the historical woman hero in Thai. Her name is Thao Suranaree. A long time ago, Thailand fought many countries which were around Thailand. When Lao military attacked Khorat, Khorat lost once. But she repulsed the Lao military by her operation. So she became Khorat hero. As this picture shows, everyone professes her.

I was introduced many places except these pictures such as Thai food, courtesy, traditional village and so on. In Thailand, they prize their traditional, courtesy and religion. So I think they were expansive, and kind.



Left picture is a wild dog. In Thailand, there were many wild dogs. These dogs were quiet and not afraid of a person. Because, there are many food stands everywhere and they give dogs surplus foods.

Right picture is the time when it rained. In Thailand, it was just wet season. So it rained everyday. As for the weather in Khoran,. it rained off and on many times a day. If it was sunny, thunder shined in the far sky.

There are many stands in Thailand. As this picture show, If it rains, they cover products with vinyl soon.



I got on buses. In Khorat, as this picture shows, behind a bus was opening. We got from behind of the bus. If I can't sit down, I stand in the outside space. So I was a little bit scary. But I felt good once when I experienced it.

In addition, there were interesting taxi. Taxi had three types in Thailand such as motorcycle taxi, tuk-tuk, normal taxi. Motorcycle taxi was the cheapest and normal taxi

was the most expensive. Motorcycle taxi was for two people. Toktok was small car which had three-wheel. I was a little bit afraid of toktok because it speeded up very much.

6 Suranaree University of Technology

My destination for international internship were Suranaree University of Technology (SUT) and SWI. But there weren't contact with Suranaree so much. Before last day in internship, I was able to communicate with SUT member who related internship. They held a farewell lunch party for me and took me to Synchrotron Light Research Institute (SLRI) and farm in SUT.

6.1 SLRI



SLRI is an organization under the Ministry of Science and Technology of Thailand. It's main objective is to serve as providing synchrotron radiation for researchers from both government and industrial sectors. The wide spectral range of synchrotron light provided by synchrotron radiation facility is necessary for a variety of research fields such as physical and biological sciences, materials sciences, agricultural, biomedical, and industrial researches. This synchrotron radiation facility produces synchrotron light by accelerating electron to nearly the speed of light. When these electrons are deflected by a magnetic field, they lose some of their energy and change it to synchrotron light.

6.2 Farm



I didn't take picture so much here. So I have only this picture which is entrance of farm.

SUT farm provide academic services and research services and make agricultural production.

They strive for being environmental friendliness and self-sustainability. They provide public resources and utilities to support education and research.

They have four units: Plant Science, Animal Science. Machinery, and Academic Services Units.

For self-sustainability, they produces and markets agricultural products with four units: Animal Feed Mill, Dairy products Factory, drinking Water Factory, and Special Project Units.

I was shown place which is cultivating plants and shop. They did hydroponics. They change hydroponics method sensitively in time with growing phase of plants. In shop, they sold meats, plants, and vegetables. All products were made in SUT farm. There also were products which were made by students.

I was overwhelmed by their very broad place and many unit. I thought that universities in Thailand are very bigger than universities in Japan. I think the reason that thai universities are big is because tuition is very high although commodity prices are low. And that is why they can use money for establishment.

7 Impression

First, when I arrived in Thailand, I was anxious about everything because I had never visited abroad and I was alone. I thought people in foreign country were able to speak in English well. So I worried about whether I was able to communicate with Thai. When I talked with SUT member first, I was not able to listen and talk in English well. But they said that "don't worry" again and again. They were kind and courteous.

In SWT, I was able to be relaxed a little in comparison with the first time. I knew that they was not good at English like me. It was difficult to communicate but we managed to be able to communicate by using body language, write-down, and easy thai language. So I was able to study Thai language. They taught me useful phrase of thai language. As acknowledgment, I taught them Japanese. In this way, we deepened cross-cultural communication. It was very meaningful and it became my important memory.

In this internship, I was able to study special knowledge for IT. It is the method of creating web application using php language which I can't learn in university. In addition, I studied AJAX technology for web application. In SWT, I studied by myself basically. If I had a question, they taught me. So my knowledge may be incompleteness, but the experience will be useful in my future.

I thought that Thai people were friendly, expansive and courtesy. I attribute it to their environment that is stress-free. They are not tied up at time. For example, their work start from 8.am, but they come company at around 8 a.m. and then they eat breakfast. So they start to work at around 8:30 a.m. However, they do their work well. The time when they start to work is not important for them. It is good if they do their work. I think that their style is good and enviable. I think they respect one's style. Because I was said that "up to you" again and again. I finished this internship, and I learned many things and I was able to acquire good experiences. I won't forget my experiences in Thailand and I want to visit Thailand again.

Last, Thank you so much for all staff in Mie university, SUT, SWI. I was able to get many meaningful experiences.