

The report of international internship program in Thailand

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My purpose of internship

In the beginning, I'd like to introduce my purpose of this program. I have two purposes. I had never been abroad. Before determination, I felt that this trip was too long for first trip abroad. But still I wanted to train my mind and improve ability in communication and adaptability.

When I did job hunting, I met a company that played role of consultant with farmers. This company sells agriculture material. In addition, This company advises farmers about how to cultivation and manage. I was interested in such activity. A graduate from Mie University studies about organic farming. In addition, she had a connection with an intermediary between farmers and consumers.

Those are my reasons for participating in this international internship program.

Introduce Thammasat University



Picture.1 The symbol Tammasat University

Tnammasat University was founded in 1934 and it is the second most historical in Thailand. This university has many agreement with Japanese university besides Mie university, for example Tokyo university, Waseda university and Keiou university...etc. This university has four campuses. Tha Phra Chan is the first built campus. The Thammasat University Massacre occurred on this campus. This matter was an attack on students and protesters, and took a heavy toll of human lives. The campus I stayed was Rangsit , 42 km north of Bangkok. This campus was about five times as large as Mie university. There were hospital, dormitory, convenience store, swimming pool, pharmacy...ect, enough to live. Night market was held twice a week and there were many people, students, neighborhoods, tourists and so on. My impression about

Thammasat university students were that enjoy thoroughly when should do, and work when should do.

My schedule

Table.1 My schedule of international internship program		
October	week 1	
	19(Sun.)	Arrived at Suvarnabhumi Airport, Thailand
	20(Mon.)	Check in at Student donitory
	21(Tue.)	Meeting with Dean of Faculty of Sciense and Technology
	22(Wed.)	Had a class
	23(Thu.)	Ayutthaya
	24(Fri.)	Free day
	25(Sat.)	Student tour in Rayong
	week 2	
	26(Sun.)	Came back to University
	27(Mon.)	Homestay at farmer, Mr. Pangya's house
	28(Tue.)	//
	29(Wed.)	//
	30(Thu.)	Homestay at farmer, Mr. Payong's house
	31(Fri.)	Came back to University
Novembe r	1(Sat.)	Study tour in Chonburi
	week 3	
	2(Sun.)	Free day
	3(Mon.)	Free day
	4(Tue.)	Lab work
	5(Wed.)	Home work
	6(Thu.)	Join at Loi Kratong Festival, University
	7(Fri.)	Link up withTri-U member
	8(Sat.)	Visit tour at Samutsongkhram Province
	week 4	
	9(Sun.)	Study tour at Thammasat University

	10(Mon.)	Visit to FAO
	11(Tue.)	Visit to Kasetsart University
	12(Wed.)	Homestay at Thai student
	13(Thu.)	Thammasat University Festival
	14(Fri.)	Presentation for lab member
	15(Sat.)	Go back to Japan
	16(Sun.)	Arrived at Chubu Centrair International Airport, Japan

Home stay in Organic farmers family

I experienced homestay at two farming families in Suphanburi for 5day. First 3 days, I stayed at Mr. Panya whom organic farmer and after 2days stayed at Mr. Payong whom a consultant.

Introduce persons

Mr. Payong



Picture.2 Mr.Payong and Katty

He graduated from the department of political science, Thammasat University. He retirement a political organization and change his job to became a farmer. Now he farm organic crops with Karen that is a mountains tribe. And he plays a part in intermediation between farmers and consumer. He actives to spread his experience and knowledge of agriculture to Thailand and abroad. His character is strict but kind enough to trust and indulgent Father to his daughter, Katty.

Mr. Pangya



Picture.3 Mr.Pangya

He is tribe of Karen. He has been organic farmer and he taught organic agriculture to Mr. Payong. His house is traditional style. He engages in agriculture with his relative. He spends organic vegetables to contractor under intermediate by Mr. Payong. His character is courteous. He can peel a coconut palm by his hands because he is got himself into shape by his job.

○ **The system of contracted farmer**

This system is that farmers have dealings with consumer directly without any markets. Farmer and consumer enter into a one-year contract. The farmer spends vegetables to customer one or two times per week. The customer pays 15000 baht / year : one time per week , 21000 baht / year : two times per week. If the farmer harvests fruit, it was given without additional pay. Advantages of this system for farmers are that the farmer can get stable earnings and devote themselves to them job. They don't need worry that vegetables are bought cheaply. On the other party, the customer can get organic vegetables that fresh and high quality. Conversely, disadvantages are consumer can't choose kinds of vegetable because the farmer ships vegetables which were harvested on that day. However the customer select this system because advantages are better than disadvantage.

At Mr. Pangya's household get money by weaving and dyeing cloths.

The process of harvest

I caught see many kind of vegetables. Fertilizer was mainly made of rice husk and straw. After fertilization he put rice straw on there. This straw prevents weeds from growing and will become manure. Any chemical is not used for control of weeds. They harvest and wash, cut by them hands, one by one.



Picture.4 Covering field with rice

The process of shipping

The harvested vegetables is gathered in the hut. In that day I inspected, there were 120kg (vegetables and fruits). They divided each kind of vegetables into sixteen and packed, one by one after weighed because they had sixteen customers. After packing, they put that vegetables and fruits into the boxes used for shipping.



Picture.5 Packing vegetables and fruits for shipping

As I have written, almost all works are done by them hands. That is why they need a lot of time and trouble. This valuable experience convinced me of that organic vegetables were so expansive.

○My life in farmers

In Mr. Pangya's house

I will introduce the daily stream of time in Mr. Pangya's house.

I got up at AM7:30 and had breakfast. We worked from AM8:00 to AM10:00. At the



Picture.6 Carrying vegetables to the hut

period from AM10:00~15:00, we had free time because of high temperature.

At AM11:00 we had lunch. I played soccer, volleyball and play made by children until 15:00. Other persons had a nap, shower and watch TV and so on. The coconut water that Mr. Pangya peeled before afternoon working was very good. We resume working from 15:00 to 17:00. After working we had dinner. They ate a lot because their work was very hard. Because they rapidly fill my bowl with rice, I had to said “IMU REO” otherwise I was too full of my stomach. The time after dinner, we sat in a happy circle.



Picture.7 My hut when homestay at Mr. Pangya

They taught me how to weave and Thai language and showed me their pictures. I laughed extremely. I went to bed before 22:00.

In Mr. Pangya's family, I worked, ate, laughed, very well and could have happy time. Next trip to Thailand, I want to visit them again.

In Mr. Payong's house

The daily stream of time in Mr. Payong's and Mr. Pangya's were almost same. He has not used chemical to his farm for 20years. Organic matter in soil is 3%, pH=7.9

We started working at AM8:00. This morning work is pulling weeds. It is difficult to distinguish rice from weeds. The reason let alone that weeds became tall is keeping biodiversity. If a farm is too clean, many lives (animals, insects, worms) can't live in there. Afternoon work was plowing a field with a farm tractor. It was first time for me to

operation a tractor. It was more difficult than watching. I got many corns in my hands.

Next morning, I seeded cauliflower and tomato in pots with his family. Afternoon, I went back to university by bus.



Picture.8 Plowing strawberry field by farm tractor



Picture9. Seeding pots with strawberry



Picture10. Breakfast in Mr, Payong's house

- About homestay

This 5days homestay changed my thought. I can really feel there were many trouble in foods that we eat usually. I got to be able to say “ITADAKIMASU” with my feelings of gratitude. This experience is one of my valuable memories in Thailand.

Thai culture and Sightseeing trip

I could eat a lot of Thai food. Few meals was too spicy for me to eat. Most those was delicious and reasonable. I could enough food for only 100 Thai baht per day. So I have too much. In this one month, I wanted Japanese food only one time because Thai food was fit for me. That one time is when I drank too much. Thai food is often made of pork, chicken and seafood. My favorite Thai food is “ KAOMANGAI “ which is rice with steamed chicken. The vest breakfast is “ KAOTOM “ which is thin rice porridge. This food give my stomach a rest. There were a lot of convenience store and we can buy Japanese food (rice ball, GYOUZA and Japanese sweets, etc) at there. I feel that relationship between Japan and Thai is strong. I was surprised by foreign charge in Thailand. Foreigners visiting a tourist spot have to pay some money.

- Ayutthaya

I visited Ayutthaya, world heritage. Almost all statue of Buddha was broken and without head. They were broken by war with Myanmar and stolen because the statue of Buddha was traded in high rate. Almost all temple building in Ayutthaya tilted because of the flood in 2011.



Picture11. Leaning temple building



Picture.12 Riding on elephant in Ayutthaya

- TU welcome new student tour

I joined for student tour in Rayong. This prefectures beach was most beautiful I have ever seen. Every year new student will be baptized like this picture. In the night, senior students tie a string on younger students wrist for wishing them happiness. In this tour, I could make many friends and funny time.



Picture.13 New student were painted in them face



Picture.14 Tying a string with wish for happiness



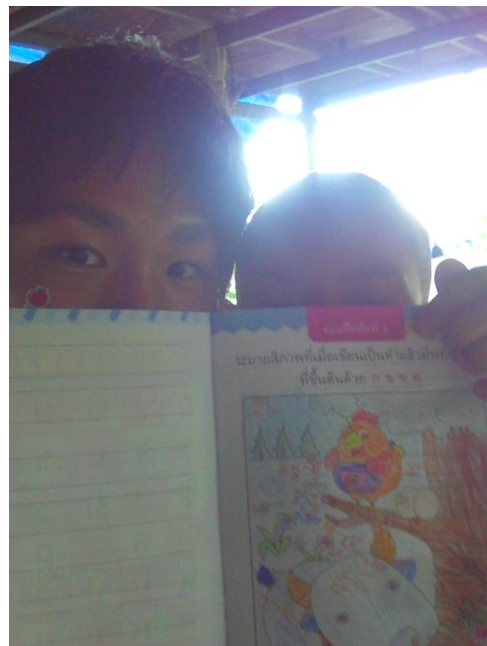
Picture.15 4th year of TU

- Playing with children

I will introduce the game created by children. How to play this game is that two teams throw stones to the other party's lined up stones. The fast team put all stones down is winner. In Mr. Payong's house, I drew for coloring with Katty, six old girl. Katty doesn't go to school but she study at home. Some children were shy in front of strangers. They opened them mind for me while I tried to talk in Thai language and played with them. I learned how to make friendship with children. This way is that trying talk in them language and playing as if a child. There were dogs and cats in almost all farmers house. It was great fun to play with animals.



Picture.15 Children play the game



Picture.16 Coloring made by Katty and me

Impression

I think I can have many wonderful experiences through this program. I cannot accomplish it without support of everyone. I feel that I could understand deeper about organic farming. Why organic vegetables are expensive? This reason is that farmers cultivate vegetables very carefully. Is organic farming really good? This answer is that organic farming is good for not only human but also other lives. Of course, no chemical make us relief but that organic farming play part of saving environment is more important. Cultivation is one of environmental disruption. When we consider saving ecosystem, we should take measure similar nature. I think that organic farming is a compromise between human and nature.

Next, Thai people were friendly. I think characters of Thai people are not different with Japanese too much. They laugh and sing many times. And they eat and drink a lot. Occasionally, they made merry and noise for nonsense. I feel that they look like Japanese students. My general idea about deferent between Japanese and foreigner changed after internship program. I have come to think about that deferent is only place they live. There are many countries I have never been to but I feel foreign countries are closer than before.

Thanks everyone I met in Thailand, I was so glad that I joined this program.



Picture.17 My favorite picture in this program