

Report of International Internship
Program in Thailand
2011

International Internship program in Thailand

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Table of contents

1. Purpose and Motivation
2. Schedule
3. Report
4. Photographs

1. Purpose and Motivation

I have 3 reasons to join this internship.

First, I want to open my vision by this experience. Because I'd like to be a person who can work anywhere at global level. So I hope get worldwide view through this International Internship Program and survive today's global competition in society.

Second, in my laboratory, there are 5 foreign students from Thailand and one of them has been an experimental partner. Hearing stories about Thailand from her sparked my interest in Thailand and its culture, so I decided to go to Thailand by myself and see there through my eyes.

Finally, now I study about salt tolerance of plant which originally from tropical or semi-tropical region, therefore I'm going to confirm it in natural state and learn about it actually in Thailand. Furthermore, this knowledge and experience can be utilized my future. Because I'd like to work at company about agriculture, food or environment.

As described above, this International Internship is very valuable for me.

2. Schedule

My internship program originally scheduled to be one month in November 2011, but was postponed and shortened due to great flooding in Thailand last year. So the period of my internship was one week.

Date	Activity
22 Feb	Depart from Japan
23 Feb	-Arrive at Suvarnabhumi Airport Bangkok -Attend Symposium at Institute of East Asian Studies -Welcome Party
24 Feb	-Attend Symposium at Institute of East Asian Studies -Visit OTOP -Visit Faculty of Science and Technology, meet Dean and communicate with TU Staff and students
25 Feb	-Visit Bencharong Community Enterprise (Samutsakorn Province) -Visit Orchid Garden (Samutsakorn Province) -Visit Ampawa Floating market (Samut Songkhram Province) -Visit The King Rama II Historical Park (Samut Songkhram Province)
26 Feb	-Come back to Bangkok -Sightseeing in Bangkok
27 Feb	-Visit FAO -Sightseeing in Bangkok -Visit Thammasat University Depart from Thailand
28 Feb	Arrive at Japan

3. Report

First day

When I arrive at Thailand, I was surprised the urbanized and large airport. That's only natural, Suvarnabhumi Airport is the largest international airport in Thailand. But there were exotic atmosphere of a southern land outside the door. It's hot and humid and I could see many palm trees.

Then we moved on to Thammasat University to attend a symposium. The symposium's main theme was “Regional Cooperation for Sustainable Future in Asia”. Researchers in many different disciplines came from Thammasat University or its Japanese partner universities, Aoyama Gakuin University, Mie University, Rithumeikan University and Shizuoka University presented their research results.

Almost subject of study were concerned with the Great East Japan Earthquake or Thailand great floods 2011. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Seree SUPRATID reported the result of simulating floods in Thailand in 2012; Thailand would have floods in any cases.

According to “Regional Cooperation for Sustainable Future in Asia” by Prof. Dr. Shinichiro Ohgaki, Asia is the most frequently suffered disasters.

I thought Asian should works together through mutual understanding of differing and same points of view.

Second day

We attended 2nd day of Symposium at Institute of East Asian Studies. The Symposium closed at noon.

Then we visited “OTOP” exhibition held in a large hall. OTOP which is short for “One Tambon One Product” is a local entrepreneurship stimulus program designed by Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra during the 2001-2006 Thai Rak Thai government. The program aims to support the unique locally made and marketed products of each Thai tambon. (“tambon” is a local government unit in Thailand.) It was based on Japanese regional development program, One Village One Product (OVOP), began in Oita Prefecture in 1979. The OTOP products come in six kinds : food, beverage, fabric or furnishings, ornament, craft products. Especially great products can be sold in overseas.

There were a number of booths of each local area in this hall. They displayed and sold each OTOP product of their area. It was very interesting that there were various foods and craft products which were not seen in Japan, for example, durian, sugar of palm, eggs of duck, bamboo fan, traditional agricultural instruments, wrap skirts, Thai silky necktie. The site was too large to look around in a day.

At night, we visited campus of Thammasat University School of Science and Technology. We communicated with students will study in Japan as took a dinner. Students showed traditional Thai dance and a unique performance of Thai cheering group for us. So, we sang some famous Japanese songs like "Sukiyaki" for them. It was a good opportunity to understand each other.

Third day

In this morning, we arrived at Ban Don Kai Dee, Samut Sakhon province. Ban Don Kai Dee is a village where the main cottage industry is the production of beautiful Bencharong porcelains were certified as OTOP product.

Bencharong is one of traditional Thai porcelain which was made only for royal family originally. The name bencharong means "five-colors", in reference to the number of colors used in these over-glazed enamel wares, though in fact more than five colors are often used.

Actually, we made Bencharong by own hands. Five colors were prepared for painting within a brown frame that would be golden line after firing. Thai students tended to use many colors than Japanese. I felt different sense but their Bencharongs were more natural and beautiful than Japanese them when firing finished.

Then we went to an orchid farm. Orchids are famous as Thai signature agricultural product. Therefore, I could see that in the OTOP event. This farm gathered orchids like "*Dendrobium*" or "*Vanda*" around farms and ranked according to its size. After that, employees packed them for export to Tokyo, Fukuoka and Korea.

Next, we visited Amphawa Floating Market that is popular as sightseeing spot for Thai people. There were a lot of Thai people. Various tropical fruits and Thai foods were sold in stands were set up along the river or on the boats on river. All those were so delicious!

Passing through the floating market, we arrived at a royal park and farm. There were heavily guarded due to visiting of queen. Variety of tropical fruits like a Banana that could be not seen in Japan or summer vegetable like a eggplant, goya planted in the farm. I could see sasage (cowpea) that was my research object in this farm.

Fourth day

On this day, we went to sightseeing around Bangkok. Characteristics of Thailand or Thai were seen in the city.

For example, they love and respect their king and royal family. I could see portraits or statues of king around the city and many royal family photographs hang on the wall of accommodation which is I stayed. Princess Sirivannavari Nariratana, the Royal Granddaughter, made the covers of various magazines. Because she is not only Princess but also a famous fashion designer.

Furthermore Thai people like colorful. Most Thai taxis are made in Japan but different from them seen in Japan, there are so colorful! Foods are also colorful. I ate pink noodles in a food court of Thai shopping mall.

It is said that 95% of Thai are Buddhists, I felt Buddhism be closely related to daily lives of Thai people. There are many beautiful temples which Buddhist Thailand is proud of. I often saw Buddhist monks in the city. There were stray dogs everywhere in the streets due to teaching of Buddhism; "Should not kill any living creature as possible".

Final day

We visited "FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific". Officer delivered special lectures for us.

Mr. Hiroyuki Konuma who is assistant director-general and FAO regional representative for Asia and the Pacific (RAP) spoke about "Current Food Security Situation and future outlook". Enough foods to feed the total world population are produced, however, about 1 billion people are facing starvation now. Furthermore, the world population will reach over 9 billion by 2050, increasing from the current 7 billion. Bioethanol use is increasing rapidly around the world.

However, the conclusion was startling for me. Mr. Konuma said "It should be possible to meet the food and feed demand of the projected world population of year 2050". The point we should notice is that he said so based on FAO's reasonable assumptions about growth in yield and in land and water use and Bio-fuel development and climate change are uncertainly.

4. Photographs

1st day



Arrive at Thailand



Opening ceremony of symposium

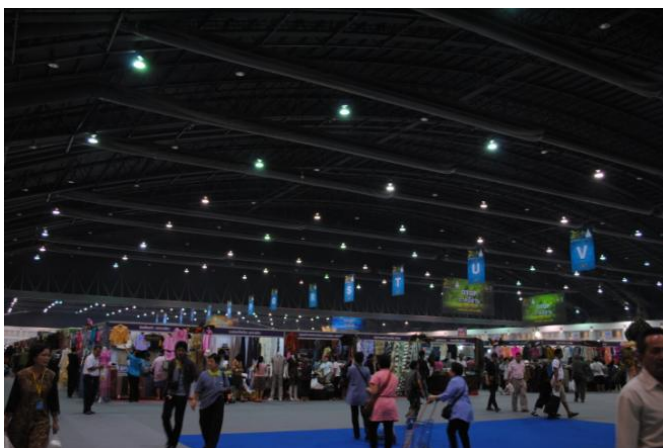


Report of study of “Sago palm”
by Prof. Ehara, Mie university



Challenge to Thai traditional dance
in welcome party

2nd day



“OTOP” exhibition hold in a large hall



Bamboo fan



Welcome Party in campus of School of Science and Technology



With Thai students

3rd day



Beautiful Bencharong porcelains



Painting of Bencharong porcelains



OTOP flag in Bencharong village



Orchids were wrapped by Thai employees



Amphawa Floating Market



Coconut water



Royal park



Tropical farm

4th day



Pink taxi



Dogs sleep on the street

5th day



Special lecture by Mr. Konuma



A question and answer session



FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific