

AAACU-STUDY TOUR PROGRAM 2012 Report

Graduate school of Bioresources in Mie University

1st grade of graduate school

Shun Okamura

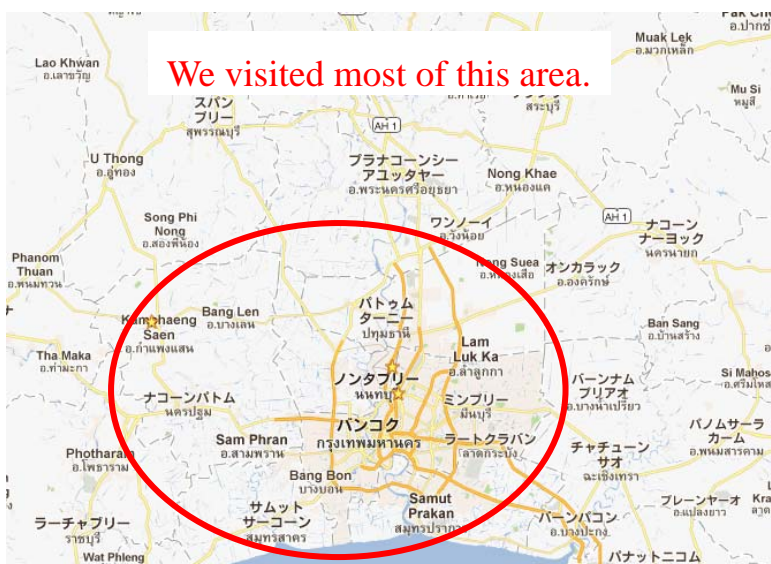
【AAACU-STUDY TOUR PROGRAM 2012】

Detail

We experienced Thai agriculture through the tour of Kasetsart University, presentations and discussions with participants, lectures by professor, agriculture, industry and local tourisms in Thailand. This also contained a short homestay program in agricultural area and we could study about the different culture, about Thailand and so on. The participants were 14 students from six countries in Asia, Thailand, Malaysia, Philippines, South Korea, Guam and Japan.

Accommodation

After one week stayed at the international dormitory of Kasetsart University in Kamphaeng Saen campus, we stayed in agricultural area on the weekend. After that we stayed at a hotel of Kasetsart University in Bangkok campus in one week.



Kasetsart University

Kasetsart University the third oldest university in Thailand was founded in 1943, and has proposed a system of first degree in the field of agricultural chemistry. Kasetsart University agriculture is one of the most developed and the research is the most advanced in Thailand. This University has also International course so that students can communicate with other countries persons. There are a total of four campuses, 14 faculties are in Bangkok campus and 6 faculties are in Kamphaeng Saen campus. There are approximately 58,000 students in Kasetsart University. 60% of the students belong to the Bangkok campus. This University also has the faculty of tropical agriculture we can't see much in Japan.

【Lifestyle】

The figure to the right is the international dormitory of Kasetsart University we stayed on the first one week in Kamphaeng Saen. The dormitory is quite open and the temperature of the corridor is same as outside air temperature about 35 degrees.

The distance is more than 1km between the dormitory and classroom or between each building, so many of the students who belong to Kamphaeng Saen campus use bike to school.

Although the water purification function in Thailand has developed, we can't drink the tap water because the water pipes are quietly old. So people in Thailand drink some bottles of mineral water.



There are more than two bottles of mineral water every night in the refrigerator of our room. The person who cleans the dormitory replenishes the bottles every day. I was surprised at the temperature of the refrigerator. Set temperature is much lower than in Japan, so the bottles of water are very cold. When the toothpaste, I washed my toothbrush with the mineral water, the toothbrush had frozen. It may be hard to see, the right figure shows ice on the washstand.



The room temperature also considerably lower, the set temperature of the air conditioning is always about 20 degrees. Although it was very cold to me, it is usual for the Thai people.

The image on the right is a photo of the bathroom. There is a bathtub in the international dormitory. However there is no bathtub generally, there are shower only. This set temperature is also low. The highest temperature is less than 40 degrees.

Toilet is beside the bathtub. We washed excrement down with drawing water in a bucket in other than Dormitory, hotels, or tourist destinations.

【The faculties in Kasetsart University】

Agriculture

In the place of the photos has been studied for the production of fertilizer needed for agriculture. This University is committing to lean manufacturing by making the disposal plants helpful fertilizer. In that case, it becomes an issue how to reduce the cost and to lean product.

They use some machines to make fertilizer. They put the plants into a machine many times to crush. After that, they add some chemical fertilizer needed to grow a plant. Fertilizer will be completed at the end.

While these studies have been performed, practices to experience actual field work have been done for students. With large tracts of land, the professors and the farmers guide students. University classes are conducted as students can participate.



The machine to crush



Large farm to practice



Crushed plants



Fertilizers

Insects Dome

There are insects dome was built by the king's majesty. Not only students but also the people who come to study or who live in city can learn real insect to touch them. There are so many insects so that people can learn a lot of insects. Students in this University also practice to explain the insects in English here for persons who come to study. Next to this insects dome, there is a insects museum. Insect specimens are exhibited.



Insight of the Insect Dome



Insight of the Insect museum

Botany

This University has a Vegetable farm called AVRDC-The World Vegetable Center. Students can experience Actual work in the field as well as students do in the Agriculture field. Quite a lot of vegetables and fruits have been cultivated here. I will introduce you two interesting vegetables.

The green one in the photo on the bottom right looks like a seed. However, we can eat and it tastes very strong sour likes a lemon. This isn't used in cooking commonly. In the photo on the next page, there is a vegetable such as pepper.

Actually it is a kind of pepper, But not spicy at all. Similarly, this isn't used in cooking commonly. In addition to this, melons that you can imagine are also cultivated. You may imagine the sweet one, but the Thai melons are bit sweet. Thai melons are not juicy as Japanese melons. For example, the taste seems like the part close to the skin of the Japanese melon. Therefore, most of Thai people eat melons with some pepper and sugar.



View of the Vegetable farm



A sour vegetable



This looks like a pepper.



We tried the melon



A Thai melon

Engineering

Kasetsart University Engineering, in addition to the research about mechanics same as Japanese University done, many academic was intended to save energy in agriculture field.

Thai people often eat fruit such as a coconut and a melon. Because the fruit has thick skin, there are many parts to be discarded. There are some researches to make the disposed parts fuel. In addition, there also are some researches to make manure fuel because of a lot of cows and horses. In the photo, the machine changes the coconut skins into the flame. Conversion efficiency is more than 90%.



There is also a machine for using cow manure as fuel. In the body of the animal, the materials are distributed to unnecessary materials and necessary materials. This machine can distribute cow manure to useful manure and useless manure similar as the animal body done, and we can use the useful one as a fuel.

Other faculties

There are other faculties such as Animal Science Department and Veterinary Medicine Department.

In the Animal Science Department, you can learn about the history of the animal and ecological system. The photo on the upper right of next page shows the class with a professor who has been researching about the history of dinosaurs. The students are studying the history of the animal.

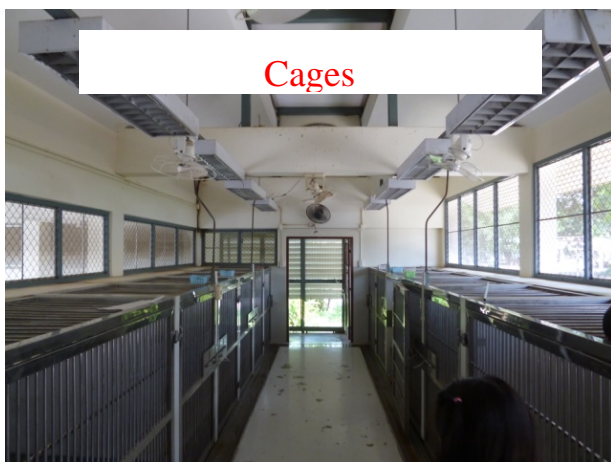
In the Veterinary Medicine Department, the facilities such as an Animal Hospital are equipped. They treat and cure the animals are getting disease, and students also able to learn in the field. I prepared some photos of a dog on the treatment table, operating room, cages for cats and dogs, a mold to fix an elephant's foot.



Classroom



Operating room



Cages



【Culture of the city】

Vehicle

Main road has spread radially around Bangkok. Road width is large, and people have to keep left when they drive a car. Although there are traffic rights in Bangkok city, there are few traffic rights in local area.

People often use vehicle such as a bus or a train. But people use a taxi the most. Pink, green, or blue, the color of the taxis is varied by the Company. In town, taxi motorcycle called Tuk-Tuk is often used. For small and zippy, Tuk-Tuk can runs sew the interval in a traffic jam.



Food

Tropical fruits such as lychee and dragon fruit are eaten most often. There are some fruits we can't see in Japan such as longan. Because of high temperatures, people need a lot of water and salt. So people often eat Melon, watermelon fruit, dragon fruit and apples.



Historical and cultural

The Elder leader form the rural. There is a culture that people and the priest impart the food to God. Although a small village, it has own medical and the economic.



【My speech】

On this report, I don't introduce about Thai national heritage because you can search and study about it on the internet easily. Instead of that, I will show you the part of my speech about what I learned from the tour, which I presented to every participant on the last day reflection session of this AAA-CU Study Tour.

In this tour, I learned three things.

First, about Thailand. Few years ago, there were flood damages in this country. But now, the city is very clean and the people are happy. In this country everyone knows about the flood damaged to the environment and the agriculture industry and every one hope to improve this country. I learned this from the professor's lectures. ... In addition, everyone from another country knows how to adopt because everything has an English explanation or translation. But not in Japan. We have to modify Japan country so that everyone can come and adapt to Japan more conveniently.

Second, about Japan. I learned that Japan has many things. And to tell the truth, due to the very high price of everything we can't buy a lot of things like we can do in Thailand. However, it's also true that we can get everything only if I have money. So, I hope that Japanese people will use everything more efficiently so that we can contribute something to the other country. ...

Finally, about everyone. ... I have learn about all of your personality which are very friendly, so active, positive mind, and very passionate in everything. ... And so, my conviction about the importance of a good characteristic in every person personality, are finally confirmed. ...

And for that I'm truly deeply grateful to all of you for this precious experience. Thank you so much, thank you, thank you.