

International internship program in Thailand

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Mie University

A faculty of Bioresources

Undergraduate 3rd grade

Yuki Kosaka

1. My reason and purpose of participation in internship

In the beginning, I'd like to introduce the reason that I participated in internship program. I thought that I wanted to stay in other country only by myself during university student. And also, I was interested in putting myself in the situation that I can't use Japanese at all. Then, my professor gave me information of internship program in Thailand and I decided to participate.

My purpose of internship is to learn agricultural and fishery products, and Japanese foods in Thailand. Japan exports for Thailand many agricultural and fishery product. For example, tuna, skin of pig, and sardines("saba"). Japanese government tries to increase amount of export product for Asia. So, I wanted to see the situation and know how foreign people and think about Japanese food and culture.

2. About Thailand

Next, I'm going to introduce about Thailand. Table1 is basic information of Thailand. Especially, The number of tourists from Thailand to Japan is increasing and it's No. 6¹⁾at the world ranking.

Table2 shows land use ratio. There are vast farm field in Thailand more than Japan(4 times in Japan). Table3 remind us of that the first industry is prosperous in Thailand.

Area	513,115km ² (2012)
Population	64,460,000 people(2012)
Religion	Theravada Buddhism(93.9%)
Rate	1burht=3.68yen(2015.March)
Minimum wage	300B in a day(2013)
Tourists from Thailand to Japan	330,600 people(2014.March)

Table1: basic information of Thailand

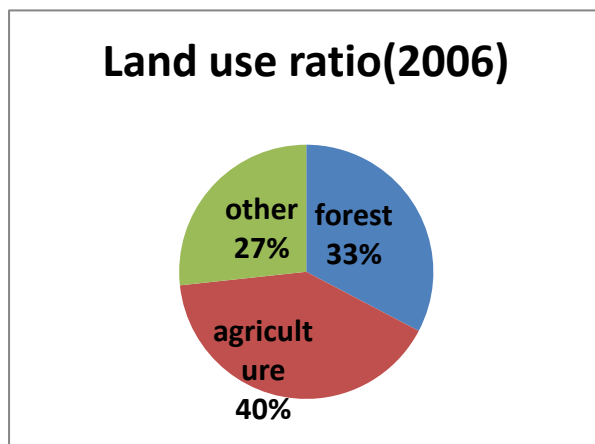


Table2: land use ratio

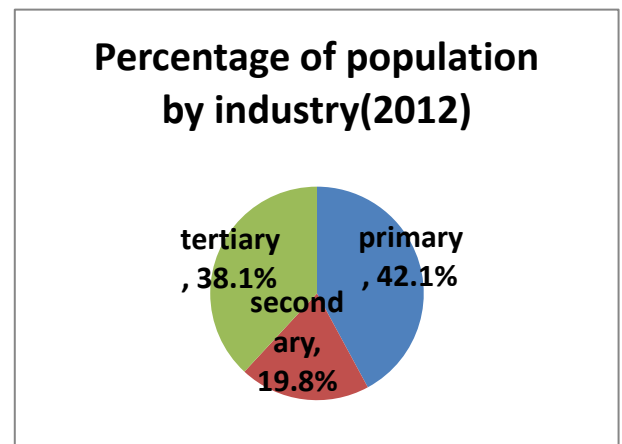


Table3: Percentage of population by industry

1) <http://yindeed.asia/2014-thai-tourists-visited-japan>

Table1)JETRO HP <http://www.jetro.go.jp/world/gtir/2014/pdf/2014-th.pdf>

Table2)JETRO HP

<https://www.jetro.go.jp/jfile/report/07000165/honbun.pdf#search='%E3%82%BF%E3%82%A4+%E5%9C%9F%E5%9C%B0%E5%88%A9%E7%94%A8+%E8%BE%B2%E5%9C%B0'>

Table3) TEIKOKU SHOIN HP

<https://www.teikokushoin.co.jp/statistics/world/index05.html>

3. My lifestyle in Thailand

- **My campus**

Kasetsart University has four campuses and more than 20 faculties. The campus which I stayed at was Kamphaeng Sean campus. It's about 80km from Bangkok. This campus has many useful facilities. For example, bank, post office, book store, cooperative store, and so on. There are several convenience stores, restaurants and cafeterias too. So, students can live if they don't go out of campus.

- **My dormitory**

I stayed at international dormitory in campus. The building which I stayed at was next to main dormitory. The room was for 1 person and there were several shelves, refrigerator, shower and toilet for each person. Though wi-fi was unavailable, Internet through wire was available but I didn't bring my notebook computer. So when I want to see website or check E-mail, I went to go to lobby of main dormitory or faculty building.

- **My daily life**

Thai students were very friendly and kind to me. They invited me to meal almost everyday. So, I tried consciously to communicate positively and cheerfully with them. And they taught Thai language and Thai word for me. I tried to refer to my Thai dictionary many times to check myself too. A part of my close friends also had obtained Japanese and Thai dictionary. We could enjoy conversation each other.

On the other hand, there were many festivals in the university so I could have relation with many students and strengthen the friendship. Especially, sports festival was very excited and funny. The team was composed of faculty members regardless of school year. Cheering was the most interesting for me. It was what they sang cheering song with dancing or beating a drum. I enjoyed dance very much with them.

7:00	Get up
8:00	Have breakfast with my friends in cafeteria in campus
9:00~16:00	Activity
17:00	Go shopping in market in campus
19:00	Have dinner with my friends
23:00	Go to sleep

Table4. My schedule in a day (example)

4. Activity① Field practice in campus

Kamphaeng Saen Campus has many and vast research field. So I could learn and watch process of production of many kinds of food.

- Faculty of Animal science

I had activity of animal science for 3 days. I visited several farms with students. After that, I made pudding by goat milk and worked in milk factory. I learned how to pasteurize. Furthermore, I saw cow was killed. There four procedures mainly.

- 1) They sprinkle water to a cow the reason why they can relax.
- 2) They shoot with stun gun and they let them to be sleep
- 3) They cut head
- 4) They remove skin and it will be used for cloth.



Cow farm in campus



Making Pudding by goat milk

- **Faculty of Fishery**

In faculty of fishery, I learn about cultivation of Tilapia. Tilapia is a kind of representative freshwater fish in Thailand. Thai people like freshwater fish. Tilapia lays eggs from their mouth and I tried to put out eggs from their mouth. The way is to hand their head and shake them body for the lower direction.



Cultivation field of Tilapia

On the other hand, I went to Suriracha Fisheries Research Station, facility of Kasetsart University. It's apart from Kamphaeng Saen Campus and it takes about 4 hour from the campus. I could learn about marine fish and products there. I saw cultivation field of yellow-tailed anemone fish. Besides, I met Japanese business person who has started to try business for cultivation system of shrimp in Thailand. I helped him to communication

with Thai farmer of shrimp in English and I could watch his business tactics from close to him.

5. Activity② Research for Japanese food in Thailand

● Supermarket

I went to usual Thai supermarket and Japanese supermarket “Maxvalu”. There are many Japanese processed foods. But the majority was made by Thai company, about 70%. I think that about 15% was made by Japanese company and another 15% was made by Chinese, Malaysia and so on.



Japanese frozen foods



Japonica rice made by Thai company

● Department store

I went to Isetan in Bangkok. They sell high-grade Japanese fruits and vegetables. The prices were more expensive than Japanese price.



These fruits were made in Japan



These pairs were made in Tochigi

- **Japanese restaurant in Thailand , interview Japanese manager**

Japanese restaurant is popular in Thailand and the number is 2,126 (2014. June JETRO). The rank of the number of Japanese restaurant is 7 in the world. I went to 6 Japanese restaurants in total in Thailand. Their names are Uta-andon, Sakura-saku, Yayoi, Jojo-en, Wasabi and Koraku-en.

I thought that I wanted to interview with Japanese restaurant. In order to realize it, I tried to get appointment with Japanese restaurant in Bangkok. I researched and called about 15 restaurants all by myself. Almost all of the restaurants' clerk couldn't speak Japanese and they didn't seem to willing to speak English. It seemed to be very difficult. But, at last, I could get appointment with a Japanese restaurant. By chance, the manager of the

restaurant was Japanese and his hometown was Mie. He welcomed me kindly, so I felt relieved.

The restaurant serves many kinds of Japanese dish. A part of popular menu are Sukiyaki, Tonteki, and Sashimi. He said that Japanese restaurant is too many. The competition is severe. When his restaurant management troubled, he used FNS and advertising agency. After that, the number of customer increased.

I could hear many things from him, but I can't state all things so I'd like to introduce three things which he pays attention to.

First, he observe the circumstances of politics, economy and law because it has concern with the restaurant business surprisingly.

Second, he makes it a rule to stay in his restaurant. He thinks that it is relief for customer that Japanese manager always stay in restaurant. He knows that there is restaurant at which Japanese manager succeeded in business but failed in business after he didn't appear everyday at his restaurant gradually.

Third, He makes an effort to meet each customer's needs. For example, he ask Japanese customer where they come from, he cook with the taste of them

hometown. In fact, the taste of Miso and Ozoni is different according to the area in Japan. I'm sure that his restaurant is restoration of serenity looks like hometown for Japanese people who works in Thailand.



Uta-andon(in Isetan, Bangkok)



Koraku-en(in Suriracha)

6. Conclusion

I had precious and wonderful experience thanks to many people in Kasetsart University and Mie University during this internship. If it were not support of many teachers and students, I couldn't have done anything else in Thailand. Then, I could communicate with Thai people by my not good English. In Japan, I was afraid to use English and talk with international students in my university or my international dormitory which I always stay. But I could notice that if I have a strong and thought that I want to tell my feeling, I can enjoy communication with foreign people. Besides, Thai people were very kind to me and helped me with nice smile and warm heart without

afraid of me. So I decided to be kind and smile for international students in Japan.

In the future, I want to be a Japanese government officer and I would like to make benefit or kindness among Thailand, Japan, and other country. So, I think that I have to learn more about Thailand and other country and visit there.