

Essay1 <June 20 afternoon> ASEAN: Origin, evolution, and economy

This First-class tells about the overall of ASEAN, ASEAN Economic Community (AEC), and ASEAN Economy. We start with a short brief history of ASEAN countries. All ASEAN members except Thailand were former colonies of western, so each country in ASEAN has a different independence period between 1945 and 1984. The first country is the Philippines which declared independence from Spain and then other countries continue the fight for their freedom and declared independence from their colonial. After that time, the Cold War era in SEA was started from Russia which is a tension between the US and the Soviet Union with China joining. it causes the domino effect and during the second Indochina war, ASEAN was establishment in 1967 which have only 5 origins: Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, and the Philippines because the US tries to use containment of communism and the creation of ASEAN was also motivated by a fear of communism. As set out the Bangkok Declaration, the goals and purposes of ASEAN are to promote regional cooperation and to ensure stability. After the third Indochina War between 1978 and 1991 and the Cold War period, CLMV countries started and introduced gradual economic reforms. Becoming the phase of economic integration in SEA, ASEAN wants to create the free trade area so ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) agreement has been established for supporting local trade and manufacturing among ASEAN countries and try to compete effectively for global markets and international investment as well. The main reasons of AFTA seek to increase competitive edge by being a production base in the world market through the tariff reduction or non-tariff barriers because they try to produce the product in the low cost to improve consumer surplus and welfare and to attract more Foreign direct investment (FDI) from external sources and within the ASEAN to ASEAN. This will make the flow of funds and the

flow of investment into the ASEAN countries, so they can use this fund or financial money to create a new technology or open the factories. For example, Thailand has a lower cost of labor than the US or the foreign countries, therefore it will attract them to come and invest in our country and right now Vietnam has a cheaper cost rate of labor than Thailand, so it is more attractiveness to invest the capital in Vietnam. Toward the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC), they try to concern over the weakened ability of ASEAN countries and try to close the development gap between the core (ASEAN6) and CLMV countries in infrastructure and human resources. Extra-ASEAN FTA is ASEAN free trade with other countries such as China, Korean, Japan, India, Australia, and New Zealand. From the data of the world economic outlook, we can see that ASEAN has experienced rapid growth and relative stability since 2000 and the GDP growth volatility of ASEAN between 2000 and 2013 is only 1.5%. It is a good number because of the lower volatility, the better the stability. it is interesting that the ASEAN economy has an increase in GDP per capita and the ASEAN population is the third-largest in the world. They also are the second-highest source of total FDI inflows to ASEAN. From the GDP share by main economic sectors (%) in 2005-2017, it makes my awareness of the agriculture sector because the percentage in the agriculture sector continues to decrease every year.

Essay2 <June 21 morning> Cambodia economy

In this class, we have Guest speaker from Cambodia came to talk about Bilateral relations between Cambodia and Thailand. Firstly, Cambodia Government is now Constitutional Monarchy under a Multiparty Democracy. There is Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah bat Norodom Sihamoni who is the king of Cambodia and Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN SEN who is the Prime Minister. In 2019, the population in Cambodia is about 16.28 million and more than half of the population is under 25 years old, so the number of workforce increases and received a good education to learn and work with global companies. From the government sector of Cambodia, GDP per capita from 2017 to 2019 has an increasing rate so the overall of Cambodia economy has steadily grown around 7% per year and is the sixth fastest-growing economy in the world. Both Thailand and Cambodia have a close relationship and excellent relations in all fields. We are also the similarity in culture, traditions, and religion. Moreover, we exchange official visits at all levels such as royal visits, Top leaders visits, and people to people. In Bilateral Mechanisms, there are Joint Commission on bilateral cooperation (JC) such as economic, social, culture, education, tourism, etc and General Border Committee (GBC) which is the meeting between minister of defense of both countries in order to describe the stability of both countries. If we look at the number of Thai tourists visit Cambodia, we can see that there are not a lot of Thai people went to Cambodia while the number of Cambodia people is higher visit Thailand for tourist, shopping, and medical check-up than Thai tourist visit Cambodia because Cambodian think that the goods in Thailand are cheap and some services are better than those in Cambodia. From the bilateral trading data that we receive, the amount of import from Thailand is high but less amount of export. Therefore, it means Cambodian use a lot

of product that made from Thailand. In addition, Thai businesses also invest in Cambodia and achieved profits, For example, Amazon's coffee cafe is very popular in Cambodia just like Starbuck in Thailand. Move to Education cooperation and labor cooperation, the Thai government provides the scholarship for both officials and students. There is a large amount of Cambodian work in Thailand in order to escape poverty and political conflict, so this will make illegal workers that cause both negative and positive effect in Thai economic. I partly agree that Thailand has a good relationship in some part but we still have conflict in some parts on illegal labor and others as well. She makes me think about the future that Thailand becomes the country of elderly people. The number of labor gradually decreases that will give a negative effect on our country and Cambodian is the important labor of Thailand as well.