

EE361 ECONOMICS OF CLMV COUNTRIES
Semester 2/2020 (9 August – 27 November 2021)

Issue Paper

A. Objective and Topic

1. The objective of the issue paper is to hone students' skills in critically assessing the contents of an article in a reputable journal or magazine and provide student insights on the merits and shortcomings of the article based on students' knowledge gained from the course.

2. The article¹ should be recent (not more than 2 years old). It will need to discuss an issue in any of the key development sectors (agriculture, health, education, transport, urban development, trade) or cross-cutting areas (environment, climate change, gender, governance) in one of the CLMV countries. The table below may guide you in selecting the topic you would like to choose and in choosing the preferred article.

Guide to choose topic for write-up (choose 1 box)*

	Cambodia	Lao PDR	Myanmar	Viet Nam
Agriculture				
Health				
Education				
Urban Development				
Transport				
Trade				
Environment				
Gender				
Climate Change				

* In this example, the student chooses urban development in Lao PDR as the topic

3. Therefore a student can choose a topic such as agricultural transformation in Viet Nam or lower secondary education in Cambodia, development of road transportation in Lao PDR, or climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts in Myanmar, for example.

4. Once the student has decided on the topic and located the actual article, please send the copy of the article to my e-mail below. Once the article is approved students may proceed with the write-up.

januar_be@econ.tu.ac.th with the subject: EE361_article

B. Structure and Format

5. The structure of the write-up is as follows: (i) a discussion of the main ideas, (ii) a critique on the merits and shortcomings of the article (ii) a discussion of how the article relates to the course.

¹ Some examples of journals: Journal of Southeast Asian Studies, Journal of Development Economics; example of magazines : The Economist, Time, Newsweek, Atlantic Monthly; example of newspaper: Wall Street Journal, The Bangkok Post. The article should be recent, not more than 2 years old.

6. The following format will apply (important, please make sure students understand this requirement):

- Typed in Arial 11 point with left and right justifications
- Line spacing at 1.5
- Length of writeup minimum 3 pages, maximum 4 pages
- Margins: 1.00" (left, right, up, down)
- Provide page numbering

7. Note that it is important to follow the format provided; if not followed, points will be deducted from the overall score.

C. Correspondence and Review

8. Students are welcome to submit the draft writeup (in either Word) for feedback and comments through e-mail. To ensure that I do not miss any e-mails, please put the following in the subject of your e-mail:

Subject: EE361_feedback

D. Submission

9. Submission is due at the last day of class, which is **27 November 2021** in pdf format. In the e-mail submission of the final write-up please put the following in the subject of your e-mail:

Subject: EE361_final article

E. Evaluation

10. The final will be based on the following criteria:

- Relevance with course objective and content
- Overall presentation (compliance with structure and format, page numbering, use of headings)
- Analysis and student's insights
- Mechanics and flow (use of punctuations, transitions grammar, flow of logic)
- Completeness (use of data/charts/graphs, discussion of background, key issues, merits and shortcomings, and conclusion)

ARTICLE REVIEW

Article : [Title of article, date published and source]

Name/ID Number : [Your Name, ID number]

Background

- *Explain what the topic is about* (example: urban development in Lao PDR: (example: cities in Lao PDR are growing rapidly with increased foreign aid, development of hydropower projects and rural-urban migration.
- *Why is the topic important?* (Example: Since Lao PDR is a landlocked country, development of urban areas is important because they serve as markets for the surrounding rural areas and play important role as links to the outside world. Therefore Lao PDR cities will need to be competitive, liveable, and sustain their economic growth.

Key Issues Discussed

- *What are the key issues/ideas discussed?* (Example: Provision of physical infrastructure such as roads, water supply, and electricity is lagging behind. Furthermore the human and institutional capacity to manage cities is lagging. There is a need for more investments in physical infrastructure and human capacity development.
- *What are proposed suggestions to address the issues:* (Example: Government has therefore to embark on policies to attract foreign investment and prioritize training for city officials, while at the same time pursue a more balanced rural and urban development strategy).
- *What did the article conclude?* (Example: Urban areas play an important role in Lao PDR's economic development. Government will need to focus its efforts to attract foreign investments, pursue a national strategy in balancing rural and urban growth)

Merits and Shortcomings of the Article

- What were the strengths of the article? [was the article relevant? was it timely? were the facts correct? did the article present options? Were the issues/challenges

spelled out well? was the link between the issues and proposed actions clear? was the methodology/approach appropriate? did the conclusion flow from the main text?

- What were the weaknesses?

How the Article Relates to the Course

- Explain what you have learned from the course [*in this case discuss what the main issues in urban development are, particularly as it applies to lao PDR*]
- Indicate the usefulness of the article in enhancing your understanding of the issue [*in this case whether it reinforced/complemented your knowledge of the issue/country or whether it was contradictory to what you have learned*]
- Indicate what you have learned from the article [*was it useful, if yes, how?*]