

Reaction essay (K.Pariwat(BOT))

According to the lecture from our special guest K.Pariwat who was talking and giving knowledge about Economic Integration specifically in ASEAN both in terms of theory and practical, which will be discussed below.

First and foremost, he defines ASEAN economic integration in two terms which are in theory and in practice. Starting with the theory, the key elements of economic integration are called “four freedoms”, which are free movements of goods, free movement of labor, free movements of capital and free movements of services and investment :where the more freedom we have, the more integration we have. Consequently, there are levels of economic integration in which ASEAN lies on the first at free trade but we aim for the common market which is the third following with the economic union which is the EU and the biggest one the political union, the United States. Anyway, there is an interesting fact that ASEAN used to have only 5 countries which are Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand back in 1967 since the first establishment.

In terms of practice, cross-border trade in goods is one of the topics mainly discussed in this part. Some examples of the border trade product is rice which exports the most from Thai to Lao. Evenmore, our country trades the most with our neighbor which is Malaysia. Now talking about the barrier to trade, there is generally none, zero tariffs. It is interesting to say that normally those foreigners who are our friendly neighbors like Myanmar, Lao, Cambodia, they usually come to work in our country as a one day trip like come to work in the morning and go back home in the evening everyday in our border city. Back in 2013, the most movement of people were from Myanmar to Thai. So as mentioned earlier that those workers come back and

forth to our country, now that we have COVID-19, those numbers are going to be ridiculously low as each country closes the border.

In conclusion, there is more information which I have got from our special guest but I have put in this reaction essay for the one that I am interested in and new things that I have never heard of which is fact and reliable.

Reaction essay (Aj.Kiriya)

From the lecture of our special guest, Aj.Kiriya, the topic that was mainly talked about is the COVID-19 and labor. According to this pandemic, it costs more than just lives but it affects everything especially economic leading to unemployment and poverty which will be explained later in the passage.

It is obvious to say when we are looking at the economy, first and foremost, the tourism is one of the factors the boost our economy the most in Thailand but without that, it really have an impact on our economy down and most of the business can not run so they have to close down their business or even lose the foreigner customers in some cases etc. As we consider the numbers, the unemployment rates are expected to be at 12 millions from 7 millions this year in Thailand. Now talking about the number of poverty, since before the disease it is wholly 26% but after the first month of crisis it rose to 59% which is more than 2 times. According to other special guests, the tour guide from Chiang Mai who experienced this disease in reality, there are more than 82,000 tour guides who lost their jobs and became unemployed immediately after the spread of the pandemic.

When it comes to conclusion, as we all have to face and experience this hard time even though we all do not know that it is going to happen this worse but as we need to move on in our life, we need to develop and adapt ourselves just like what our tour guide said. If we stop and are desperate about the things that happen, we cannot develop. It is just another challenge in our life to surpass. Once we achieve it, everything else is going to be just a storm in the cup.

