

Class : CLMVT Strategy

Nowadays, CLMVT become one of the group that many countries are interested since the GDP growth rate of those CLMVT countries are very high especially Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam and Myanmar which GDP growth are around 6-7%. Economic structure of these countries also shift toward service sector. Most of export are intra-CLMV such as mobile phone, footwear, computer, etc. Foreign Direct Investment trend has change from Joint-venture to Merger and Acquisition (M&A) and most of investors want to control whole supply chain. Moreover, many economic activities started to be controlled by those new technologies.

There are four main issue for cooperation which are security issue (ex. logistic security), economic issue, social issue (ex. education or healthcare problems) ,and sustainable development (ex. effect on environment). There are 7 challenges that might face in the future. First one is Geopolitical stability and regional relationship. Second is Governance changes for business. Third one is New business model since many companies are disrupted by disruptive innovation so they have to change their business model. Fifth challenge is inclusive growth and sustainable development. The sixth and seventh are Regional digital economy and Economic integration.

She also mentioned about Thailand Strategies which are advantages that Thailand has, which are Strategic location (located at the center of ASEAN), Political stability, Economic policies (has 20-years economic plan) , Infrastructure and Skilled labour. Nowadays, Vietnam becomes the destination of FDI. Foreign investors favor Vietnam in many factors, for example, Vietnam has a political stability that creates confidence to investor. Vietnam also has high economic growth at about 6%. Moreover, Vietnam has high labour forces with low minimum wage. I think that the labour factor is different from

Thailand since Thai minimum wage is high plus Thailand faces aging society so Thailand has lower labour force. Therefore, many factories change their production bases from Thailand to Vietnam.

For this class, there are some facts that are new for me such as new trends of foreign direct investment. I thought that investors will get input from many countries to diversify the risk when one country cannot supply, investor can get input from another country. But now, investors prefer the whole supply chain to be in one country. For Thailand strategies, I quite agree with that these five points for Thailand strategies, even if there are some conflict in politics but Thailand politics is more stability comparing with other CLMV countries

Class : Introduction to Contemporary Myanmar: Politics, Society and Culture

Myanmar used to be British colonial. There are three main war between Myanmar and Britain: in 1815, 1850 and 1885, and most were trade conflict since Britain wanted resources from Myanmar. Thakin was a group that like a hero in Myanmar and the leader was assassination of General Aung San (Aung San Suu Kyi's father). After Myanmar was independent in 1947, he became the leader of the country. Since 1948, Myanmar did not have the real stability because there was a ethnic conflict in Myanmar therefore in 1962, Myanmar had to change from democracy to military controled. Myanmar is a socialism country that use Buddhism as a base of management. With this, monks play a big role in politics from past to present.

When time past, Myanmar faced a economic crisis since instread of let economist manage the economy, military did this job. In 1988, there was a protest about that military could not solve the economic problem. During that time, Aung San Suu Kyi came to Myanmar to visit her parents and with the protest group did not have leader yet, so they let Suu Kyi became a leader of the protest group. This fight had been for more than ten years. After 2008, there was a massive reform. Myanmar has new constitution and had a first election after 1990. In 2010, Aung San Suu Kyi was released. However, Suu Kyi can not be the prime minister of Myanmar due to the regulation that has been set by the military.

After the big reformatio in Myanmar, the Human development index (HDI) also improve. The trade also increase especially garment sector which has China as the main buyer. FDI also increase too. China invests on constriction and natural resources. Singapore invests in hotel and airline sector. Myanmar can get the technology and knowlegde from these investmant to develop itself.

This lecture made me understand more about Myanmar in the different aspect from other lecture since this lecture mainly about the politics and society. If I did not study this class, I would think that Myanmar has stable politics. Almost all of information I had never known before such as the fact that Aung San Suu Kyi accidentally became a leader of a protest group or about that democracy create instability in Myanmar instead of military. Another thing that also surprises me is that monks played a big role in politics. Monk was one of the groups that also joined many protest in Myanmar. They are the main group that made Myanmar became independent. This is very different to Thailand since Thai monk will not participate in politics since it is a offence in Thai Buddhism.

Class : ASEAN integration and border trade/ China & CLMV

The morning lecture, ASEAN Integration and Border Trade, was mainly about the ideal ASEAN and the real ASEAN. In reality, ASEAN is the most diverse economic group on the world such as income gap, the population and market gap, or the development stages. The lecturer divided the ASEAN integration into 5 areas : Goods, Services, Investments, Labour and Capital. For Goods, the main goal is to eliminate import/export tariff among ASEAN but even if there is zero tariff, many ASEAN countries still impose non-tariff barriers. Logistic also obstructs the trade since some countries are island countries. These countries pay higher shipping cost than those peninsular ASEAN countries. For services the goal is to gradual relaxation of ASEAN foreign ownership in service according to schedule (target 70%). Many ASEAN countries still set the maximum equity for foreign quite low such as Philippines (40%) or Thailand (49%), while Singapore and Malaysia have done very well to 50-70%. For investment, instead of invest within ASEAN, the main issue is that most of investments in ASEAN are not from ASEAN but from Japan or South Korea. For labour, MRA signed for 8 professions to move freely in ASEAN but some regulation make those professionals can not work in other countries. On the other hand, from 1.43 million ASEAN labour force in Thailand, there is only 390 of them are from 8 professions. Last area is capital which cannot be freely flow across countries since they afraid of speculation or afraid of financial crisis. BOT solves the problem by using Cross-Border Remittance Ecosystem which can transfer money by using mobile number and no need bank account.

I really like this morning class since lecturer made us understand more about the real ASEAN. Even if I had been to Vietnam and Laos but within 7 days, I cannot capture all details. For example, the fact about the 8 professions regulation, before class I think those 8 professions workers can move and work freely among ASEAN without any regulation but in

the reality they need certificate from the country that they go. Another thing is the target percentage of foreign equity in the host country is 70% which I think it a bit too high since it means that the host country cannot control.

Afternoon lecture is mainly about China. There are two events in the past that made Chinese people move to Thailand which are The Great Leap Forward and The Culture Revolution. In the modern China, government did the economic reformation. After those two events, there were many people died so government imposed policy to encourage people to have children. Also, government privatized many sectors in China. Lecturer also talked about why US hate China. there are many reason such as top 500 companies change from US companies to Chinese companies. China has many new innovation on their own. In the e-commerce industry, there are 2 big Chinese firm : Alibaba and JD.com. Chinese government also has lots of power to control their people. First policy is Household Registration System which used for classify people into classes depend on their hometown. Second is Social Credit System which is similar to behavior score in the school and last one is Media Censorship. I think that Chinese government have to do like this because there are too many people for them to control. If they do not use their power like this, it might create some instability to China. Nowadays, China has a big role in CLMV in term of being a buyer, supplier and investor for CLMV. For example, Chinese investor had invest in Myanmar in infrastructure.

For the China lecture, about the Social Credit system, I think if we think carefully, we will see that this system affects people privacy since it will monitor people everywhere they go and everything they do. However, I think the privacy issue is not a big problem for Asian people see the narrators said that on one has complain about this or may be they afraid of the government.

Class : Urbanization in CLMV

Nowadays, Regional trends is to create more connectivity, cooperation and communication in the region. There are five main factors that drive the urban growth which are Government policies and strategies, Regional cooperation, Infrastructure, Foreign Investment and Rural-urban migration.

For Cambodia, it has achieved lower middle income country in 2016. Poverty rate also decreased to 20% and many FDI from China, South Korea and Japan. 90% of population live on 40% of land since there are many mountains in Cambodia. Main economic sectors are garment, tourism, agriculture, and construction. Challenges are climate change and natural disasters, political situation that Hun Sen is a prime minister for more than 30 years.

Laos had opened country in the late 1990s. Since Laos is a landlocked country, government tries to transform Laos from landlocked to land-linked country. I think Laos has an advantage to be a land-linked country because Laos located at the middle of ASEAN peninsular and has border with many countries, not only ASEAN country but also China too. However, there still be some problem in Laos such as low population and less infrastructure investment in small city.

Myanmar is one of the slowest development in ASEAN since it has been emerged from not many years. On the other hand, Myanmar is a resource-rich country therefore most of sectors are related to natural resources such as gases, mining or selling forestry products. As I have mentioned that Myanmar does not develop that much so Myanmar still need many improvement in infrastructure, human capital. Also, Myanmar has to solve to ethnic conflict in the country so Myanmar is not that stable. I had learnt that transform from communist to democracy make it becomes easy for those ethnic to create conflict. I think that this might be because people in Myanmar do not clearly understand about democracy.

Vietnam impose Doi Moi (economic reformation) to decentralied the country. This leads to high economic growth in Vietnam. Doi Moi makes Vietnam become liberlized so there many many FDI to Vietnam which make Vietnam develop in term of new innovation, knowledge and labours' skills. Moreover, Vietnam has higher middle aged population than other CLMV so most of FDI flow to Vietnam. However, Vietnam still has a wide socio-economic gaps which is challenging for Vietnam.

In my opinion, the main factor that drive urbanization in CLMV countries is foreign direct investment since all country started from open their country and then other countries come and invest. Investors invest in infrastructure, manufacture, energy sector or even human capital development still rey on investor. From my experience in Laos, at Savan-Seno SEZ, the staff said that they have no plan for labour training. They said that it is a investor's role to train employee. On the other hand, FDI in my opinion does not always bad for the host country since I think FDI is the fastest way to make country urbanized since they do not to do any reseach or try by themseleve so there is not much cost for the host country.