



Essay #1 Week 3 1<sup>st</sup> July: BOT and CLMV connectivity

Firstly, talking about CLMV are frontier market with the highest growth. All CLMV countries mostly trading at bordered provinces. So, almost every country in CLMV have bordered. Even though, Vietnam has no bordered but still have the trade through Cambodia. Another Fact is Vietnam is the largest country in CLMV in term of GDP and population while Lao PDR is the smallest country. More facts, CLMV's economic development policy is stable due to their political stability, the Higher degree of openness, esp. Vietnam, leads to higher export and economic growth. Narrow economic diversification in CLM not including Vietnam because right now Vietnam growing annually and welcoming FDI for like every investor can invest in Vietnam. Also, Vietnam could compare with China in couple of decades ago due to the economic growth, GDP, GDP per capita and pollution as well. Currently, Vietnam has the lowest share of border trade compared with CLM countries due to more FDI and other treaties. Moreover, CLMV are popular destinations for Thai investors because right now CLMV are growing around 7% annually. Myanmar just opened the country as well. Therefore, Myanmar has lots of growth and the potential to invest in the banking system. Because right now Myanmar has only 1 branch which is BBL. So, investors may be interested in Myanmar to give or to invest more licenses of the bank to this country.

In my point of view, we may invest more in the banking system in Myanmar and Vietnam due to fewer branches and also the countries are growing steadily. Also, this year Thailand chair ASEAN 2019 under the theme of "Advancing Partnership for Sustainability". Therefore, it's our chance to enhanced connectivity, for example, promote the use of local currency and also encourage more about cross-border retail payment linkages. Moreover, this year ASEAN Chair and Co-chair of ASEAN+3 are using strategic objective to enhance economic growth.



## Essay #2 Week 3 3<sup>rd</sup> July: SDGs

Sustainability focuses on meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. The concept is composed of three pillars which are Society, Economy, and Environment. The ideal global goals composed of 17 goals which are No Poverty, Zero Hunger, Good Health and well-being, Quality Education, and Gender equality these first five goals are considered in “People”. Affordable and clean energy, Decent work and econ growth, Industry Innovation and Infrastructure, Reduced inequality, and Sustainable cities and communities these are considered in “Prosperity”. Clean water, Responsible Consumption and Production, Climate action, Life below water, and Life on land considered in “Planet”. Peace and Justice strong Institutions considered in “Peace”. And the last one Partnerships for the goal considered in “Partnership”. These all categories called the 5 Ps of the SDGs.

In the class, we discussed in the group about SDGs and my group discussing SDGs in Cambodia. We looking for linkages between each dimension and finding papers of these 17 goals. For example, the Poverty problem could possibly relieve by the Garment industry that leads to more employment and the reduction in Poverty. Also, the 7<sup>th</sup> SDG – Renewable energy policies for sustainable development in Cambodia. Considering the existing government policy of enabling 70% of rural households to reach reliable electricity services by 2030. Moreover, we discussed “What will Thailand be in the next 10 years”. Using 3 pillars of sustainability, Economy – Politics may be the same in Thailand as we know, Poverty line will decrease, Treaties will be more with other countries, etc. Society side – LGBT will be more accepted, reduction of plastic bags usage, reduce the amount of traffic jam due to better public transportation etc. Environment – Pollution will be decreased due to more educated population

and also more technology, reduction in deforestation due to better innovation can substitute wood with other stuff, Better waste management, etc.

Hence, studying SDGs in my opinion, guiding me on how to or which sectors we need to improve, for example, better innovation or better technology for a better environment. Also, know the brief history of sustainability, for example, IPCC in 2007 before hamburger crisis.

### Essay #3 Week 3 4<sup>th</sup> July: East-West Economic Corridor

Lao PDR has 10 Special Economic Zones (SEZs), for example, Golden Triangle Special Economic Zone, Boten Beautiful Land Specific Economic Zone, etc. Most FDI in Laos from 1989 to 2014 are from China, Thailand, and Vietnam. Nowadays, Laos has lots of business opportunities including Construction, Tourism, Energy, Retail, Food and agriculture, Manufacturing for Export, and Logistics. Moreover, Thailand is currently exporting a lot to CLMV countries also investing a lot. About the ageing society, within the ASEAN region, we found that Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam were now defined as having an ageing population where 10% of the total population is now over 60 years old according to the UN definition. Therefore, Health care goods and services is another opportunity benefiting from this ageing society. Concerning technology, in the future maybe all unskilled work or even some skilled work may be replaced by technology. That may cause a problem or may be helping or improving our standard of living.

In class, we divided into 2 groups to do the research and try to show advantages of Laos and Vietnam. Of course, Vietnam is better than Laos in FDI, GDP, Area and population, attractive to investors almost everything Vietnam is better. But I did research about the advantages of Laos to debate with Vietnam. Even Laos is landlocked but Laos can do trade between bordered provinces and also exporting through land or air that use less time than seas. Also, Laos geographically are covering with mountains which can give Laos advantages about creating energy such as electricity which is created by using water and air turbines. That makes Laos the main country who exporting lots of energy to other countries including China, Thailand, Vietnam as well, etc. Hence, even Laos have lots of disadvantage to Vietnam but in my opinion, each country will have its own advantages that other country doesn't have it at all.



#### Essay #4 Week 3 5<sup>th</sup> July: Field Trip to Chonburi

We went to Thai-German Institute (TGI) the institute that aiming at improving workers. Also, improve human capital theoretically, practically, and education skills that workers could cooperate with technologies such as a robot or AI. TGI is a non-profit organization, only focusing on enhancing productivity through the learning session. Normally, only Medium and Large company only sent their worker here to learning new skills. I hope that in the future a small company will be invested in workers as well. This institute gets the machine or technology from Germany and also send Thai workers to Germany to improve skills and train more about technology. Unfortunately, Germany stop supporting Thailand due to Germany said Thailand is not that poor country right now.

In my point of view, this institute is giving Thailand opportunity to improve workers to prepare themselves in term of internet linkages and increase efficiency for Industry manufacturing 4.0 also TGI has efficiency in transferring advanced production technology to the Thai industrial sector. Moreover, only the company that have funds to invested in workers send their worker to TGI to improve. I hope SME will be more interested in worker investing as well.

In the afternoon, we went to Vidyasirimedhi institute of science and technology or VISTEC, researching university that emphasizes on high technology and science. In my opinion, this university very good design like western university and also give lots of opportunity for students who studying and researching. Fortunately, after a long day, I'm discussing with my friend about today technology that tracking our topic we interested or something we want to acquire it. That's quite scary and amazing at the same time. While we discussing, A guy named "Bill" walked to us and invited us to look at his work. He currently studying there and creating some innovation. It is the robot that created for tracking the broken pipes, for example, PTT has

a very long gas pipes, so this robot could track the pipe that was leaking and called for the engineers to fix the pipe. That can help a lot of man working because the pipes are around 100km long. Hence, using this new innovation could help engineer do work or repair easily. So, in my point of view VISTEC is very cool university and if I have a chance to study or create new innovation here may be awesome.