

Essay 1 (20/6/2019)

ASEAN is from Association of Southeast Asian Nations which there are 10 countries members. It's not the same as AEC which means ASEAN Economic Community. It's more focus on the economy in ASEAN countries. There is an ASEAN summit every 2 years and this year occurs in Thailand, fortunately I just read it before class. For the over all information about facts in ASEAN that I've learned in the beginning of the class, not surprisingly, Brunei has the lowest population among ASEAN countries, the highest income per capita is Singapore (in 2017), Laos PDR and Cambodia have the similar alphabet as Thailand. There are some interesting facts that I knew in class today which is Laos had the highest growth in 2017, 6.9%, since Laos is a developing country and Dao-Heuang Group is a very big company. They are the largest importer and retailer of duty free goods in Lao PDR and their coffee is really famous.

Move on to some history of ASEAN, the association had been created since 1967. Not long time, there was the Cold War, problem on political issue. The United States of America was thinking of the Domino effect, one country use "A" political system then other countries will also take "A" as a political system, and the US was afraid of Southeast Asia will apply the communist system. Then in 1967, there was Bangkok Declaration where five countries agree to establish the ASEAN. One of the big policies of ASEAN is creating the free trade area or AFTA. It aims to reduce the tariffs gradually in some product and in the recent year, there are some product that applied the zero-tariff. Due to the lower wage rate in some ASEAN countries, foreign countries interested in investment to lower their cost.

In 1998, the financial crisis occurred and after that, it was the rise of China and India so China is the main partner with ASEAN in both import and export, except the intra-trade, which I think that when doing the business with China, the traders will gain a lot because of the high population despite the trader only gain 1% of the market.

Essay 2 (21/6/2019)

Today I Cambodia guest speaker. Many things I agree with the lecturer but some information I have some comments. “Cambodia has the constitutional monarchy under a multiparty democracy” is what stated in the slide while in the real world, everyone knows it’s dictatorship and there is only one party in the government. The population in Cambodia is low and over 75% of them live in rural area. Moreover, more than half of population are teenagers and they’re working to survive. In the recent years, poverty and inequality rate are decreasing. Women were promoted in the government, the education system is continued to develop so the labors have more skills and get more job opportunities.

Since Cambodia opened their country in 1993 and have the first election, Cambodia and Thailand enjoyed the bilateral relations. The guest speaker said the number of Cambodian tourists visit Thailand is larger than Thai people visit Cambodia and I agree with that. The tourist attraction in Cambodia is Angkorwat which is hard to reach since it’s at the border so it maybe the only place that Thai people want to visit while in Thailand, Cambodian want not only traveling but the thing that they want is the medical issue. The medical fee in Cambodia is expensive when their cost of living is quite low so they come into Thailand to see the doctor with lower cost (public hospitals). Due to the long border with Cambodia, Thailand has several checkpoints to cross to Cambodia, both people and goods. The information says the amount of Cambodia export is much lower than Thailand. I think it’s because Cambodia has low population and didn’t allocate the resources efficiently. In addition, there are still a lot of corruption at the border. With my experience, there should be the certificate for Cambodia traders that give the quotas for the traders so when they export at the border, they should show the certificate. However, there are lots of Cambodian who do not have the certificate and export by corrupt the officers hence that could be one of the reasons why the number of export is low. After the increasing in investment in Cambodia by Thailand, there

is now the argument about the train between Poi Pet and Aranyaprathet that will make trading easier and the border and it's an advantage for both labor and businessman.