

**Reaction Essay**

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**July 1**

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***BOT and CLMV Connectivity***

For this day, the speaker is Khun Punpilas Ruangwisut who is deputy director of International Department Bank of Thailand. In the beginning, the speaker provide the basic economic data of CLMV countries. These countries' markets have high growth which Vietnam is the largest country in CLMV in term of GDP and population while Lao PDR is the smallest country. Moreover, the economic development policy is stable due to their political stability such as Aung San Sujee which is the winner of election of Myanmar causing the political stability while the military still holds a larger amount of power in the government. There are export-led growth with high degree of openness among CLMV countries, especially Vietnam. However, There are also narrow economic diversification and data limitation in term of macroeconomic analysis in CLMV. Laos is not participating in the IMF's e-GDDS or International Monetary Fund's General Data Dissemination System while Vietnam, Cambodia and Myanmar participating. For Thai investor, CLMV are popular destination, especially in Vietnam and Myanmar. There are many branch or subsidiary of Thai bank in Cambodia and Lao. The key factors that tighten relations between Thailand and CLMV are physical connectivity, economic, history, cultural exchange and religion (Buddhism). In the second part is the Bank of Thailand's regional connection plan. The connectivity is the part of the Bank of Thailand's 3-year Strategic Plan (2017-2019). Bank of Thailand's role mainly is to facilitate trade and investment in financial sector development. It would enhancing efficiency and increasing financial literacy and syncing regulations among regulators. Moreover, Bot have a role to promoting the connectivity of financial sector including local currency usage

with CLMV and ASEAN plus 3 or China, Korea and Japan. The benefit of using local currency are reduce the exposure to major currencies' volatility, lower the transaction and conversion costs, encourage making transaction through formal channel, especially for border trade and remittances, which in turn increase data for policy purpose etc.

Mostly, I agree to all vision of Bank of Thailand to promote the connectivity between Thai and CLMV countries. The most interesting part is to promote the usage of local currency with reduce the use of cash trade settlement and support the development of the domestic market by increasing demand and supply of local currencies and progressively support the direct quotation.



**July 3**

***Introduction to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)***

In the beginning of the class, the teacher question that why we need to be sustainable? The concept of this question is can we have better quality of life? And, what kind of world are we leaving for our children? So, the concept of sustainable development is the development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. There are two shades of green including weak sustainability and strong sustainability. The weak sustainability is to sustain society's consumption pattern which input can be varied and substitutable, and natural capital can be substituted by technological and financial capitals, while, strong sustainability's all cumulative negative externalities need to be eliminated in long-run and zero externalities in short-run and long-run. Later, teacher provide the bread history of sustainability which established since 1948 in in universal declaration of human rights. In September 2015, the Agenda 2030 was adopted by 193 UN member states which Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is a major part. The SDGs is a set of UN's development framework and goals which is also an indicators to review state of sustainability of the world, a region and a country. There are 17 goals of the SDGs which is No poverty, Zero hunger, Good health and well -being, Quality education, Gender equality, Affordable and clean energy, Decent work and economic growth, Industry, innovation and infrastructure, Reduced inequalities, Sustainable cities and communities, Responsible consumption and production, Climate action, Life below water, Life on land, Peace and Justice strong institution and the last one is Partnership for the goals. There also also 169 targets or sub-goals and 244 indicators. Thailand's SCG global index score is 73 which is high compare which

CLMV countries (Cambodia: 61.8, Lao PDR: 62, Myanmar 62.2, Vietnam 71.1). In the afternoon, teacher gave us the activity to find research articles in the past 10 years regarding Cambodia in the topic related to SDGs goals. I found the renewable and sustainable energy reviews about sustainable rural electrification using using rice husk biomass energy in Cambodia. Rice husk is locally abundant at almost free, with an amount over 9.3 million tons paddy rice in 2014 for total population of about 15 million people. The gasification or thermally generated electricity could help Cambodian people to reach electricity at the lost cost which satisfy 2 goals of SDGs; 7.Affordable and clean energy, 12.Responsible consumption and production.

I like the SDGs goals that could make the ideal goals that every people live in daily life with sustainability like no poverty or zero hunger. My favourite part is to find the research paper and discussion for CLMV countries, which I could analysis the data that satisfy SDGs goals.

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**Junly 4**

***East-West Economic Corridor***

It is very interesting that this day speaker is Amonthep Chawla, Ph.D. which is also B.E. alumni. He was providing the statistic and map data about east-west economic corridor. It's amazing to know that Vietnam have 313 Special Economic Zones or SZE's while Laos only have 10 SZE's (Thailand have 50 SZE's.). Vietnam has SZE's all over over the country which are stimuli of FDI. CLMV countries are the major partners to exports-imports from Thailand. And also, Thailand has an advantage to export petroleum products to CLMV such as in 2017, Thailand exported 260,682 bbl/days, while Myanmar and Indonesia advantages in natural gas. Thai plastic polymer and resin export to CLMVI also have a high growth. In Thailand, there are labor scarcity and the high minimum wage compare with CLMV countries. So, the outward FDI amounted 7.6 billion USD in 2016. The investment destinations are Cambodia especially in food industry and finance/insurance; Laos in construction and electricity industry, Myanmar in mining and Vietnam in food industry, computers, electronics and equipment. The amount of Thai firms outward foreign direct investment (OFDI) has continuously increased. In 2016, there are 198 firms investing abroad. After that he provide us about opportunity for each CLMV countries and separate the class into two group which represent as Laos and Vietnam respectively. A speaker would as himself as the investor who could choose either Laos or Vietnam as the investment destination.

Mostly, speaker providing us a demographic and geographic data including statistics. Moreover, I like the way of his engagement to student where he act as he is our brother or senior whether than a teacher or speaker because he's our faculty alumni. The most interesting part is the

debate. Despite the lower attraction in Laos, Laos representative group could bring some strong argument to fight with Vietnam data.

**EE551:Selected Topics in International Economics 1**

**EE561:Selected Topics in Development Economics 1**

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**July 5**

***Thai German Institute or TGI (Morning)***

We arrive at Thai German Institute main branch at Chonburi in the morning. It took time about two hours from Bangkok by bus. The speaker introduce the institute which was established by Thai and German government 22 years ago under the ministry of industry. The main goals for this institute is developed the human capital or labor to use the new technology efficiently in industrial sector including manufacturing sector. These skilled labor could use the technological machine which is not a soft skill such as management etc. There're 3 technological machine type that this institute provided. The first one is molding technology which they showed us the 20-million-baht metal molding machine. It's huge and complicate machine. The second technology is automation which could make industrial production line flows easily. It's including the robot which seem fantastic. The last one is maintenance which could increasing depreciation period. The institute have 180 staff including 80 teachers and 100 supporters. 99 percent of the student were sent by the industrial firms. The speaker also said that the normal education in Thailand couldn't make the skilled labor that appropriate with the firm. The institute could minimize the firm's training cost and acting as the stimuli for FDI.

It's very impressive there, especially the learning system which is a hard skill, unlike economic, which is a soft skill. Moreover, we couldn't see the robot in daily life much. These technology is the innovation that lead to maximise profit for industrial firm in the present and also in the future.

### ***Vidyasirimedhi Institute of Science and Technology (VISTEC) (Afternoon)***

In the afternoon we were raving at Vidyasirimedhi Institute of Science and Technology or VISTEC in Rayong. It is institution which aimed to be the Science and Technology comprehensive research university owned by PTT group. Its goals are outstanding faculty students and staff, frontier research and Thailand's leading university. It's an university that teaching only in master and Ph. degree. It regulated only 50 high grade of bachelor degree students from famous university in Thailand and the world for each year including full scholarship.

Later, the speaker talking about Eastern Economic Corridor or EEC which including Chachoengsao, Chonburi and Rayong area. The connectivity is the institute is placed in Wangchan Valley, Rayong which the speaker try to compare with Silicon Valley in California, USA. The institute would like to support in term of research and development in this Special Economic Zone.

The last session is instate tour which is big and beautiful. However, in my opinion, this institute is established for the purpose of minimize the cost of research and development for PTT group and friend. But, I like the way that the firm represent as they're innovation and eco-friendly firm like they try to build institute's community zone within the forest are or using eco-friendly design in institute.