

Essay 1 : 1 July

BOT and CLMV Connectivity

Geographically, Thailand shares the border with Cambodia, Laos, and Myanmar. So, according to the department of foreign trade, Bank of Thailand, in 2017, Thailand has the border trade with Laos up to 97%, Myanmar 79.4%, Cambodia 60%, and trade with Vietnam 14.2% by shipping through Laos. Thailand and CLMV countries share various common factor such as physical connectivity, economic, history and culture exchange which connect these countries together.

Thailand has a good location, surrounded by CLMV countries which Thailand can gain the benefit from lower the transaction cost in shipping, more convenient payment methods, and more opportunities to invest in other ASEAN countries. Bank of Thailand or BOT has facilitate and promote the connectivity of financial sector in international trade, border trade, portfolio investment, and foreign workers by promote the use of local currencies to use their own currency instead of Thai baht, initiate the cross-border supervision of financial institution, and moreover promote to use the QR code in cashless payment instead of using the cash. The use of QR code in payment is widespread in the city such as ‘too fast to sleep’, the 24 hours coffee shop and library where everyone can easily access, to buy drinks at the coffee corner, we have to pay by any other form of payment except cash. On the one hand, I agree with this company policy to turn into the cashless company, on the other hand, I disagree that this should be the option for the customer either to pay with cash or cashless. However, from my own experience, the local market located nearby my house have the QR code payment in every store but they still prefer cash. If the customer did not ask for

the QR code, sellers in the market will not offer this choice. The cashless payment is already easy to access but this should be more promoted to be widespread not only in the urban area but also rural area.

Essay 2 : 3 July

Introduction to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Sustainable Development Goals or SDGs has 17 goals to develop and sustain the environment around the society at the country level and global level that will reflect the long-term thinking among generations. The local sustainability issues such as food securities, education problem, deforestation or gender equality can lead to the global sustainability issue such as the gender equality problem can be lead to the role of leadership of women in the society, the legal support for lgbt couples where nowadays in many countries include Thailand, lgbt couples not have the same rights as male and female couples or the society admit lgbt but they still not have law and regulation to support them. SDGs has 3 pillars of sustainability, economy, environment and society where these 3 aspect should be linked between each other to see the positive and negative effect to every aspect.

Mostly, the Southeast Asia countries especially CLMVT countries have a similar SDGs status goal which are have some changes but still significantly remain the same. However, many countries try to localize the SDGs to the local people and the local context. The SDGs status in Thailand is 11.1% higher than the region average which rank as the 40th out of 162 countries of the global rank, Vietnam has 8.2% higher than the region average which rank as the 54th, Myanmar has 5.3% below the region average which rank as 110th, Laos has 5.6% below the average which rank as 111th, and Cambodia has 5.9% below the average which rank as 112th, this shows that the CLMVT especially Myanmar, Laos and Cambodia should concern more about environment around the society.

Essay 3 : 4 July

East-west Economic Corridor

CLMV countries have a lot of trade opportunities with foreign investors especially Thai investors because of the border trade, one belt one road initiative, low transaction cost, competitiveness among countries and tax negotiation.

At the afternoon class, we have a debate about where should foreign investors invest between Laos and Vietnam. In Laos, they have a lot of natural resources, cheap labor, have a connectivity to China by one belt one road project, tax negotiation with EU include the low tariff when export and the tax benefit, and one important factor is the stable political situation and government. Laos also has a lot of business opportunities for the investors such as the increasing trend of the number of tourists since 1995, the renewable energy; the hydropower, retail, and infrastructure investment. However, in Vietnam also attract the foreign investors with rapid economic growth, the advantage of a young workforce and low labor cost. Geographically, Vietnam is not a landlocked country, so, Vietnam has more opportunities to export either shipping by the sea with over 100 port or shipping by land with the one belt one road project from China which linked all countries in ASEAN and other countries or shipping by air. Vietnamese government supports the education for everybody in the country which will increase the skilled labor force for the country where over 60% of the population is in the working age and attract the investors to invest more. The Vietnamese government also negotiate the new free trade agreements and receive preferential tariff treatment with EU. Vietnam also develops in infrastructure and have a stable political situation. So, in my point of view, Vietnam is more attractive for foreign investors compared to Laos because of the

local business, business law and regulations, consumer behavior and the CSR activities (CSR: Corporate Social Responsibility)

Essay 4 : 5 July

Trip Reaction to Chonburi

Firstly, we visited Thai-German Institution or TGI which is a non-profit industry who do research and support about machine industry. This institution also give a lecture to the entrepreneur or the workers who want to learn more about machine and technology to upgrade their skills, this institution is not only research about new technology and further training to respond the change in industry but also teach how to maintain what we already had. The target group who study in this institution mostly the employee from the middle industry to the big industry.

Then, we visited Vidyasirimedhi Institution of Science and Technology or VISTEC where aims to be research institution in science and technology by PTT public company, the oil, natural gas, and petrochemical industry. At VISTEC, I have a chance to know more about exoskeleton. Exoskeleton had been invented since early 1900s. Exoskeletons have use for many reasons such as medical, military, civilian, and industry. At VISTEC, they develop the exoskeleton for the medical reason by use this as a external skeleton for legs to support our body and our legs with system-assisted walking. They not only develop to support our walk but they also want to link this external skeleton to our brain in order to walk or run smoothly. The environment around VISTEC surrounded by nature and trees which make their students relax. They don't only focus on the research students or the researcher, they also have a school for high school students who interested in science and technology.