

EE551:*Selected Topics in International Economics I*

EE561:*Selected Topics in Development Economics I*

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Doing business in Vietnam; Siam Gas

For this day, the guest speaker is Mr. Chanchai Ochapong who is the general manager of Supergas in Vietnam. Supergas was purchased by Siamgas group from Thailand since 2010. Siam Gas group was the business of LPG or liquefied petroleum gas which started from LPG gas station and expanding into the LPG filling plant business. I like the way of speaker telling about Vietnam. However, the powerpoint was hard to read and look paradox. The speaker was providing the standard information of Vietnam including the demography, history, geography and taxation. He mentioned a lot of history such as Vietnam war which is the important period that causing the demand for independent from being colonial state. These information is very common in the internet. However, I like the question "Why we want to investment to do business in Vietnam?" Which we put in the slide. The answers that he gave were New open development country, New market, New generation of people, Big population big market, Wage and Tax are still cheap and Infrastructure cost still cheap. Moreover, he also gave us the threat of Vietnam which were Law not clear, Government set the law and use the law, Low standard living of people, Low standard education of people, Hiding tax and Fee, Speculate and price war by not intense to quality, Relation include money. It was like the Strength and Weakness in SWOT analysis. By the way, I think the speaker was talking not much about Siam Gas group in Vietnam, but he was talking more about the basic information which I think that I could find it by myself. However, It's a good presentation.

Fintech at Bank of Thailand

In the morning we visited Bangkok Fintech Fair 2019, Bank of Thailand, There are a lot of financial and technology firm which come from either public or private sector exhibition. Fintech or Financial Technology which supported by bank of Thailand generated the cashless society which mainly operated by mobile banking. In convention hall, I like the idea of Blockchain technology which is time-stamped series of record of data that is managed by cluster of computers not owned by any single entity and crypto-currency like Libra. It likes the new generation of currency in my Idea. Moreover, there are some biometric authentication technology booth which is the technology by using sensor from camera to identify and confirm the customer from the face.

Asian Development Bank at Office at Central World

In the afternoon, we visited Asian Development Bank Thailand branch or ADB at Central World. There are 4 speakers of ADB. I like the way that they engaged the student both Thai and foreigners such as the speaker giving us the example of shareholder which including USA and Hong Kong. The shareholder of this bank is the 68 country members including 49 Asian countries. For Thailand, the representative is the minister of ministry of finance. This bank was established since 1966 which aimed to develop Asian countries by operated loan in term of infrastructure project either public or private sector including power, transportation, water, urban and society project. There are 40 borrower countries including Thailand. Mostly Thailand borrow money for power plant project. I very like this bank in term of development field which I mainly study. It could help the cheap loan for public project that could provide positive externalities for ccountry.