

8

Daily reaction day 1 20/6/2019

More details.  
it's not reaction paper  
Need opinion

Before the first day of class, I was wondering what will us be learning from this class as it is in both field of international trade (field 5) and development (field 6). In the first day of class, the introduction took place in the morning session. We were told that there will be 3 professors taking care of this course, Ajarn Chayanee, Ajarn Kiriya, and Ajarn Anin.

The course structure was explained thoroughly with details. Here come the afternoon session, sounds more like another introduction but this time for ASEAN's origin, evolution and economy. The different between ASEAN and AEC, the meaning of AFTA (ASEAN Free Trade Area), the meaning of FDI (Foreign Direct Investment), and etc were taught. Moreover of others little knowledge that we should know such like the currency of Cambodia and ASEAN chairmanship of 2019 is Thailand.

There is significant numbers of interesting point but one that impressed me the most is the observation of the impact of China movement. In class, Ajarn mentioned by the graph of ASEAN Trade in Goods with Partners: Import, Export. China have a great share in this, is like our main partner, so I can use this to benefit my further research or analysis as I would no longer want to exclude China factor from my report.

On top of that, there is another point that awaken my mind. AFTA (ASEAN Free Trade Area) has a purpose to intra-trade (trade internationally within ASEAN ourselves), however it is seen like it is not desirably efficient as by the graph provided in class we actually like to inter-trade with outsiders, especially China.

9

Daily reaction day 2 21/6/19

-wrong focus.  
-need your opinion.

Here comes the second day of class. Today we had a guest speaker, Mrs Lay Charnrasmey, Cambodia Diplomatic Relation with Thailand. As yesterday we had selected our group for the rest of the summer term. Today class structure; morning session was for Cambodia-Thailand Bilateral relation, afternoon session was for discussion and presentation of selected topic on Bilateral relation of Cambodia and Thailand.

Cambodia workers in Thailand was my group selected topic. First we learnt about Cambodia current profile, population of about 16.28 million, urban of 4.06 million while rural of 12.22 million. there are more than half of the population is under 25 years old, the workforce is increasingly well educated with eager to work with foreign company. GDP per capita is rising, 2019 is expected to be around \$1,706. Even Though, we had conflicts and wars in the past, now we are kind of good in friendship relation and in term of trades, governments in both countries are trying to finish the work on territorial line in order to no longer have conflict about it. By the information presented by guest speaker, it seems like Cambodia import heavily from Thailand and Thailand investment on Cambodia kept rising. Cambodia is also trying to develop its bilateral border checkpoints into international checkpoints.

→ should be in the following paragraph?  
from Mrs Lay

In the afternoon session, discussion time. In our focus, I found out that the number of

cambodian workers in Thailand that was reported by Cambodian Ministry of Labour was not the same as what Mrs Charnrasmey believed. Even some reports online said to be approximately 2 million. The reason behind this is the counting system, Cambodia only count when people leave the country not back in, also we Thailand reported the number by working permit. Therefore the missing number could be by Cambodia's inefficient counting system and there are illegal workers as well.

The reason why they come to work in Thailand was also presented, we found out that it has been a decade and already become some kind of traditional or trend to work in Thailand. However the more touchable factor would be the better in living standard in Thailand. Back in Cambodia the minimum wage is ridiculously low and rises slowly compare to the sky rocket increasing in commodities and services' price. Not like in Thailand, our minimum wage is higher than in Cambodia, as well as the cost of hospital is even lower than in Cambodia. Fashionable wears are also exported to Cambodia with of course a high in mark up.

However, another reason is there are not enough jobs offer in Cambodia, Mrs Charnrasmey said that if the government accomplish in offering more jobs for them, they would go back to their hometown even the pay is lower. It is also said in the class by our classmate that Cambodian workers is a work hard type they are willing to work as to send money back to their family back in Cambodia.

Moreover, this is the long term problem for Cambodia. We observed that Cambodia is losing their numbers of workers and this can affect their economy in the long run. Noticeably, by their government trying to get their workers back by many ways. Improving living standard, Development in Hospital sector, Education, and Foreign Direct Investment. Contributing more jobs in the country. Yes, as I mentioned it was a trend to work in Thailand with other reasonable factors but these days things have changed. Cambodian workers came to Thailand and they learnt skills and got back to Cambodia and became the head of the site, some was selling Somtum in the street of Thailand and got back to open their own restaurant earning millions of riel. The world is moving on and so are they.