

Lecture #1 BOT and CLMV Connectivity

July 1st, 2019

This lecture was done by the special guest speaker from Bank of Thailand named Ms. Punpilas Ruangwisut, who is the Deputy Director of International Department of BOT. We looked into the information to get to know about CLMV frontier markets. From the bar graphs, it shows significant growth of Cambodia(7.3), which is the most outstanding growth in 2018, followed by Vietnam(7.1), Myanmar (6.7), and Lao PDR (6.5), compared to the rest of the world and EMDE (Emerging Markets and Developing Economies). It can be concluded from the statistical data according to the bar charts that Cambodia is the country with the highest growth in 2018. This arises the question that it is possible that Cambodians seem to acquire more purchasing power in the markets and spend more money than others. Another fact that we looked into was in term of population data, which show that Vietnam is the leading country in term of number of population, while Lao PDR has the lowest population. According to this second fact, I assumed that this maybe one of the factors while Vietnam has faster growth than Lao PDR. The larger number of population of Vietnam could indicate more number of economic activities, which could lead to the economic improvement. Looking in to the aspect of political stability, Vietnam has been under the power of the communist party, while Myanmar military still holds large power in the government. For Cambodia, there has been Cambodia People's Party, which PM Hun Sen has been in office for 1985. Meanwhile, Lao PDR has Lao people's Revolutionary Party in the office. This has answered one of my assumption of all time that it is important for a country to have an effective and non-corruptive party to be in charge in its government office in order to improve in other economic aspects of the country. To have a stable political status is very important in order to enhance a country's development. When we discussed and analysed the degree of openness through imports and exports of the country. We could see that Vietnam has the highest imports and exports, which its exports percentage of GDP is a little high than its imports by 0.8 (Exports (89.8) < Imports (89.0)),

followed by Cambodia, which exports are less than imports(Exports (61.7)< Imports (66.1)), Lao PDR(Exports (34)< Imports (51.8)), and Myanmar (Exports (20.8)< Imports (26.6)). These data of degree of openness and %GDP could show whether a country is export-led growth and high degree of openness or not, which from these data, it can be concluded that Vietnam is the export-led growth with highest degree of openness. Sometimes, in order to acquire the data of CLMV countries, there are some restrictions due to the data limitation in terms of frequency and quality. However, from the data that were able to be collected, the country with the most share border trade from year 2009-2017 is Lao PDR at 97% and the least share border trade is Vietnam, which is at 14.2%. This can analysed the behaviour of Laos people that they have had border trade activities more than the other CLMV countries throughout this range of years. When we looked into the aspect of investment, the population destinations for Thai investors are Singapore, Vietnam, Myanmar, Lao PDR, and Cambodia etc., which have been fluctuated throughout 2007-2017. However, Vietnam seems to have the most increasing rate of growth in million USD as the most popular country among CLMV that Thai investors go for. Currently, as we know that China has gained its economic power over many countries in this world, another fact that we should be thought of is that China has invested in its infrastructure by inventing the China's Asian Link Railway Project, which is the project of new rail lines that would link the new rail ways in Thailand, Laos, and Myanmar with existing ones in Vietnam and Cambodia. According to the creation of this project, there would be many impacts that would affect the areas in these countries, as mentioned, where the railways would pass by. So, it comes to the questions in my mind that *“How much this railway project would affect CLMV countries and Thailand in terms of local investments, economies in the areas, employment rates in those certain areas where the railways pass by, and improvement in logistics systems of these countries, etc.”*

As it is impossible nowadays for any country to stand alone without having good relations to other factors, we need to consider the factors that would tightens the national relations, especially

between Thailand and CLMV countries as they live closed by. Therefore, Physical connectivity (logistics systems between countries), Economic factors (trade, investment tourism, and labour), History and cultural exchange, and Religions, are crucial aspects that need to be concerned about in order to build good national relations. What BOT has tried to achieve are to enhance financial development in Thailand and in CLMV countries (i.e. changing into formal transactions through bank transfers, creating financial policies that are suitable to be applied for local and foreign sectors, supporting the development of human resource, lowering transition costs, providing convenient payment methods and financial services, inventing relax regulations, increasing financial literacy by creating awareness in using financial services, etc.)

So far, the goals and achievements of BOT have set and done are for adjusting the financial sector to the globalisation, where everything has changed and merged into cyber and automation era.

Lecture #2 Introduction to Sustainable Development July 3rd, 2019

In this class, we have learned about SDGs, which at first I thought it was an organisation. However, after listened to the morning lecture, SCGs stand for Sustainable Development Goals, which are 17 goals for the global SDGs as shown in the diagram below:



The global goals are the set of UN's development goals and the indicators to review state of sustainability of the world, a region, and a country. It is an action framework and tools for cooperation and partnership. The goals could lead to a bargaining power of the country. According to the diagram above, it refers to 5Ps, which stand for the goals for People(SDG1-5), Prosperity(SDG7-11), Planet (SDG6, 12-15), Peace (SDG16), and Partnership(SDG17). The goals of SDGs from 1-17 are as follows:

1. **No poverty** : The countries set the goal to eradicate their people poverty, create economic protection, generate the equal access to economic resources among people, and try to adapt

vulnerable people capacity and resilience. It can be seen through some of the government projects that try to help people in financial way.

2. **Zero hunger** : Many countries have tried to come up with the projects to ensure food security by supporting agricultural sector and enhance the quality of productions and products. Most of governments in many countries try to support small food producers and encourage the generation of biodiversity in farm areas and nearby. Malnutrition is the thing that they have tried to eliminate so that all citizens would get the right nutritions.
3. **Good health and well-being** : Every country, which tries to meet this goal, concentrate on developing medical treatments, concentrating on Maternal and children's health, CD, NCD, mental health, providing sex education and reproductive health care services, and preventing illness and death from hazardous chemicals and pollutions and traffic deaths, etc.
4. **Quality of education** : It is important to support and enhance the education system because it is to generate qualified students, who will become future adults and important labour force of countries.
5. **Gender quality** : As we saw in the past that men used to be dominant, therefore, nowadays, there are a lot of people who have realised the importance of supporting and campaigning to eliminate the discrimination against women, such as how women are treated at work places and by men, encouragement of women participations etc.
6. **Clean water and sanitation** : As water is one of important elements for survival, to have quality water and suitable hygiene is very important and it is the goal that many countries try to achieve in terms of the reduction of pollution, protection and restoration of water resource by encouraging the awareness and participation of local communities.
7. **Affordable and clean energy** : Accessible and affordable energy is what many countries concern as there are issues arisen due to global warming and climate change. So, the idea of

renewable energy use has been invented and aware of as some of natural resources can be used up and are not renewable.

These are some of examples of what I have obtained from the lecture for each article of SDGs. Ajarn Chol assigned the activities to come up with the ideas of how we portray our future government. My group wrote down each as aspects of how the effective government should be according to the picture below :

We divided into 3 aspects consist of :

S : Social aspect

B : Economic aspect

E: Environmental aspect

My group gathered together to list down the aspects that what we thought how sustainable Thailand would look like, which are as follows:

- Less conflicts among Thai people in term of politics
- More green environments
- Better and stable economies, by government policies
- Improvement in education system
- The use of renewable resources
- Less monopoly and encourage more SMEs and start-ups
- Better waste management
- More environmental concerns and awareness of people
- Infrastructure improvement
- More use of technology
- Better policies and government management
- More access to financial institutes
- Better data management system

- Support scientific research
- Job training supports
- Poverty improvement
- More effective and accessible medical system and treatments
- Reduction of mass transportation

From this activity, it helped us initiate the ideas linked to the word “Sustainability”, which we used government as he representative of people to create the sustainability of the countries in 3 aspects. Then, presented them in front of the class. For the afternoon activity, it is about SDGs 17 goals as well. We were assigned to find the research and documents or Google Scholar. This activity is good in the way that it helps us see and understand the bigger meanings of each goals of the global goals. We could picture how the goals were set and applied to use in practice. It was a good practice for analysing the literature reviews.

Lecture #3 East-West Economic Corridor

July 4th, 2019

In this class, we got to learn about the special economic zones and how they are important to the economy. We learned about the percentage of FDIs in Laos, which came from Vietnam (20.82%), Thailand (27.43%), China (33.13%), etc. from the pie chart. It could be concluded the important investors of Laos are from China, Thailand, and Vietnam. We learned about the map of Connectivity and GMS, Economic corridors-EWEC, and Savan-Seno Special Economic Zone - SASEZ. These maps are just to show how each area look like and how they are connected. We also talked about business opportunities in Laos, which are as follows:

1. **Constructions:** According to the lecture, it helped me imagine how much the development has shifted in each area for example, the highway built from Hanoi -Hoi An -Halongbay, which in the past, if people wanted to travel from Hanoi to Halongbang, they needed to spend at least 4 hrs on the car journey. However, now everything has become more convenient due to the improvement of infrastructure.
2. **Tourism : Food and Restaurants** —> Nowadays, this business sector has been thriving in Thailand and other countries. Hotel business has also boomed. Even though, this seems to be good chances to invest in hotel business. Locations are the most important things to consider because not everywhere can be successful.
3. **Energy :** As we know from studying CLMV course that Laos is the energy of ASEAN, from this information, we had used it in the class to debate about Lao PDR and Vietnam, which I am going to mention later on.

4. Retail business : It has given opportunities for big firms to invest and survive. However, we discussed how it has created harm to SMEs as they are smaller firms with lower funds. Therefore, it could be good for consumers in term of convince but bad for people who try to set up their retail businesses because it is unlikely they are able to compete with big firms.

These are some out of the business opportunities we could think of CLMV countries as these data we learned could become useful in the future.

In the afternoon, we had the debate between how the investors see Lao PDR and Vietnam as destination countries to invest. We divided into 2 sides; one for Laos and one for Vietnam. My group got to search for information about Vietnam. We did the role play to present the information in the eyes of investors whether Vietnam or Lao PDR is better to go invest. Then, for second round we had debated about pros and cons of Vietnam and Lao PDR. It was such a fun and interesting debate as each country's representatives tried to come up with the good sides to fight against the other side. It was a good way to learn the information in a fun and more interesting way. The afternoon session went fast and was not a boring class at all.

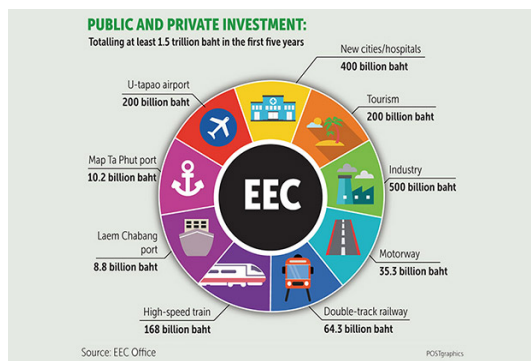
Lecture # 4 East-West Economic Corridor

July 5th, 2019

For the field trip to Rayong to EEC (Eastern Economic Corridor) centre of PPT, energy company and Chonburi to Thai-German institute, we went to Thai-German institute first. It was a great chance for an economic student like me to learn about the machines, how the institute recruits people through online and offline channels, such as website. It is pretty thrilling to see how each machine works to create parts and materials used in industrial machinery. We went to see 4 rooms that are used to operate the courses for people signing for engineering training. The first room was about the instruction of how to make 2 machines communicate to one another. Another room was about 3D laser printing and how machines are collaborated to work to create the pieces. The last room was pretty stunning as it demonstrated how smart factory works when all machines are together. However, it was such a shame that they are closed to demonstrate the smart factory. Here are some of pictures I took during the trip with the professor and two exchange student friends and the picture of the prototype of smart factory.



For the afternoon, we went to PPT university, which I had felt like we went to see the professors attending their conferences because the topics were not really related to CLMV countries. However,



Here is the diagram showing the investments in each sector.
(One of what mentioned in the conference)

it was good opportunities to learn about the new leading university and visit their modern and gorgeous buildings.

We listened to the projects that EECi (Eastern Economic Corridor of Innovation) trying to thrive themselves to be a hub of industrial research and innovation, a hub of national quality infrastructure, centre of domestic and international technology transfer, STI Human resource development, innovation cluster development, and comprehensive platform. From listening to all information of how they plan to drive this centre as the leading learning centre of Asia makes me proud to think that Thai people are capable to innovate and have the intelligence to invent new things through out the research. This centre of PTT could provide the resources for the researchers to do their research and come up with innovations, which would help the country development and make Thais proud of our own people.

Therefore, it was such a great opportunity for me and my classmates to see how advanced our country could become in the near future due to its great human resource.