

opinion



- some context is not really clear
- give your opinion.

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Essay 1 (20th June): **What is ASEAN? And What ASEAN help SEA economic.**

This lecture is about ASEAN including origin, evolution and economy. ASEAN consists of 10 countries including; Thailand, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Brunei, Indonesia (These 6 countries are called core ASEAN or ASEAN6), Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam (These 4 countries are called CLMV). The AEC (ASEAN Economic Community) was established in December 2015 between 10 countries in ASEAN. This community's goal (free trade area) is having greater trade between member countries, mobility between population or labor and competitiveness. Fortunately, its help ASEAN economy grow a lot by GDP is almost doubled from 2007 to 2014, 76% increase in GDP per capita, Increased in trading, also helping members attract FDI after the AFC (Asian financial crisis). Moreover, ASEAN in the global economy is growing bigger and bigger. Conversely, ASEAN still has lots of challenges, for example, the difference in wage or GDP per capita and ASEAN languages & English.

I totally agree that ASEAN still struggling about unskilled labor force due to few populations of almost all members countries are ungraduated for example, some people cannot work with foreigners due to the lack of English languages. Likewise, the difference between GDP per capita or minimum wage could cause lots of immigrant due to people are want to work more in the higher GDP per capita country. Also, the higher GDP per capita are looking for cheap labor to do the labor force work. Therefore, these problems are still occurring for immigrant workers. However, in my opinion, when these SEA countries group up as ASEAN are boosting the growth of the economy of the member countries also when smaller countries compared with China or USA are grouped could possibly have more impact to world trading than separated each country out. The most interesting part of this lecture for me is about knowing that ASEAN countries are growing up a lot from the past and still keep growing nonstop.

Essay 2 : 21st June (Cambodia-Thailand Bilateral Relations)

Today we have a very special guest talking about Cambodia. Starting with the Cambodia Profile, their Government is The Constitutional Monarchy under a Multiparty Democracy, their King is His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah Bat Norodom Sihamoni, their Prime minister is Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN SEN. The capital city is Phnom Penh. Firstly, Cambodia was Indochinese and got their independence since 9th November 1953. About the statistic in 2019, the population is around 16.28 million, 4.06 million are urban and 12.22 are rural. More than 50% of the population are working age (25 y/o). Population around 83.2% used their right to vote in the past election. Moreover, right now Cambodia has high economic growth around 7% annually. Cambodia is now the sixth fastest growing economy in the world and first in ASEAN. Cambodia has long history with Thailand, some accent in some words quite similar. Besides tradition, culture etc. pretty same not too different. Therefore, Thailand and Cambodia get the nickname together as Brother and Sister countries. These 2 countries have around seven bordered provinces which is pretty long. Thus, Thailand and Cambodia need Bilateral Mechanisms, for example, Joint Cabinet Retreat (JCR) which is all ministers of TH/KH meet each other. Joint Border Commission Meeting (JBC) which is the ministers of bordered provinces meet and discuss to make sure that no border conflicts. Since, if these 2 countries have conflicts the rich Cambodian are going to do medical stuff at Vietnam, Singapore or even UK instead of doing it in Thailand. According to what guest presented, Thai tourists visit Cambodia around 382,317 in 2018, whereas Cambodian visit Thailand more. Nowadays, Cambodia purchasing power is higher than in the past, So, lots of products or brands are joining in this country, for example, Inthanin coffee, Amazon etc.

About the cooperation in Education at border provinces, Cambodian could entry to

Thailand to study. Also, labor cooperation was very poor in the past, large populations from Cambodia, started migrating to Thailand during the 1990s to escape poverty and political conflict. In the economy and investment side, Cambodian government want to push bilateral trade on the border provinces. From the statistics, Cambodia are imported from Thailand higher than export around 831 difference in import and export (data from Jan-June). So, their government are discussing how to increase bilateral trade and increase import from Cambodia to Thailand.

In my point of view, Thailand and Cambodia right now have a pretty good connection and will trade to each other at the border provinces. But I went to Poi Pet a couple weeks ago, at the border after I crossed to Cambodia. There are lots of beggar at Cambodia's border and also lots of mosquitoes. So, the health there quite bad and also almost every beggar just only kids less than 7 years old approximately. Hence, even the growth in GDP of Cambodia is doing great but at the border which is Poi Pet, the most congestion check point, the life of Cambodian there quite bad. Back to the labor, Cambodia has counted around 1 million of Cambodian entry to Thailand but in the real situation it's only around 500,000. Due to the poor data collection system, Cambodia only counted the people who left the country not count the people who left and came back and left again so the number is doubled. Also, the difference in the minimum wage which Thailand is almost doubled compared with Cambodia. In my opinion, it will cause lots of Cambodians to want to immigrant to Thailand to find a job to earn more. But guest speaker told us that Cambodia's government are fixing this problem by using the policy to increase the interest in the owner of some Cambodian company to attract them to hire more Cambodian labor and attract their population to come back and do the work in their own country.

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- interesting opinion
- need to provide more relevant information