

Class : BOT and CLMV Connectivity

CLMV countries have high growth comparing with the rest of the world. Even if they (CLMV) faced the global crisis, their growth still high. This might be because during the global crisis period, those CLMV countries still did not play much role in the world market therefore they got a little effect from the crisis. All of CLMV countries have a stable politic which cause positive effect on FDI.

However, one problem that CLMV faces is that they lack of good quality data for their macro-analysis but Thailand has a policy to help CLMV develop the data collecting system. Another problem is that some of activities at the border of CLMV are illegal and cannot be detect/data collection. In my opinion if CLMV countries can improve their data collecting system, they will have a good quality data to do research and also have better/more accurate economic indicators from these data.

Right now, there are many Thai Banks opening their branch in CLMV (mostly in Cambodia and Laos). BOT also try to negotiate with Myanmar and Vietnam to give license to Thai Banks. If this project is success, it will improve the financial connectivity between CLMV and Thailand leading to easy both to do trade and direct investment.

In the recent plan of BOT, they try to improve the connectivity between Thailand and CLMV. The example project are “Sringborad to CLMV”, “Convenient and cost-competitive financial services with CLMV”, “CHINDASEAN Strategy” which will benefit in the Thai real sector such as lower transaction cost with more convenient payment. BOT tries to facilitate trade and investment by enhancing efficiency financial sector and increasing financial literacy and syncing regulations among regulators. BOT and central bank of CLMV also encourage their countries to use local currency because using local currency can reduce the transaction cost and conversion cost, reduce the risk of major currencies’ volatility, and

etc. In the long run, this connectivity between Thailand and CLMV will create sustainable benefit to both of them.

This lecture is mainly about the connectivity that focusing on financial sector which is one of important sector that can create higher efficiency for trading and investment.

The lecturer said that foreign workers in Thailand always transfer their money back to their home country by using illegal service and this fact is surprising me that there is an illegal money transferring service. This is a problem for both Thailand and neighboring country since we do not know where this money go. In my opinion this problem might happen because the transaction fee is too expensive or the amount of money is so small that it does not worth for The bank to transfer. This make me feel that the connectivity especially in financial sector between countries is important that can create higher efficiency not only for trading and investment but also living standards of people in both countries.

Class : Sustainable Development Goals

Sustainable development Goals od SDGs is a set of 17 goals for countries to be sustain. These goals are set by the United Nations. There are many Global Sustainability issues such as poverty, inequality ,or climate change. These global issues are startes from local issues and region issues. The concept of sustainability is the development that meet present need without disrupting future generation to meet their need.

There are two shades of green/sustainable thought which are weak sustainability (optimists who believe that natural capital can be substituted by technological and financial capital) and strong sustainability who believe that there should be zero externalities in both long-run and short run. The systemic thinking of sustainability can divided into 3 pillars: Economic, Environment and social. The 17 goals of SDGs are No poverty, Zero hunger, Good health and well-being, Quality education, Gender equality, Clean water and sanitation, Affordable and clear energy, Decent work and Economic Growth, Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure, Reduced inequalities, Sustainable cities, Responsible consumption and Production, Climate Action, Life below water, Life on land, Peace and justice strong institutions, and Partnerships for the goals. These 17 goals can also classified in to 5Ps which anr People (1-5), Prosperity (7-11), Planet (6,12-15), Peace (16) and Partnership (17).

I think it is good to study about the sustainability since it is like a basic concept the people should understand. Any achievement/success that does not meet all three pillar of sustainability are not efficient. This lecture make me have a clear picture on sustainability that we should not focus only on the economic aspect but we should concern about the social and environment too. For example, the hydropower sector in Laos can generate a growth to Laos but building a dam can damage the environment around the dam too son this is not sustain. This is why we should study about sustainability.

Class : Workshop for Laos&Vietnam trip

This lecture focused mainly on Laos and Vietnam. For Laos, there are many neighboring countries which are Thailand, China, Myanmar and Cambodia. I think that this is a benefit for Laos since they can expand market by doing cross border trade. Laos has 15 SEZs to attract FDI and the major investors are from China and Thailand. There are many business opportunities in Laos such as construction, Tourism or even Beauty sector. For Vietnam, there are 313 SEZs in Vietnam which is the highest number of SEZs in ASEAN. I think this might be the reason why Vietnam has the highest FDI comparing with CLMV countries. There are not many SEZs at the center of Laos since it is covered by mainly mountain.

25% of Thailand's export are to ASEAN especially to CLMV. The exported products are refined fuels, beverages beauty or make-up preparation, etc. Thailand also invests in neighboring countries because Thailand faces labour scarcity and higher minimum wage than CLMV. The main destination of Thai investment is Vietnam and this is surprising me since there is no border between Thailand and Vietnam. There is a research by CIMB Thailand reported about the business opportunities in CLMV countries such as investors should invest garment and vehicle parts in Cambodia or investors should invest Construction and tourism sector in Laos.

In the last part of the lecture is about trade opportunities and aging population. In 2050, Singapore, Thailand and Brunei will face the aging population situation. This can be both positive and negative effect. For the positive side, this is an opportunity for the business that targeted aging people such as healthcare service and there will be more innovation for medical equipments. However, aging society will reduce the domestic production which will slow down the country's GDP growth. For me, aging society is an opportunity/motivation for

country to develop an new innovation and knowledge in order to solve aging society problem.

This is one of lectures that I like. There are many thing that I had never known, for example, in the part of Economic indicators overview, Laos has a high amount of Public Debt which is 58% of GDP (2016). This is because Laos revenue not only from tax but also from foreign finacial aid such as from the UN. Another thing that surprise me is the beauty products and services is boom in both Vietnam and Laos, this might be because that Vietnamese and Laos people watch Thai TV series or Korean Series and the want to look beauty same as the actress. Therefore they start to use more make-up product. Moreover, I have known that there is a Thai Beauty Clinic open its branch in Laos and this support that beauty industry start to be develop in CLMV countries.

Field trip to Chonburi

For the field trip to Chonburi, we have been visit two places which are Thai-German Institute or TGI in the morning and Vidyasirimedhi Institute of Science and Technology (VISTEC) in the afternoon. TGI is a non-profit organization that has been controlled by Ministry of industry. The objective of TGI is to enhance efficiency and develop labour capability of Thai industry. TGI used to get assistance from German but now there is no assistance since Thailand is not a poor country anymore. There are three main technology that TGI focuses which are the mold technology, Automation (including robotic, hydraulic and pneumatic) and maintenance. There are four main job of TGI. The first one is providing training courses such as training about material handling, CAM, Dre Casting of about PLC. Second job is business consulting and provide solution. Third is machine lending to firms that cannot effort. Last job is doing R&D and other companies can also join with TGI.

In the afternoon, we went to VISTEC. VISTE or Vidyasirimedhi Institute of Science and Technology is a graduate research intensive university. BISTEC try to be the frontier research center and become Wangchan Valley (similar to Silicon Valley in California). VISTEC is started by PTT group and later, Thai government give a support and established the EECI or Eastern Economic Corridor of Innovation. There are four curriculums for Master's degree and Doctor's degree which are School of energy Science and Engineering, Molecular Science and Engineering, Biomolecular Science and Engineering, and Information Science and Technology.

From this Field trip, these two places that I had visit is like another world for me. It's all about Science and Technology, doing R&D. I really impress that there are organization that support the innovation & technology in Thailand and also try to develop labour skill and knowledge which can improve Thai-industry. I think that these kind of organization is very

useful and important for Thailand since we are in the fourth industrial revolution where technology play a very big role. And with the fact that Thailand is not even in the industrial 3.0, therefor Thailand still need a lot of development on this sector. I think Government support is the main key to drive Thailand to industrial 4.0.