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Reaction Essay 1

Nattanun Thongphueak 5904641528

ASEAN: Origin, Evolution, and Economy

When talking about ASEAN, nothing specific popped up in my mind. There is only general information that I know about ASEAN. In the first lecture of this course, Ajarn Chayanee tries to knock those rust from us by having a fun quiz about ASEAN. She also provides us essential topics about the course which are divided into two parts which are ASEAN Versus AEC and ASEAN Economy. In this lecture there are some topics that are familiar and some of the topics are new to me. I am going to talk about the fun ASEAN quiz first following by ASEAN Versus AEC and ASEAN Economy.

The purpose of the ASEAN quiz is to let us know about the idea and position of countries in the sense of income per capita, GDP and population. The lecturer tries to sum up ASEAN in an easy way by making us guess about some facts about countries in ASEAN. There is some fact that I have never heard about before as Brunei has the lowest number of population and Indonesia has the highest population. In addition, Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar ranked in the first three highest growth in ASEAN in 2017 with the reason that those countries used to be poor and when they start to develop, they grow faster than those countries that are developing. There is also some specific word that I am not familiar with such as Doi Moi. I first thought Doi Moi is a famous coffee in Vietnam but it becomes a policy reform in Vietnam as there was a Vietnam war and a communist party. They want to reform the economy to be more market based so the policy reform is called Doi Moi.

Next, we talk about ASEAN and AEC. Firstly, the difference between ASEAN and AEC is that ASEAN is Association of South East Asian Nations and AEC is ASEAN Economics Community. We can say that ASEAN is the group of countries that are trying to form because of a Domino effect from Russia. If one country in this area becomes communist, neighboring

countries will become communist right after. Therefore, the starting point of ASEAN involved in political issue. Afterwards, it becomes an Economic integration in South East Asia which is ASEAN Economic Community (AEC). From the beginning to present day, there are circumstances and event that involves with the member states from cold war, Pre-AFTA, AFTA to AEC. We can see that ASEAN founded for many years and we also know that there are AEC so the integration of the south east Asian country would mean something.

We will talk about ASEAN economy from now on. There are ten members in ASEAN and if we considered ASEAN as a country, it is a massive economic growth as it has rapid growth and stable. ASEAN's GDP ranked the seventh and expected to be the third in 2030. Overall economic condition of ASEAN is stable because the real GDP growth is ranked the third and the volatility of the GDP growth is low meaning that it is minimal fluctuation between year. In addition, the inflation rate of ASEAN is doing fine in 2013 as it is 2.8% which is below 3 %. Moreover, the ASEAN's population is the third large in the world in 2014. We get benefit from that because we have labor supplied and over half of the population is under 30 years old. ASEAN major trade partner is also members we can call it as intra-trade. We obtained AFTA (ASEAN Free Trade Area) in order to reduce tariff within ASEAN. However, Foreign direct investment from Extra-ASEAN is more than intra-ASEAN. It would be because of the lower wage rate and number of populations.

Based on information we obtained earlier, we can see that ASEAN can be a strong Economic group if we obtain better technology because we have advantage of a low wage rate. In addition, if number of skilled workers rapidly increase, foreign direct investment from Extra-ASEAN would also increase and it can benefit countries in ASEAN for example Cambodia. Cambodian people immigrate and work in Thailand because quantity of work is less than number of workers. In my opinion, if countries in ASEAN liberate and open for investors, it would bring a better ASEAN and GDP of ASEAN would rank in a higher place as we expected to see.

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Reaction Essay 2

Nattanun Thongphueak 5904641528

Bilateral relation between Cambodia and Thailand by Mrs. Lay Chanrasmey

Thailand and Cambodia are like sister and brother. We cannot deny that Thai and Cambodian look alike. Also, we are not only neighboring country but we also adopt similar culture, tradition, and language. Thailand and Cambodia have conflict sometime. However, when we restore good relation, we are still a good partner just like family. This lecture consists of relation of Thailand and Cambodia and Economy and Investment.

Thailand and Cambodia have long been a good friend and in 2020 we will celebrate our 70th anniversary of the establishment of Diplomatic Relation between Cambodia and Thailand. When Thailand first visited Cambodia, it was three years before Cambodia independent from France. Thai's action means a lot to Cambodian people. Also, we came visit Cambodia since first election in 1993. There are many official visits which is an excellent bilateral relation of the two countries. There are royal visits, top leader visits, ministerial meetings and people to people. Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn provides many assistants to Cambodia regarding education as she distributed school and scholarships to students. Because there are seven provinces that are touched, people can make a visit every day. In addition, many students in Cambodia cross the border to study in Thailand.

Because Thailand and Cambodia are closed, it is easy to import and export as there are many checkpoints. From the statics, it shows that mostly Cambodia import more than Thailand. However, Mrs. Lay said that they are trying to improve the number. What they are trying to do is that they are trying to attract only Thai people who live along the border and I think this is a really good idea for them because if Thai people switch to cross the border and buy product in Cambodia, they will export more and become exporter. Also, we already know that we are both in ASEAN and ACMECS (The Ayeyawedy-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation

Strategy). We are trying to close the economic gap among members and promote sustainable growth of this sub-region. However, Cambodia is also participated in CLMV. The difference between ACMECS and CLMV is Thailand is not involving in CLMV because in CLMV they are trying to reduce the gap of development among Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam.

From the lecture, I think Cambodia is on their way of making a better standard living of their people. They have agreement on investment promotion and protection which signed with 29 countries. The proposed of the agreement is to increase trade volume of the partner and make investors feel worthier to invest in Cambodia. Because Cambodian is hardworking and willing to work, they come to work in Thailand and send their money back home. They are doing this because wage rate in Thailand is higher and they are limited work position in Cambodia. When there is more foreign direct investment in Cambodia, labor who is now in Thailand would definitely go back to Cambodia and work. If Cambodia keeps improve their country, they would have gone far because of their hard-working and sincere characteristic.

In conclusion, liberalization in Cambodia brings mostly benefits to the country. Thailand and Cambodia have long been a good friend and partner. We are trying to push cooperation in all fields. In addition, Cambodians now have more purchasing power, many investors around the world including Thai investors interested to invest in Cambodia and the growth rate in Cambodia increased rapidly. In the future, we would see better services, education and hospitality in Cambodia. Cambodians would surely have better standard of living and still have a good neighboring country like Thailand.