



CLMV reaction essay week 3

Essay 1 (July 1): BOT and CLMV Connectivity

This is a reaction essay about BOT and CLMV by K.Punpilas Ruangwisut's lecture.

She began with an overview of BOT's role. I would sum up a little bit about BOT's role with CLMV.

In terms of technical cooperation, BOT helps CLMV countries to promote the connectivity of financial sector with CLMV such as promote the usage of local currency, promote cross-border retail payment.

The lecturer reminded the opinion that CLMV people might think that Thai Baht currency dominates their currency. Their currency seems quite not stable in their eyes. I agree with her in this case. Since it can be seen clearly when traveling to CLMV countries especially in Laos, you can pay for things with Thai Baht.

For the examples of ASEAN payment connectivity, Some Thai commercial banks have already cooperated with Laos commercial banks to use QR code payment between Thailand - Laos border. And the next example the remittance transfer by the cooperation of Thai mobile network (Truemove) and AGD Laos bank.

From my point of view, these cooperations make people or residents at the border become more convenient, and make incentive for them to do the financial transactions.

Essay 2 (July 3): Introduction to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

This is a reaction essay by Ajarn Chol in the topic about Sustainable Development Goals (or SDGs). Ajarn began with the concepts and brief history of sustainability. And he went further with many details. I would select some of the concepts of sustainability.

Firstly is about shades of sustainability which are weak and strong. Weak means the consumption pattern would be sustained in the future, and inputs can be sustainable. In the opposite, strong needs zero externalities in both short run and long run. The consumption pattern needs to be changed.

From my point of view, I am on the side of weak sustainability because I quite don't believe that natural capital cannot be substituted by technological and financial capital since I think that the world is always changing with the progressive technology.

Another concept is three pillars of sustainability that including of economy, environment, society. These 3 pillars need to combine together in a linkage. For example, if the government wants to use some pieces of land that are near residential area to plant more trees to increase forest, it would affect those residents to be in trouble. So this case cannot be called sustainability because it destroys society and economy pillars.

After the concepts, Ajarn talked more about the structure of SDGs, functions of SDGs as bargaining power of the government of some countries, and CLMV and SDGs. And Ajarn let we discuss about SDGs paper in each CLMV country.

Essay 3 (July 4): East-West Economic Corridor by Dr. Amonthep

This reaction essay is about East-West Economic corridors which focusing in Laos in Vietnam by Dr. Amonthep.

The lecturer started with the issue of East-West Economic corridors from Thailand to Savannakhet and Central Vietnam. He talked about many interesting issues such as special economic zones, and business opportunity in Laos.

In term of revenue of Laos, The revenue collected by Laos government is not only from tax revenue but also from foreign aids. Moreover, Among CLMV, Laos had the highest external debt in 2017 around 87.7% of the GDP.

He also talked about 10 Special economic zones: SEZs - Savan-Seno and business opportunity in Laos

For Thailand exports and the neighboring countries, Thailand exported only 10% to CLMV in the past. But nowadays the export volume increases to be 50% to CLMV and another 50% to ASEAN.

The interesting fact for me is that Thailand gain trade surplus with almost all CLMV countries except Myanmar. Thailand has trade deficit with Myanmar because we import a high volume of natural gas. Moreover, Thailand has great opportunities on petroleum product that exports to CLMV from increasing foreign tourists and economic expansion in CLMV countries.

Apart from that, Thailand has the most level of outward FDI to Vietnam among CLMV countries. We have an increase in outward FDI because we lose competitiveness from labor scarcity and high minimum wage.

The last issue is about trade opportunities in 2019. Since aging population and disruption would drop GDP growth due to lower in labor force, I think the business that using new technology among Industry 4.0 would be a great opportunity to the business in this era. The great examples that are interesting for me are medical services using AI system to assess the brain waves, or food-order machines since technology is gradually replacing workers now.

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Essay 4 (July 5): Trip reaction to TGI and VISTEC

This is my trip reaction essay to Thai-German Institute (or TGI) in Chonburi and Vidyasirimedhi Institute of Science and Technology (or VISTEC) in Rayong visiting on the 5th of July. The trip began at TGI in the morning, and later at VISTEC in the afternoon.

The visits took both lectures and walks around the buildings of two institutes.

According to the lecturer's speech, Thai-German Institute is a joint cooperation of the government of Thailand and the government of German. TGI is also like a non-profit organization but under the support from the Ministry of Industry. At the initiative period of establishment of TGI in 1992, they aimed to solve problems of low quality and under standard of Thai labors in the industrial foreign firms. That is because in the past most trainees came from vocational training. And these vocational trainings were so strict with lecture or theory in class that trainees had no chance to try learning with the tools, machines in the real working environment.

TGI sees this problem so they try to focus on giving the real experiences for trainees to let them learn with experts in real working conditions. The institute offers three prominent courses. The first course focusing on mould part that is used in several parts of automobile

especially in wheels. The second course is about auto motion using robotics with high technology, and the last one is maintenance field.

After achieving the course, trainees will receive the certificate to assure their firms that support their trainings or even receive the rise in their wages. The lecturer has reminded my opinions that it might be because foreign entrepreneurs see the importance of investing in knowledge and training. They do not concern much about the training fees of their workers as some of old-style Thai entrepreneurs think. And I agree as well that investing for the development in skills of labors is very important for long term.

Apart from offering technique training, TGI has a variety of services which are consulting service for firms or entrepreneurs, industrial tools and machines for rent, and the last one, R&D for government sectors to join the innovation experiments. TGI is also leading towards Thailand 4.0 and Industry 4.0 in the use of robotics innovation.

For the visiting at VISTEC, this gave me a very first impression from the entrance site of how the very big and spacious the area is, and how refreshing the land is filled with the green of rubber trees and the big lake in front of the institute.

And as I mentioned at the beginning, here also started with lecture of the background and purpose of the institute.

In my opinion, VISTEC is very special because it is like pushing up the level of educational system of Thailand. They have scholarships for undergraduate students in high amount (above 1 million baht) for the research projects in many fields of science without any commitments. I think this can boost ambition, effort, and motivation of students, researchers to

develop their know-how and the way they express their learnings and skills. It is the VISTEC great example of what kind of leading educational institute of the country should be.

From my visits at both TGI and VISTEC, I get to know more about the outside world, out of my faculty. I understand more about the labor training to serve for the demand in the industry market. And I see the place where the very talented people in science would love to be.

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