

Essay Week 3

JULY 1

BOT and CLMV Connectivity

In the class, we can see that in some countries cannot provide every data result in many topics. This reminds me that CLMV countries are still lack of informational systems and I believe that the government should pull this problem in its consideration as the development required this information. Moreover, it would also allow a prediction and prevention for the future problem.

The political stability in CLMV is another important issue that has to focus seriously. We can see that Myanmar political situation is still unstable and there will be an election in late 2020. CLMV should fix this political problem as soon as possible as this can decrease other countries belief of the CLMV countries.

One fact that interested me is the banking system in CLMV countries. Many banks from Thailand decided to open their branch in Lao. However, in other countries like Myanmar has only one branch of Bangkok Bank and representative office which can not provide the service as same as the real bank and this is because of the local bank protection.

BOT connectivity consists of four main parts. Be a springboard to CLMV is the first one which referred to a transfer instead of being a hub. Second is convenient and cost-competitive financial services with CLMV. The third is to use CLMV one voice policy and compatibility. The last is using CHINDASEAN Strategy.

As there are many foreign labors from our neighbor country, the role of the financial sector to facilitate trade and investment becomes more important. Bank provides more financial service, such as fund transfer and application payment which help foreign labor to

use their money easier. This might sound bad for Thailand as there is a lot of outflows. However, with the more advanced banking service, I believe that it also stimulates the international trade and border trade which can create positive impacts on Thailand.

There are many main roles of BOT in financial sector development to facilitate trade and investment. First is enhancing efficiency which consists of flexibility, safety, and cost. Next is increase financial literacy and syncing regulations among regulators. BOT is also responsible for payment, such as cross border payment, financial institution especially the quality of the financial service, and technical cooperation like bilateral TA and multilateral.

JULY 3

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

We can understand how sustainability can develop by answer these two questions, “Can we have a better quality of life?” and “What kind of world are we leaving for our children?”. The concept of sustainability which referred in the World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED) is the development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. There are three pillars of sustainability, society, economy, and environment.

There are two shades of green, weak and strong sustainability. Weak sustainability is a belief that the current consumption pattern is already sustained and natural capital can be substituted by technological and financial capitals. The good example is Norway which sells its natural sources like oil and creates a fund system that invested in foreign countries and uses the profit for its citizen welfare system. For strong sustainability, there should be zero externalities in short-run and long-run. I believe that I am more strong sustainability as I really worry about climate change faster than others. This may come from my own experience in Switzerland where people really care about the environment. Now, I also refuse a plastic bag, use a stainless straw and personal cup, and try as much as I can to reduce waste. In addition, the government should push more consideration in educating sustainability to people, especially the new generation to be more aware of the current serious situation.

From activity 1 which encourage us to discuss “Sustainable Thailand look like in 10 years”, I can see that Thailand is still lack in every pillar of sustainability. Most of the group discussion was in the same direction that Thailand should provide more good education, welfare or public facilities, and also stricter regulation which I agree with all. I believe that

Thailand should be more aware of the environmental problem immediately to prevent creating more problem.

SDGs is a set of UN's development goals, not an organization as many people had understood. It contains 17 goals with 169 targets as sub-goals and 244 indicators in specific to review the state of sustainability of one place which can use as tools in cooperation about the environment, economic, and social and also use to bargain with some government policies that might affect the sustainability.



Concerning the SDG status of Thailand, Thailand has a low rate of poverty and increasing trend of clean water and sanitation, and decent work and economic growth. For Cambodia, there is also an increasing trend in poverty improvement. Moreover, sustainable cities and communities with climate action aspect are improving. The responsible consumption and production is the strong point of this country. However, life on land has decreased. Move to Lao PDR, it indicates that Laos has a high score in climate action and

responsible consumption and also has a decreasing trend in life on the land concern. For Myanmar and Vietnam, there is also an increasing trend in goal number 12 and 13. Moreover, Vietnam had developed in poverty, sanitation, clean energy, and sustainable cities. This can really show that Thailand has a lower score in 12th goal compare to CLMV that has more responsibility in consumption and production than Thailand and I believe that government should come to solve this situation and push Thailand as one of the sustainable countries to invest in ASEAN area.

JULY 4

Workshop for Laos and Vietnam

Laos is one of the interesting countries as it is the energy of Asia. Laos can produce a lot of energy. Construction in Laos is also another interesting business opportunities as Laos had expanded a lot of road and infrastructure to develop its country. It is also one of the good countries to invest in the beauty industry because Laos people like to watch Thailand drama and want to be as beautiful as the actor and actress.

Vietnam has the most economic zone compare with other countries in ASEAN. Over half of FDI in Vietnam is in processing and manufacturing industries especially telephone and electrical part.

For Thailand's export to CLMV markets, we can see that Cambodia required a lot of cement due to the booming in construction. Laos imports in many kinds of products, for example, refined fuel, structural steel, and beverage. For Myanmar, most of medium-high exports potential from Thailand quite similar to Laos. However, there is also an additional product, for example, sugar, rubber, and paper product that Myanmar import from Thailand. The last country to concern is Vietnam. Vietnam imports fuels, motor parts, and plastic resin.

One interesting fact from the class is that there is no way for SME or small business to expand their business and compete with other large companies in CLMV country. Hence, as the lecturer said, small companies have to combine with each other and form a group which will have more power to bargain and ability to invest.

The last activity is debating between Laos and Vietnam. I was standing for Vietnam and had a lot of opportunities to argue in many aspects which I totally like it and believe it allows us as the student to look through both Vietnam and Laos in almost every aspect. In the debate, we found that compared with the transportation aspect, Laos still cannot compete with

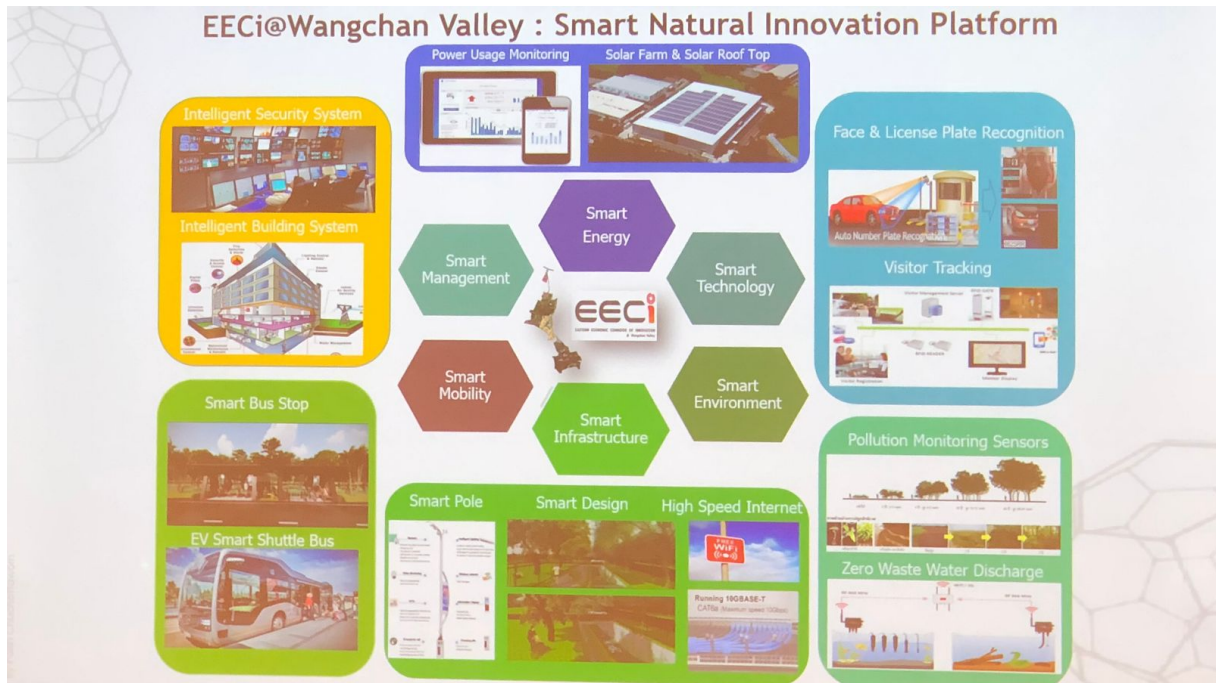
Vietnam as Vietnam has a coastline and also in the one belt-one road plan as same as Laos. However, in resources given, Laos has more natural resources provided for investors to invest in. One interesting fact from this activity is that Vietnam concerns a lot in education than I thought. The data found that Vietnam uses 5.7 percent of GDP in education which higher than in Laos (3.3 percent). This demonstrates that the Vietnam government wants to create productive and skillful labor for its country.

JULY 5

In the morning section, we went to TGI or Thai-German Institute in Chonburi. At TGI, it provides short practical courses that aim to teach and train skilled worker. There are only 180 workers and 80 of them are technicians and engineers who teach for the courses in this institute. The courses can separate into 3 main parts, forming, automation, and maintenance.

The main problem that I found from visiting this institute is that the government still doesn't use the money in a proper way. Developing this institute and left out fundamental education can lead to a larger gap between the big private sector and SME in Thailand that can not afford these human development courses. Hence, I believe that government, as a one who can distribute fund in each sector, should put technical college in the light and promote the education plan and quality. So, the graduate student from these kinds of skill schools can compete in the labor market both in Thailand and in the world.

In the afternoon, we went to VISTEC which aim to be a world-class frontier research institute in science and technology. The EECi in Wangchan Valley uses smart natural innovation platform which contains 6 "Smart" consideration, smart energy, smart technology, smart environment, smart infrastructure, smart mobility, and smart management. I really surprised with the system that they created. This project is more than an institute of science, it is one of the good role models for city planning which can further lead to the quality of population in specific area.



To conclude, we can see the difference between these two institutes in many ways. The main reason for these differences is the money that invested. PTT as one of the state enterprise that holds by the Thai government has more ability to develop itself better than TGI which manage under Ministry of Industry. Hence, the government should use its budget effectively and focus more on creating a good education system since the fundamental requirement until optional education.