

## **Report on Participating Special Exchange Programme at Kyoto University**

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My motivation to join a Two-Month Intensive Course at Graduate School of Economics and Faculty of Economics at Kyoto University was fueled by my desire to improve myself academically, enhance and board my understanding about sustainable development, and gain experience in an international academic environment. After two months of the programme had passed, I felt the outcome was beyond my initial expectation.

Firstly, my view point on the sustainable development has shifted into the new perspective by learning from a hands-on experience. I had the chance to attend and be part of the seminar class with professors who are not only from Japan but also from all around the world who has a huge expertise in this fields, and also the student who participated in the class were from all around the globe. The design of the course as lecture class and open seminar style, was enhancing for students to be very active and we were able to learn by doing some activities and seeing some material provided in every classes and also reading assignments that was provided. Thus, it gave me an opportunity to exchange ideas and experiences with other foreign students, as well as consult with the best professors which I rarely see in the class of my home country.

For the knowledge that I have gained, this programme, especially the course namely, *Comparative Development Studies*, empowered me in terms of contemporary knowledge on development issues that are currently affecting developed countries especially in Japan and European countries. In addition, the course ASEAN Economy & Sustainable Development, broadly developed and improved my understanding of sustainability issues affecting in developing countries like the ASEAN countries. Thus, the programme improved my understanding of East Asian sustainable economic development and it made me realize how important it is to study sustainable development because it is the right way to maintain the needs of the present and to build a better future. Moreover, the extraordinary experience of the programme definitely made a remarkable and major change in my life. All of the critical knowledge that I have learned has made me reflect on how to look at the problem of development in Thailand, my home country, and also it suggested to me the proper way to apply a solution to the problem. I hope that I will be able contribute to society regarding the issues of development and concerns about sustainability.

Lastly, there were so many more experiences and knowledge that I gained but cannot detail here due to the limited space. Thus, it can be concluded that all the experience and knowledge from the programme has surely served as a useful stepping stone in my further study and future career path. Apart from the academic side, living here in Kyoto has really opened me to a new world of living aboard independently. As a student who had only lived in Thailand until now, this programme opened up an opportunity for me to meet with other people from different countries, from whose experiences I could learn about life in Japan and across the world.