

# GLOCAL AGE 2020

## 2016 SHORT-TERM EXCHANGE PROGRAM REPORT

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I could experience and learn a lot through this program, especially about "International cooperation between Thailand and Japan" and "Good educational method" (environment and the connection with relating facilities). I will discuss about them and how I want to use this knowledge in Japan.

First of all, I would like to mention about "International cooperation." We visited "Wiang Pa Pao" in Chiang Rai, which was the ginger factory. The facility director told us that 95 percent of all products like gingers and eggplants from the factory is for Japan. Japanese supermarkets and convenience stores receive them. When I heard that, I had one question: Why so many products for Japan were produced in Thailand. The answer from the manager was that Thailand is suitable to produce gingers, eggplants and others. Moreover, labor costs are cheaper than Japanese. From these explanations, I felt that Thailand is an indispensable country for Japan. In other words, the workers there support the lives of Japanese people. This is an example of "International cooperation."



Without this visit, I would not have thought about the importance of the connection between countries. I want Japanese children to have the same learning opportunities as I had in Thailand. If I can give Japanese children the experiences, they can not only get a lot of knowledge but also feel how important world relationship is, which are something they cannot learn from just textbooks in school. In order to realize this chance, it is a good way to make plans that Japanese students can visit foreign factories and companies at a low cost. And I have to rearrange Japanese educational system such as scholarships for Japanese children. Now, I am more interested in them, so I would like to continue learning about "International cooperation," "Good educational system."

Secondly, I want to write about "Educational method" such as educational environment and connection with the relating institutes.

My major is not agriculture, so at first I could not understand what the facility instructor of "Khun Chang Kian" explained. However, I became interested in it by asking for more explanations to the facility director, faculty members, Niigata University students and Turkish students. For Example, when I went to "Coffee Farm," the leader explained about the growing process of coffee beans in detail. Unfortunately, I could not understand it. Therefore, I asked about it to Niigata University students. Thanks to their explanations, I could understand the

structure of coffee beans, and I felt that I wanted to study it harder. From this experience, I think that it is very useful to study with people who have different specialties. In other words, this educational environment should be spread in universities. In my opinion, such a method is not common in Japan. Japanese children can only get knowledge of their interests. Therefore, their perspectives are limited. If this tendency continues in Japan, Japanese people cannot develop various things like education, science and other fields. We should think about educational environment for children and developed world.



Moreover, I learned that it is necessary to have relationships with some institutes. Compared to Japanese universities, such as Fukushima University and Niigata University, Chiang Mai University has a lot of relating facilities, which encourage higher education like students' trainings and professors' researches. If Japanese universities cooperate with these relating institutions more, students will be able to concentrate on their studies and professors will teach in more effective ways.



Overall, I learned not only "Agriculture" but also about "International cooperation," "Good educational environment" and "The importance of the relating facilities." I want to make a better educational system in Japan with using experiences I gained through this program.

Finally, I am grateful to everyone who supported us for this program. Thanks to this program, I was able to think about my future again. I hope that this program will continue.

Thank you so much.

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This program was challenging for me because I have never been to Thailand, and also I am not an expert of agriculture. But it was also very productive.

The climate in Chang Mai was harsh for me. Even in February, Chang Mai gets 35-36 degrees Celsius. My home town, Fukushima, it gets 2-3 degrees Celsius in February.

I am impressed by Thai culture. There are lot of big pictures of the former King Bhumibol and King Vajiralongkom in many places. I learned Thai people are influenced by them so much.

And temples were very big and lots of people visited them. Doi Suthep temple has a gorgeous statue and Pagoda. The King and Buddhism are the foundation of Thai culture.

There are a lot of markets in Chang Mai. People are communicating face to face, and most of private shop owners can speak English. I think that because they are also selling products for tourists, they have to speak in English.

And there are lots of Japanese products in Chang Mai. Lots of Thai people drive cars made by Matsuda. There are Glico, Morinaga and other snacks in supermarkets. Even Japanese Sake was in supermarkets. Those products cost higher than other Thai products. If I visited other places in Thailand, I could find other Japanese products as well.



The Second day, we had a sharing session about agriculture in Japan, Turkey and Thailand. Mr. Kanomata, from Fukushima University, made a presentation about Fukushima, especially on March 11th disaster. The disaster happened 6 years ago, but even now that topic has a big impact. All people attending the session listened it carefully.

I found a great relationship between local farmer, company, university, and government and king. At Center for Agricultural Resource System Research, situated in the main campus of CMU. CMU and local farmers are connected very

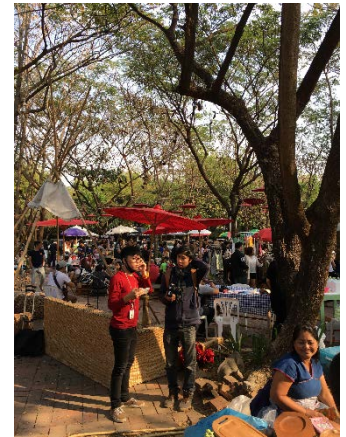
strongly. CMU students can research, demonstrate their works and take agricultural training in the center. There is a farmer's market near the center, where local farmers can discuss their agricultural problems with researchers and get some advice from CMU.

At JJ market, where farmers are selling organic products, government does a quality test to give certifications to the private shop owners. And private company is supporting this market as their company's social responsibility.

At Ban Rai, there is the Ban Rai Royal Initiative Project. This area used to be famous for opium, and to stop producing and selling opium, the Royal Project started. Now over 300 people are working, they propagate and distribute flower, fruit and some other products.

We went to lots of places related with agriculture, most of the places had a great relationship with local farmers, CMU, company, government and the king. This relationship has a possibility to get benefit more effectively. Because they are connected strongly, they can cooperate and help each other more than before.

And I am also impressed by CMU's scale. It has a lot of places to research, demonstrate scholars' work and have training about agriculture in Chang Mai. It has its own coffee farm, and selling a great coffee and making profits. That is used for researching again, or payment for coffee farm labors.



CMU students are very smart and they are experts about their specific agricultural area. They told us a lot of things in English when we visited the places, it was very helpful for me to understand what was happening there.

The final day, we gave a presentation about what we had learned in Chang Mai, Thailand. I was talking about relationships between different groups of people in Chiang Mai. Other people told us about soil erosion, water pollution and so on.

I had a great time during this program. I got a new point of view from the agricultural side. This program expanded my view, and I hope this program will continue to the next generation.



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In this program, I learned about agriculture. On the first day, I and other students who came to Thailand together did ice-breaking activity with the guidance of a university teacher. In the ice-breaking, we introduced ourselves, enjoyed games and built friendships. Especially playing Jan-ken was fun for me. I played with the Turkish and taught him how to play, but it was very difficult for me to teach Japanese style Rock-Paper-Scissors, but in the end, he said he would like to master it. It became a good memory for him as he became the winner in the game.

After the second day, I was able to learn more about agriculture. I am studying economics at university, but because I did not study about agriculture enough, my knowledge of agriculture was not enough. I was worried that I may not be able to understand the contents of lectures. Students and teachers from Niigata University and Turkish Universities taught me everything I did not know and I was able to understand lectures without prior knowledge of agriculture. Also, although I was not worried about learning things in English, I was worried that other people may not be able to understand my English. When I talked in English, people worked so hard to understand. So I could not communicate enough.

Interesting thing in this project was coffee farm and biogas production. In coffee farm, we were able to see all the processes from the raw coffee beans to roasting process and become drinking coffee. I think that this kind of opportunity, eating raw coffee beans, is very rare, so it was a very good experience. A good environment for growing coffee trees is on the top of a mountain. I was able to learn that drinking coffee is made through many steps.

At the biogas producing factory, we were able to see how wastewater from livestock and the waste from farming are used to produce energy.

I knew biogas energy because it is renewable energy being studied in Japan, but it was the first time to see how it was actually made. Going to the scene, I was able to feel the smell, and the environment was that something I cannot understand with just imagining. So I thought "Seeing is believing" 「百聞は一見に如かず」.

"Government's active support" is a common point in both projects. Coffee production was supported by Royal Project, led by King of Thailand, in researching and agricultural technology improvement. In biogas production, there is financial support such as the government support for purchasing the produced biogas energy. With such support, we were able to improve the quality of life of the people and develop the industry. I felt the importance of the country's support.

In this project, I learned agriculture and I was able to interact with people who are quite different from myself, such as agricultural students and Thai people. In free time my friends taught me the knowledge of agriculture which I had not known. I was able to talk about my own ideas and opinions, telling people about the economics I am studying myself. People told me about their culture and thinking. I feel my insight have been widened by this exchanges.

What I learned in this project was agricultural knowledge. I also learned that intercultural exchange with different culture and mutual understanding are very important.

This experience is important for us in our world where globalization will progress in the future. For example, "Understanding the idea of other cultures can build a friendly relationship." "Learning a lot of industries leads to bridging other industries and creating new ideas."

I would like to make efforts to become a person who touches all cultures and academic regardless of overseas or industry by making full use of what I learned in this project.



“biogas product ”

“Using wastewater for renewable



“coffee product”

“Coffee trees grow on mountains ”

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Before I went to Thailand, I set goals. There were three goals.

First one was to learn new knowledge about Thailand and Turkish agriculture and sharing knowledge of Japanese agriculture. But, it was difficult for me to understand all the contents about agriculture in English. So, I asked help to Niigata university students, whose major was agriculture. They have a lot of knowledge in agriculture. Thanks to them, it became much easier for me to understand the lectures. Thank you all for teaching me the knowledge.

Second goal was to make conversation with other participants positively. I wanted to talk with foreigners. I couldn't have enough conversation because my English was very poor. But Thai students and Turkish students were very kind. I am glad to meet those nice friends. If I join program like this, I would like to talk with other students much more.



Third goal was to spread information of Thailand by social media. I want to say I have done it. Usually, I do not use social media so much. But I used it in this program more than usual. I think I was able to spread information about Thailand.

In this program, I learned two lessons from Chiang Mai about spreading information. One is the importance of using figures and pictures. The other is the importance of face to face communication. Actually, I gained new knowledge in this program through seeing things with my own eyes. It means looking field directly is more important than only seeing video or only hearing.



And I was surprised that paddy fields in Chiang Mai are similar to Japanese ones and there are many beautiful flowers in Thailand.



More than anything, I enjoyed spending time with everyone and I am happy to meet you. I am glad to join this program. Thank you for kindness.

I would like to study English harder and keep in touch with everyone. Thank you very much.





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### ① The Reasons to Participate in This Program

In 2015, I went to Korea as an exchange student for a year to study Korean language and the relationship between Japan and Korea.

In Korea, I was able to make a lot of foreign friends. Most of them are from Asian countries. I interacted with them, and I felt a strong Asian power. So, I become interested in Asian cultures and people.

Next, I would like to work as a flight attendant and contribute to the Japanese tourism in the future. So, I would like to learn about smiles and hospitality of Thai people.

### ② Achievements of My Goals

Before visiting Chiang Mai, I thought about my theme of the trip. It was making a lot of foreign friends in Thailand.

Through the program, I was able to make a lot of Thai and Turkish friends. Although I am not good at English, I learned that if I have an enthusiasm to convey my feelings with a smile, I can make foreign friends.



### ③ What I Learned from This Program

As a participant of this program, I was able to learn a lot about agriculture. Before joining this program, I did not have any background knowledge of agriculture because my major was international politics. I was able to gain a lot of knowledge by visiting places related to agriculture and listening to lectures. To be honest, there were many things I could not understand, but thanks to Thai students and the students of Niigata University, I

understood a little.



#### ④ How I Will Use This Learnings from Now

What I learned through my stay in Thailand this time is the kindness of people in Thailand. Thai people were always considerate of others and talked me with smiles. If I become a flight attendant, I would like to have a hospitality and respects for others like Thai people.

Also, I saw many LGBT people in Thailand. In Thailand, minorities are also accepted. I think that Japan should learn the attitude to accept minorities like Thailand.

#### ⑤ Summary

In Thailand, I spent the best and wonderful week in my life. This week has become an irreplaceable thing to me. Thank you all for giving me such a wonderful opportunity.

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I can say that I have achieved my objectives. I set two objectives before taking part in this program.

One of the objectives was to learn images Thailand people have about Fukushima's foods. Why am I interested in Fukushima's food safety? I have been spreading information as a member of Miss Peach. Miss Peach's mission is to promote Fukushima's food and sightseeing. One day, a shocking event happened to me, which was caused by incorrect images about Fukushima. In 2015, I was selling peach in Yokohama. A woman about over 40 years old came to our event and ate a piece of Fukushima's peach. She asked me "It's so delicious, where are you from?" I answered "I am from Fukushima." She heard my words and spat out the peach. Her face turned to red and said "I am very concerned about my body's safety after eating Fukushima's products." I was really surprised and shocked. She found the peach delicious, but she heard a word "Fukushima" and refused the product.

I thought Fukushima's food are recognized dangerous in Thailand because foreign medias have been reported that Fukushima is so dangerous place. I feel foreign medias have created this fear, as they haven't reported the restoration of Fukushima. I know a man who thinks that nobody can live in Fukushima. So I thought that Thai people also have incorrect images about Fukushima. In this program, I had many chances to talk with Thai students, so I asked my questions to them. Thai people can be divided into 3 types. First type thinks that not only Fukushima but Japan also produces dangerous foods. Second group don't care. Third type thinks Japanese people have solved these problems, so Japanese food is safe. I was surprised Thai people have trust in Japanese people. I did not realize the third type before. And some Thai people have correct information about Fukushima, others don't have it. So I feel the necessity of more information transmission about Fukushima. After this program, I wanted to tell about Fukushima to my Thai friends. Why targeting friends? Because Thai friends who are interest in Fukushima through this program can accept information more easily. If they transmit information about Fukushima for their friends, Fukushima's correct information can be spread.

Next objective was to learn the reasons why organic agriculture has been promoted in Chiang Mai. Before taking part in this program, I searched about Chiang Mai's agriculture on the internet. Almost all of the information about Chiang Mai's agriculture was about organic farming, telling it has been going so well. I know organic agriculture is very difficult because of insect problems. Why is organic agriculture going so well in Chiang Mai? By using agricultural chemical, farmers can grow a big amount of crops more easily.

Actually, I learned in Chiang Mai that my images were wrong. Organic farmers in Chiang Mai have resembling problems as Japanese farmers have, and there are still working hard for a success. What is the problem in Chiang

Mai's agriculture? Almost all of the farmers use a lot of agricultural chemicals. Thailand ranks as one of the biggest agricultural-chemical users in the world. Thailand is trying to reduce the amount of agricultural chemical used for farming and increase farmer's income. I think that there is a limit in internet searching. And I found a dearth of information about agriculture and bio plantation. I think some problems in Chiang Mai are also what Japan and other countries are experiencing. So Chiang Mai also needs information from other countries.

In this program, I really learned a lot. I didn't have background of agriculture. However, I was able to get answers for many of my questions because we asked and helped each other. I made good friends. In addition, I felt the importance of face to face communication; watching and hearing. If I only had learned these things on the internet, I would not have been able to have the correct images about Chiang Mai.

What should I do now? I will do two things, that is cultural exchanges and information transmission. If I can do two things, and they go well, we can grow much more.

