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Short-Term Student Exchange Report

Chulalongkorn University – Center of Learning Network for the Region (CLNR)

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Reporter

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Additional Information

Language of the Programme: English

Exchange Programme: ASEAN University Network- 2nd ASEAN Experiential Learning
Programme 2019

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What is AELP 2019?

ASEAN Experiential Learning Programme (AELP) is one week programme that serves as a real learning exposure and immersion for university students in ASEAN with focus on “Sociocultural Theme”. The key activities include field trip, group discussion, and reflection activity. AELP is held every 2 years by the ASEAN University Network – Student Affairs Network (AUN-SAN) which is a platform to empower, develop student leadership, as well as enhance related student affairs and governance through Student Affairs body of AUN Member Universities. This year 2019 was hosted by Chulalongkorn University and 30 universities from the respective ASEAN countries attended this programme.

Applying Process

As you might have already assumed, applying a student exchange programme from University of Yangon is highly competitive. You have to wait for the announcement of Calling applicants and should gather information about programme and all the different documents needed beforehand. The applications have to pass through your department first for the required Recommendation Letter from the Professor Head of Department. Then, the application is done at Student Affairs after University representative selection and the paper applications have to be submitted to International Cooperation Office. But this is only to get nomination and signature from University of Yangon(UY) and you have to apply the programme directly after you was nominated.

The most frustrating part was to submit the documents needed and pay for the registration fees directly to Chulalongkorn University. This was what happened to me. One of the document they asked for was that insurance for travelling to Thailand. Actually it is not too much popular in Myanmar purchasing the insurance for travelling. I had to find out more than 3 Insurance Companies for reasonable costs and found out IKBZ was cheap and convenient. Another challenge faced to me was to pay the Registration fees via Bank. They were not accepting the referral cash via Visa Card and only the Western Union which service charge was more expensive than the amount I needed to transfer is available. So, I directed them the case and later, the registration fees were waived for Early Birds. But do not worry so much, the application process is pretty straightforward. You will be just fine by following guides and asking from staffs at department and students affairs.

It is also a good idea to buy the flight tickets early enough, this might save you cents of dollars. The cheapest flight can be acquired from budget airlines like AirAsia or NokAir. As AELP 2019 was held in Nan which is the Northern Part of Thailand, I had to buy for two rounds way transit at Don Muang Airport. My flight to Nan with AirAsia was cheap, less than 300\$ for two round way. So, I highly recommended it.

Studies on Programme

Studies on AELP felt easy and the workload was low. I had only two sessions in lecture and the rest were the activities and group work with final report presentation. This is a good opportunity for an exchange student because all the other experiences are as valuable as the school or even more.

The sessions I had in one week programme were:

- Agricultural session
- Content talk on Waste Management

Included Activities

As AELP is especially highlighted programme for experiential learning, there were a lot of activities and cultural workshops to taste and experience.

- ✚ City tour of Nan where the programme was held was a great chance for me to taste the real Asian experience and I explored the charm, heritage and the beauty of Nan.
- ✚ “Farmer School Homestay” activity was to introduce about the daily life of Nan (Thailand) farmers and their innovative modern agricultural methods. Moreover, the session attracted with the further livelihood art played by women in rural areas of Thailand and overall review on this session is just to promote the “Ecotourism” role in Thailand.



Me participating in Activities

- ✚ The most enjoyable activity of the programme was “Immersion Activity” on Weaving and Pottery. This was to reveal almost vanished profession of Thailand in 21st Century but still trying to rehead the profession with modern arts. This part was really to be impressive and notable of other developing countries whose economy is still depending on rural people.

Personal Reflection

I had three main reasons for applying this AUN – AELP Programme. The first one was that the main language for the regional connected University network’s programme is English. So, if English is the only foreign language you can speak and you wish to experience with totally different culture, I figured ASEAN level programme are optional choice.

The second reason was that it is a great chance to expand your social horizon and broaden your community. For me, I met with the friendly roommate who is the current Finance executive member from Students’ Union of Nanyang Technology University from Singapore. Another girl who is in the same group with me on this programme I knew is a student from Department of Medicine, Universiti Brunei Darussalam. Such kind of smart students from different fields would probably become a part of supporter in your future career pathway.

The third reason was more personal. Since I had already studied in here, Myanmar for 11 years, I wanted to experience something totally different, which is what I got. AELP is a nice fusion of Asean nationals in one place and so I was able to get the accessibility to approach the whole ASEAN in different fields.

Summary and Conclusions

I wanted to gather the three main reasons why to apply short-term student exchange programme and some essential things to prepare and take care.

The three main reasons why to apply short-term student exchange programme:

1. Getting a chance to explore other University’s Education systems
2. Getting a chance to taste a student life in Foreign country
3. Broadening your mind with different concepts gained from international friends

Essential Things

- To have a good command or communicable English
- To be active and passionate for programme
- To be clear on which type of funding for programme
- Be prepared during the applying process time and be fully aware of the deadline



UY Representatives receiving Certificate



Farmers Team of AELP