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Sincere Respect for Dr. Weerapong Ramangkul, Dr. Ammar Siamwalla and Dr. Adis Issarangkul NaAyudhaya

Source: Learning from Reality with Dr. Chira
Column Naewna, 6th October 2012, p.5



I went to Myanmar for several days. After coming back, I heard the news of Dr. Weerapong Ramangkul's disagreement over Rice Mortgage Policy despite being respected by this government.

I would like to show my respect for his principle of this matter.

Dr. Weerapong explained that these problems would arise from rice mortgage.

- Corruption cannot be controlled.
- Instead of farmers, merchants and mill owners benefit.
- The mortgaged price is too high. In fact, it should be cheaper than the real price.
- Market mechanism will be destroyed in rice market.

Dr. Ammar Siamwalla carefully commented on the government's policy. However, he clearly spoke on the television that this government was good at lip service.

- Especially Mr. Boonsong Teriyapirom, Minister of Commerce claimed that G to G rice export was about 7 millions tons. This value may be true. If he can really make it, there must be movements from several dimensions such as the demand for rice sacks or movement of ships to export.

- He emphasized that it was hard to continue or cancel this policy because both cases would give bad results.

- As we know, rice exports are from private sector only. None is from government.

Dr. Adis Issarangkul Na Ayudhaya from NIDA said that already in my last column. Last week, he submitted the case to the Constitution Court. I would like to honor him for his courage to deal with the Red Mob in front of NIDA. I would like to give him encouragement and support.

I have already said that instead of morality and wisdom, Thaksin's system used power for doing everything. Actually, honesty and good ethical standard can protect Thailand. The misuse of policy and power can seriously destroy the country.

I have many issues about my works in Myanmar to share to all Thais.

First, I would like to thank EGATi especially Mr. Somboon Arayasakul, acting Managing Director of EGAT International Co., Ltd. and Mr. Watchara Hemruchatanun for a partial financial support for Foundation for International Human Resource Development's successful work in Myanmar.

I would like to thank H.E. Mr. Pisanu Suvanajata, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, The Royal Thai Embassy, Yangon, Myanmar for kindly delivering Welcoming Remarks.

I would like to thank several honorable speakers like Chair Professor Krairit Boonyakiat, Dr. La-iard Silanoi and Dr. M.R. Rujaya Abhakorn. All of them have very tight schedules but showed great spirits to join this seminar. They help this international event greatly successful in the eyes of Myanmar.

The most important thing is Myanmar-Thailand relation focusing on Trust, Equality and Mutual Respect.

I have known H.E. Minister U Aye Myint Kyu, Union Minister, Ministry of Culture, Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar for more than 10 years. He warmly welcomed our group.

EGATi for Education in Myanmar: Seminar on "Cultural Conservation in Myanmar Cultural Heritage Sites and Culture as the Tourism Related" promoted Cultural Capital creating value added to tourism of 2 countries via good and bad experience sharing.

Only well selected 50-60 Burmese participants joined this seminar. They consisted of Burmese government officials and more than 20 academics from leading universities in Myanmar.

They had paid a lot of attention to the seminar and great English skill.

Myanmar is a country like a rich and attractive woman.

Thais who will want relationship with Myanmar must carefully study about these subjects.

- History
- Culture
- Custom
- Politics
- Economy
- Win-win situation. Do not take advantage of Myanmar only.

The Ambassador said that Thai businessmen cared for Myanmar's minimum wage only. He said that they should pay enough wage for Burmese workers to lead their lives instead of minimizing the labor cost.

The Minister welcomed us very well and paid attention to our seminar all the time. If he was absent, he sent the deputy minister to be his representative and greatly impressed our group.

Before going to Myanmar, I worked with Foundation for International Human Resource Development in organizing the seminar on Reading and Preparation for AEC for Lion Club of Bangkok Ratanachart.

Several famous speakers like Chair Professor Krairit Boonyakiat and Mr. Tanya Pholanan also joined this seminar.

This seminar aligned with UNESCO's selection of Bangkok as City of Reading next year. Not only Thai, we must pay attention to foreign languages especially English and ASEAN languages.

Chair Professor Krairit Boonyakiat recommended 3 reading techniques for those who do not love reading to start reading.

- Family is a good start. Parents should stimulate children to read together and provide them with good books in house. After that, the schools must encourage students to pay attention to reading.

Then, what is effective reading?

- We should read what we like and valuable for us and start making the main points of reading.

Chair Professor Krairit Boonyakiat suggested that we must quickly improve reading skill in English and ASEAN languages to prepare for AEC.

For me,

- I read because I feel happy and lead to my life-long learning rooted in my life.
- My father is my great influence.
- Studying abroad especially at Bachelor's Degree in New Zealand forced me to practice reading, summarize and synthesize to pass the exam.
- Finally, I would like to suggest that to enjoy reading English effectively, we should learn English literature especially Shakespearean Dramas' characters instead of learning grammar only.



Foundation for International Human Resource Development cooperated with EGAT International Co., Ltd. to organize EGATi for Education in Myanmar: Seminar on "Cultural Conservation in Myanmar Cultural Heritage Sites and Culture as the Tourism Related" on 1st – 3rd October 2012 at Asia Plaza Hotel Yangon, Myanmar.

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