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A Concrete Example of ASEAN Youth Leadership Development

The 50-year anniversary of ASEAN has already passed. What kinds of benefits do Thais receive from ASEAN? I would like to cite the second ASEAN Debsirin Knowledge Camp as a concrete example. This is the second ASEAN project which I expect to continue as long as I can. Therefore, I would like to share to the readers.

In the national level, I have been working with 10 schools of Debsirin School Network to organize Knowledge Camping for more than 15 years. The youths gathered to do activities and exchange ideas. The topics were on the country's future like economic, social, cultural, technological, environmental and global warming aspects. The Learning Methodology focused on my concepts of 4L's, 2R's and innovative project workshops.

4L's

1. Learning Methodology
2. Learning Environment
3. Learning Opportunities
4. Learning Communities

2R's

1. Reality
2. Relevance

The second ASEAN Debsirin Knowledge Camp was hosted by Debsirin Samutprakan School on January 27-February 2, 2017. Debsirinromklao School hosted the first ASEAN Debsirin Knowledge Camp in 2015.

Each school sent 10 delegates to join this camp. 1 teacher and 4 youths from these 5 ASEAN countries like Myanmar, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Vietnam and Indonesia were invited. However, Myanmar sent 8 youths to join this camp.

10 schools of Debsirin School Network selected the student representatives to get 3-month spoken and written English skill training before joining this camp.

They spent valuable 6 days together. Besides leadership development, communicative English skills were developed. Thai youths became more confident in presentation and activity participation. The students of 6 countries also did several activities together.

The main topics were as follows.

- Networking
- Borderless ASEAN
- Learning System

I saw the whole learning environment. I realized that effective youth leadership development needed to be continuously done. After leaving, they will link together by Smart Phone. They will also remain linking when they will study in the university and work in the future.

It was a great honor to have Her Serene Highness Princess Uthaiganya Bhanubandh to preside over the opening ceremony.



Mr. Theerapon Sirinanut, Samutprakan Deputy Governor delivered the welcome address. As the Knowledge Camping initiator at Debsirin School 15 years ago and continuing to the present, I reported the project background to her.



During the 5-day camp, a lot of Debsirin alumni came to make presentations. They joined workshop discussion on the lesson learnt and follow-up activities.



Dr. Suvit Maesincee, Minister of Prime Minister's Office mentioned about the future cooperation among ASEAN countries. He also explained Thailand Economy 4.0. If youths can understand, they can well support Economy 4.0. It must start from Human Capital development, learning, Ethical Capital and future innovation.



I focused on leadership and 8K's and 5K's. I also emphasized on 3V's especially Value Diversity. Moreover, I had an opportunity to understand ASEAN culture and readiness to achieve ASEAN unity.

The camp location was Ancient City. All delegates were taken to pay the mourning respect to King Rama IX at the Grand Palace.



The students were assigned to do daily workshop discussion. They were required to select a topic for workshop discussion without coaching by the organizing committees. Then, they prepared to present on the last day.

There were 8 topics as follows.

1. The Sustainable Development of Art, Culture and Tradition
2. Economy
3. Sport & Tourism
4. Belief and Tradition
5. Borderless Culture
6. Technology of education
7. Quality of the ASEAN Education
8. Open-minded toward better ASEAN

These topics came from youths who explore future cooperation in the main areas like culture, value and belief. The peaceful living in ASEAN needs the paradigm shift to be One ASEAN. The mindset should become open-minded and caring for other countries. This can be a good example for other groups of youths to learn to organize ASEAN youth camps.

The closing ceremony was impressive. Certificates and badges were awarded to the youths. It was a great honor to have M.L. Panadda Diskul, Deputy Minister of Education to preside over the closing ceremony. He turned on “Loving dad is never enough.” Song in remembrance of the world’s beloved King Rama IX. King Rama IX is the best role model for Thais. M.L. Panadda Diskul delivered the impressive closing speech. I am also impressed with M.L. Panadda Diskul because he is a role model of good civil servant and socially respected ethical leader.



In conclusion, the new generation leadership development in ASEAN must be open-minded leaders with diversity management skill, good communicative skill, life-long learning, thinking skill, analytical skill, transparency, ethics and Sufficiency Economy understanding.

Prof. Dr. Chira Hongladarom

Source: Learning from Reality with Dr. Chira Column. **Naewna**.
Saturday 4 February 2017, p.5



Human Talk Radio Program

Human Talk Radio Program broadcast on Sunday 5 February 2017

Prof. Dr. Chira Hongladarom said that, on the day he recorded this radio program episode on February 3, 2017, he met the Training Office of Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA) and discussed the development project for the director of 50 Bangkok districts. He received a warm welcome. BMA has 10,000 of civil servants. If human capital development focused on the old work style, it would be useless. BMA Training Office Director was interested in this project and knew Prof. Dr. Chira Hongladarom when he worked at Thammasat University. If human capital development opportunities were available, people should be inspired to create value added from gained knowledge.

ASEAN Debsirin Knowledge Camp 2016 ended on February 2, 2017. It lasted 6 days. There were total 30 foreign delegates came from 5 countries. The Thai delegation came from 10 schools of Debsirin School Network. The most important thing was that these Thai students had to practice English to create value added to this camp. During the 6-day camp, some Thai students became more confident in English communication.

The Cambodian Delegation



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The Indonesian Delegation



The Laotian Delegation



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The Burmese Delegation



The Vietnamese Delegation



The Thai Delegation









Besides listening to the lectures, they were assigned to do workshops. The students initiated the workshop. Then, they presented the workshop result on the closing day. M.L. Panadda Diskul, Deputy Minister of Education presided over the closing ceremony. He was a good civil servant of Ministry of Interior and Minister for 2 terms. When Prof. Dr. Chira Hongladarom firstly listened to the students' workshop result presentation, he felt that they were different from other workshops he set up for other ASEAN projects. These students worked on their own without the coaches' assistance. Then, they presented the workshop results as follows.





The first group workshop topic was “The Sustainable Development of Art Culture and Tradition”. Instead of environmental aspect, they focused on the culture, way of life and tradition. They said that, if we lived in ASEAN Community, we would have to exchange cultures with one another. Thailand has Loy Krathong Festival. Myanmar has Shwedagon Pagoda. We should cooperate instead of isolation. These students felt that they were ASEAN citizen as well as individual. In sustainability aspect, they gained benefits from King Rama IX’s Sufficiency Economy. They learnt the concepts like moderation, risk management, system thinking, morality, ethics and knowledge. They presented this point. They said that they focused on the sustainability because they did not want it to be destroyed within the short time. Their selection on sustainability reflect their long-term preference



Loy Krathong Festival

Source:

http://www.kalyanamitra.org/th/images/dailydhamma/2556/10/561106_kt1039.jpg



Shwedagon Pagoda

Source:

<http://viettravelasia.com/UserFiles/dsc04400.jpg>

The second group workshop topic was “Economy”. Their presentation’s main point was that all ASEAN countries would need to rely on one another’s economy. Dr. Suvit Maesincee, Minister of Prime Minister’s Office emphasized that ASEAN Economy was small so each country could not survive by living alone. Instead of covering all aspects, they focused only on agriculture. They said that, countries with advanced food processing expertise like Thailand would have to develop supply chains to create value added to countries with a lot of land and natural resources. They started to see that, in the future, agricultural economy would prosper and be very useful.

Prof. Dr. Chira Hongladarom assigned these students daily workshops. They could adjust their ideas. When they presented, they were required to use the digital system. Instead of infrastructure, they selected agriculture. If the young generation paid more attention to agriculture, they could be the national hope.

The third group workshop topic was “Sport and Travel”. Instead of working alone, they focused on events which ASEAN countries would co-host like the World Cup and the Olympics. Finally, they wanted to have more sport tourism projects. In fact, Prof. Dr. Chira Hongladarom mentioned about sport tourism several times. In this project, he did not coach them on this topic. They selected the topic and he advised them later. They suggested that sport and tourism should be promoted together.

Prof. Dr. Chira Hongladarom told them that big events could be certainly held. However, they should not ignore small events. Tour de France should be used as the model for organizing Tour de Mekong. Racing routes should link to religious tourism. They could pass religious sites and several places of several countries. Nowadays, bicycle racing are organized in Mae Sot and the North East. In the South, there should be cycling or marathon running across border to Malaysia.



Ride to Khong's Legendary
(Khon Kaen-Kalasin-Sakonnakhon-Nakhonphanom Route)

Source:
<http://www.ridetokhonglegendary.com/>



The 17th Thai-Myanmar Friendship Bicycle Rally

Source:
<http://www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/72222222222-1.jpg>

Another group's topic was very interesting. They wanted ASEAN people especially youths to be open-minded to support the changes. If we saw the less developed countries, we should be open-minded. They focused on the cultural differences understanding. Open mind was like Mindset. People could open and close them. This ASEAN project reflected open-mindedness. Donald Trump was close-minded. He would not allow the Mexicans and Muslims to come into the U.S. This would be a problem. The youths should be open-minded at ASEAN level.

Prof. Dr. Chira Hongladarom read the group lines. The students used English and learnt from one another. Before leaving, they were impressed with one another. They had emotional ties. They could say "Good Bye!" They cared for one another. Their language showed their close relationship.

Nowadays, they have Social Media. M.L. Panadda Diskul emphasized that we should not only organize projects for youths at the university level. Prof. Dr. Chira Hongladarom also organized the projects for high school level. The Grade 11 students will further their study. When they study at the university next year, they can link with one another. Then, they can exchange ideas. When they graduate from the university, they can have opportunities to work together.

In open-minded aspect, the youths showed the concern for the foreign workers. They said that some countries still boycotted the foreign workers from ASEAN countries. One example was the case of Indonesian workers coming to Malaysia. If those countries do not welcome these workers, that will be problem.

Another workshop topic that youths selected was "Quality of the ASEAN Education". They analyzed educational problems in ASEAN. When we mention about Thailand, the education quality is on the eighth rank of ASEAN. ASEAN Debsirin Knowledge Camp 2016 proved that Thailand could make it. Our camp is above average of the country. This group's presenters said that there were educational quality gaps in ASEAN. They cited Singapore case study. Singapore is an ASEAN member. Sometimes, Singapore does not join activities. Singapore has more spirit to join ASEAN economic activities. Singapore also joins cultural

activities. However, they must be really big events. The youths said that if the Singaporean delegates can join the next camp, they can cite case studies of educational quality. Even though Singapore is a small country, its education is more important than other countries. The youths started to realize educational issues. The youths participating in the camp were not problems. They were above average.

In Thailand, schools in remote areas may not have opportunities to organize ASEAN activities. They may not well organize it. Although this camp was organized on behalf of Debsirin School Network, Debsirin Samutprakan School invited teachers from other schools in Samutprakan to join. After the closing ceremony, M.L. Panadda Diskul requested Prof. Dr. Chira Hongladarom to organize the similar camps for other schools in Samutprakan. Prof. Dr. Chira Hongladarom felt proud that the success of this camp would bounce to be other camps. M.L. Panadda Diskul is the Deputy Minister of Education. When he joined the closing ceremony of this camp, he praised the participating youths. That was positive view on youths. One problem in Thailand was that, nobody dared to organize projects without the funding from the government. However, Debsirin Samutprakan School raised fund on their own for this camp. This was Educational CSR project which should be done. This kind of project is still rare in Thailand. If the private sector can support ASEAN project, that will be useful.

The final group of youths mentioned about “Technology of Education”. Nowadays, Internet is available. Modern learning must rely more on technology. ASEAN countries must pay more attention to technology upgrade. A Cambodian delegate raised the hand said that some places did not have electricity. In Thailand, nearly all villages have electricity. This is interesting. Digital Society must also exist at the community level. Ministry of Digital Technology and Society is working on this. Hardware, software and educational technology gaps still exist.

The youth delegates enjoyed the camp.



Source:

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H.E. Dr. Im Koch
Secretary of State
Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (MoEYS), Cambodia

H.E. Dr. Im Koch, Secretary of State of Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (MoEYS), Cambodia would like to see ASEAN Super Teachers Camp. In fact, Prof. Dr. Chira Hongladarom used to take teachers from 10 schools of Debsirin School Network to train based on Chira's Way. H.E. Dr. Im Koch recommended that an ASEAN Super Teachers Camp should be organized.

This camp encouraged 150 youths to exchange ideas. After leaving, they can digitally connect to one another.

Besides youth camp, there should be teacher camp to promote macro view. From now, they need to focus on long term.

Prof. Dr. Chira Hongladarom gained a lot of knowledge from H.E. Dr. Im Koch. This was his second visit. After organizing this camp, Debsirin Samutprakan School is proud. They got the concept from Prof. Dr. Chira Hongladarom who was an alumnus. It was a great honor to have Her Serene Highness Princess Uthaiganya Bhanubandh to preside over the opening ceremony. Her grandfather took care of Debsirin School in the reign of King Rama V. It was also a great honor to have M.L. Panadda Diskul to preside over the closing ceremony for 2 hours. The certificates were issued by Ministry of Education and signed by the Minister. When the youths got these certificates, they would be proud.

Learning English is not limited to classroom only. Dr. Suvit Maesincee calls the modern education as "Education Ecosystem". It is like the environmental ecosystem. It means that the forms of learning are unlimited. ASEAN Debsirin Knowledge Camp was not formal classroom learning. There were study visits and self-study.



Study Visit at Phra Chulachomklao Fort




Source:

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=627101944143646&set=a.110670172453495.1073741827.100005315382592&type=3&theater>

There were tutorial classes for teachers to stuff the students with more academic knowledge. In some countries, academic knowledge has not yet been taught at early age. In Thailand, Grade 4 students who have the same math skill as Grade 5 students are regarded as smart students. In fact, the students will be bored with learning.

Learning English need supportive learning environment. If the delegates could not speak English during this 6-day camp, they would not survive. Thai delegates should take turn to present instead of pushing delegates from other countries to present. On the final day, every group also had Thai presenters. A student from Debsirinromklao School had good English skill and became outstanding. Prof. Dr. Chira Hongladarom asked this student's future. The important point is to speak English and make sure that other people understand. Thais usually speak English but other people may not understand. They do not speak clearly. Speaking comprehensive English is the key of this camp. In the future, they must try to practice writing and using more vocabularies.

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