

# **Internship report of Thailand, Bangkok, KMUTNB 2017**

Time period: 25<sup>th</sup> of September 2017 until 19<sup>th</sup> of November 2017

I made an internship at the King Mongkut's University of Technology North Bangkok (KMUTNB) at the department of industrial engineering. It was a really nice time and I want to give you with this report an impression of Thailand and maybe some help to make your decisions for your own stay abroad via IAESTE.

## **Preparing:**

Within the first contact to IAESTE Thailand they offered to pick me up from the airport and booked an accommodation for me. Thus everything necessary for my stay was arranged. Also every question was answered kindly and completely. But what did I have to bring with me? Well, it is possible to get everything you need in Thailand so you don't have to worry. Your passport, a credit card (or enough money in cash) and a health insurance are the most important. For traveling to close countries it turned out to be useful to have in advance a 'multiple entry ED' visa.

Some people have more problems with the mosquitos then others. So if you want to be absolutely save, bring a mosquito net and some mosquito spray with DEET to Thailand. I also informed myself about vaccinations. The recommendation from the doctor was as following: Basic vaccinations, typhoid fever, Japanese encephalitis, hepatitis A and B, rabies, meningococcal – meningitis AWCY and some emergency drug for malaria. Everyone has to decide for themselves if this is necessary.

## **Arriving and support:**

I arrived three days before my start of work. A really nice guy, his name is Song, picked me up from the airport. While driving to my accommodation he gave me some information about Bangkok and answered all my questions. During my internship I could ask him for help every time. He showed me and other interns around Bangkok and we enjoyed some nice time with his family.

To join and organize trips/activities with the other foreigners and Thai people the 'LINE' messenger is helpful. IAESTE Thailand invited me to a LINE group with all interns. The office from IAESTE Thailand is on the campus from the KMUTNB, they also will support you whenever you need their help.

## **Activities:**

On weekends I often joined trips to different locations in and around Thailand. (My favorites: Khao Sok Nationalpark, Chiang Mai, Siem Reap, Koh Chang, Erawan National Park.)-And if not, I enjoyed the time in Bangkok, you can do a lot of different activities there (markets, temples, museums, clubs, boat trips, massages, cinema and so on).

During the weekdays I did some sports at the campus, there is a big building with different sports. Thus I could try some Badminton, Judo and Thai-Boxing. Around the university was a lot of street-food. I really enjoyed the variety of tastes and sociability of my Thai friends. Going to eat together in groups is a really common activity.

### **Work:**

My boss was really kind and took the time to introduce me to everything. He provided me an office with full equipment and connected me with other students and researchers. My main task was research about the inventory routing problem in combination with a genetic algorithm. This topic was new for me and fit to my interests. It was an honor for me to study,



*Figure 1: Department of Industrial Engineering*

document and program for the Department of Industrial Engineering. I also will use my new knowledge for further projects.

### **Accommodation:**

The location of the accommodation depends on the working place, mine was at the campus of the university (KMUTNB). It is a dormitory for men or women with eight beds. Your private space can be separated by a curtain. Every flat mate has a wardrobe, a bed and a desk. Bed linen and towels are provided, as well as 0,5 liters of drinking water per day. Showers and toilets are okay. The price was 3000 Bhat per month.

The accommodation is in a big building on the eleventh floor, so you can see the city. In the building are also the sport facilities, it's possible to try every sport which is offered. Bangkok is really a noisy place, but in the surrounding of the university it's relatively silent. Maybe you need some time to adopt, but then you will enjoy this place.



*Figure 2: Dormitory*

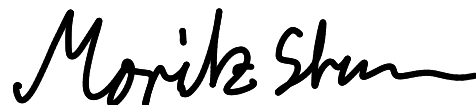
**Cultural Experience:**

Thailand is really different to Germany and it was a pleasure for me that I could live in another culture. Things are working there in another way and it was good to get another view how things could be done. Of course the food is really different, more herbs and more spicy and in general varying tastes. When I got back to Germany I wondered about the few tastes, everything seemed to be salty or peppered.

Another well-known thing is the land of smile. It's true that the people are smiling there really often. But a smile can also mean that they didn't understand you or do not agree with you. But Thais know that you are foreign and forgive you mostly everything. There are many other big cultural things like the Buddhism or the festival of Lights (Loy Krathong). I also really liked the little differences. I think it is the best not to have prejudices and experience it by yourself. But to have a small example: The elevators, every time when you go into an elevator, the person in front of the buttons takes care that the door will not close until you get in and if you tell which floor you want to go he presses the button. That seems to be a friendly reaction but really everybody is doing this.

I highly recommend to do an internship via IAESTE. If you get the chance to go to the same place like me, at the Department of Industrial Engineering from the KMUTNB, I can fully recommend this!

10.01.2018



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