



## 2015 Thai Student Exchange Program Report



A total of 12 students from Chulalongkorn Univ. and Kasesart Univ. and Professors Sirima and Somboon visited Japan on an exchange program for ten days from May 27 – June 5 in 2015. They visited Nagoya, Nakatsugawa, Tokyo and Hakone in an exchange program with Nagoya University of Commerce and Business (NUCB) and Saitama University students. The Thai students wanted to accomplish the following things during their stay.

- 1) To visit NUCB to make friends with the students by learning about the Nagoya economy and culture.
- 2) To experience a homestay for two nights and three days at 12 host families in Nakatsugawa and Nagoya and to make good and long relationships with Japanese fathers, mothers and children.
- 3) To visit a plant and a factory of the very popular companies - Toyota and Kikkoman and learn about the Japanese production system, food safety and quality control.
- 4) To visit Saitama University for a student exchange program and join a bus tour to Hakone with 14 Saitama University students.

## May 27

Thai students reached Nagoya airport in the early morning. NUCB students welcomed them and went on a Nagoya city tour by chartered bus. NUCB students made the tour schedule and explained it to the Thai students. They first visited Nittai Temple which has a close connection between Thai and Japan. Then they moved to Nagoya Castle and enjoyed lunch and shopping at Oosu Kannon shopping arcade.



## May 28

Visited NUCB in the morning. NUCB students explained about the NUCB and Japanese culture. The Thai students presented their Chulalongkorn University and explained the differences between Thai provincial cultures and meals. Lunch at a school cafeteria.



In the afternoon, they visited Toyota Motomachi Plant to observe the car assembly lines and Toyota Museum. A welcome party was held at Jammin, a live house in Fushimi at 19:00pm and 70 people including Thai students, NUCB students, and Common Beat members enjoyed the party and performances.



## May 29

NUCB students escorted the Thai students to Nagoya Science Museum in the morning. They enjoyed a planetarium and a low-temperature experimental room of  $-30.5^{\circ}$  C. Groups of 4 had lunch and enjoyed the city walking by themselves.

## May 30 - 31

Thai students enjoyed a homestay for two nights and three days. Nine students in Nagoya and three students in Nakatsugawa. They enjoyed wearing yukata, a boating trip down the Enakyo River, and practicing the Japanese drum. They hugged and cried when they said goodbye to their host families at Nagoya Station.



## June 1

They left Nagoya for Tokyo via the bullet train. Saitama students welcomed Thai students and enjoyed free time together. A dinner was held among Thai students and Saitama University students.

## June 2

They received a lecture of “Professional Career Versus Women’s Ordinary Job?” from Ms. Kanai of Saitama Univ. in the morning. In the afternoon, 26 students of Thai and Saitama Univ. had cross-cultural training by Mr. Hatano. A welcome party was held at Muse Hall in Yoyogi at 7:00 pm, and 60 people including Thai students, Common Beat members and some university students in Tokyo attended.

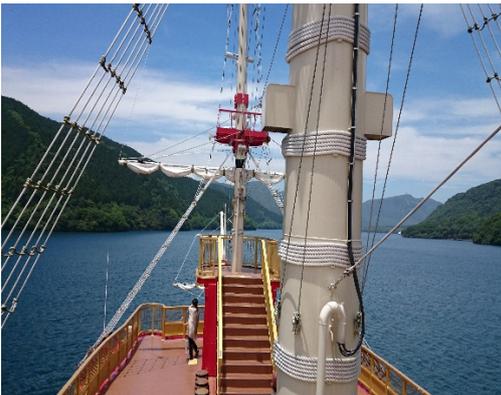


### June 3

They visited Kikkoman Soy Sauce Museum in Noda in the morning and learned about food safety and quality control. In the afternoon, Saitama Univ. students escorted them to Asakusa, Akihabara, and Ueno.

### June 4

A total of 30 students from Thai Univ. and Saitama Univ. chartered a bus to Hakone. They visited Hakone Temple, boarded a Pirate Ship to Togendai, and went to Hakone Botanical Garden of Wetlands and Hakone Yumoto. The weather was beautiful and they enjoyed the nature of Hakone fully.



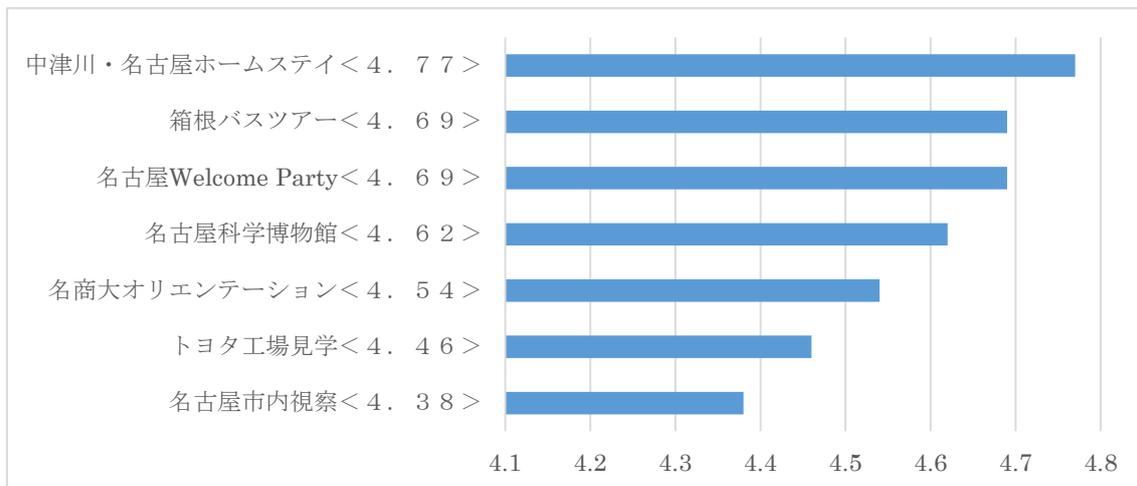
### June 5

They enjoyed a whole day of free time and went shopping and sightseeing with Japanese students. They went back to Bangkok via a night flight from Haneda Airport.



## Questionnaire

How did the Thai students rate this student exchange program? We requested that they fill out a questionnaire at Haneda Airport before leaving for Bangkok. They marked scores with the scales from 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent). There were 14 questions and the top seven items are shown below. The highest point is 5.00. As you see, they gave higher points for activities in Nagoya except for the Hakone bus tour.



Here are some comments from Thai students.

Meen: I love the people in Nagoya. I was overwhelmed by their kindness.

White: I enjoyed staying in Nagoya, because it is very pretty and NUCB students and host families were wonderful people.

Boy: I am grateful that I could participate in this program. I learned so many things. This is the best memory of my life.

Yui: I was very happy that I could join this program. I had a great time. I hope to see you again in Bangkok.

Thai students left Haneda Airport with the words “Thank you very much. It was a wonderful program. We hope to see you again in Bangkok in November.” We believe they have discovered something during their stay in Japan. They might have already started to achieve their goals. It will be great to find continuing to grow when we see them in November.

Thank you very much for all your support and cooperation.

## Would you like to join the Thai tour in November to see the Thai students?

MRA House Foundation and Common Beat will conduct a Taiwan/Thailand nine days tour from Saturday, October 31 to Sunday, November 8.

We will see the Thai students again and nurture the friendships. The itinerary of the tour is as follows:

Oct 31 – Nov 2: Visit Taipei. Student exchange and a performance.

Nov. 2 – 4: Visit Bangkok. Student exchange and a performance at Chulalongkorn University.

Nov 5 – 8: Visit Chiang Rai and Chiang Mai

The participation fee is 41,500yen/person (excluding airfare.

FYI: Early Bird flight charge is 88,500 yen for going and returning.)

Please apply to NPO Common Beat (TEL: 03-6805-3844) or the email address below

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