



# OCA Report

July, 2016

MAY 2016 JAPAN STUDY PROGRAM BY  
CHULALONGKORN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

SPECIAL EDITION



## Prof. Sirima Bunnag, Chulalongkorn University

We had a wonderful Japan study program from May 24 to June 2, 2016. Six student-participants, and Ploy the student affairs staff from the faculty of economics, Mee from OCA alumni and I participated in the program. We visited Tokyo, Nakatsugawa, and Nagoya to enjoy the exchange program and home stay.

About 12 students were selected to participate in the program, but 6 students cancelled after the Kumamoto Earthquake incident.

### Tokyo

In Tokyo, students from Saitama University and Chuo University welcomed Thai students.

May 24: Visit Saitama University

At Saitama University, Professor Nagashima and 13 students joined the student exchange program. Dr. Noh Sung-Chul gave us a special lecture of "The Transformation of Labor Movement". We had an enjoyable lunch after a fun

presentation by the students titled "We recommend favorite restaurants" in English. At 14:00 we visited Kawagoe to see a row of stores and old houses on a street of small sized Edo downtown. In the evening, we enjoyed a variety of Japanese dishes at an Izakaya nearby the hotel.

May 25: Visit National Astronomical Observatory

The five students from Saitama University took us to National Astronomical Observatory in Mitaka in the morning and Tokyo sightseeing in the afternoon. As for dinner, we enjoyed Kabayaki, the eel broiled and based with a sweet sauce.

May 26: Visit Chuo University

This is the first time to have the exchange program with Chuo University. After we took lunch at the gorgeous university cafeterias, Professor Hasegawa kindly gave a lecture about international trade and investment in the global society. At 15:30 six students from Chuo University took us to Shibuya. At 18:30 we had a big welcome party inviting Common Beat

members, students from Chuo and Saitama universities at Muse Hall, Yoyogi.

May 27: Visit the Royal Thai Embassy, Tokyo

3 students from Chuo University kindly guided Thai students to Disneyland. I did not join the tour but visited the Royal Thai Embassy in Tokyo. H.E. Ambassador Bansarn Bunnag and Madame Yupadee Bunnag welcomed Dr. Toyotane Sohma and madame, Ms. Sireeras Junmalapa and Messrs Takahashi and Agatsuma at the Royal Thai Embassy Residence. The topic of our discussion was OCA and it was an honor that H.E. Ambassador and Madame invited our group for the afternoon tea reception. In the evening, we had a delicious tempura dinner with Professors Hasegawa and Sasaki from Chuo University.



### Nagoya

May 28 - 29: Home stay at Nakatsugawa

This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> time that a group of Thai students received the very warm welcome from host families in Nakatsugawa. Thai students enjoyed their time with typical Japanese life style with the children. The students experienced wonderful Japanese tradition such as Kimono, Yukata, Japanese drums, flower arrangement, tea ceremony and local cuisine and activities of castle visiting and BBQ. We appreciate the host families so much.

May 30: Visit Nagoya University of Commerce and Business (NUCB)

After the campus tour led by NUCB students, Thai students made a presentation about "Festival and Food from our hometown".

May 31: Free Day for sightseeing around Nagoya

Thai students and NUCB students visited many attraction points of Nagoya, such as Nagoya Castle and Ohsu. During dinner time, we celebrated Plug's birthday.

June 1: Visit the railway museum, Toyota Museum and Nittaiji

After visiting museums and a temple, Thai students enjoyed the farewell dinner and Karaoke party with NUCB students.

June 2: Leave for Bangkok

We left Japan for Bangkok filled with dreamlike memories of the past ten days via a midnight flight.

### Appreciation

After we finished our 10 days Japan visit, my thoughts went back to the happy time in Japan. Totally 41 Japanese students (13 from Saitama University, 16 from Chuo University, and 12 from NUCB) had participated in this program. Also this is the third year for Nakatsugawa families to provide our home stay. The students seem to continue the friendships by emails. I have successfully included our exchange program of OCA into the regular schedule of student affairs activities and this means that some part of the budget can support students to visit Japan. Next year, Professor Somboon and Ploy will handle this exchange program. I appreciate your continuous support to them. Thank you very much for all your help and kindness. I really appreciate it.





### Comments from Professor Hasegawa from Chuo University

It is a great thing that the OCA activity has been continuing the student exchange program with Chulalongkorn University for more than 40 years. I believe these non-profit activities of the private sector have benefited many young people with mutual visits between Japan and Thailand.

I am grateful that Chuo University was involved in the OCA 2016 program. Chulalongkorn University and Chuo University Faculty of Economics has signed up the exchange agreement of mutual visits and conducted the student symposium for five years. I heard that the OCA program had been included in the student activities and some students could get a scholarship to visit Japan. It was my pleasure to give a lecture entitled "International Trade and Investment in the Global Society" as one of the OCA programs. I believe this OCA activity requires a lot of time and effort to manage, but I hope this activity will continue to grow and prosper.



### Comments from Mr. Okada who arranged the home stay at Nakatsugawa

For three years we have received Thai students in host families in Nakatsugawa. We tried to find host families who had students of similar ages or small children. We welcomed the Thai students with many activities such as wearing Kimono or Yukata, practicing Japanese drums, flower arrangement, tea ceremony, cooking local cuisine, visiting castles and old towns, and we enjoyed BBQ and Somen Nagashi. I believe the Thai students have enjoyed their stay at typical Japanese homes. I hope they will come back to see us again.



**Comments from Thai student, Ms. Chanapat Wanasbodee (Mangpor)**

This is my first time to go abroad. It was a big deal for me and my parents. I worried about every new thing that was going to happen. First, about friends, I thought that it would be boring making new friends. In reality, everyone was very kind, nice and warm and took care of all of us. Second, before I came here, I was most worried about staying with a host family. Living with strangers was a weird thing, but my host family was so kind. They gave me a very warm welcome and let me try very new things like fishing and golfing. I gave them all my love. You made my dream come true. I hope to be back again. Thank you for all of the wonderful things in Japan. It became my best memory which I will keep in my heart forever.

**Comments from Thai students, Ms. Pattamaporn Taokhuen (Nubploy)**

This is my first time travelling abroad. I got a scholarship from Chulalongkorn University to join this program. This program gave me so many things such as new experiences, adapting to a different environment, and having new friends from Japan. Saitama University students are kind, and they took us to sightseeing in Tokyo. Chuo University students took care of us so well. Disneyland was a wonderful place. The days I stayed at my host family, I really liked them. I felt like I was a daughter in their family. NUCB is one of the most beautiful universities that I have ever seen. Students are lovely, kind and generous. I would like Japanese and Thai people to be good friends forever. I will come back to Japan again and I hope everyone will still remember us.

**Comments from Chuo University student, Mr. Keisuke Michinaga (Keisuke)**

At first I was puzzled by English conversation. However, I really enjoyed guiding the Thai students to Shibuya and Disneyland. I still keep in touch with the Thai students who are now my lifetime friends. I hope they will guide me when I visit Thailand.

**Comments from NUCB student, Mr. Shunta Fujiwara (Nuri)**

It was such a great time. I was amazed by the power of Thai students, especially at the Karaoke time on their last stay. I am still looking at the video and laughing. I have received a lot of emails after they went back to Thailand. They said they had enjoyed the time in Japan very much. I am looking forward to seeing them again! Thank you everyone!



Contact address:

OCA International Exchange Division, MRA Foundation

4-9-17 Minami Azabu, Minato-ku, Tokyo (106-0047)

TEL: 81-3-3445-5111 FAX: 81-3-3444-8629