



Bangkok Study Tour by Tsushima High



1 ITINERARY

Date	Time	Schedule	Transportation/ Flight No.
Aug-01	11:00 15:00 17:00	Leave Centrair Arrive at Bangkok Airport(2-hour time difference) Transfer to Hotel	TG 645 Charter Bus
Aug-02	8:30 9:00 10:30 12:00 15:00 15:30 16:00 17:30	Leave Hotel Visit JICA Thailand Office Transfer to JICA Volunteer Arrive at Nakhon Pathom School for the deaf Transfer to Phra Pathom Chedi Arrive at Phra Pathom Chedi Transfer to Hotel Arrive at Hotel	Charter Bus
Aug-03	8:30 9:00 11:30 15:00 16:10 19:00 20:40	Leave Hotel Visit Watsuttharam School Leave Watsuttharam School Visit JETRO Bangkok Office Leave JETRO Bangkok Office Transfer to Airport Arrive at Bangkok Airport	Charter Bus
Aug-04	*3:00 *10:30	Leave Bangkok Airport(*about 3 hours Delayed) Arrive at Centrair(*about 2.5 hours Delayed)	TG 644

2 MEMBERS (7 members)

Kazuaki Ito(vice principal), Mimana Onishi, Yuka Taketani (two 2nd year students), Shogo Takeuchi, Moe Miyake, Rika Takeda, Daiki Kajiwara(four 1st year students)

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(1) Aug-02 (Wed) 9:00~ JICA Thailand Office

We left our hotel for Exchange Tower at 8:30. In the office on the 31st floor, we received a briefing from Ms.Kajisawa, a JICA staff member. In her briefing, she answered our two questions we had asked her in advance. The questions were as follows.

Q1 What are support activities in Thailand?

Q2 What do the supported countries return?

A1 Speaking of developmental aid, you may hit upon

infrastructure facilitation. Of course, it is very important for their economic prosperity. But you must pay more attention to the social security system, such as how to deal with aging and how to protect socially vulnerable people. In Thailand, where the population is aging, it may be required to learn nursing care service and insurance systems from Japan. In fact, many handicapped people live away from the center of Thailand. They go shopping at the market in the morning and evening in order to enjoy conversations with their neighbors and friends. The market is 'a kind of salon' where many people gather. Some go there on wheelchairs. At the market, their way is often narrow or uneven. So the related sections or agencies are eagerly finding effective solutions to their inconvenience.

A2 From the supported countries, we Japanese received a lot of kind messages and donation money in return in the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake.



The security system is very strict in Exchange Tower.

(2) Aug-02 (Wed) 12:00~ Nakhon Pathom School for the deaf

Our visit destination in the afternoon is Nakhon Pathom School. The school is for deaf students, socially vulnerable people. All the pupils and students, from kindergarten children to senior high school students, about 200 people in number, live in dormitories in the same school grounds. Here, Kaori Sano has been working and teaching for a year. In her undergraduate days, she had traveled as a backpacker around the world, especially in the developing countries. After her graduation, she became a teacher at a special support school in Hyogo Prefecture. And in August last year, the courageous and active teacher came here as a JICA volunteer, and has lived a dormitory life with the children.

At first, we received an explanation about her support activities. She grasped the actual situations of the deaf in Thailand. She knew their literacy rate is only 20 percent, compared with about 100 percent in Japan. She suggested to the principal that they should be taught with both sounds and words, and that they should be taught by non-handicapped teachers as well as handicapped teachers. Besides, she promoted their use of hearing aids.

As a result, hearing aid users increased from three to eighty-four in number. She said, "It is true that Thailand has achieved rapid economic development since the late 1980s. However, it has faced the problem of economic disparity between the urban and rural areas. Administrative correspondence for the handicapped still needs improvement."



Secondly, we gave the children our presentation about our school, for example, school introduction, Owari Tsushima Tenno-matsuri Festival, and sights of Tsushima City. And we gave some quizzes, for instance, "In which month do cherry blossoms



come out, in April or in September?" These messages of ours were translated into the Thai language by Ms. Sano. The Thai language was conveyed to the children in sign language by the Thai teacher. It took time and labor. The pupils and students were watching their teachers with shining eyes. That was because they can't communicate with each other if they don't watch carefully.

Lastly, we were asked some questions by the children, such as "Do you have a flood in Japan? How about a dam?" "Are the children beaten or hit by the teachers?" It's a trilling question.



After our exchange with the children, we had Ms. Sano guide us around the school. We found large dormitories in the vast area. Near the dormitories, there was a small vocational training workshop where they learn to process rings and metals from a professional craftsman. It is worthy of attention! The students who have been well trained here will successfully continue to work even after their graduation. This is one small shop or step, but one giant leap for them, I think.

(3) AUG-03 (Thu) 9:00~ Watsuttharam School

We left our hotel for Watsuttharam School at 8:30. The word 'Wat' means 'temple' in Thai. That is why Watsuttharam School is located just near Suttharam Temple. At the parking lot close to the temple we got off. Toward the school we walked for one minute. In the front we saw a big building. At the gate we entered. From the campus we heard soul-stirring music. On each side we saw fifty students lining up orderly with Japanese flags in their hands. From the other side we saw the principal coming up. That was how we were



fully welcomed by the whole school. We were treated as courteously as if we were national guests. We had the lei of the orchid worn to our neck one by one.

Soon after entering the school building, we all were required to prostrate ourselves on the floor so as to express respect to the royal family. We behaved as 'national guests.' In fact, all the teachers were dressed in black in order to be in mourning.

Secondly, we were asked to enter the meeting room. The principal introduced us to their school, and each of our students introduced them to our school in English for two minutes.



After our presentations, we were having coconut juice and dumplings, and then heard, "Ready. Please come here." We were called to the hall. A welcome party was beginning with a welcome

message written in the banner. We enjoyed the traditional Thai dance by the students dressed in gorgeous costume, not in black. It's tempting.

Then, we took a class 'Muay Thai(Thai Boxing)' with the students. We wore a pant and gloves for a boxer. And we kicked the sandbag and punched the mitt, with a whack echoing in the gym.

After the class, we took the other class 'Mat-Making' with the junior high school students. They taught us politely together how to make it.

We got these classes successfully done, and were again called to the hall. Parting time was approaching. Our 2.5 hours was a short, but significant, period of time. We were presented with a visit commemorative plate by the principal. The previous dancers came up to the stage again. A farewell party began with the up-tempo music with a smile. Some of our students were moved into tears.

Just as we left the school, we had the whole school see us off kindly. We were deeply impressed by their hospitality. A welcome banner, their school presentation, their teaching of Muay Thai and Mat-Making to us Japanese, and dancing costumes took a lot of time and efforts, I think. We must not forget it even when we return to Japan.



We would like to build stronger Ties with Thailand!

もっと固い(カタイ)絆でつながりタイ!



(4) AUG-03 (Thu) 15:00~ JETRO Bangkok Office

The last visit destination of this study tour was JETRO Bangkok Office on the 1st floor of Nantawas Building. It is located near ISETAN department store, where we had lunch that day. JETRO stands for 'Japan External Trade Organization.' Its activities are "Promoting foreign direct investment(FDI) into Japan," "Promoting trade and business between Japan and the rest of the world," and "Assisting business expansion of developing countries." Its jurisdiction is the Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry, while JICA's jurisdiction is the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



This visit was realized thanks to International Office of Policy Planning Bureau in Aichi Prefectural Government. The briefing was given to us by Mr. Suzuki and Ms. Imaizumi.

① General information of Thailand

Its population is about 65 million, which is half as large as that of Japan. It is the fourth next to Indonesia, the Philippines, Vietnam among ASEAN countries. Around 95 percent of the population believes in Buddhism. Thailand's per capita GDP is a little less than 6000 US dollars, which is about 15 percent of Japan's per capita GDP.

② Economic information of Thailand

A characteristic of the economy of Thailand is that the ratio that primary industries account for is high, 33 percent, while the ratio of GDP share in primary industries is low, 8 percent. It means that the economic structure is not efficient. So they say that it is the urgent need of the hour to reduce the number of people working in primary industries and at the same time to increase that in secondary and tertiary industries, mainly the service industry. At this point, opinions may be divided. It may be a problem that economy as well as education is concentrated in Bangkok too much.

Besides, the Thai export and import destinations are dispersed around the world. Its risk management is good.

③ Investment in Thailand

There are about 4500 Japanese companies operating in the Thai market, which has increased by about 680 companies in number compared with six years ago. On the other hand, some companies are withdrawing from Thailand.



We asked two questions.

Q1 What is the reason why the Japanese companies withdraw?

A1 The main reason is that its demand has decreased or disappeared. And the Japanese restaurants are a saturated market, and labor costs have risen.

ISETAN department store.
The selling area is set for Japanese or pro-Japanese.

Q2 The traffic congestion in Thailand is very severe. We have seen many motorcycles run on the side of the cars freely, which is very dangerous. The streets are narrow in spite of a lot of motorcars. Can't they use light vehicles or mini motorcars instead? It will be a little useful in reducing the traffic congestion, I hope.

A2 It may sound like a good idea, but people in Thailand are proud of having their own cars and moving in their own cars. So they will not feel like using any light vehicles.



In this way, it will be difficult to increase the well-being level of people of all classes in Thailand, but it is challenging.

In any case, we should make the most of the merits Thailand has had – geopolitical superiority, good development of industry infrastructure, and a pro-Japanese country (a country friendly to Japan), I think.