



“PEACE” Student Exchange Program Completion Report

For IDEC Students for AY2017-2018

1. STUDENT PERSONAL DATA

Name	YAT PONLEAK		
Student ID	M160517		
Nationality	Cambodian		
Host Institution	National University of Laos		
Study Abroad Period	From:	11/ November/ 2017	To: 16/November/2017

[NOTE]: Please note that your report might be read by your supervisor(s) and future PEACE students at HU as well as by the general public, as it will be later uploaded on the PEACE website.

2. STUDY ABROAD EXPERIENCES (minimum 500 words)

***Please write about your study abroad experiences (academic or cultural) under the “PEACE” Student Exchange Program, including one or two pictures.**

Laos trip was my first experience to this country, which shares the northern border of Cambodia. During my mission there, Laos and Cambodia share very similar characteristics of the tradition, culture, and urbanization of the developing and neighboring countries and former French colonies. In fact, those were my first impressions when I arrived in Laos. However, my goals and purposes of the trip were the academic ones. In fact, the improvement of the research presentation skills and future collaborations among the scholars within the region mainly shadowed the trip. More reflectively, as I was one of members, having taken this journey, I will reflect what I had expected from the beginning of the trip with what precisely happened while I was participating this program.

During the program, five positive points have been found, which was based greatly on my personal perceptions and understandings. First of all, the opportunities to present my own research progress and other members’ research processes were the great chances for my own

assessment of research study in terms of data collection, data analysis, and the presentation of my preliminary research findings. Simultaneously, the valuable comments and feedbacks from the audiences, especially from professors of IDEC and National University of Laos, were the valuable sources to the improvement of the quality of my research study and the enhancement of my motivation, confidence, and presentation skill. Honestly, I had felt really nervous before the actual presentation started at the faculty of education of NUOL. Despite the nervousness, I went through the presentation smoothly due to the valuable contributions from the professors and audiences. Then, the warm welcome of the faculty members of NUOL, the attached elementary and secondary school (SATHIT Primary and Secondary School) as well as the vocational school (Vientiane Capital Skills Development Center) was something which reflected the honest and kind behaviors of Lao scholars and Lao people, who always took care of all visitors. In fact, they were really open and warm-hearted as well as friendly.



The opportunity to experience Lao educational system from elementary to secondary school as well as the vocational education were the appreciated knowledge to me. In fact, both attached schools were really crucial due to their model education for other schools and they served



as the place to strengthen the quality of teacher education system through the voluntary activities and the practicum for the teacher trainees during their pre-service trainings. Then, the chances to witness Japan International Cooperation Agency and JICE office which were working actively in order for the social and economic development in Laos were the great opportunities to deepen my understanding about the contribution of Japanese agency to development in the region and the world without any conditions. Simultaneously, individual and Japanese communities and educational institutions also contributed to the improvement of those sectors. The aforementioned experiences did reflect the important and successful aspects of Laos Trip which contributed to the enhancement of my understanding and knowledge as well as my confidence in the research presentation and the awareness of Lao socioeconomic features together with the contribution of Japanese government and Japanese people.

However, the drawbacks were still other points to be considered regarding my Laos Trip. First of all, the lack of Lao language ability was the real obstacle to presentation and communication during that period. Without any language ability, I could not convey the real message of my research to Lao audience despite the some supporting translations from the Dean of the faculty of education, NUOL. Finally, I made some friends in Laos. However, I did not any possible future collaboration in the research field among the countries. Most of our dialogues covered mainly on the general topic about educational and socioeconomic conditions about the countries. As a result, the future joint research project was really unsuccessful one due to the time constraints.

All in all, Laos Trip was a fair success for the enhancement of research presentation and the awareness of educational and social situation in Laos as well as the knowledge of Japanese contribution to local and regional development.

3. MESSAGE FOR FUTURE “PEACE” STUDENTS

***Please write your message for future PEACE students (*no minimum or maximum**



requirement for the number of words).

Being a former PEACE student, I would like to suggest the next students, who will be the future PEACE students, some of the important points.

First of all, before going to a foreign country on this program, there should be some orientations about the cultural practices of the host countries. The awareness of these features would contribute to the proper practices during the missions and it would also offer the smooth collaborations among the participants. As a result, the cultural understanding would be the vital elements of the successful PEACE program.

Additionally, the rules and regulations as well as the political aspects of the host societies are the other important aspects of going abroad. Equipped with those general knowledge would provide the participants the overall picture of the host societies and the safeness and security to any participants as they will enter the new environment of law and regulation of different political situations. Thus, the orientations and general aspects of the host societies would be the crucial elements to bring about the safeness and the security to any members of the program.

Finally, the knowledge of language of the host countries would contribute to better communication and understanding among the individuals. Exactly, some knowledge of the local language offers more opportunities to all individuals in dealing with the local people and other members of program as language competence is one of the key features of the successful integration to the local community and host societies. Thus, the simple communication language ability would be the ideal component of integrating with local people and host societies.

All in all, the general awareness of the acceptable culture, the knowledge of rules and regulations as well as the political aspect of host society and the ability to communicate in local language would be the vital elements of PEACE students in order for the successful program implementation.