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# Exchange Report

Mahidol University College of Management

Exchange period: Jan. 1 - May 5, 2013

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My best time away from home

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I went to CMMU (College of Management Mahidol University) in Thailand for the first semester of 2013. This is the first time that I had my best time away from home and I would strongly recommend all students consider CMMU for their international exchange.

- Cultural Experience

Thailand is a religious country where the majority people believe in Buddhism. Local Thai are extremely friendly, honest and helpful, which made me feel safe, relaxed and feel like always being welcomed. Because of the strong tourism, most people in the servicing industry can speak very good English and even the street food seller can do daily conversation easily. If I use one sentence to describe the country, I would say Thailand is a safe, harmonious and friendly place to stay and enjoy life.

- Study Experience

CMMU is a fantastic place where the eastern and western perfectly combined! I joined the international courses with both local Thai students and some other international students together. I really enjoyed being within this kind of mix cultural context and this is very helpful for my cultural exploration and future career development.

Lecturers at CMMU are very professional and helpful. I was very impressed by their earnest and inspirational feedback for each of my assignments. My Thai

classmates are a bit shy but this doesn't mean that they do not have the sharp views! I am very proud that I have achieved not only the good marks for the assessments but also great friendship through my exchange study at CMMU.

- Living in Bangkok

Finding a nice place to stay in Bangkok is really easy. There are a big range of options available, from self-helped studio room to full service apartment. I flatted with another two students in a modern apartment which costed each person \$400 per month. There are also many updated accommodation information shared on CMMU's website. CMMU is close to the BTS (sky train) station called Sanam Pao, so if you want to save some traffic time you may take a look at those places near that station.

Another attraction of the city is you can find all kinds of delicious food. No matter where you come from, what cuisine is preferred, I believe your stomach can be totally satisfied. General living cost in Bangkok is low so I just spent one third of the food budget which was used here in Dunedin. CMMU has a nice canteen which opens all day mainly offering Thai meals at very reasonable prices.

- Activities at CMMU

The International Relations Office arranged a few activities for exchange students. Two cultural exploration tours were arranged for both the local and exchange students during the three weeks. I personally really like the trip to Siam Museum which offers a fantastic insight about both traditional and modern Thai culture. Meanwhile, in order to make our life in Bangkok easier, the office gave us a tailor-made Thai language class every week, which was definitely very helpful! Thai immigration office requires international students to extend their visas every three month. The International Office prepared all documents and offered us great advice about the visa extension. We got the visa within two hours in the immigration office.

- Thanks

I really enjoyed my exchange study at CMMU which left my unforgettable memories. The experience is definitely part of my life treasures. I am very grateful for Otago University giving me this opportunity and I also would like to thank all CMMU staff, especially Chani, Tum, Khun Prasit and their lovely colleagues.

Thank you!