



Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich
Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich

Intensive Program on Sustainability 2012
Livelihood Strategies for Adaptation to
Climate Change

Report by a student participant from ETH Zurich
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The Intensive Program on Sustainability (IPoS) is a short-term course to cultivate ideas and leverage toward Sustainability in Asian Context. This program is mainly organized by the University of Tokyo and Asian Institute of Technology (AIT). It takes place in two sessions, the summer session in Thailand and winter session in Japan. The same students participate in both sessions, however the foci are different.

The summer session of IPoS 2012, subtitled “Livelihood Strategies for Adaptation to Climate Change” was held in Nakhonnayok and Pathumthani Provinces in central Thailand from 28th July to 8th August. The participants of IPoS 2012 come mostly from asian universities and various academic fields such as from architecture, environmental engineering to political science and management.

The participants formed groups and represented stakeholders from the region, such as farmers, local government, NGO and business administrators. The overall goal for the different student groups was to come up with a climate change adaptation plan in central Thailand. The knowledge to form a strategy plan was not only gained by lectures but from field excursions and interviews with local Thai stakeholders. The lectures took place in the first part of the workshop presenting wide range of topics such as introduction to sustainability, stakeholder’s analysis and the scientific side of climate changes. Each lecture included a short workshop with a relevant case study (see the program below). Each group worked separately on the case, then a presentation and a discussion followed. The second part was mainly dedicated in the field visits and interviews. The students had the chance to discuss about climate changes and natural catastrophes with representatives from the local administration, water management department, tourism section, NGO and different kind of farmers. The field excursions were in the Pasak Dam, the biggest dam in Thailand, in some rice fields, a cage fishery, an ecofarm, a hydroponic farm and other local farms. Last, group work took place every night and it was mostly facilitated by the participants. In this part, the students had the chance to organize the session’s activity or to work in their group for the final project.

IPoS is appropriate for students who really desire to share experiences. It is not a program in which you will expand your scientific knowledge but you do broaden your overview on sustainability issues. It is a workshop which demands participation and willingness to act. If you are a bachelor or a master student who would like to learn about sustainability issues in Asian context, develop skills to interview, communicate with international students, work with students

from different backgrounds, discuss with professionals in the field or explore a country in an alternative way, then IPoS is highly recommended. Last but not least, it is an invaluable experience to discuss about sustainability issues in Thailand which experienced a destructive flood in 2011.

Furthermore, I would like to give some overall tips about the trip to Thailand and the workshop. As mentioned, IPoS is about sharing experiences, therefore it would be useful for the participant to prepare a presentation about his/her country or university (or where he/she studies or works) with respect to the program's focus. Last, for a study visit in Thailand an education visa should be issued from European citizens. However, European citizens can travel to Thailand up to 30 days without a visa. So, it is up to the participant to apply for it or not.

The program of IPoS 2012 summer session in details and some photos are following below.

Date			Activity A		Activity B			Activity C	Activity D	
			Morning 08:00-12:00		Afternoon 13:30-17:30			Evening 17:30-18:30	Night 19:30-	
0	27 Jul	Fri	Arrival of participants and welcome at Asia Hotel, Bangkok							
1	28 Jul	Sat	Travel to Nakornayok province	10:30- 12:00 Welcome address IPoS 2012 Program Introduction	13:45- Acade- mic arrange- ment	14:00- Lecture 1 'What is Sustainabil- ity?' (Prof. Mino)	16:00- Lecture 2 'Climate Change and Natural Disaster' (Prof. Sumi)	Orie- ntati- on	Ice Breaking	
2	29 Jul	Sun	Assembly	Module 1: Disaster Preparedness, Mitigation and Evaluation for Resilient Communities (Dr. Georges R Tadonki)	Module 2: From CDM to NAMA - a roadmap to sustainable development (Prof.Chongrak)			Group Work		
3	30 Jul	Mon	Assembly	Module 3: Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Livelihoods (Prof. Athapol & Dr. Anil)	Module 3: Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Livelihoods (Prof. Athapol & Dr. Anil)		Group exercise	Group Work		
4	31 Jul	Tue	Assembly	Module 4: Public policy analysis and case studies (Khun Man Purotaganont)	Module 5: Basic Concept on Stakeholder Analysis (Dr. Soparth)			Group Work		
5	1 Aug	Wed	Assembly	Module 6: Field excursion to Pasak dam (Dr.Anisara)	Module 6: Field excursion to Pasak dam (Dr.Anisara)			Group Work		
6	2 Aug	Thu	Assembly	Preparing mid-term presentation	Mid-term presentation			Preparati- on for cultural night	Natsu-matsuri Cultural night	
7	3 Aug	Fri	Assembly	Module 7: Field excursion to Eco-farming center (Mr.Thongchai)	Module 7: Field excursion to Eco-farming center (Mr.Thongchai)			Group Work		
8	4 Aug	Sat	Assembly	Free time					Group Work	
9	5 Aug	Sun	Assembly	Module 8: Field excursion to Water falls (Dr. Anisara)	Module 8: Interviews local tourism entrepreneurs (Dr. Anisara)			Dinner talk	Group Work	
10	6 Aug	Mon	Assembly	Module 9: Introduction of Baan Pathum community (Dr.Anisara)	Module 9: Introduction of Baan Pathum community (Dr.Anisara)			Preparati- on for final presentati- on	Group Work	
11	7 Aug	Tue	Assembly	Preparation of group presentation	Final group presentation to local community			Farewell Party		
12	8 Aug	Wed	Check-out, Closing Ceremony			Adjourn to Bangkok, AIT and airport				



(a) IPoS 2012 participants



(b) Visit of the hydroponic farm



(c) Visit of the ecofarm. Students produce coconut oil. For more photos click in the [link](#).