

Program for Advancing Strategic International Networks to Accelerate the Circulation of Talented Researchers
Japan-ASEAN Collaboration Research Program on Innovative Humanosphere in Southeast Asia:
In search of Wisdom toward Compatibility Growth and Community in the World

Report

Period of inviting: 16 days

Place of accepted: ASAFAS, Kyoto University

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Research title:

I visited Kyoto University with intention to join our joint research project, “Democratization Thwarted in Thailand”. Democratization in Thailand seemed to enjoy smooth sail since the 1990s. The 1997 constitution added momentum to democratization. But it took a bad turn in 2006. We have witnessed tenacious efforts to de-democratize politics since then. Why and how has politics in Thailand been de-democratized in the last decade? This is our research question. Our project has four participants and each has a respective role. I, Siripan, work on national elections, Viengrat on decentralization, Atthachak on Socio-economic changes, and Tamada on the military and the judiciary as de-democratizers.

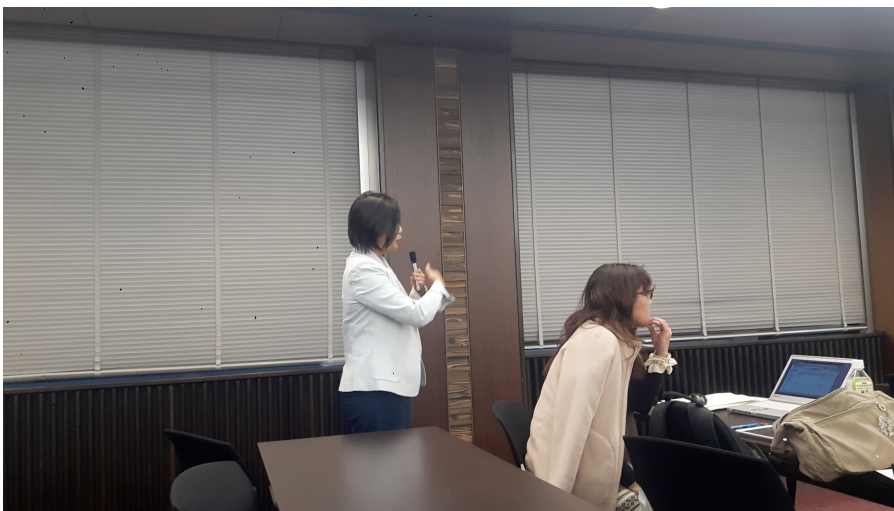
During my stay at ASAFAS, I finished a paper “An (other) Undemocratic Transition in Thailand: The Reflection on the 2016 Constitution”. In the last two decades, electoral system was changed several times in 1997, 2007, 2011 and 2016 by means of revision of the constitution. Electoral system stipulated by the 1997 constitution contributed democratization enormously. Constitutional revision after that has had the same aim to strike back at popular sovereignty. I focused on the 2016 Draft Constitution. The obvious intention of the 2016 Draft Constitution is to reverse the effects of an election system and electoral reforms put in place since the promulgation of the 1997 Constitution.

My paper was a part of our paper “Democratization Thwarted in Thailand” presented at at International Workshop The Japan - ASEAN Collaborative Research Program on Innovative Humanosphere in Southeast Asia: In Search of Wisdom toward Compatibility Growth and Community in the World’ held at Conference Hall, 3F, Inamori Foundation Memorial Building, Center for Southeast Asian Studies (CSEAS), Kyoto University on December 16, 2016. Discussions at the workshop was very stimulating for me.

I went on a field trip to Fukui Prefecture on December 13, 2016. I visited the Fukui Prefectural Dinosaur Museum (FPDM) because FPDM has cooperated with Sirindhorn Dinosaur Museum, the first dinosaur fossil museum in Thailand established in 1995. FPDM impressed me so much because it organizes and displays objects quite elaborately. More amazing is the fact that a provincial government can establish such a wonderful institution. It is impossible to do that in a less decentralized country like Thailand. I realized that democratization is significant.



Siripan working at laboratory of ASAFAS



Siripan posing a question at the workshop on December 16, 2016