

Report for Institutional Program for Younger Researcher Overseas Visits, 2010
Center for Southeast Asian Studies
Kyoto University

Name : PICHAU UAMTURAPOJN	Date : 19/01/2011
Position in CSEAS : Researcher	
* Check an appropriate entry (Lecturer · Assistant Professor · Research Assistant · Postdoctoral · Ph. D. Student · Master's Student · Undergraduate Student)	
Host Institute (Counterpart, Institute and County : 1) Ms. Maria Theresa Medialdia, Mekong Institute, Thailand	
2) Dr. Tran Mai Kien, Mekong River Commissions, Lao PDR	
*Circle the appropriate entry for host institute (University · Research Institute · Company · Others)	
Term : (23/12/2010) ~ (06/01/2011) (15 Days)	
Research Purpose: * Check any appropriate entries.	
1 Research/ Laboratory Work ② Fieldwork ③ Seminar ④ Internship ⑤ Take course or class ⑥ Attend Academic Meeting ⑦ Earn credits ⑧ Other	
Research Area: * Circle the appropriate entry.	
1 Humanities ② Social Sciences ③ Mathematics and Physics ④ Chemistry ⑤ Engineering ⑥ Biology ⑦ Agriculture ⑧ Medical Science, Pharmacy and Dentistry ⑨ Integral Area of Studies ⑩ New Multidiscipline	
Outline of Overseas Visits (About 300~400 words)	
<p>With respect to my overseas visits during 21/12/2010 - 06/01/2011 for 16 days, the main purpose of this fieldwork is to collecting cross-border registration process and interviewing with local officials and users at 3 cross-border sites between Lao PDR and Thailand as: 1) 1st Mekong international bridge (Vientiane-Nongkhai); 2) 2nd Mekong international bridge (Savannakhet-Mukdahan); and 3) under-constructed 3rd Mekong international bridge (Khammoune-Nakhon Phanom). In consequence, the introduction of new international bridges and highways is not only playing a key determinant of physical connectivity, but also the interactions of formal and informal users and activities. The fieldwork is particularly aimed to investigate and examine both formal and informal practices on the questions of why and how they begin and develop along the lower Mekong River. Roles, practices, and responsibilities of stakeholders throughout local, provincial, and national levels are focused to assess in both coordination and cooperation. Furthermore, an emerging international government organization as the Mekong Institute is challenged to increase capacity and develop the process of riparian adaptation. Prior to the literature reviews of national and international documents, the fieldwork aims to cross-check and pinpoint the different views of provincial and local perspectives. This overseas visit, therefore, focuses on the local actors and facilitators dealing with cross-border activities in both marine and land transport modes.</p>	
Research Achievement on this Program (300~400 Words)	
<p>Efforts of this fieldwork are gradually focusing on the complex interplay of cross-border activities and a board of cross-section of actors between Lao PDR and Thailand. During the first week of the fieldwork, I had visited and interviewed with Ms. Maria Theresa Medialdia, the Research Program Manager and Ms. Pornwilai Pumira, the Executive Assistant at the Mekong Institute. In particular to assessing the practical implementation of cross-border activities and processes, I had investigated and examined various functions of cross-border transport modes throughout 3 research sites as 1) Mukdahan-Savannakhet; 2) Nakhon Phanom-Khammoune; 3) Nongkhai-Vientiane. During the fieldworks with the reference data from the provincial immigration offices, I have found that the cross-border regulations and socio-economic development among 6 border-provinces are creating different dimensions of social-infrastructure interactions. Conducting the interviews with crossing border people, the fieldwork can explore a variety of disciplinary perspectives in both agreements and conflicts in particular to international highway development. Towards land development along the new emerging highways, the provincial and local stakeholders are increasing the diverse gaps to allocating this rapid changes. The fieldwork has begun to explore the cross-border area studies effected by cross-border infrastructure development emphasizing in both vertical and horizontal aspects of social transition.</p>	