

**MFS REPORT****Name****Year and term for exchange**Caroline Wahlberg2023, Spring term**Country for the project**Thailand**Degree programme**Energy and environment

## A fun Minor field study in Thailand

### Before departure

I applied for Minor Field Studies because I had heard about it since I began my studies at KTH and had some friends who went on it last year. The country was chosen based on the climate and I had always wanted to go to Thailand. The project was suggested by our contact person here in Thailand and we thought it was interesting. I did not have a lot of expectations except for good food and exciting to study in a different country. I had to apply for visa at the Thai embassy which was very quick and simple. I also took Japanese encephalitis vaccine.

### Upon arrival

We started our project in January by doing the literature study and then arrived in Bangkok in the end of March. We did our field study for maybe 2 weeks in total taking into account visiting the island and doing the simulation. There was no organized reception except for our contact person. We visited the island we wrote about by ourselves. Here is a picture taken by me from the island Phaluai.



## **Financials**

There has been a lot of inflation both in Sweden and in Thailand especially on food. But it was cheaper in Thailand anyways. I do not have any other advice that differs from saving money in Sweden.

## **Accommodation**

We rented an apartment from Airbnb. The housing conditions were acceptable with a pool and gym in the same building. However, there was a lot of cockroaches, and the traps were not really helping. The rent cost was very expensive, but we thought it was a necessary cost since we were staying there for a long time.

## **Project**

The project's purpose was to compare an optimized microgrid system with Thailand's Provincial Electricity Authority's electrification plan on the rural island Phaluai. It differs a lot since we stayed in Bangkok and only visited the Phaluai, Samui and the National Park for 5 days. So, for the most part we are at the gym and then going to Chulalongkorn University and studied.

Our contact person invited us to a zoom presentation by Provincial Electricity Authority and provided us with useful data. We presented the result to our contact person at Chulalongkorn University.

## **Country**

I really like Thailand and its culture. We were there on Songkran, which is a water holiday and festival when people on the street are pouring water on you as you walk by. This was fun and big difference from holidays in Sweden.

## **Leisure and social activities**

On my spare time I usually went to the gym or swam in the pool, but we also went to different street food markets and went on a bike tour. It is very easy to get to know both internationals and locals since everyone is very friendly.

## **Sustainability**

We could not really travel in a sustainable way since we had to fly to get there but in Bangkok we got around by train and subway.

Our project is connected to the SDGs since a rural electrification is connected to both goal 1 *No Poverty*, goal 3 *Good Health and Well-being* and goal 7 *Affordable and Clean Energy*. Moreover, an improved microgrid implementation on the island would reduce the amount of emissions which is connected to goal 13 *Climate Action*.

## **Other recommendations and observations**

If you have the opportunity to do exchange studies, you should really consider it. Here is a picture of a house and wood piers from Phaluai.

