

**MFS REPORT****Name**

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Year and term for exchange

Spring 2023Spring 2023

Country for the project

ThailandN/a

Degree programme

Industrial Engineering and Management Industrial Engineering and Management

Climate Finance studies in Southeast Asia

Before departure

I have always wanted to apply to minor field study. For me, the most important was to find a project in a developing country regarding renewable energy. The country or region was less of importance. That the project and receiving organisation was also important to me. I turned to the International Coordinators at KTH to be presented with different projects and opportunities. Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) is a large research organisation with a good reputation of environmental research and Climate Finance. I prepared by well intime have meetings with my supervisors in Bangkok and discuss the project, apply for visa and also get vaccinated. I highly recommend getting the vaccines well in advance, as I was out too late and had to take my finale dose in Bangkok. Thailand and Bangkok are quite common travel destinations, and I was less worried about my security or integration. I still researched on the Swedish governments website to understand the current situation in Thailand.

Upon arrival

I booked an AirBnB for my first of four and a half months in Bangkok. I came one week before my internship started at the office if SEI and made sure to live close by the office the first month. There was no organised reception other than that of a regular workday. However, as this was part of an internship, it was a very organised MFS maybe compared to other peoples' projects.

Financials

I applied for several scholarships, both from MFS, Åforsk and KTH Opportunities, which I highly recommend. Generally, Thailand in everything is cheaper. Rent, food, transportation etc. However, if you want to travel and experience the country while there, I still suggest saving up before leaving for the trip. My project was four and a half months, so longer than general

Accommodation

As previously mentioned, I rented an AirBnb for the first month of the project. As I was there, I searched for an apartment through Facebook. In Bangkok, there are more apartments than renters, so there are renter agents helping you for free to find good accommodations. They send you different options through facebook. I discussed a lot with my colleges about what areas are good for living, what was a decent rent and how to navigate the contracts. I was relatively easy to find a nice apartment, centrally and cheap.

Project

My project was to explore blended finance for renewable energy in Southeast Asia. Blended finance has the past decade become an increasingly popular way for development banks in Southeast Asia to invest in renewable energy projects with the aim of mobilising additional private investments. Although definitions of the method differ among stakeholders, blended finance is a way of blending development loans with below-market-rate funds to lower risks experienced by private investors. This relatively unexplored financing approach could be one of the solutions to bridge the large private

funding gap the region's renewable energy sector is currently experiencing. This paper investigates if and how blended finance contributes to the diffusion of renewable energy innovation in Southeast Asia, through the mobilisation of further private investments. To do this, the de-risking effects of blended finance have been investigated, as well as which stage in the diffusion innovation process blended finance is relevant, and how it contributes to the innovation functions of an energy technology innovation system. Exploratory interviews were held with both regional climate finance experts, as well as with eight blended finance investment executives.

I will not continue the project full time, however SEI will use the findings for various different climate finance project and policy briefs. For this, I will be involved in publishing this work. A typical day at the office were a larger meeting with the office team, where different projects were discussed. Desk research on my desk and lunch at the canteen together with colleagues, and a 1 on 1 with my SEI supervisor discussing my project advancements. I did not have any presentation there, as my time ran out. However, this possibility was presented to me.

Country

Thailand is a vibrant, large and diverse country. Thai people are used to tourist and expats and speak relatively good English and are friendly in helping and suggesting. They are very welcoming, warm and generous and I made many new friends from both the office but also through other youth networks. There were no larger culture shocks, Bangkok is a large and modern city and I had no problem feeling like I belonged.

Leisure and social activities

I found many friends through Facebook group Girl Gone International, Global Shapers and Internations, as well as hanging out with colleagues. I encourage you to write in these types of expat groups to find friends. There are a lot of young expats doing internships looking for friends, so there are many whatsapp groups, facebook groups and other forums to find fun people. Through global shapers and SEI I found several thai friends, which was very rewarding.

Sustainability

Withing Thailand, buses are very cheap. However, flying is very cheap and convenient in Thailand, so many take the plane for traveling. I did not travel for the project, but for some leisure. I lived quite similar in my day to day life as in Stockholm. I eat vegetarian/vegan, I take public transportation when possible (Skytrain or MTR) etc. It is hard to recycle, and the public transportation is not as good so taking taxis or scooter-taxis is quite normal.

My project contributes to the SDG 7, renewable energy, SDG 17, partnerships for the goals, SDG 13, climate action, and SDG 9 Innovation and infrastructure.