

**Field Report by Sarinna Areethamsirikul
Jakarta, Indonesia (May and June 2006)
Scott Kloeck-Jenson International Internship Award, 2006**

I made my trip to Jakarta, Indonesia from Bangkok, Thailand in May 2006. My internship was taken place at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS). This center is a research-based institution, which is well known for conducting economic and political projects in order to provide policy recommendations to Indonesian government and intergovernmental institutions in Southeast Asian region. It also has a strong academic network with other academic institutions in Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, Singapore, and the United States. My purposes to go to CSIS were to experience working with an academic-research policy organization and learn different cultural and social values in another country. During my work there, I conducted a research on the impact of ASEAN¹ enlargement on economic integration under ASEAN political institution, which is related to the subject of my Ph.D. dissertation.

The research focuses on the impact of the late 1990s enlargement, when Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, and Vietnam (CLMV) were granted ASEAN membership. The accession of the four new members has increased ASEAN diversities in economics and politics at a substantial level. According to the Freedom House Index (FHI) in 2003, politics in CLMV has been ranked in a ‘no freedom’ category. In economic perspective, the group of new members has been placed under a low-income country grouping measured by the World Bank. Currently ASEAN as a political and trading arrangement comprises a very wide range of members from socialist to democratic states and poor to rich economies. With higher diversities among ASEAN members, policy coordination to promote economic development and integration in Southeast Asian region has been questioning. The difficulty in economic cooperation among ASEAN members is expected as a result of the 1990s enlargement.

My work at CSIS divided into two parts. The first part is based on a quantitative framework. The empirical finding is that Vietnam is likely to have a significant impact on intra-ASEAN trade in terms of trade creation. However, the research cannot draw a

¹ ASEAN is the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, which consists of five founding members (Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Singapore) and five new members (Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam). Brunei joined ASEAN in 1984, the first round of ASEAN enlargement. The research focuses on the second round of ASEAN enlargement in the late 1990s.

strong conclusion of a significant impact of Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar on intra-ASEAN trade. In terms of policy recommendation, the machinery and transport equipment sector should be given more attention in generating a regional production network among ASEAN members. Vietnam has been increasing its economic potential to integrate with ASEAN economies in a higher level of technological industries, whereas Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar urgently demand regional assistances in promoting trade in this sector. The growth of machinery and transport equipment sector should be strategized by ASEAN to boost up economic participation by Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar. Moreover, basic infrastructure, technology transfer, and regional institution and plan are necessary to be in place in order to utilize the benefits of geographical proximity and competitive labor cost.

Besides economic elements in narrowing an economic gap and fostering economic integration in Southeast Asia, regional institution is another significant factor to play a role of creating and managing regional policy in order to stimulate economic cooperation. This fact is a focal point in the second part of my research at CSIS. The structure of ASEAN is studied to analyze type of institution and policy implementation, reflecting an operation of the institution. To conduct the qualitative research, I needed to make several interviews with ASEAN staffs at the ASEAN Secretariat and Indonesian officials at the Ministry of Trade, who are involved with intra-ASEAN trade relationship. The interviews led me to find out a current decision making process and problems of cooperation at the regional level.

Currently, the quantitative paper is completed and agreed by CSIS to publish it in *the Indonesian Quarterly*. Thankfulness to the Scott Kleock-Jenson Award in providing financial support during my internship in Indonesia is acknowledged in the article. The information from the interviews will be used to finish the second part of the research and also contribute to my Ph.D. dissertation. This academic internship in Indonesia could not be possible without a generosity of the Jenson family and staffs at Global Studies. I would like to thank them for giving me this valuable opportunity. In addition, some part of SKJ funding was used to finance my trip to Singapore for library research. As a consequence of the trip in Singapore, I have agreed with the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS) library at the National University of Singapore (NUS) to give a copy of my dissertation to their Southeast Asian collection.