

Report on staying at Kyoto from 1-14 March 2009

Thol Dina

**Royal University of Phnom Penh
History Department**

First of all, I want to pay my deep gratitude to CSEAS directors and staffs who provided me a great opportunity for me to participate in the East Asia Young Scholar Exchange Program prepared by CSEAS at Kyoto University. During 14 days of staying in Kyoto, I have chance to be involved with a variety of activities. Those activities range from workshop presentation, field visit, and symposium.

I learned a lot from these programs. On the second day of my stay in Kyoto, I have chance to listen to the explanation from Dr. Yasuyuki Kono about the purpose of G-COE program, especially sustainable humanosphere which attracted me so much. I really love the idea of assimilating men and nature because this activity can make balance between human and nature and build bridge between formal institution and informal institutions.

On the third day, I had chance to learn more. I listened to the various presentations by the scholars from India, Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar, and my Cambodian partner. Most important, I have great opportunity to present my research finding in this workshop as well. This workshop provided me a lot of information about agriculture, forestry, ecology, politics, development and history condition of Southeast Asia and South Asia countries. Furthermore, this workshop teaches me to accustom with the international academic arena in which I have never experienced. Moreover, I have a great opportunity to build rapport with famous scholars and young Asian scholars, especially the discussion with some professors at CSEAS.

From the fourth to the seventh, I had great opportunity to visit various places around Kyoto. From this field visit, I really appreciate the level of development in Japan. I can call this kind of development “nature colonization”. I saw house, good infrastructure, clean water access, and electricity everywhere even in the rural and mountainous area. Most important, I am so impressed with the management strategies in Miyama village, Hozu River, and Lake Biwa fishing corporative. In Cambodia, where there is development, nearly all the natural resources are destroyed and water is polluted. In contrast, in Japan, I observed that they try to limit the scale of development impacts in the target areas such in Miyama village, Hozu River, and Lake Biwa where I visited. From my point of view, this is one of good examples of Sustainable Humanosphere work.

From the ninth to the eleventh, I joined the international symposium prepared by CSEAS. From this symposium, I really get great academic benefits from the presentations, comments, as well as the discussions. I learn how to accustom myself to the academic arena and build rapport with famous academicians. More surprised, I met my favorite book author Dr. Hayami Yoko who wrote the book “Between the Hill” which I appreciate so much. Furthermore, I believe I enrich my knowledge and learn new concepts on Geosphere, Biosphere, and Humanosphere which are new concepts for me. Each presentation presented a good result focuses on the three areas, but the most attracted one is the presentation by Dr. Akio Tanabe. He presented clear concepts of political ecology and related this concept to the Humanosphere concept which is important for sustainable humanosphere.

In summary, I really learn a lot from my two weeks experience in CSEAS from a variety of perspectives. I have time to learn from the field trip to rural area to the academic presentations. I really want to see the continuity of this kind of academic activity in order to seek good knowledge and opinions which contribute to the Sustainable Humanosphere.