

EURASIA ERASMUS MUNDUS EXTERNAL CO-OPERATION WINDOW

Questionnaire for Post-Docs and Teachers

You are being asked to complete this questionnaire because you participated in an exchange as part of the **EURASIA EM – ECW project**. This questionnaire will ask you how satisfied you were with the experience and how important specific components of the experience were to you, in order to get your opinion about how the exchange programme can be improved. Your honest answer responses will be kept confidential and will help us improve the programme. This questionnaire should take fewer than 10 minutes to complete.

Enter your name here:

Katarzyna KRUSZEWSKA

I am from: Please name Home University

Warsaw University of Life Sciences, Poland

I did my exchange at: Please name Host University

Maejo University, Thailand

What were your main fields of teaching or research?

I am working in International Relations Office in Warsaw University of Life Sciences as Assistant of Rector's Attorney for International Cooperation.

SECTION 1: Short Statement on Your Experiences at the Host University (with regard to academic and cultural aspects)

I was working in International Affairs Division at Maejo University (MJU) in Chiang Mai (Thailand) and I was helping in office works in English. I had a chance to participate in international training organized by International Division. It was an excellent experience in gaining intercultural contacts because participants were from 20 countries and nobody from Europe. After training I worked with evaluation where I used my sociological experience. Besides those tasks I did some administrative works in the office.

I had also opportunity to go with students from Faculty of Economics to environmental trip to Talu Island and to participate in Thai New Year, with International Division as equal employee – they have now 2552 year! Thai culture is different from ours, but everybody was helpful and smiling, so I could learn a lot about ways of working in International Affairs and about Thailand people living there and their customs.

SECTION 2: Benefits of the Exchange Experience

First of all, possibility to see how people work in other country and work with them in the same field was an excellent benefit for me. I got known there people from many countries. During conversations my knowledge has expanded and some stereotypes have changed about those nations. It was a great lesson about tolerance and difference between cultures. About Poland only some people know basic facts - that it is in Europe (often mixed with Holland) and that was all. I hope that because of my presence my country appear for them, not only as a word.

Thai culture is very rich one and beautiful and Chiang Mai is one of most charming cities. I had a chance to participate in some national events and it is impossible to describe atmosphere during Thai events. I tried Thai spicy cuisine, fruits from that region and even I ate an insect. In my free time I rode on an elephant, floated on a bamboo raft and plant corals in the sea. I have never thought about experience like those!

SECTION 3: Improving the Programme

Please share your top three recommendations for how this programme can be improved.

Recommendation One:

In my opinion this program do not need a lot of improvements. If I can suggest something I propose to take more attention about expectations from Asia and better discuss tasks before exchange between participants and Universities.

Recommendation Two:

I spoke with students from SGGW who are now in Thailand and Indonesia and they had problems with choosing courses. Coordinators often didn't know which courses are in English or when they are starting. One of the students was informed about changes two days before going to Thailand and she had one month free of courses because everything else was in Thai at this moment. I didn't speak with this coordinator, so maybe it was an urgent situation. Despite this, students told me that some other courses were delayed. It should be better prepared for future students.

Recommendation Three:

Please submit the questionnaire to the project co-ordinator:

eurasia@boku.ac.at

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