

INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCES

PRAEWA SAENGAROONCHALOEMSUK

ORGANIZATION: MINISTRY OF COMMERCE

DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF TRADE NEGOTIATIONS

POSITION: INTERN/TRAINEE



In an internship at the department of trade negotiations, I was assigned to work in the ASEAN sector. As there are 3 parts in the ASEAN sector and I have to do the internship for 3 months, the administrator provided me the opportunity to work in all parts; in the first month, I worked in the RCEP part, the second month in the bilateral part, and last month in the ASEAN part. In the first 3 weeks of the internship, there were no major problems, as at that time there were no major meetings, making the amount of work less than usual. My first assignment was reading and scanning through the project reports. As the RCEP sector employed a private firm in establishing its reports, verification of the use of terms and the accuracy of the information is needed. Besides, these reports will be published, thus, I had to scan for mistakes and make corrections, making sure that this report is understandable for people outside the organization. I spent 4 days working on this task and it seemed to impress my supervisor and co-workers.

Later I had to summarize the study along with providing suggestions and possible questions from outsiders. They also asked me to write news articles inviting Thai businesses to adopt the RCEP agreement. And I got a big project which is researching in preparation for the October meeting. I had to search for the future food and possibilities of Thailand in this market. My supervisor also allowed me to do a master's degree test to get into the department of trade negotiations and provided me the opportunity to attend meetings and conferences. Another task that was assigned to me was arranging some documents which was an easy task.

From all the work I have done, I had an opportunity to learn specific terms used in economics. I gained more knowledge related to the business world such as supply chain management, tax rate, GDP, and HS code. I learned how the government sector functions and cooperates with private firms. Currently, my interests seem to gradually lean toward economics and business. However, I still need to observe and learn more as the works that my supervisor and co-workers gave to me were just easy tasks that fit my current ability.

Overall, my satisfaction with the department was good. The working hours are reasonable, I have to be at work before 8:30 and finish at 16:30. The employees in the organization are really nice, ranging from the security guard to the managers, they are all nice and kind. They often offer me some snacks. The working environment is really good, I have my own table but it is not compulsory to be at the table all the time. I can work in the meeting room or near the coffee shop downstairs. They assigned work that is not too hard or pressured me with the time limit. There are places to chill and there is a market near the building. My only complaint is the air conditioner which is so cold.

