

ETH

Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich
Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich

IPOS
Intensive Program on Sustainability

Report on Intensive Program on Sustainability (IPoS) 2011, August (2 weeks) and December (1 week)

Thailand: Kanchanaburi and Pathumthani provinces, Japan:
Kashiwanoha

Report by ETH participant Hannes Zimmermann

IPOS
Intensive Program on Sustainability

Organisation by



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The Alliance for Global Sustainability

Program Overview

Date			Activity A		Activity B			Activity C	Activity D	
			Morning 08:30-12:00		Afternoon 13:30-16:30			Evening 16:30-18:00	Night 20:00-	
0	31 Jul	Sun	Arrival of participants and welcome at Asia Hotel, Bangkok							
1	1 Aug	Mon	Travel to Kanchanaburi province		Opening: Welcome Address by AIT	Overview of planned activities and outputs	Keynote speech on 'What is Sustainability?' (Prof. Mino)	How to use an information given by a numerical model? (Prof. Sumi)	Introduction & Logistics	Ice Breaking
2	2 Aug	Tue	Assembly	Module 1: Sustainability and trans-disciplinary approaches (Dr. Thammarat)	Introduction to Green Activities of Comsaed Resort (Resort owner and local municipality)		A guided walking tour in Comsaed resort compound	Group Work		
3	3 Aug	Wed	Assembly	Module 2: Reuse and recycling practices in water and waste management (Dr. Nawatch & Dr. Atitaya)	Module 3: Participatory planning and stakeholder dialogues (Dr. Anisara) A case study of sanitation project in Nepal (Mr. Mingma)		Group exercise	Group Work		
4	4 Aug	Thu	Assembly	Special module I: Japanese water management from Municipal sewage system to Johkaso system (Dr. Onuki)	Module 4: Rapid Appraisal Techniques (Dr. Soparth)		Group exercise on interviews and discussion with local community/authority		Group Work	
5	5 Aug	Fri	Assembly	Module 5: Food Security and Local Livelihoods (Prof. Athapol and Dr. Anil)	Visit Rai Khun Mon				Group Work	
6	6 Aug	Sat	Assembly	Special module II: Earthquake, Tsunami, Fukushima Daiichi (Dr. Onuki)	Mid-term presentation		Preparation for cultural night	Natsu-matsuri Cultural night		
7	7 Aug	Sun	Assembly	Travel to Wave Side Resort, Pathumthani	Check-in at hotel, Introduction to study site and guided walking tour				Group Work	
8	8 Aug	Mon	Assembly	Free time					Group Work	
9	9 Aug	Tue	Assembly	Introduction	Field survey				Group Work	
10	10 Aug	Wed	Assembly	Introduction	Field survey				Group Work	
11	11 Aug	Thu	Assembly	Preparation of group presentation		Final group presentation to local community			Farewell Party	
12	12 Aug	Fri	Check-out, Closing Ceremony			Adjourn to Bangkok, AIT and airport				

Date			8:30-9:00	Activity A 9:00-12:00	Activity B 13:00-15:30	Activity C 16:00-18:30	Activity D 20:30
1	Dec. 5	Mon.	Heading for Kashiwanoha		Opening Ceremony (13:00-14:40)	Key note lecture: technoscience and sociology (15:00-16:30) Dr. Matsumoto	Welcome party
2	Dec. 6	Tue.	Assembly	Lecture 1 (Dr.Mimaki) Lecture 2 (Mr. Ishinazaka)	Lecture 3 and town walking at Kashiwanoha Mr. Nakata		Group work
3	Dec. 7	Wed	Assembly	Lecture 4 (Prof. Yamato)	Lecture 5	Lecture 6 (Prof. Sumi)	Group work
4	Dec. 8	Thu	Excursion NISSAN Factory (Mr.Komatsu)			Free and Dinner at Odaiba	
5	Dec. 9	Fri	Assembly	Lecture 7 (Prof. Hori)	Mid-term presentation	Lecture 8 (Dr. Yamashina)	Group work
6	Dec. 10	Sat	Assembly	Interview to local people	Group work		
7	Dec. 11	Sun	Preparation for the final presentation		Final Presentation		Farewell party
8	Dec. 12	Mon	Assembly	Closing Ceremony (9:30-12:00)	Free		

Goal of IPOS according to <http://www.ipos.k.u-tokyo.ac.jp/aboutipos.html>

The "Intensive Program on Sustainability (IPOS)" is a short-term educational course, which provides an opportunity for international students (especially from Asian nations) to obtain a deeper appreciation of Asian and global sustainability. In this program, participants lodge together; study through experience-based learning that includes workshops, field visits, and lectures; and cultivate friendship across different nationalities and academic backgrounds.

Contents summary

The foci of IPOS 2011 in Thailand were the topics water, food and sanitation. The two weeks consisted of lectures, intensive group work, field visits and social/networking program. The lectures included introductions to water, food and sanitation. Furthermore as method the focus was set on participatory stakeholder consultation. Next to introduction lectures and case studies, we had the opportunity to apply participatory stakeholder consultation in Kanchanaburi (countryside near to Myanmar) and for two days in Pathumthani (town very close to Bangkok, was heavily affected by the floods in 2011).

In Kashiwanoha, a city next to Tokyo, our topics concerned electricity production in Japan, sustainable transportation and the actual implementation of such transportation systems in communities. Methods used were lectures, field visits, factory visits and group work. Highlights included the factory visit of Nissan Leaf production, visit to research labs on multi-mobility sharing and capacitor-electro-mobiles with remote recharge.

Why to go for IPOS

If you have the opportunity to join these truly intensive workshops I definitely recommend to do so for the following reasons:

- You can meet many interesting highly motivated people working or studying in the field of sustainability, this includes the 50+ people you meet during the workshop as well as the IPOS alumni network Anipos.
- Cultural experience in Thailand and Japan with people from all over East/South-East-Asia. In particular the opportunity to work together with many people in group work, work in stakeholder consultation with local people. In such situation you can really feel the importance that communication gets.
- Loads of fun
- Implementing technology in the field is very different from what students might think during their studies. It turns out that communication with the stakeholders and their participation is at least as important as the technology applied. During IPOS you learn how to start from the people with their priorities and to come up with a customized solution rather than starting with a defined technology with whom you fell in love. This was in particular impressing in Pathumthani. We were doing a stakeholder consultation there and coming up with recommendations for future community development including improved waste management, sanitary and drinking water solutions. Some month later it turned out that floods from the river are by far the most important issue for the community which was not considered as highest priority by us in the beginning.
- Many sustainability topics are touched during the workshop. This exposure helps to better orient during studies and career.

For questions on the program feel free to contact me: arctanh [at] gmail.com



Farwell in Japan



Left: Field visit in Thailand on a mushroom farm

Bottom: Visit in research lab on capacitor-electro-mobiles, Japan



Stakeholder consultation in Japan



Group work in Japan