

Event Report

Project to Create Research and Educational Hubs for Innovative Manufacturing in Asia — Online CIS Activity Report (Thailand) —

Assoc. Prof. Mihoko Katsumata
 Division of Global Human Resource Development
 Project to Create Research and Educational Hubs for Innovative Manufacturing in Asia

The online Coupling Internship (CIS) was held between Japan and Thailand from Feb. 15th to 22nd in 2021. Since it was hard to travel overseas due to the effect of infection with the new coronavirus this fiscal year, the CIS was carried out online. The purpose and learning effect of its program was set, as much as possible, to be similar to those of traditional on-site training. In this Thai CIS, a total of eight students participated: two from School of Foreign Studies, one from School of Economics and one from Graduate School of Engineering, Osaka Univ.(OU); two from Faculty of Humanities and two from Department of Mechanical Engineering, Kasetsart Univ. (KU)

The students from OU had prepared for this event by learning such matters as business, culture and CIS issues in the pre-training program held eight times from last June. In the preliminary training that was conducted for two days since the beginning of the online CIS, the students took the initiative in such activities as communication training for ice breaking, introduction of their own nations, learning of the strength of Japanese manufacturing enterprises based on their own principles such as 5S and Three Practicalities, learning of basic welding knowledge, and examination of CIS practice theme.

From Feb. 17th, the students attended online for joining with the employees of OTC Daihen Asia (OTCDA) in Navanakorn in the suburbs of Bangkok, listened to introduction of the company, and engaged in interviews to the employees three times. The students asked many questions to Japanese executives, Thai managers, and staff regarding the training theme “Issues and Countermeasures in Communication,” and received

enthusiastic answers from the company people. After that, the students organized the information, examined it and compiled it into the final proposal, through discussions with the team.

On the final day of Feb. 22 (Mon), the final reporting session was held online. At this session, the following people attended other than the students: Vice President Tsujii, General Manager Moriyama, Plant Manager Noda and Thai Manager from OTCDA; Prof. Nontawat (Department of Mechanical Engineering, Dean, Special Advisor) and Dr. Apichart (Department of Mechanical Engineering, International Affairs) from KU; together with Visiting Prof. Suga (Joining and welding Research Institute) and Assoc. Prof. Katsumata from OU. Both A and B teams of the students provided proposals on the practice theme from such various viewpoints as importance of cross-cultural understanding, establishment of work environment for easy communication, and promotion of interactive activities. Vice President Tsujii commented, “I am surprised to hear that various proposals have been presented despite the working time and environment were limited,” and “I have seen the students deepening their cooperation for online learning.”

The student participants commented that various training and activities were reduced this year due to the influence of the new coronavirus, and that it was a valuable experience for them to interact with the company people and overseas students in a practical manner. I am confident that the experiences the students obtained this time will bring great significance to their future practical activities.

