

Final Report —Activity Report—

“The Study of Migration and Cultural Relationship between Small Cities in Southeast Asia and Japan.” Report on activity results and the circumstances of a research trip in Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei and Myanmar.

Summary of projects that were undertaken during the Fellowship period.

I was flexible to travel and meet new people with a loosely focus on 2-3 frames. The fellowship allowed me to travel and explore on my own to many cities outside of the capital cities of the 5 countries. This way, I could see a bigger and realistic picture of the country as well as its relation to the neighboring countries. The relationship in the history and current time of these countries has unique backgrounds which echoes some parts of Thailand which shares the history and cross culture with them. The fellowship let me see the neighbors in order to hear the other narratives and to understand the region as a whole and the position of my country.

My board interest rooted in my practice is "landscape." Currently and in the future, my attention will involve with history, traveling routes, issues on geopolitical/economic/natural resource, and the change of those landscapes. The fellowship allowed me to go, see and talk with locals what I have only learned through books or on hearsay. It's hard for me to go straight to concentrate on one project/idea after the trip since the knowledge I got through those direct communication is vast and I need to digest and research further in details, in order to develop on each subject I'm interested in. This research trip was a great opportunity for me to start a new chapter in my career.

Tokyo and Naganojo, Gunma 6-11 September

Rest and settle in Tokyo after arrival for one day. Travel to Nakanojo Biennial, Gunma by bus to visit the exhibition. I spent 2 full days there. Introduced the places and works by the director and staffs of the biennale. Stay with one of the staff for a night and travel to

the other part of the festival in Kuni, a heritage village in a mountain. After that I returned back to Tokyo and did the following things; went to the National Library with Shintaro Tokairin of AIT, joined a talk event with Aron (an artist from Sweden) at AIT, met a curator (Hiroko Tasaka) and visit exhibitions at TOP museum, met Nozomu Ogawa at Ongoing Art Center.

Naha, Okinawa 12-15 September

Flew from Haneda Airport, I arrived there in the afternoon on the 12th. After I checked in the hotel, I went to Okinawa Prefectural Museum & Art Museum. There I visited the historical city show of the museum and then met Sayaka Ashidate with her daughter. She introduced me to two curators of the art museum. We visited the art museum and then went out to a café, where I met her husband, Syo Yoshihama (a sound artist) and her friend. Finally, we had dinner together and we exchanged our knowledge with my research or basic introduction to each other.

On the 13th, I moved to another hotel and then went to the north part of the city for a university and a museum. It was really inspiring day. In the evening, I went to Arts Tropical, an art space that runs by Sayaka Ashidate and Syo Yoshihama. I gave a public talk here (<https://bit.ly/2v4vxKs>). Basically shared my works, introduce myself and my research in Japan. There was a translator, Masaki Nohara who is Japanese with one-fourth of American. He is an award winning novel writer in Okinawa. The event was lovely with small group of people, but very good interaction. There was an opening of a small exhibition at Arts Tropical after that.

Arts Tropical, an art space that run by Sayaka Ashidate and Syo Yoshihama. In the picture, there are also an artist and a regular visitor of the space gathering there.



My talk at Arts Tropical.



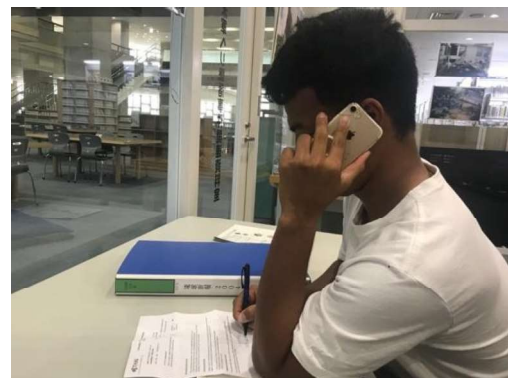
A visit to Okinawa International University to see an evidence of a plane crashed during the WW2.



A student helped me to get a visitor card to the university library.



He helped to interview his grandma to share her story.



Visited Sakima Art Museum



On the 14th, I took a bus very far away to the southern part of the city to visit a historical cave. It was really hot day to walk up and down to the place and found out that it closed. It is usually open every day, I didn't have any idea what happened. Waited a long time for a bus to return. I went to meet a lady who run an art space and guesthouse in the middle of a market. This place was a girl high school. The manager name is Kanna Akitomo. She was asked by an alumna of students who studied here before world war 2 to run

this space for art and culture since last year. It was a girl school. After the war, the school closed and the market started to grow around it. The alumni still use this place as a gathering place once in a while.



An art space at Sakaemечи market



A view of at Sakaemечи market on the top from the art space.

On the 15th I joined a car ride with 3 girls, all together 4 girls in a car. We went up north to visit so many spots, especially to learn American life/ architectures, people life and history around American based. It was a long day, but very much inspired. We went to America villages, Plaza House Shopping Center (It was inside the previous American based) and AEON Mall Okinawa Rycom (Sayaka told me that it is the biggest branch in Japan. There we can see American military came to shopping here. It also give a special discount for them), communities around American based and other historical sites.

Car riding to the north of Okinawa to visit
America villages, community around
American based and other historical sites.



American Village

Historical site during WW2.



Sapporo 16-18 September

Arrived in the afternoon. I was picked up at Teine JR Station by a local artist Fuyuka Shindo. She took me to see collection of a monk in a Buddhist temple. It was interesting to see his collection and view of the area and Japan of his past time. He is a monk in his entire life. He came from a family that run a temple in Shihoku Island, one of the long

family run temple. Now, the 27th monk of the family member run that temple. However, he moved here with his wife who also belong to this temple. He has lived here about 50 years now, so whatever he pasted through in the history reveal through the collection. Then we went to a cemetery, the first Japanese settlement cemetery in the city. Before the sunset, we walked down to the mouth of the Ishikari River where many people travel through in the past.

Sapporo

Visiting a private collection at a Buddhist temple



Our friends were waiting for us at Naebono Art Studio <https://www.naebono.com/>, Ryusue Ito and Jay Brown. There we also met many artists and a manager of S-Air (Umi Hagitani), one of the oldest artist in residence in Sapporo where some artists from Chiang Mai participated in the past including Apichatpong Weerasethakul. We ended up had dinner together nearby the studio.

On the 17th and 18th , Ito-san took me around with his car. We went to Historical Village of Hokkaido, Moerenuma park and Hokkaido Museum, Sapporo Beer Museum, his fine arts department and more. I'm lucky because he has so much knowledge of everything. To spent time with him, it is just a valuable time to learn. As a professor and an active artist, he can easily access places that belong to the art education department, Hokkaido University of Education. Also, I stayed at a guesthouse that run by his cousin.

Walking to the mouth of the Ishikari River
where many people travel through in the
past.



Visiting Naebono Art Studio

<https://www.naebono.com/>



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New museum devoted for Ainu culture will open in 2020.





On the 17th and 18th, Ito- san took me around with his car. We went to Historical Village of Hokkaido.



Moerenuma Park.



Moerenuma Park.



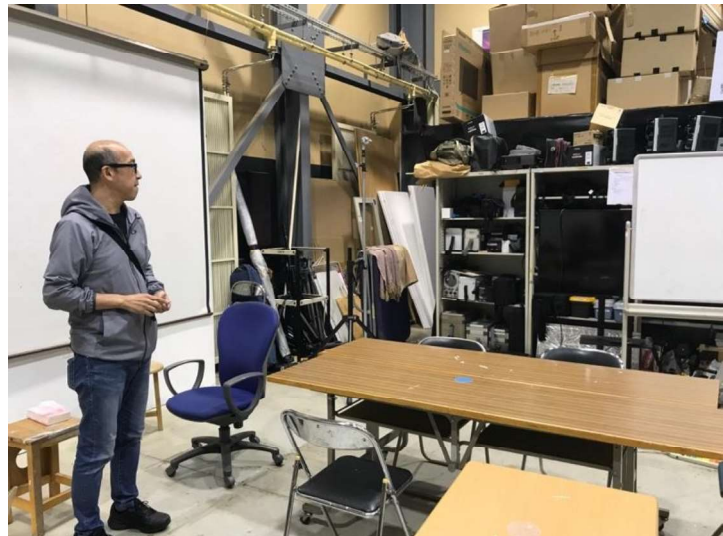
Night scene of the city Sapporo.



Visiting
Sculpture Studio, Fine arts
department of Hokkaido
University of Education.



Visiting Film Studio,
Fine arts department of
Hokkaido University of
Education.



Tokyo 19-20 September

Rest and prepare for a trip to the south. Participated an opening of Koganecho Bazaar in Yokohama

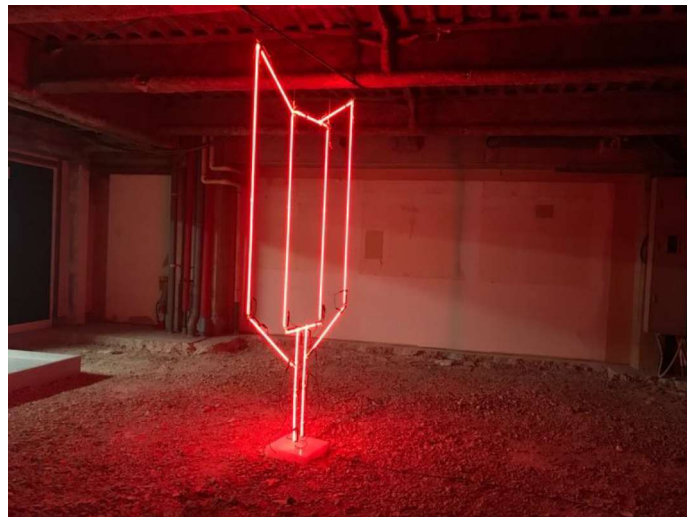
Aichi/Nagoya 21-23 September

Visited Aichi Triennale during the day and joined a gathering at Sanatorium in the evening. There I met some Japanese and Indonesian curators and also the artists who run the space. I also had dinner with my old friend, who is now a professor at the music department in Aichi University of Arts.

On the 3rd day, I traveled to Osaka.



Visiting Aichi Triennial, Nagoya



Osaka 24-25 September

Had a rest and then observed the area of Shinsaibashi. Visited Osaka Museum of History, Osaka Castle and Mint Museum.

Okayama 26 September

Travel to Okayama to participate the Press Tour of the Okayama Art Submit, the Opening Ceremony and then return back to a hotel.

Press tour on the opening of Okayama Art Summit 2019 on the 26th September 2019.



Honjima 27-28 September

Traveled to Marukame port and waited for a ferry to go to Honjima Island. There will be the fall opening of Satouchi Triennale the next day at this island. There, I took a bus to a village where a Thai artist, Pinnaree Sanpitak work is. We stayed in the village with curators from Thailand, Malaysia, gallerist from Singapore, a group of family and friend of the artist and also a Thai chef.

This village was a pirate village/island. The house we stayed was a first house of the village. There are so many beautiful tradition wooden house here. We spent time here for 2 nights to participate an opening on the 28th morning and to see exhibitions in this island. After the opening, I went to Takamishima Island by ferry to visit exhibition there.

Artist Pinaree Sanpitak and her artwork at Honjima Island as part of Setouchi Triennale.



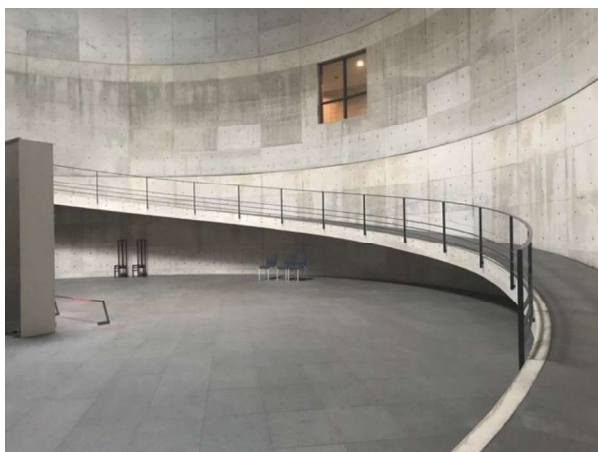
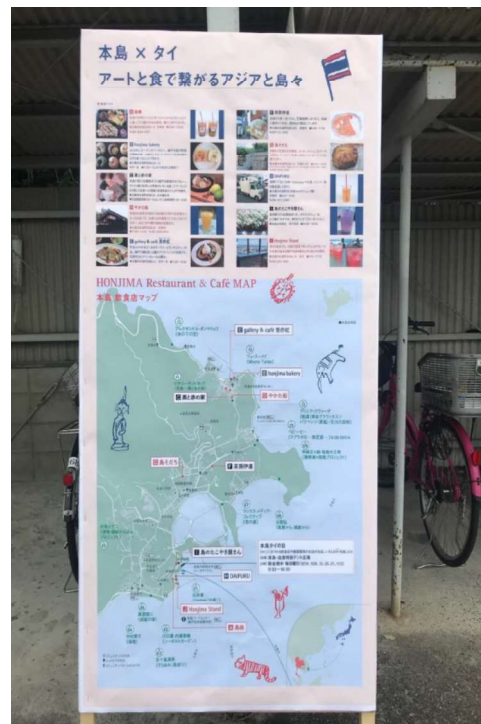
The fall opening at Honjima Island as part of Setouchi Triennale.



artwork



The Thai Day Market every Sunday at Honjima Island during the festival.



Visiting Benesse House at Naoshima Island

Marukame and Uno Port area 29-30 September

I left the Honjima Island in the morning and returned to Marukame port. Took a one stop train to Sanuki-Shioya Station and walked from there to Nakazubanshoen Marugame Museum. There was a sound arts exhibition. Then went to Uno port by train.

At Uno port, continued to visit Satouchi Triennale, I took a ferry to Naoshima islands to visit the show. The next day took another ferry to visit Teshima Island.

Bus tour on Teshima Island.



Visiting an exhibition at a former Needle Factory, Teshima Island.



Left Uno around 8pm to Kobe

Kobe 30 September – 1 October

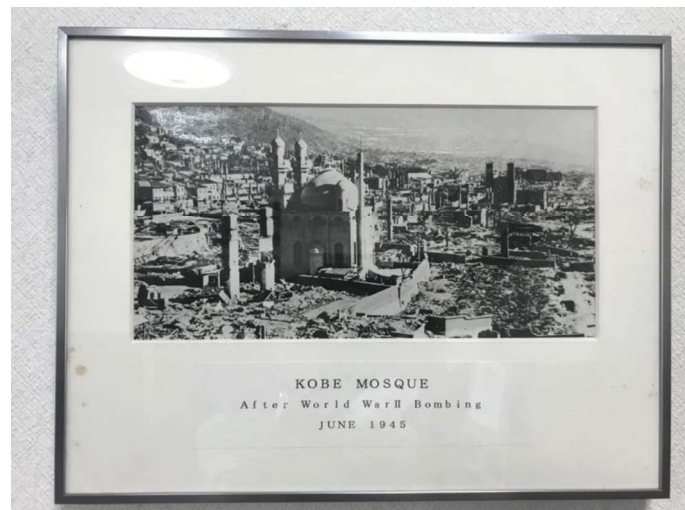
Arrived Kobe at night.

On the 1st October, I went to many places in the city, mainly historical sites by foot and Loop bus. In the late evening, I took trains back to Tokyo.

Visiting Kobe Center for Overseas Migration. It shows history and documents of Japanese migrate to South America.



Visiting the first Kobe Masjid. It survived after the WW2.



Moegi House, English house of Kobe.



Ikuta Shrine, the Shrine where Japanese traveler by the sea worshiped before a long distance journey.



Tokyo/Yokohama 2-9 October

2-3 October, I had a rest and started contact people again. During the last trip, I didn't in contact people much. Also the internet around islands was limited. I also started to write the monthly report of the Asia Center Fellowship.

4 October, I plan to visit Yokohama. First at the **Japanese Overseas Migration Museum**, had a lunch meeting with the team of **Koganecho Bazaar**. Visit the Koganecho Bazaar exhibition. Then I traveled back to **Mitaka** for an exhibition opening and catch up with Japanese artist/gallerist friends. Most of the friends in this group are about 10+ to 35+ years old more than me, who I knew them since the last 20 years. I told them about my research and they responded me with many more options to suggest. There was one place near Tokyo that **Mr. Yoshiki Takata** suggested me to visit was **Maruki Gallery for the Hiroshima Panels** in Saitama. He said if I was impressed by **Sakima Art Museum** in Naha, Okinawa, I should visit this one too. But since the place was not possible to reach by public transportation, he offered to drive me there on the

5th. We met at Mitaka Station at 9 am and drove to the place. For me, it was nice to take a ride to Saitama since I had never been there. The Gallery was in a middle of nowhere, but there were many elder audiences there. It was interesting to observe life of people during the atomic bomb exploded in Hiroshima at the end of the World War 2 in pictures and text-diaries. Most of the gallery showed the works of a couple artist, Iri Maruki and Toshi Maruki for a calling for peace message to the world. In the evening, I joined a gathering of art/design people at Austrian House, an artist-in-residence in Tokyo for Austrian artist sponsored by Austrian Government.

October 4th, a visit the Koganecho Bazaar exhibition and had lunch with the staffs.



October 6th, Radio interview at Osaten, a migrant community.



6-9 October, I had several visit and meeting with different people, including to have a radio conversation with a Filipino artist who migrate to Japan and Mori Art Museum visit.

On the 7th, I and Shintaro-san traveled together to meet and visit a couple (Hashimoto-san – read about him <http://www.tokyo-hachioji-probusclub.jp/wp-content/uploads/issue233.pdf>) in Hachioji area. They were editors of a privately print book of Hatano's diary about his life and also his Father-in-law (Mr. Tanaka Morinosuke) in Chiang Mai around the time of the WW2. The book was used a reference in many article related to Japanese photography in Siam. I personally interested to know Mr.Tanaka's life for his photo works and his motivation to immigrate to Thailand. The visit to the couple helped me to see the context around the time among Japanese people living in Chiang Mai. The couple also shared me their own pictures and stories when they lived there.



Tokyo: October 7th, met and visited a couple who were editors of private book publication of Hatano's life in Chiang Mai during WW2. This publication was used to be a reference for many article relate to Japanese photography in Siam.



I also had a first meeting with a staff of Asian Center on the 7th. There was an appointment with Professor James Farrer from Sofia University on the 9th. His research is about migrant restaurant and business in Nichi-Ogikubo area.

His ethnographic research project centered in the Tokyo neighborhood of Nishiogikubo, focusing on urban foodways, the meanings of culinary work, and the ways community life is formed around food.

He walked me around the area and explained the history of the area and point out remarkable places/shops that introduce foreign food to Japanese by



Japanese and later the migrant also joined this kind of business and created multi-culture Asian atmosphere in the area. His research can read and follow at <https://www.nishiogiology.org/> and the global Japanese Cuisine Project at <https://www.global-japanese-cuisine.org/>.

Yamagata, Japan 10-14 October

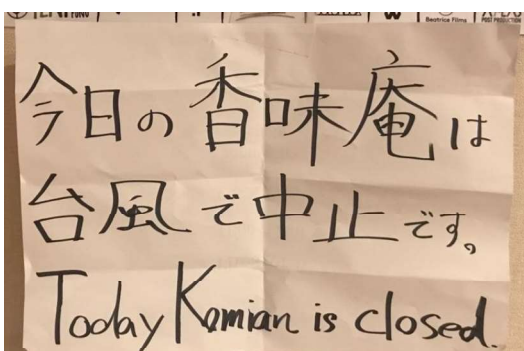
Visited Yamagata Film festival. I had already in contact with the festival team and they gave me an access to all screening.

After arrival, I set up myself for some hours and then joined the opening. There were so many local audiences at the opening ceremony and screening, mainly old people. The signages of the festival displayed everywhere in the city. At the opening ceremony, there were filmmakers, local organizers, audiences. Not everyone knew each other well yet, so people separate by group. There were groups from India, westerners and Chinese speaking guests, some Singaporean. There was no Thai or other Southeast Asian I met there. However, I got to know more people from the opening reception and also cached up with some friends.

The 2nd day (11 October) I went to watch a film from Myanmar and expected to meet a filmmaker from Myanmar, but it turned out that the filmmaker was an Italian. It's a story about a group of backpack doctors that went to remote areas in Myanmar to help villagers in mostly dangerous locations. I was really impressed with his film. He could capture a rare scene through his intimate relationship. He was a volunteer with the backpack doctors there before. Since he started to do this film, he went there around once a year for 6-7 years. There were more films I watched on that day about the small island far from Japan, yet it is a part of Japan. The filmmakers captured the 2nd generation of American who lived there in the transition time after World War 2 from American island to hand over its possession to Japan. Through this film and later the Q&A, I realized that there are many Japanese/American residence in this country. It recalled me back to my

American/Japanese and American friends in Chiang Mai who had his education in Tokyo. They are the example of more population like them in Japan. I didn't know much of this perspective until I watch this film. I also saw the filmmaker and his dad spoke fluently in English and Japanese. Not only that most of westerners who participated in this festival spoke Japanese fluently. It was not usual for me to experience this. However, somehow I guess that many people interested in the Japanese subjects in their own profession and therefore that can speak Japanese. Just like when I participated a Thai Studies Conference where many foreigner spoke Thai.

The 3rd day (12 October), I watched some experimental films and archives of black and white film during World War 2. There were not films about the war, instead the normal life during that time. On this date, I was worry about my return trip on the 13th because of the unstable train schedule during the typhoon. I went to buy a ticket back to Tokyo a day in advance. I watched a film program in the late afternoon while all phones on this room were ringing because of the warning system during typhoon time. After that screening ended, the film festival stopped and canceled all the program afterwards. Everyone rushed back home and stayed safe there. It was rain so hard in this afternoon and evening. I stayed in my hotel room and was in touch with many friends and family members. My AIT team who host my research in Japan communicated with me all the time. At lease, I felt not to search for solution alone in this difficult time.



The sign of the Komian close on the 12th October.

台風19号の被害状況について

台風19号により甚大な被害を受けた線区が多く発生しています。現在、運転再開に向け被害状況の確認及び復旧作業を行っております。主な線区の被害状況についてお知らせいたします。

被害状況

【宮城県 仙山線 北山～東北福祉大前間】



【宮城県 東北本線 岩沼駅】



【福島県 東北新幹線 新白河～郡山間】



【山形県 奥羽本線 大沢～間瀬間】



【福島県 東北本線 本宮駅付近】



【福島県 東北本線 桑崎～久田野駅】



その他の線区においても被害が発生しております

2019年10月12日
山形駅長

The damage of train track between Yamagata to Tokyo after the typhoon.

The 4th day (13 October), since I plan to travel back to Tokyo today I checked out from my hotel in the morning and left my luggage there until the traveling time. I went

to watched some films in the festival. I knew that the morning train won't run, but the late afternoon or evening should worked. I was wrong, nothing run this entire day, neither bus or train. Still I waited and waited around bus and train station until around 6 PM, I realized that nothing worked, I must change my ticket, get refund and find a new hotel. It's not easy to get the good price hotel anymore. It was a bit too late to find...

About 6 PM, it was dark and rain. I walked with my luggage to the headquarter of the festival searched for help. But they couldn't help much for the reasonable price accommodation. Finally, I searched online again for accommodation and I found one lovely guesthouse nearby. Once I arrived at the guesthouse, I was relieved. The owner was cooking dinner and I could just joined them with the other guests. It was a lovely dinner with interesting conversation. It was like a real home. Many guests canceled the booking at his guesthouse this evening that's give me a chance to book it online in the last minute.

I had so many things to worry in these 2-3 days, because I should return back to Tokyo and packed, cleaned my room, and catch a flight to Malaysia. After arrival, I would have a

meeting with a staff at Japan Foundation Kuala Lumpur and so on. But things was not as planned. I couldn't be in Tokyo on the 13rd. I started to inform this situation to Japan foundation's team and searching for help to postpone my flight to Malaysia. It's a weekend plus long holiday, but finally Hikaru-san responded me and helped to reissue the flight ticket the next day. Big thanks for her immediate help.

The 14th, I wished the train works again. I went to watch Takashi Makino's film in the morning. Some part of the film he shot in Chiang Mai last in May 2019. Makino couldn't join the screening and Q&A in person too, because his flight from Berlin was canceled and postpone until the 17th. I joined his skype Q&A after that ran to get my luggage to the train station. I was worry if the train would not run again as planned, but I should stand by there. I rushed to the train station, Makino texted me while I ran that the Shinkansen runs again. I went to the train station and everything ran again. I took the 1.40 pm trip to Tokyo. I called my landlord (Ms. Toki-san) if I can stay in Tokyo one more day. She kindly said yes. She said I can stay as long as I like. I wrote an email to postpone my appointment with the Japan Foundation Kuala Lumpur where I supposed to meet them on the 16th.

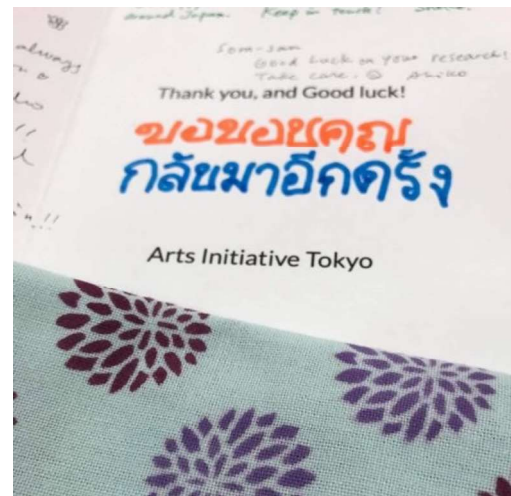
Tokyo, Japan 15 October

I have a rest and pack my luggage. I went to AIT to say goodbye to the team and gave them a gift. They gave me also a gift with a lovely farewell card. It was really warm welcome for the team as always. I got an email from Japan Foundation Kuala Lumpur to cancel the appointment since the staff who was in charged planned to leave the office on the 16th.



A farewell meeting with AIT staffs before my last day in Tokyo.

A farewell card I received from AIT staffs.



Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia 16 October

Traveling from Narita to Kuala Lumpur. I arrived at the accommodation in the evening. My host waited there and welcome me with local meal.

Malaysia 17-22 October

On the 17th October, I had a problem to use my bank card with ATM machine there. I carried 3 debit cards with me on this trip. One card was swallowed by the first machine. I was so scare. A staff of DNA lab helped to call the bank to get return the card, but the bank said they can't give it back. I must contact my bank to get a new one. But since I'm abroad, I couldn't get the new one. I called my Thai bank, what was problem, they said I'd better inform them if I use this card abroad. It's strange. I used this card oversea without inform them since I have the card and it was no problem. They also said I can only have a new card when I'm back to Thailand. My second card didn't work with ATM machine here either. I have only one last card left. I was afraid if it didn't work. So I was hesitate to use it.

Until in the evening, I try to use it and it worked! In this moment the two staffs of the DNA Lab companied me to the ATM machine, so I invited them for a dinner to celebrate.

18th October, I traveled to Kota Baru Airport in the northeastern part of Malaysia and took a taxi to Tumpat village where the Thai-Malaysia border is. I arrived a guesthouse there that ran by a Thai-Indonesian family. The owner speak Thai to me and explained many thing about the Thai community in the area. There was no public transportation in the area, so the owner lent me her old motorbike. The village was more active than now in the past 5 years, but because the cross-border market on the Thai side has been closed during the current Prime Minister Prayut Chan O-cha, the area was declined.

I ride the motorbike to fill the gas. The gas was 50% cheaper than Thailand. I understood why many Thais drive to Malaysia to fill the gas. I went to Thai temples and ride along the Sungai Ko Lok to see the Thai-Malaysia border. It looked like I was in the middle of nowhere. It was just a large area of field. The road was also small and simple. But I could see some military spots in every about 5 kilometers. No public transportation at all. People who cross the border in the area has their relative or friends to pick them up.

The Thai temple was more interesting because it was a Kratin (กฐิน) Festival. It was full of local people who spoke Thai, wore tradition costume and served familiar food. I chatting with some of the old ladies who spoke Thai, Malay and also Hockian Chinese. People here consider they are Malaysian and not Thai. They said they born here and their ancestors were also born here.

19th October, I wake up quite early to travel back to Kota Baru. There is no transportation in the area, so a sister of the guesthouse owner planned to pick up her husband who

works at a hospital. I joined her trip. She explained me more about how she and her cousin learn Thai language even though there are no Thai school in the area. There are only Malay, Chinese and Indian school available. The population however are about 30% Thais, 20% Chinese-Malays, 20% Malays and some Indians. How they learn Thai is mainly by watching Thai television (They can received the satellite signal at the border area.) and reading and singing a song from Thai Karaoke. I was wonder how the karaoke can be a big deal to learn Thai. She argued that the big fan to a Thai singer and music is a highly motivation and emotion to learn language.

She took me to a local favorite breakfast restaurant (Oren Cafe) and drove me to a historical museum. Once I try to enter the Museum, the staff said they only show the exhibition about games now, not anymore a historical show. It was strange to hear that. She recommended me to go to the other one. I took a taxi to that place. It was a bit remote area again. I was afraid I couldn't find a car to go to the airport and the driver agreed. He said he can wait if I spent not too long time at the museum. But then we couldn't find that small museum at all. It showed in the google map, but there were only normal houses around there. We gave up and went directly to the airport. I flew to Penang via Kaula Lumpur from there. I arrived the city in the evening. A taxi driver talked with me a lot about his visit in Thailand. He seemed like my country a lot. He suggested me many things where I should visit and have meals.

20th October, I visited many places as possible in the old city of Georgetown by foot. I took a late afternoon flight to Kedah, one of the biggest Malay-Thai community in Malaysia. I visited both Thai temple, local mosques and historical sites/museums.

21-22th October, I visited Kedah and Pandang Bazar at the northwestern Thai-Malaysia border.

Note: My host in KL (Nani and Peter of DNA Lab) were extremely helpful. They were in communication with me all the time. We chatted and discussed about many things over meals quite often when I returned back to stay in KL. I felt like I was part of their family.



Along the Sungai Kolok River where the Thai- Malaysia border is





Kratin Festival at Wat Phikulyai in Tumpat



Deepavali festival in Indian area, Georgetown

21th October, I visited Kedah and Padang Bazar at the northwestern Thai-Malaysia border. In the picture- Thai Temple in Kedah, the biggest community of Thai race in Malaysia.



Mosque in Kedah



On the way to Padang Bazar



Padang Bazar on the Malaysia side



Padang Bazar on the Thai side



Brunei 23-25 October

Conduct a research in Brunei. I have contacted 2 peoples to help introduce me the scene.

One is a filmmaker and another is a visual artist. The filmmaker, Abdul was not available,

he had a trip to the Philippines. He

visited me just for greeting at my

hotel. The visual artist, her name is

Yasmin Jaidin. She picked me up

from the airport and took me around

the city, introduce me where I

should to go. She also arranged a



dinner where I could meet young creative people. At the diner on my first day, they helped to reflect on what the art scene in Brunei like in their view. On the 24th October, I went around by myself to visit museums and mosque. Yasmin suggested me to visit Royal Regalia, Brunei Maritime Museum and Brunei Technology Museum. In the late afternoon, I went out with Yasmin for boat trip and visit many part of the river, royal cemetery and villages on the river. The boat trip was really peaceful with many wide animals like, monkeys, birds and crocodiles.

Friday the 25th October, from 12 am – 2pm most of the shops and places closed since it was a pray time. For some office and school, Friday is a holiday. Yasmin recommended me to visit one place for Islamic arts and history. It is a brand new large building that just opened for 2 weeks after I arrived. Unfortunate, I visited there after 2 PM, but it was closed. Not because it was a Friday, but it closed for at least 2 months' time.

The Balai Khazanah Islam Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah with its knowledge museum concept is among landmarks of the intellectual leadership of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in maintaining, empowering and preserving the treasures of Islamic heritage.

The complex was built in May 2015 and was completed in January 2018 at a cost of about one hundred and ten (110) million dollars. It is a manifestation of His Majesty's aspiration and determination to preserve and revive the greatness of Islamic treasures and heritage. Its completion created history following 18 years that the knowledge treasure and artefacts were placed at a temporary gallery at the Brunei Islamic Library Building, Darul Ifta Brunei Darussalam under the administration of the State Mufti's

Department.

Staying in Brunei, I walk around my hotel area to see everyday life activates. I walked to a cinema and found that the movie I would like to watch has already left. I also went to a mall and super market. It was really interesting to observe what they sale there. There so many products from Thailand, both fresh and dry food. The price was also very cheap. It was like a price I buy in Thailand. The same products I bought in Malaysia was cheaper here.

I saw fresh ready to eat package of papaya salad on a shelf and wonder who will like to buy it here if not Thai people. Suddenly at the shelf, there were a couple walked by to look at them and discussed in Thai. They looked completely local to me. Then I asked why do you speak Thai. The man (Mr. Krit Smuthkochorn) said he is Thai from Bangkok. He moved here for many years and married a local lady. They speak Thai in the family, so everyone in family including their children can speak and understand Thai too. I asked him many questions about the Thai products I had just observed, especially Thai fresh coconut and coconut juice which quite popular in the market. He replied that Brunei people like Thai coconut because the natural sweetness and smell in compare to the local one. And since there was no tax anyway, so the price is not very high. He said the public service to the people here is very good. They don't need to pay tax, medical service and school. It's free of charge. For him, his business to sale car tools around southeast Asia was very good. He has offices in many country but the customer must pay to him to a Brunei's bank account. In this way, he doesn't need to pay tax and he can also sell the product in a better price than the other. He said that he is the only person who get profit from the gap of tax as an international business in Southeast Asia.

Note: The only Taxi mobile apps in Brunei is Dart Rider. It worked very well and was not too expensive. I met the same drivers many times during my time there. There must have a small number of drivers. Each car was new, large and expensive type of car in compare to a Grab car in other countries in the region. I think that is because there is no tax for car too, so it makes the price not that high!

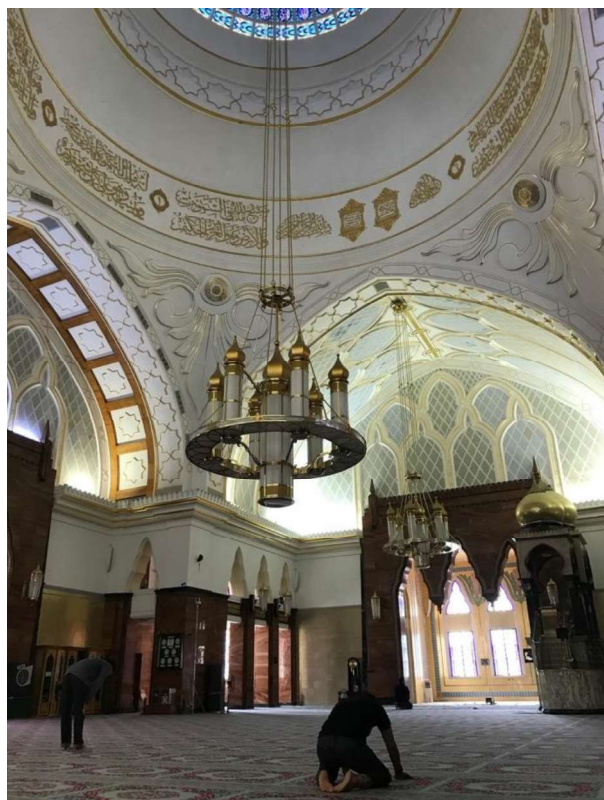
A Cemetery of the previous king of Brunei



Met with young creative people in Brunei
on my first evening.



A central Mosque in Brunei



Balai Khazanah Islam Sultan Haji
Hassanal Bolkiah



Labuan, Malaysia 26 October

Conduct a research in Labuan, Malaysia.

I took a ferry to Labuan in the morning from 8 am. Hazairi Hassan and Lyna Musmanlyna, a local couple picked me up with their car. Hazairi is a banker at May Bank and his wife (Lyna) is an artist. They are supporters of the local art scene here. We had a local breakfast and then visited a historical museum to get a full introduction of the island. At the museum, there was a curator of the museum welcomed us. His name is Nazli Ho. He kindly explained and answer questions about the exhibition and history of the area. It was really good start. We then visited 2 historical sites – World War 2 Cemetery and former administration house of the British and Japanese commander house during the World War 2 which currently is Botanical Garden. We had lunch in the

city and view art works of Donald Abraham who I met in Kuala Lumpur and introduced this couple to me. We also met a couple artists from Kota Kinabalu (in short KK) at that restaurant. After lunched and rested, we went to see a former coal mine area, Muzium Chimney and peace memorial at the Surrender Point. The Peace Memorial was built by Japanese people who wish to save peace and no more war in the future. We could enjoyed the most beautiful sunset of the Labuan Island here.

We were heading back to the old city to have seafood meal at chines restaurant. The restaurant located near the sea and a fish market. We walk to visit a mural painting site



nearby. It was a graffiti projects from the central government. Many of the



artists invited to create the works were from KL. There were only a few of Labuan artists who the couple put the fund in order to have them participate the project because they wanted to show that local artists and art scene here exists and actives. For all this warm welcome, they wish I could help to generate the scene too. They will support me every way to make sure I get interest in the area and create some project or mention about it. It was a short visit but incredible inspired.

This tiny island was geo-political strategic location from administration house of the

British during colonial time and Japanese commander house during the World War 2.

Currently, it is a Malaysia financial center part of the capital city - Kuala Lumpur and not anywhere in Borneo.



Museum of Chimney

Cemetery and former administration house of the British and Japanese commander house during the WW2.



Brunei 27-28 October

Returned back to Brunei by ferry. In Brunei after checked in to a hotel, I met a group of artists and curator. Most of them are pioneer of the art scene. There were Osman Mohammad who is an artist-curator and a father of a curator/gallerist - Osveanne Osman, Maziyah Yussof, Dato Shofry Gafor (UN officer and diplomat in NYC) and a young female artist- Awang bin Sitai. The first 3 pioneer artists worked in the other career in the early time and became artists later when they had a chance to explore their hobbies which later developed it to a more serious work.



I flew to Singapore and arrived in the late afternoon.

Singapore 29 October-5 November

I'm quite familiar with the apartment I was staying in Singapore. Paul Khoo hosted me many times when I need a place to stay in Singapore for my art related activities since 2009. This time was quite different than the past because I was here with my interest heavily on Singapore history. Paul helped to plan my time roughly when we met. I went to National Gallery of Singapore at 10 AM on the 29th to join architecture tour to learn the history of the country from there. Since the building was a two-building combined - city hall and Supreme court. After half day tour, I went back to see every room again in details. I have a late lunch break with Alison Marrinan who is a MA student at LASALLE College of the Arts. She wanted to learn about my works. She is also an intern at the National Gallery, so she guided me the Southeast Asian exhibition. She explained me an inside story

of each art works. We spent almost full day there until 6PM.

Singapore: architecture tour at National Gallery of Singapore



Alison Marrinan guided me the Southeast Asian exhibition at National Gallery of Singapore.



I met old friends, a visual artist and film makers couple (Charles Lim and Li Lin Wee) in the evening for dinner. They shared some knowledge to me about their projects, my interest and health issue.

On the 30th, I took a historical tour with a group to northern site of Singapore near the border between Singapore and Malaysia around Changi area. On the 31th, I joined another

historical tour at the Battlebox, Fort Canning Park. I went to Golden Mine Tower where many Thai community were to observe the life and business of the people. I was there 10 years ago. The community got bigger here. I made a Thai dinner for my two host (Paul Khoo and Jeremy Chu). We had a lot of conversation with them until to the late evening.



1st November, I had a lunch meeting with two artist s and lecturer s at LASALLE College of the Arts Hazel Lim and Amanda Heng. I interviewed Amanda 's practice and try to learn many things from her. It was my first time to see her. I joined a talk event in the afternoon at CCA, Gillman Barrack on Okwui Enwezor, Documenta11 and Trans- Cultural Curating. The space it was very far from where I stayed. It took more than an hour to go there and returned.

It was really tired with the trips since I arrived Malaysia. I set up my life this week slowly and with more rest and prepare basic things for my living here and for the next trip on the 2- 5 November.

Note: I had some skin problem the entire trip, but luckily, I didn't get cold, fever or anything serious. However, I didn't have time to plan for Myanmar trip at all while traveling. My time was packed with so many activities. I decided to book domestic air tickets and hotels in 3 different cities in Myanmar. I'm glad I did it in advance because the time I was in Inle and Taunggyi was during the full moon festival. There was lack of transportation/ accommodation available when it was near the time. Some of the people I met in Yangon

told me that she couldn't get a bus ticket to see her team join a competition in Taunggyi on the 10th. I didn't get a hotel on the 11th in Taunggyi either because of the big full moon festival was on that night, so I stayed in Nyaungshwe instead and then moved to Taunggyi on the 12th. The staffs from Japan Foundation in Yangon were really helpful since I arrived Yangon.

Yangon, Myanmar 6-10 November

Flew from Singapore to Yangon, Myanmar,

I arrived in the evening. I had an appointment with Mr. Koji Sato, a director of the Japan Foundation Yangon in the next morning. I was my wish to visit this office since I heard the news of opening last year. It was a

nice renovated house with Japanese touched design. There are rooms for different function and room for multi-proposed function. I met Mr. Koji Sato in

2015 through a Visual Documentary Project in Kyoto and Tokyo by Kyoto University and Japan Foundation. At the

second floor of the house I met Mr. Sato and his two staffs, Mariko Ohtsuka and Yoe Thit Aung. They were very friendly and know people and places in the scene very well. I visited Yangon in 2009, 2010 and 2016. Things changed so much and it keeps transforming! There are many new people, organizations and projects in the art and culture now. The city has changed with these new elements to contribute to the scene. I felt so grateful for the opening of Japan Foundation here and felt secure to visit them this time for my research. I might be lost in the new transformation scene without meeting



With Mr. Koji Sato and Yoe Thit Aung at The Japan Foundation, Yangon.

them first. They helped me to contact people, suggested places and shared what's going on. Yoe Thit, who is from Inle area, helped to suggest places there too. I have friends who I am often in contact when I visit Yangon, unfortunately none of them in the city! I shortly met a couple (Thaid Dhi and Thu Thu Shein) who run Wathann Filmfest there and again in the evening at the Japanese film screening at the JF Yangon. This time they introduced me to many film related people who joined that event.

By the help of Mariko-san, I visited Goethe Institute -a recently opening their office in Yangon last year (2018). The Goethe Institute came to look for a possibility to open the branch since 2013. They worked with Yangon Heritage Trust (www.yangonheritagetrust.org) to renovate and in the same time preserve the building that once the headquarters of General Aung San and the independence party. It was used as the Fine Arts School before it became the Goethe Institute. This was a political place tuned to be a cultural place. It is a beautiful reserved architecture of the past with German Quality and design. Apart from working and class rooms in the main house, there are also library, auditorium, Deutscher Weller Akademie (TV school) and a café. Unlike, Alliance Francaise or British Council, there was no security check at the entrance of the place. It was quite friendly and easy for public to visit.

I went to artist's talk event as part of an exhibition inside the Secretariat building the exhibition presented by Facebook and Love Frankie (<https://lovefrankie.co/>) which encouraged the online kindness and empathy narrative. I met Natalie Johnson there and set up appointment with her in the next few days.

I visited a master artist, Pathein Maung Maung Thein in the morning on the 8th. It was

very hard rain in the morning like the day before. I was lucky to stay at Sunflower Art Gallery & Art Classes for a while. Of course, the most important thing was to visit Chaw Ei Thein's dad and family. Like many Burmese people before the first election in Myanmar in 2010, her brother lived in Thailand. He ran a restaurant and gallery in Chiang Mai near Chiang Mai University. There were so many NGOs support political movement and refugees/ migrants from Myanmar in Chiang Mai. It was the biggest Myanmar community outside of their country. After the first election most of those community returned back to the country including him. He still produces some artwork and also opens an art classes. It seems so far so good to be back home for him. He and another sister took over Pathein Maung Maung Thein's studio to open fabric business. They moved some of his works to the other place, but still store some works at the back side of the shop. Pathein Maung Maung Thein was the first Burmese students got an award from Shankar International Children Art Competition 1953-54 in India when he was 15 years old. He worked at first as illustrator for comic and cinema, art teacher painter. His painting portrayed key military leaders featuring the greatness of that person at the time, later the works pay attention to landscapes and Buddhist stories. The works then recorded the time being before Myanmar opened the country in both political and life of people with landscapes.

Some of his painting keep in the National Museum. Many important paintings of him and the other old master artists are now under conservation process. To learn more about his work, please visit [www.facebook.com/Maung-Maung- Thein-Pathein-404860023053998](https://www.facebook.com/Maung-Maung-Thein-Pathein-404860023053998)

I also went to Alliance Francaise after that. There was a media arts exhibition by French artists. This surprised me, since my first time in Yangon (2009) I conducted a video art

workshop here for a week. Video arts at the time was extremely new, so the about 30 participants were so eager to learn. The art community then was a a tool of young people to express and this place was a safe place for them to explore.

This time, the exhibition was well managed and good selection of the art works.

Unfortunately, there almost no one visit the place at the time I was there, unlike the lively atmosphere of the Goethe Institute where many people hang around. However, it is possible that because of the very hard rain since early morning until the time I was there. People didn't feel comfortable to travel.

9th November, I had a meeting with Nathalie Johnston at Myanm/art. This was a current location which is quite large on the ground floor. It is easy to access compare to the previous one. It was a nice chat to update the current scene with her as her sincere opinion encouraged me to further discuss.

She introduced me to some art spaces to visit in a walking distant from her one. At the end of the walk, I visited Secretariat building with a private tour. The nationally historic Secretariat is where General Aung San was assassinated in 1947, and independence was marked a year later. I can also visit the old parament room with British flag pattern on the ceiling. These historical part of the building was not open for public yet and some still under renovation. It only allowed guest to visit with a paid guide. My guide was really good.

He explained many thing in details in many important corner of the place and also showed me in conservation works and why it is important. The conservation works and plans to open with fully knowledge of the history seemed like a good place and well

thought. This is also a work of Yangon Heritage Trust that leads by **Dr Thant Myint-U** is an award- winning writer, historian, conservationist, and public servant. I think this organization is very important to bring the a proud of the old civilization back to public, which people can make use of it in the current days.

This building was a headquarters of General Aung San and his independence party. This room was a meeting room where they developed the strategy against the colonial power. Today is room to train German language teachers at Goethe-Institut Myanmar.



I left in the morning of the 10th to Heho Airport.

Unfortunately, Human Right Film Festival discontinued this year. I couldn't catch it up as planned. There was a news of the director of the festival is in jail even though he is sick. I knew the director and invited his film to screen in Chiang Mai in during the Lifescapes Film Festival at Payap University.

This showed that the political movement and freedom of expression here went backward again. However, the Memory Film Festival continues. It happened a week when I traveled to the northern part. That means I missed it.

Nyaung Shwe – Inle Lake, Shan State, Myanmar 10-12 October

Flew from Yangon to Hohe Airport, I stayed at a small hotel outside of the city Nyaung Shwe. It is nice and quiet place, except the temple nearby turn on repeated chanting sound in the early evening every day.

This week was a full moon festival in Shan State. The big hot balloon festival was in Tunggyi on the 11th. I missed to see it. However, I was happy to be around here instead. At this hotel I got a free bicycle. I planned to visit the Cultural Museum that was a palace of the King of Yawngghwe state or currently known as Southern Shan. The old city at the time was named **Yawngghwe** and later was changed to **Nyaung Shwe** after the last king and the president of the Union of Burma (Sao Shwe Thaik) was arrested by the Union Revolutionary Council headed by General Ne Win. He died in prison in November 1962. That new name actually the political change.

His residence today is a cultural museum. He is my friend's grandpa and this was a big motivation for me to visit.

Unfortunately, because of the full moon festival week the museum closed. I was regret not see visit this place. I ride bicycle to the old city of Yawngghwe where is not the one at the palace. It is about 2 kilometer before.

There I saw an old wooden temple with oval windows. I observed around the area and return back to Nyaung Shwe. I visited the main fresh market and the city area.



The ancient temple of Yawngghwe in Nyaung Shwe, Shan State

The next day I observed the life around the ferry station. I local cash was low, but I can't exchange neither Thai baht here nor use my ATM cards as expected. I didn't expect the high cost of the taxi from Heho Airport to Nyaung Shwe either. It was a big worry.

To save the cost, I travel to Taunggyi the next day with a local truck. It actually was a nice

ride to share with local people and view the scenery. It's only an hour trip.

Taunggyi, Myanmar 12-13 October

I contacted Mr. Ko So when I arrived. He is the owner of Yama Art Space. We went to checked in my hotel and visited the Taunggyi Cultural Museum where the artist community use the space to present and sale their artworks and art books.

We went to visit Mr. Sai Moon's restaurant and met his father who knowledgeable about Taunggyi's history and the relationship with the northern Thai. I told Ko So about my money problem. He tried to help. We went to Myoma Market near my hotel on the day of the 5 Days Market. The 5 Day Markets" is what market by a group of hilltribe people come to sale their produces for 5 days at 5 different locations around Inle Lake area. I was lucky that day was the 5 days market in Taunggyi. It was really large market. It occupied the large area of the market and its surrounding. At the end of the tour, Ko So led me to an Indian fabric shop where the owner has a business in Thailand, so he must have a Thai bank account. The deal was I transfer my Thai to his account and he gave me the local cash. I paid the 10% fee to him as a service charge. It was quite a high fee, but I didn't have a choice. I felt relief, however!

Sai drove me to visit a temple in the city and on a mountain. We went to Ko So's house near the market.

In the evening, Ko So ride me to the Hot Air Balloon Festival to see the announcement of the hot balloon festival's competition. The place was really big festival and so crowded. It was like 10 times of Chiang Mai's Winter Festival in term of space and population. It was

really interesting scene at the festival to observe.

Full moon night with hot balloon festival in Taunggyi, Shan State



My hosts in Taunggyi, Mr. Ko So and Sai Moon in Taunggyi, Shan State



I walked around the city again in the morning. The city was planned by the British during the colonial time. The administrative capital was here. The Agent of the British government, the Superintendent of the Southern Shan States, resided at Taunggyi. The road are wide and the city plan is in grid. There are many British style buildings in the city. To save the cost of a taxi, Sai moon booked me a share taxi to the airport. The taxi

picked me up and I shared with the other 2 person. It was only 5,000 Kyat per person while the cost from Heho to Nyaung Shwe was 45,000 Kyat per car plus you need to pay another 15,000 Kyat per person before enter to Inle area! This was the cost of foreign tourist like me not for the local. As foreigner, I not allow to ride a motorbike in Myanmar and there was no Grab service in Shan State either.

Mandalay, Malaysia/ Chiang Mai, Thailand 13-15 October

Flew from Hohe Airport to Mandalay Airport. It was easy to travel from the airport to the city this time because of there was a public bus to the city. They asked where is my hotel and they dropped me there. It was reasonable price and convenient. Here the Grab service was available like in Yangon. So I used either GrabBike or Tuk Tuk to get around.

I went to visit the Ratharos art school that run by Suu Myint Thein. He explained me many thing about Tai language that we share in Myanmar and northern Thailand. Many words we use as names of our rivers and villages in the northern Thailand, we seem not know the origin of the meaning anymore!! But he knows it. Because we shared the same root of language that the people here still pronounces it closely to the original than us or the people here in the past immigrated to Thailand and losing their knowledge of origin. I was shocked, but the group of words and places makes sense to me by his explanation!! For the first time, I can see the notion of landscape, language and the

movement of the people are in one.

With my host in Mandalay: met Suu Myint Thein at his art school - he explained me many thing about Tai language that we share in Myanmar and northern Thailand. Many Northern Thai words I even don't know the origin of the meaning, but he knows. I was shocked, but it makes sense!! .



The art school shares the building with a guesthouse where they arrange a tour. I bought a day tour with ladies to Mahamuni Buddha Temple, textile village, two ancient cities - Sagaing and Inn Wa on Irrawaddy River, U-Bein Bridge. It was fully inspired and gain so much knowledge.

Especially the Inn Wa was the ancient kingdom in the same period as Ayutthaya.

I met a local artist - Linn Pin Zaw at a famous Shan restaurant in the evening to learn about his works.

The next day, I visited the Mandalay palace and some important temples nearby. I impressed how they keep the palace in a good shape. Mandalay is a new kingdom compare to Sagaing, Inn Wa and Chiang Mai. It has a similar way of city plan like Chiang Mai, but we couldn't keep the ancient landscape



Inn Wa, Ancient cities an hour away from Mandalay

and important architect of the past like here. The Siam destroyed and changed the function of the old Royal Palace and residences in Chiang Mai while the old city fence is not fully surviving anymore.

I returned to Chiang Mai on the 15th late afternoon with a grab car with reasonable price and service. It was so impressed research trip which I felt like the time was not enough. It gave me an idea of the region hugely to learn more further and I must be back.

Future plans or prospects for the project

I focused on some topics and also looked at quite different perspective of each places at the countries I have been. I opened myself to a new places and used what I have experience from the other trips to compare or link to it. My most attention after the research trip will go to the border areas and international routes such as southern and northern part of Japan, the previous Siam states/ British protectorates in Myanmar (Shan State) and Malaysia (Kedah, Kelantan, Perlis and Terengganu). The areas have a similarity to Lanna Kingdom which used to be an independence and under control of Burma in the history.

This year, I started to learn history of Chiang Mai in a more intensively – started with “Chiang Mai History Workshop: The Foreign Community in Chiang Mai 1910 – 1930 class by Payap University at Ecole Francaise d'Extreme-Orient Library. The class is in the morning, but I continue to do a field trip to many places and interview people there too. Interestingly, in the history of foreign community in Chiang Mai, apart from American and European, there were always Japanese and Burmese/Shan in the

history with us.

With Chiang Mai Art Conversation, we will plan to produce a map of WW2 historical sites in Chiang Mai and will use this as a step to introduce the crossing cultures in the region. The project currently develops and will continue to add more info of each sites at <http://ww2sites-nth.cac-art.info>. The Japanese version will be slowly follow the Thai and English version.