

Way of Life Changes but Lifestyle Remains

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Introduction

Nowadays we have entered the age of not only globalization but also the ASEAN Economic Community since 2015. This age results in socioeconomic changing in all corners of Thailand, especially on the capitalists' free flow in the AEC's member countries: Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam. According to the free flow, it is possible to achieve it by Sufficiency Economy Philosophy, Buddhist Economy and attitude towards improvement to English learning and teaching-based adjustment.

The free flow of goods, services, and investment

There are a lot of purposes of ASEAN. The most important one is to create a single market and production base which is stable, prosperous, highly competitive and economically integrated with effective facilitation for trade and investment in which there is free flow of goods, services and investment; facilitated movement of business persons, professionals, talents and labor; and freer flow of capital. Also, the ASEAN presently includes ten states with rather different cultures, political systems, and levels of economic development: some poor and some rich. Singapore, a developed country, is possible to gain the advantage or benefit for the trade and investment but neither are the developing countries- Laos, Cambodia, or Thailand.

Sufficiency Economy Philosophy

Sufficiency economy philosophy was publicly introduced by the former king of Thailand, King Rama IX, during the 1997 economic crisis. He tried hard to tell the principles to his people to understand or become aware of the worst particular situation. The principles of the Royal Thai Sufficiency Economy Philosophy are moderation, reasonableness, and self-immunity. In accordance with the King's SEP, Thai people were the most successful in solving that crisis. After his death on October 13th, 2016, the SEP has been honored and agreed more and more by United Nations.

Capitalism and Buddhist Economy

Capitalism is an economic system in which a country's business and industry are controlled and run for profit by private owners rather by the government. The important principle of Buddhist economics is the middle way economics: realization of true well-being, having moderate, or wise consumption, and leading to well-being and not harming oneself or others.

It can be seen that the mainstream economics, the capitalism or consumerism, has become the problems of social disparity and environment devastation in all corners of the world such as politic conflicts, corruption, war, disaster and pollution. So far, it has not been economic strategies for the world economic development but caring of the human-nature base shall be sustainable. Alternative economics, Buddhist economics or Sufficiency Economy based on ethics, has been considered and promoted by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).

Economic development shall be done step by step. It shall begin with the strengthening of our economic foundation, by assuring that the majority of Thai people has enough to live and to eat. (4) It does not mean to go back what life used to be like over a hundred years ago. We shall work hard to eat, to live and to make merit not to make a lot of money – the more money we need, the less money we get. We shall care environment and nature as well as our minds. We shall follow seriously the Divine abiding: Metta-loving kindness, Karuna-compassion, Mudita-appreciative gladness, and Upekkha-equanimity. (5)The Middle way, eating little for health, using little with caring environments, working hard with happiness, and giving the rest to society; sharing, is a way to achieve not merely AEC's freedom to survive but to be well. The more Buddhist economics works in this particular situation, the more crisis turns into opportunity.

English, the working language of ASEAN

According to be different from each other in language, the charter of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations prescribes that the working language of ASEAN shall be English. The Bangkok Post reported on 6 Nov. 2015 that "English language proficiency in Thailand is very low and dropping relative to other countries. The Kingdom is the third worst in Asia and ranks 62 out of 70 nations included in the index. Thailand's English proficiency remains low despite the country's large tourism. Thai English drops, now 3rd worst in Asia. Education First noted that Thais still exhibit poor English skills even though the country spends a greater percentage of its budget – 31.3% – on education than any

of the 70 countries it surveyed.” This problem has become one of the most important national agenda. It means teachers who teach English in schools or in universities shall be improved standards of teaching in four skills; listening, speaking, reading and writing. The right way of teaching English is before learning reading and writing, students can speak and listen English well because it is human being nature. Importantly, the English textbooks used in classroom are suitable for the learners who can have already spoken English so the textbooks shall match Thai nature. Thailand’s government’s policy on English teaching shall be made this decision carefully and quickly. Thailand’s English would be developed proficiency to a high level by the right choice.

Conclusion

I have come, according to the mentions above, to the conclusion that ASEAN Economic Community is the best opportunity to show Thai competence in adjusting way of life to the age of the computer or information technology (IT) but Thai style of life based on Sufficiency Economy Philosophy of the King Rama IX, Buddhist Economy continues going on stability, prosperity, and sustainability the through the bridge, English working language, connecting the ASEAN and the world.

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