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Study visit to Thailand February 2016

Saturday, February 06th, 2016: 1st day of visit

Hamburg Airport, Mr. Reiner Beyer could finally keep his multi-tool after strictest security checks.

Arrival at Helsinki after a two hour's flight. There is light snow fall and temperatures around zero degree Celsius.

We passed our first fully electronic passport check successfully. There are no human operators anymore.

Our transit flight to Bangkok. We have to wait for three hours.

18.00, it is still snowing.

Later, on board of the brand new Airbus A350-900.

They are finishing the de-icing of the plane. Flight duration is 09 hours and 50 minutes. It is the first time that our top speed was around 1000 km/h at 12000 m altitude.

Finally, we arrived safely at Bangkok Airport. At a money exchange we converted some money into the local currency the "Baht" (rate: 1 € = 40 Baht).

After getting our baggage, Mr. Pichate, representative of the Sattahip Technical College and teacher for Technical English, welcomed us and we drove, riding the college pick-up, the 200 km south to our hotel near the college.

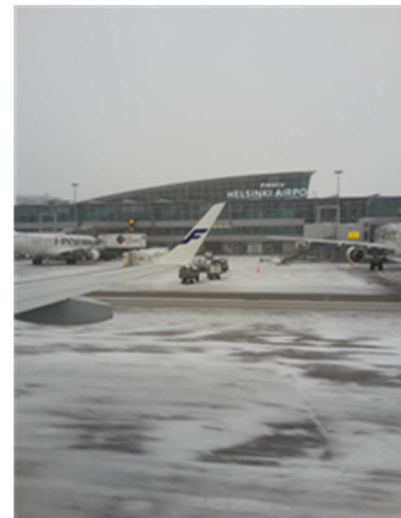
On the way we were invited for lunch to a traditional Thai fish restaurant.

After the standard procedures, check-in, paying a reduced charge of EUR 45 per person and night - a special rate, due to the fact that the Sattahip Technical College also trains the hotel staff - we were happy to occupy nice rooms with "ocean" view.

We were surprised to find large numbers of Russian tourists as neighbors and some United States marines as well.



Mr. Henning Juhl is entering the aircraft



Monday, February 08th, 2016, Sattahip Technical College (STC), Thailand

The night was not a good one due to some jetlag problems. After a nice breakfast and looking into the friendly faces of the Thai people, all the fatigue disappeared quickly.

Our colleague from the STC picked us up. I would like to mention the excellent care and valuable support of the Director of the STC Mr Siripanich, Mr Pichate and the whole staff who welcomed us warmly.

First we introduced each other and watched presentations about our colleges and the two VET-Systems. We discovered many similarities.

After the meeting they gave us a very interesting tour through the different departments. To give you an impression, please enjoy the following images!



Be proud of your College and show it !



High-Tech laboratories for industrial automation



STC - instructor explains FESTO pneumatic equipment to his German colleague.



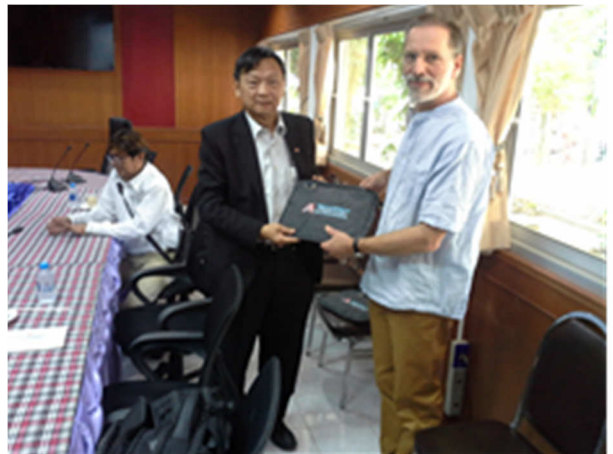
Training in the metal workshop



Student or instructor recreation?



After a mutual agreement about a future co-operation, presents are exchanged.



Results of the joint meeting:

- 1) Both parties welcome a future cooperation between the Sattahip Technical College and the VET-Centre Technology and Media Farmsen, Hamburg.
- 2) The main area of cooperation is Mechatronics and staff training to start with.
- 3) Languages: English to start the project; later some basics of Thai and German would be nice.
- 4) The hard part - of course it is the financing! According to our estimates there will be at least the following costs:
 - € 1000 per person for the flight return ticket.
 - € 50 per person and per night for accommodation.
 - € 15 per person and per day for food.

To cover these expenditures both parties require the counsel and support of their higher educational authorities.

This subject is the key element of the future cooperation!

- 5) Both parties agree on preparing and working out a written Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in English.

Tuesday, February 09th, 2016, Third day of study visit

I always laughed at one of my friends who often travels to Asia when he complained about jet lag. Now, I know better!

Well, this morning we took off to the Thai-German Institute (TGI), located North between Sattahip and Bangkok, in Chon Buri. The director and some colleagues from the Sattahip Technical College accompanied us. After a friendly welcome by the TGI director, Mr Manop Thongsaeng and his staff we started by introducing each other, followed by an overview about Thai-German institutions and VET-systems.

One main difference between the STC and the TGI is the affiliation of the TGI to the Ministry of Industry whereas the STC reports to the Ministry of Education similar to the VET-Centre G16, Hamburg.

The TGI is very closely connected to the industry and sells its services directly to private companies. They also offer free special courses to their colleagues of the STC.

We have never had the pleasure to be introduced to a more sophisticated VET-facility.

See for yourself:



TGI – Thai-German Institute



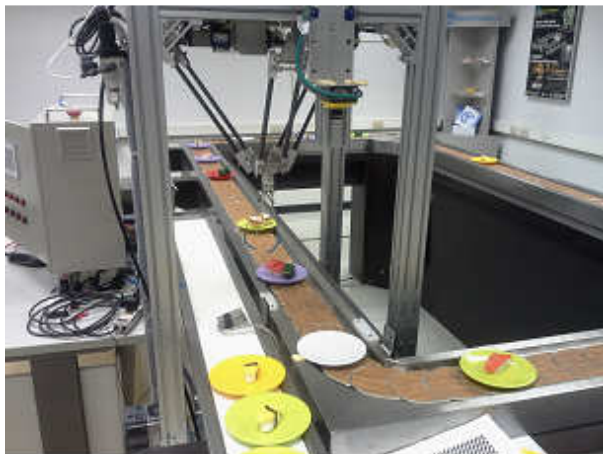
Industrial robot tennis



Micro gears (in red) injection molded at the TGI



German machine tools in Thailand



Would you like some Sushi?



Cooperation

Of course, there is a long history of cooperation between Thailand and Germany. The TGI was founded by both nations under support of the "Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ - nowadays GIZ)", the German Agency for International Cooperation, in 1992. The joint project ended in 2004.

Wouldn't it be desirable to start a new cooperation?

Wednesday, February 10th, 2016

Check out in Sattahip and transfer to the Ministry of Education. At the Office of Vocational Education, we were greeted by the Deputy Secretary-General, Mr Wanich Uamsri, and his staff.

We agreed about the following:

1. Building up a partnership focusing on mutual benefits.
2. Starting with staff development in the Dual Vocational Education in Mechatronics, development of VET-administration and Didactics for the Sattahip Technical College.
3. The proposal of the Deputy Secretary-General, Mr Wanich Uamsri, is that we continue the project by exchanging experts in the field of Mechatronics. An exchange of students might be the result of the further development of our partnership.

The meeting was followed by a business dinner at a restaurant alongside the Chao Phraya River. Through heavy traffic, we arrived at our new hotel at 21.30.

Thursday, February 11th, 2016

It was a quiet night. This time it was only the normal street noise of Bangkok which kept us awake. In the morning Mr. Juhl got wet feet because of a water leakage of the piping system at our hotel. On the other hand the breakfast was quite tasty and our colleagues from the Office of Vocational Education and Training picked us up.

Through the heavy morning rush hour we went on a sightseeing tour through Bangkok. Now we have seen probably most of the famous Buddhist temples, Mr. Juhl was watered and blessed by a monk. Lunch we took at a riverside restaurant again. Exhausted we searched in one big shopping mall for souvenirs.

After a warm Goodbye to our hosts we are now ending our day by writing this report.

Reiner Beyer