



International Cooperation Centre

International Student from HS-Bremerhaven Germany, makes an Internship at International College-KMUTNB



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Interview with Mr. Torben Fiedler



1. Please describe and give introduction about yourself and your internship project at KMUTNB.

My name is Torben Fiedler; I come from University of Bremerhaven Germany. I am an exchanging student for 1 semester at International College (IC) KMUTNB. I was studying medical engineering at my university in Germany when I applied for the internship

2. Please tell us where do you come from in Germany and why did you chose Thailand for your internship?

I come from the northern part of Germany exactly I come from Bremerhaven, near Bremen and Hamburg, I chose Thailand because KMUTNB offer a scholarship for students from University of Bremerhaven and after I finished my study in Germany, I just have to complete my bachelor thesis so I was flexible to choose where settle the bachelor thesis and that's why I chose Thailand. Also KMUTNB offer scholarship during the right time for me. Normally is a problem for German students join the scholarship in Thailand, because the scholarship start in August and during that time students having examinations and join the scholarship at KMUTNB means skip the exams.

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3. How long did you stay in Thailand and which activities have you done during your stay?

I stayed here for six months, five months studying and after when my study will finish in December I'll travel around Thailand for other six weeks with my girlfriend who will come here from Germany. Regarding the activities I joined the trip organized by ICC to Prachinburi in August and I'll join a one day trip on the end of November to visit floating market and temples, this is a project made by students from Faculty of Tourism. I have been to River Kwai (Kantchanaburi) with some friends from the dormitory and university, also visited some temples and museums around Bangkok.



4. What do you think about the activities that you have done?

I was quite happy with these activities and it was interesting to spend time with some Thai students because I have to handle things in a different way that I used to do in Germany. I was at Grand Palace when the late king's body was moved from the hospital and I was impressed how much people love him. It was a big experience to see how the people behave and what they feel about the king after his death, this is a big difference with my country because there is no one or politician that can produce that much feeling in my country.

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5. *What is the best memorable moment during the internship?*

I have a lot of memories, this is a hard question but there is a nice story that I want to tell you: I booked a bungalow on an island for me and my girlfriend from the website, this website is managed by the Department of National Parks, the problem is that many people try to book on this website because it covers all Thai National Parks so the website crashed, after 4/5 days I was booking again than have to pay the bungalow in advance so I printed out the document for making the payment, after 2/3 days later I went to BigC Wong-sawang for make the payment, but the payment cannot be done because the booking expired after 2 days and I was making the payment 3 days later so I had to book again, the official that gave me the information unfortunately had serious problem to speak in English and it was very hard to understand the process. Luckily there was one woman there who can speak English very well, she offered to help me. She called the office that manage the National Parks and yes they said I have to book again, the woman was very kind and offered me to use her computer and book again together so she helped me with the process and after also with the payment to the bank.

Unfortunately if you not speak Thai you're lost in Thailand, but I was very very happy to meet this woman and I'll never forget this person and what she made for me.

6. *What opportunity you have gained from participating in this project?*

After almost six months studying in Thailand, I can say that I learn more insight Thai culture now than if you just travel around Thailand like a tourist, study here, live in the University and stay with Thai students gave me the opportunity to understand better Thailand and Thais. This was very interesting for me also a great experience spent six months of my life here. Live in Thailand for a western guy like me it was hard in the beginning, food and life style are completely different from my country. For example the bus; in my country you expect that the buses are on time, here is different and you have to be flexible. The best way to approach to the problems here are: don't worry and don't get stress. Things can be done in different ways; there is not a right or wrong way just a different way. That's what I learned! And you cannot get this point if you not work or live here for a while, only traveling around Thailand is not enough to understand it.

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7. *Do you think this different kind of approach can be helpful when you'll back in your country?*

I think yes, because many people are very stressed in my country and this different kind of approach can help to be less stressed.

8. *Is this your first time in Thailand?*

I have been in Thailand eight years ago for holiday and I traveled around the country for four weeks. I have been to Koh Samui and Koh Lanta.

9. *Do you like Thai food?*

Luckily I like Thai food and I also like spicy food. My favorite food is: "kew pap gai kaidow piset". There is a funny story about food; I have a Thai friend who can't eat spicy and one day we went to the restaurant together and we ordered same food but one no spicy, the waitress brought the no spicy food to me thought I can't eat it, but my Thai friend said "no no that dish is for me" the waitress was a bit confused because not expect foreigner to eat spicy and a Thai cannot.

10. *What is your impression about Thailand?*

Thailand is an amazing beautiful country, it's interesting how people behave and how much they are flexible every day. It's colorful, interesting culture, interesting people.

11. *What do you like more in Thailand?*

What I like is: people in Thailand use to eat together and share food, in Germany my parents try to do this as well but usually is not very common in Germany. Eat together, spend time together with your family or friends enjoying the time, this is what I like more in Thailand.

12. *Which part of Thailand have you visited?*

Eight years ago I visited the south part of Thailand unlike this time where I visited Kantchanaburi, River Kwai, Prachinburi, I didn't go yet to the northern part of Thailand but is in my future plan.

13. *What are the main differences between Thailand and your country?*

Weather, seasons and the flexibility to approach to the daily things, religion and of course food. Here I eat rice almost every day but in Germany I eat rice probably no more than once every two weeks. Another main difference with my home country awareness of safety.

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14. *Did you make some friendship here?*

Yes both Thai and International friends, first my roommate from Nepal and also I have 2/3 friends with i am very close now.

15. *Will you recommend Thailand and KMUTNB to your friends in your country?*

Yes and I already recommend Thailand and KMUTNB to the students from my University in Germany.

16. *Can you share with us your experience at KMUTNB, how did you find the facilities?*

Usually I stay at ICIT computer room and it is a very comfortable place for work, study and make researches, and acceptable IT tools. In general facilities are ok especially IC building where I study. I am quite happy with the facilities here.

17. *Would you like to come back again?*

Yes, I would like not as a student but sure I would like to come back. I would like to come back for the graduation party of my friends.

