

Academic excursion at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

11-13 November, 2008

In South-East Asia such as Thailand, Indonesia and Malaysia, the number of home workers have been rising rapidly especially after the 1997 Asian economic crisis. The majority of home workers are women, and most of them are tied to their home due either to family responsibilities or because they lack the resources to enter formal employment.

ICT4D or Information and Community Technologies for Development, it is emerging field to support development efforts as well as within the development agendas of developing country governments and development-oriented organizations in developing countries which ICT can be applied either in the direct sense, where their use directly benefits the disadvantaged population in some manner, or in an indirect sense because it can be a channel of transfer knowledge or even a big tool for home worker as well.

I would like to focus on home worker as I have observed from the Academic excursion at Kuala Lumpur at Malaysia while having sigh seeing at Beranang community. The home worker can earn extra revenue from their productive work by local wisdom such as traditional dessert, preserved fish, Batik etc. which the home worker can use the Beranang Rural Internet Center (RIC), not only to surf internet to find out their product related knowledge but also use internet to improve their work skill by reach a wider market even global via internet. The telecentre in Malaysia was supported by government which they operate several nationwide programs for establishing telecentres which each programs consist around 50 implementations. They

are the Pusat Internet Desa (PID) program, operated by the Ministry of Energy, Water and Communications (MEWC).



(preserved fish, Beranang)



(Traditional product, Beranang)

In Thailand, the telecenter is now established more than 70 centers around country which collaborative from Ministry of Information Communication and Technology of Thailand. They set up the telecenter to provide knowledge to community and provide the computer, internet to people who cannot afford it on their own. Plus, the educational function, to uphold level of IT literacy that base on computer skill and supporting home worker on their local wisdom products.

By using e-commerce as the tool channel of home based work as a creative alternative to be gainfully employed to supplement family income. Adequate and appropriate local wisdom provide income, reduce cost and expense but increase efficiency of production and improve quality of life. There is an existence of local wisdom or local product in each community. After



(weave bag, Klong voa community)



(Sedge products, Bannayao Community)

Learning from study and for few months worked with rural community in Thailand and also observation from excursion trip at Malaysia, I obviously see that in each community have high potential to produce their local wisdom product. Besides, those products have enough quality for consumer. But only high potential of manpower of production is not enough, it should also have high potential of distribute which the advantage choice for home based worker is online sale or e-commerce. That the way of how ICT4D can be affordable in the most supportive to home based worker in community.

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