

# GMAP Internship Report / GMAP インターンシップ報告書

No. 2018-02

## I. Basic information / 基本情報

- 1) Name / 名前 : Sooksun Popun-ngarm
- 2) Enrolled year / 入学年 : 2018
- 3) Period of internship / インターン期間 : 6 August – 26 September 2018
- 4) Place of internship / インターン場所 : SAGA Asia Consulting Co., Ltd.
- 5) Person who accepted your internship / インターン受入担当者 : Mr Yuji TSUTSUMI
- 6) Content of work in your internship / インターン中の作業内容

I had been assigned to work for many legal researches and legal document drafting matters, for example:

- researching on how to conduct land freight business between Thai-Myanmar border;
- researching on the issues of injunction relief under Myanmar laws;
- drafting a work regulation for the client in insurance business;
- drafting a lease termination letter; and
- reviewing a draft joint venture agreement to ensure that it is compliance with the new Companies Law of Myanmar.

In addition, I had chances to visit International Labour Organization and client's factories to see their operation. I also participated a court hearing at Myanmar Civil Court.

## II. Details and impressions / 詳細と感想

Including the following points: merits, demerits, lessons, contribution to your future career, personal experience etc.

My work experience in Thailand sparked my interest in working with a Japanese law firm in Southeast Asia. This was the reason I decided to apply for an internship at SAGA Asia Consulting Co., Ltd. (“SAGA Asia”) immediately after I heard that the GMAP had an internship programme with SAGA Asia.

At SAGA Asia, I had been assigned to draft several contracts and involved in some dispute resolution matters. Amazingly, these two tasks were mutually beneficial to my professional development. When I drafted contracts, I had learnt how to interpret contract clauses and understand their meanings between the lines. I could apply this knowledge to dispute resolution matters when I had to interpret the contracts in dispute. Equally, I had learnt a great deal from the contract dispute matters about the perils of bad contract drafting. The issues of contract dispute I had experience from

the dispute resolution matters are very useful to my contract drafting practice. I realized how prudent and professional a lawyer should be while drafting a contract.

Moreover, at SAGA Asia, I rose to the challenge of working with Japanese and Myanmar lawyers. I have learnt that differences in legal tradition and working culture can sometimes cause difficulties in working. I realised that Japanese companies attach great importance to punctuality and politeness. This required me to put more efforts into improving my behavior. I also found that it was quite difficult to find reliable legal authorities (e.g. textbook, court judgments and government officer's opinion) in Myanmar. As a result, I felt a little uneasy when drafting a legal opinion and advice for clients. In this regard, SAGA Asia really trained me to work more prudently and enhanced my problem-solving skill. Moreover, as it is common for people in Myanmar to talk while working in the office, I was sometimes unable to concentrate on my work with the noise. It took me some time to get used to the working environment. Having said that, I regarded these difficulties in an interesting and enjoyable way. I have learnt how to work in multicultural environments and I proved myself that I could deal with such situation well. Through these experiences I have learned the value of cultural adaption.

I am passionate about becoming a 'regional lawyer' who can work across borders involving multiple jurisdictions in the Southeast Asian region. Throughout the two-month internship in Myanmar, SAGA Asia had provided me with vast Myanmar and ASEAN cross-disciplinary experience. In particular, all work assigned by Tsutsumi-sensei and other lawyers helped me develop a deeper understanding of Japan's cross-border transactions in the Southeast Asian context. Joining the internship programme at SAGA Asia is a truly memorable experience for me.

Sooksun Popun-ngarm

20 October 2018



