

My Time in Thailand During a KMUTT Internship

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My name is Samson Azizyan. I am an Information and Communication Technology undergraduate, specializing in Software Engineering at JAMK University of Applied Sciences in Jyväskylä, Finland. While going through the first year of my bachelor's degree, I got an opportunity to do a part of my internship at King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi (KMUTT) during the summer of 2019. I applied for the research intern position at KMUTT through Erasmus+ Mobility Program at JAMK.

My assignment was to create a conceptual design of a method for estimating Thai food volume using smartphone. Being able to estimate food volume using a mobile phone camera is essential in estimating the quantity intake of that food. Such an endeavor is particularly helpful for caregivers of the diabetes mellitus (DM) or preDM patients to remotely monitor daily food intakes either so that insulin could be properly administered or as a preventative measure for the preDM patients. While algorithms exist, they have not yet taken full advantages of the current state of advance of the mobile technology. Besides none has been designed specifically for Thai food which could have different characteristics. In this project, I did a literature review on existing state of the art techniques for estimating food volume, summarizing the key findings as well as identifying those features that have now been supported by the mobile phone (i.e. Android and iOS). Based on these findings, I recommended a conceptual design of a method for estimating Thai food volume using a smartphone and a Time of Flight sensor.

The project was very challenging for me as I did not have any previous experience with several tools, that I needed to use on this project (Java, Android Studio, Microcontrollers). Most of the time went into learning new skills, that I needed to implement into this project. I liked this research a lot, because it was very interesting and challenging. Ten weeks was not enough time to create the working prototype application, but I am satisfied with what I have been able to learn while working on this project. I was doing most of my work in the iLab at School of Information Technology (SIT), the iLab was very lively and crowded, I enjoyed working there.

This was my second trip to Thailand, so I was familiar with Thai culture. I stayed at Cosmo Residence, which is located about one kilometer from KMUTT. I would recommend Cosmo to the future exchange students of KMUTT. While doing this internship, I met a lot of other interns from different countries. These people became my friends. Together we explored Bangkok and travelled to two islands, Koh Sichang and Ko Samet. I love the laid-back culture in Thailand, people seem very happy and nice all the time. Thai food is probably my favorite food, the tastiest food in the world. Everyone should visit Thailand, is the land of smiles.

