

# Overseas Journey Reflections

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1.

It allowed me to broaden my view, not only to have a stagnant mindset, for instance, the cost of living in two country can vary be it little or drastic and learn how different our life could turn out by our childhood environment. We need to take into consideration on how we can earn more money as well as have a balanced lifestyle. For instance, if I were to get paid in Singapore with an above average salary but I must pay high cost of living with bare minimum of a balanced lifestyle. While in another country, I am paid an average salary, but I pay for a low cost of living with a healthy lifestyle. I would prefer to get an average pay with a well-balanced lifestyle where I can ensure I have a good retirement. This is honestly opinionated as it may vary according to personal preferences.

2.

Experience 1:

(Refer to Image 2a)

Quality of living difference between Singapore and Bangkok

Singapore quality of living is higher but those who are poor are aided by the government.

The Singapore Government aides the poor in Singapore ensuring they are sheltered with proper living conditions. In Bangkok, the people make homes for the poor by staying in slums without the aid of the government and sometimes they are chased out of their homes because the government need to develop new things where they are staying. Hence The government does not solve the issue but continue to develop the country for their economic growth.

A possible issue may be due to the different ruling method between Singapore and Thailand.

Singapore runs on a democratic system where a president and prime minster are elected and of a multi-party system. While, Thailand runs by a Monarchy system where we have kings and queens and the throne is taken over by through bloodlines. This is an example of an open iceberg where it is obvious to our eyes as well as how it affects their culture to make it different from our Singaporean culture. So basically, the rich get richer and the poor get poorer, there lacks ample opportunity for people to get a better life.

Experience 2:

(Refer to Image 2b)

The infrastructure for traveling is not as convenient and effective as Singapore.

The traveling time is not as effective as in Singapore. For the Bus and car rides, there is always a possibility that the traffic jams last for many of hours for example, on my third day we were on a wide highway but stuck in a major traffic jam back to the hotel for 3 hours. As the more days I spent there, I notice that traveling by Bus and Car is not the most effective. The other options were by motorcycle and the M.R.T (Metropolitan Rapid Transit) however, motorcycles are quite dangerous as it weaves through all the passing vehicles. While the M.R.T is not as consistent with their schedules as it may come early or late unlike Singapore timing where it is precise and accurate.

In Singapore then number of vehicles are heavily regulated and kept within a limit. However, Bangkok does not enforce it as much as Singapore this may be due to different land size or the negligence of the ruling party. Therefore, the traffic jams are shorter as well as lesser on the streets of Singapore compared to Bangkok

3.

One cultural challenge is learning their language and getting used to the number of public holidays there. A Simple mispronunciation could mean another word which may offend others. The staff at restaurants and store outlets are very friendly and occasionally overbearing. I am too used to the fact that we speak English every day, where it becomes a habit. When I accidentally say “thank you” in English instead of their native language. Besides their language, sometime some words come together with gesture, where if the gesture is not present it will be very weird and may seem very rude. After all the language is what’s being used every day beside your personal skills for work/stay.

Bangkok has 24 public holidays in total while Singapore has a total of 10 holidays only. Those who get into the holiday mood to easily will suffer as work can pile up while you’re away and you lack the time to finish hence you must work overtime.

4.

The first way is to learn their local language like the common English word we use every day for greetings to introduction and locations. Example: “Toilet”, “Shopping mall”, “Food Court”, “hello” and “goodbye”.

The second way is travel down to the country you are planning to stay/work in and explore before your work trip starts. This effectively will help you get used to the weather there as well as the type of food you are most probably get surrounded with. While you are there you can estimate the time for you daily commute to work as well as familiarize to the surrounding so you would not get lost.

Image 2a:



Image 2b:

