



When I heard SUSI at the first time, Study of the U.S. Institute for Student Leaders on Global Environmental Issues, it sounded so interesting. To study in the U.S. is one of my dreams, especially when it comes to environmental issues.

When I watch TV, I saw a lot of news about disasters, such as the tsunami in Thailand, the earthquake in Haiti, flooding in the Philippines, and the amount of those disasters increasing every year. I realized that our Earth's condition is worsening, but we still harm the Earth every day, every hour, and every minute. These realizations empowered me to join this program immediately.

What I learned from SUSI, is more than knowledge, I learned a lot about people, cultures, policies, teamwork, etc.



But the main thing that I learned from SUSI is the norms of the group. In social animals like us, we like to get acceptance from the group. We do almost everything to be a part of the group. Because we are social animals, we cannot live alone on this earth. In the group, there are norms (situations or patterns of behaviors that are usual or expected) that everyone has to follow; if you don't follow it, you will get punished by your group.

Related to SUSI, everyone has an environmental heart, every action we do is to preserve and conserve our earth; for example we don't or hardly use any plastic bags. For example, if I use it, everyone in the group will look at me and ask, "Why did you use plastic bags?" You will be ashamed of yourself, and the next time when you want to use plastic bag, you will remind yourself whether it's necessary to use it or not.



It's inspired me to do my action plan in Thailand: "Let's Reduce Plastic Bags" is my project to do when I return home. I will start small, from my community. Yesterday, I started my plan of talking to fruit sellers. I got a lot of information. I think this project could work well.

And what I learned about U.S. is that I learn more about different kinds of people, how they live, speak, think, and survive. I saw a lot of differences between people in Hawai'i and Washington D.C.



especially when I walked alone. But one thing I know is that almost every person that I met in U.S. likes Thai food. I'm proud of that!

In Hawai'i, it's quite similar to South East Asian countries, especially the climate and food. I saw a lot of Asian people there, I went out to a Thai restaurant 3 times and I feel like I'm at home. But in Washington D.C., it's quite different, there were less Asian people. When I walked on the road, everyone looked at me surprisingly,

People are different in Washington D.C. People always wear suits and are in rush hour mode, but in Hawaii, they wear casual clothes, and most of them are tourists.

I think, U.S. is so diverse in terms of how you can see such differences like these in one country.

But I think this thing give U.S. an edge to deal with different problems. Different kinds of people, different ways of thinking, good ideas always come out. When I interviewed American people what they like the most in their country. Everyone said "freedom". American people have freedom to do whatever they want. They can express their opinions in politics, religions, health care insurances, and other systems.



Those are the things I learned in the past 5 weeks, but I think learning is not stopping yet. It's a long, long way to continue my study about myself, environmental issues, U.S. and the world.

Thank you for this opportunity that The Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, United States Department of State gave me. I promise that I will bring all I got to improve and help my country as much as I can.

