

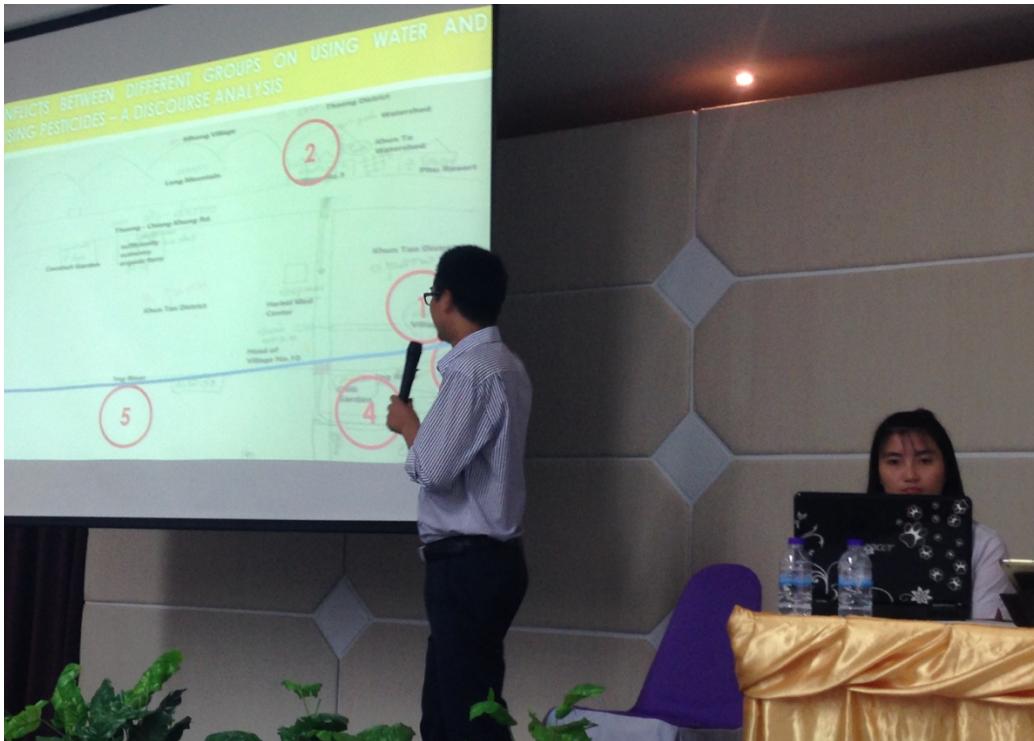
Summer School Report, Day 6:

This was the first time we were all together in one room after the field trips. During this day of our conference, we have heard five groups presenting their results and insights regarding transdisciplinarity. All presentations were really informative and useful for students like us to understand more about transdisciplinarity and how to conduct a transdiscipline research.

1. Major learning outcomes

This was the first time we heard about what the other groups did in a well-structured and complete way although some may have talked the previous day about their experiences. One thing we learned or rather experienced was that even if every field trip was unique and had a different focus and outcome, there were some learning experiences we all shared. One of those experiences was the importance of and at the same time the difficulties with translation. That it took some time and getting to know each other (us and the translators) until both of us knew how the other person worked, what their needs were and how we could reach our goal of well conducted research together. Another experience that was shared by more than two groups who presented today was how group size matters when choosing research methods and that at certain times a group may be too big to conduct an interview with just one person. It can change and block the fluency of the conversation as it can make the interviewee uncomfortable.

And even though all of us were aware that time and resource restrictions made it impossible for us to conduct TDR, all of us had moments that contained aspects of TDR. It was nice to see that every group that presented today was able to try out participatory methods.



Group 7 was presenting the result from mapping method

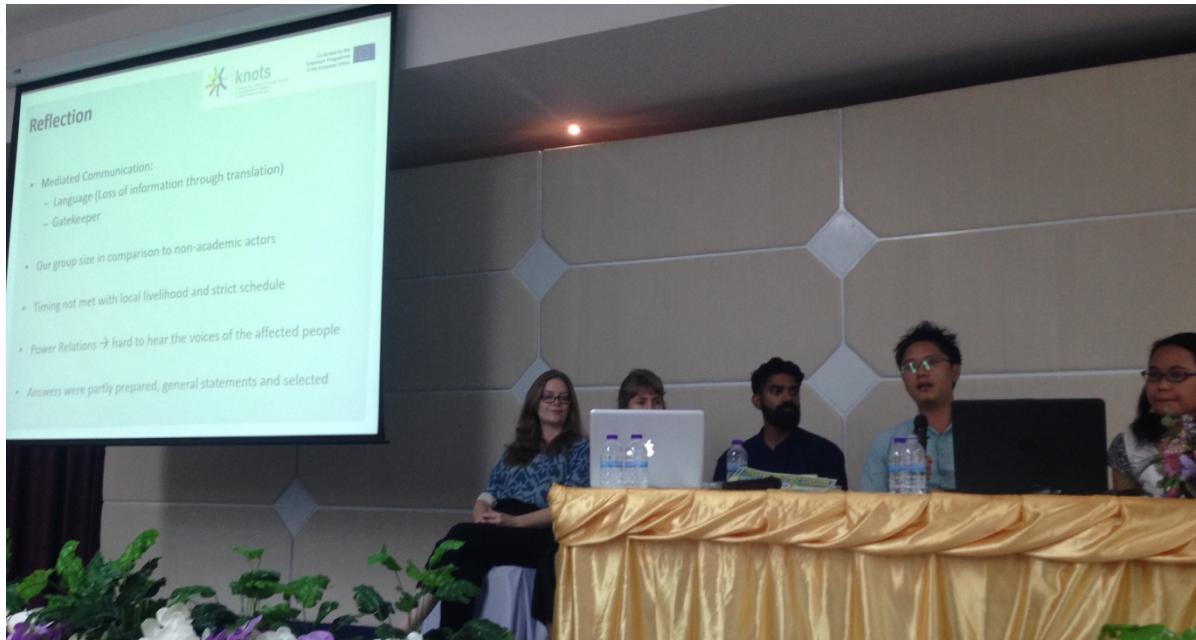
Finally, for many of the participants of the summer school presenting in front of such a big group of people, including some respected teachers and professors was a challenge they mastered. Every participant of all the fieldtrips who presented today did their part and had some speaking time. And although some were nervous, they produced good and discussion stimulating presentations.



Group 1 was very creative when illustrating the level of pollution by color of water taken from the canal

2. Insights concerning transdisciplinarity

One sensitive point which was mentioned from some of the presentations, is the connection between transdisciplinarity and the government, officials or let's call it „elites“. Group six experienced, that one company owner within the village was concerned about the questions, that the researchers intended to ask the workers. She wanted to know in advance, in which direction the meeting will lead and what key points of interest are planned. Group seven faced something similar and were in a position between preserving a good contact to the owners of the banana plantation and on the other side raise critical questions regarding working conditions, power hierarchies and so on. In some talks before the conference regarding this topic we have found out, that researchers should be aware and clear about their own position and their aim. This is especially important if you plan to work directly with, for example, locals. The political structure as background, in a country or a special location, must be noted. If and to which extent a researcher wants to deal with this is an individual decision. But as some of the groups have seen, it is not possible and, if you want to get an idea about the full picture, not helpful, to exclude this dimension.



Translation was a problem in communication with local people for Group 8 and some other groups

To include is also the situation of the translators as mediators between the foreign researchers, locals etc. and elites. It is only fair and also necessary, to inform the translators about your purposes. The point is, that it is not always easy and granted, that you can apply TDR as you wish or planned. Maybe not all people and institutions are pleased about the research or agree with your ideas. This can be a huge restriction, but at the same point it is a highly important information, include a lot of content and maybe core points of conflict. A more indirect but not lesser important point of TDR is the part of observation. Often structures are not named or conscious, even for inhabitants and concerned people. To find out about hidden power relations, behaviour patterns and discourses, the views from foreigners can be very valuable. Because they do not stuck in this thing for years, they can see and recognize different things, than long-term involved people. So one research method of TDR is just to be aware of settings in situations and background talks.

3. Relevance for our own work

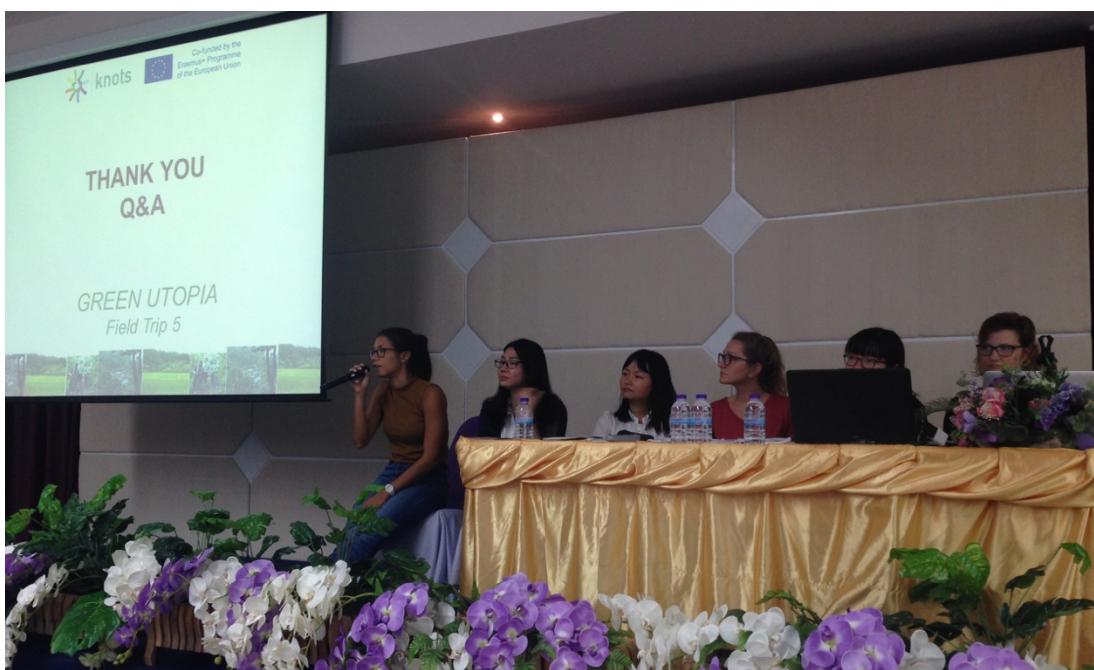
We participated in this conference day with two roles: audiences and speakers. As audiences, we learned how other teams applied TDR in finding and solving all situations at their field site. As speakers, we got many helpful comments from professor and fellow students to make our

understanding on TDR deeper and figure out a better approach to analyze our particular problem.



Our group was presenting our finding from the field trip 6

Also, through discussions on methodology in each Q&A section, we now can clearly differentiate the TDR from the traditional research and know how to get the local people involve in our research. Those experience and shared knowledge will definitely helpful when we apply TDR in our own research no matter what the topic is.



Q&A section helped us and other students get deeper understand on TDR (in the picture was Group 5)

4. Open Questions and Challenges

In spite of the knowledge we have learned from all presentations and discussions today, there still are some challenges in conducting TDR in own future research. One of those is how to separate our observation from our subjective interpretation of what the local people say or show us to recognize the real problems which they are facing up. Another challenge is how to create space for persons, in a team with various disciplines, to reach their potential and find their voice in discussions with others in the team so that the TDR teamwork will run smoothly and effectively.

In summary, learning TDR methodology for us will be a long-lasting journey in which the KNOTS summer school and field trip was a really good start. Also, as any research method, learning by doing would be a helpful way to get the nature of TDR research and bring transdisciplinary into our practice.