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Employment Evaluation Report for PISAI Students

Participatory and Integrative Support for Agricultural Initiative - PISAI

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1. Introduction

The Double Degree Master's Programme (DDMP) under PISAI Project was established among four Thai agricultural institutes (KU, PSU, CMU, and KKU) with support from EU partners. Twenty-four students enrolled in the DDMP in the academic year 2018/2019 (first batch of 14 students) and academic year 2019/2020 (second batch of 10 students). Most PISAI students are continuing their studies and research work both at home and host universities. As of March 2021, three students from the first batch completed their master's degree, namely, Mr. Seksan Duangsingtham, Mr. Natthidech Beesa, and Miss Wantanee Meeloon.

2. Methodology

Employability after graduation is an important issue for both students and higher education institutes. An employment evaluation of PISAI students was conducted at the end of the stakeholder's forum, held on 15 March 2021 at PSU. Graduates were asked to fill in an online self-evaluation form to assess their ability to perform their job and their degree of skills improvement.

3. Results

Employment status

This report examines three Thai students who have graduated from the PISAI Project's DDMP. All three students graduated from different master's degree programme combinations at their home and host universities (Table 1). Two students, Mr. Seksan and Miss Wantanee, did their internship in Songkhla Province, while studying at their host university, PSU. All three graduates got their current jobs 1 – 3 months after graduating. They stated that they are satisfied with their work as research assistants in government organizations, and that their jobs correspond to their fields of study. They also commented that a strong point of DDMP is that they can use what they learned in their jobs. Two graduates intend to continue their education by doing Ph.Ds at Thai or European universities.



Table 1 General information about the three graduates

| Name and Surname | Home university | | Host university | | Internship |
|--------------------------|-----------------|--|-----------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------|
| | University | Field of study | University | Field of study | |
| Mr. Seksan Duangsingtham | CMU | Agricultural extension and rural development | PSU | Agricultural Development | Interned at Integrated cattle farm |
| Mr. Natthidech Beesa | KU | Plant Pathology | PSU | Plant Pathology | Did not do an internship |
| Miss Wantanee Meeloon | KKU | Horticulture | PSU | Agricultural Development | Interned at organic vegetable farm |

Improvement of graduates' skills and competencies

Graduates were asked to self-assess 13 post-graduation skills and competencies (Figure 1). They reported the majority of their skills and competencies as very good or as excellent. Learning new things was marked as excellent by two graduates and as very good by one graduate. The following eight skills and competencies were evaluated as excellent by one graduate and as very good by two graduates: 1) specific knowledges, 2) capacity for applying knowledge to work, 3) analytical skills, 4) capacity for problem-solving, 5) decision-making skills, 6) management skills 7) computer skills, and 8) interpersonal skills. Each reported differing levels of English skills: very good, good, and satisfactory. Regarding personality traits such as being responsible, patience, having a positive attitude, etc., they reported excellent, very good, and good.





Figure 1 Improvement of skills and competencies after graduation (n=3)

Interestingly, graduates observed that capacity for learning new things, analytical skills, problem-solving capacity, and specific knowledge are what their employers most want from them. With respect to what they still want to improve on, two students indicated foreign language skills, while one student has determined to make self-adjustments as recommended by parents and relatives.



4. Conclusions

There were 24 students in total enrolled in the DDMP under the PISAI Project. The three who have graduated were asked to self-evaluate their ability to do their jobs. Overall, they rated their level of improvement in most skills and competencies related to academics and the workplace as excellent and very good.

Most of the first- and second- batch students have not yet completed their degrees. The remaining eleven first-batch students are working on their research, preparing scientific papers, and writing their theses. All ten second-batch students have passed the thesis proposal stage and are currently working on their research. The PISAI Project will check and report on the progress and employability of the remaining 21 students.

