

2017 ProSPER.Net Leadership Programme
Building Transformational Leadership towards Sustainable Development Goals
29 June- 5 July 2017

Leadership Reflection

I would like to start this reflective report by saying that I am extremely grateful for being given the opportunity to take part in this wonderful sustainable leadership programme. This programme was completely different from all the other programmes that I have joined and provided a new, exciting and practical approach to learning. I myself major in environmental engineering, which is a subject that focuses on air pollution, wastewater, and waste treatment and management. Consequently, I need to come up with a good treatment design or some kind of suitable technologies to treat those wastes or find out some preventive measures. This workshop, however, gave me the opportunity to experience different aspects of building transformational leadership towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) themselves. These aspects opened my mind to see and think in boarder terms of the 17 SDGs through implementation that is related with 5 P's (People, Prosperity, Peace, Partnership and Planet). I realized that the interlinkages and integrated nature of the SDGs are of crucial importance and it can be applied in every context of society. Furthermore, ambitions that change the word I to WE and THEY to WE are the key function of multi-stakeholder communication which includes the principles of bottom-up and top-down together. This concept will profoundly improve our world and transform it for the better.

This programme appealed to me because it not only introduced the problems such as aging society, flooding, and greenhouse gas but also claimed to give all participants the opportunity to be directly involved in the real successful cases such as Ao Udom coastal development zone and Pranas Nikom Municipality in Chonburi province, Thailand. I am really proud of my country that we have a successful sustainable case and it becomes a role model of coastal development zone in other areas. Moreover, this workshop offered the opportunity to work in a group, which would help establish new friendships, improve my English skill as well as time keeping and reflective thinking in the international point of views. It is good to hear everyone's points of views about a certain problems or solutions in different countries and how the situation or community should be addressed appropriately. I have learned the important thing that different communities have different contexts. I understand that sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Recently, I do research on recycle of water treatment sludge, which focuses only on its application such as making absorbents, construction materials and so on. After I entered the programme, I would like to add more idea of sustainable leadership such as socio-economic aspect in my research. I would like to go to the community near the water treatment plant and find out some kind of idea or problem of the people. Then, the SWOT analysis among the multi-stakeholders has to be come up with. 4 knowledge of sustainable management community impact assessment with knowing community identity, knowing community heritage, knowing community problem & impact and knowing community future will be applied. This may be the first step of sustainable sign in my research that attempt to connect with people. Then, the other Ps will come after this P. I also have another project on household hazardous waste management in Bangkok which I will go to the community and I will use the concept of sustainability goals to do this project. Even it will take a lot of time, but I will try to do it will the right way and make it sustain for hazardous waste management in Bangkok.

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Moreover, this programme will put me at an advantage when I come back to work. It has improved my thinking system, social, listening and decision-making skills. I, myself, am the leader of a team in my research center. I always think about the plans steps, timelines, budgets and resources that I used to thought it is a suitable way for working. The programme make me think different in terms of changing the manager to leader who need to establish direction and vision, align people behind the vision and energize people to overcome obstacles to reach the goal. These change my mind and I will use these principles to my research team. If I confront with any problems, I will try to understand the problem then decompose it into sub-problems and make the rational choice. What's more, I need to be improved on 5 characteristics including building trust and rapport, understanding what is ethical and the bigger picture so that I can do the right thing for my team, developing my emotional intelligence, empowering people around me through coaching, feedback, understanding them sincerely, and developing my influencing, storytelling and collaboration skills on my work. Right now, I believe transformational leadership cannot occur without positive followership and a transformational leader is one who motivates followers with 17 components of SDGs goal to do more than they originally expected to do.

Finally, I would like to change my daily behavior with sustainable way such as avoiding plastic bag, thinking twice before shopping, being water wise, boycotting products that endanger wildlife and encouraging people around me to do that. I need to enable others to do the same through creating an environment in which we feel safe and valued and as a result are willing to learn, grow, experiment and try our new ways of doing behaviors in terms of sustainability.