

June 14 through 21, 2016 - Newsletter 4

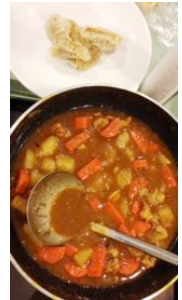
HAVING FUN WHILE LEARNING OUTSIDE THE LABORATORY

Here is a summary of some of the things the MHIRT students have been doing when they are not working in the laboratory:

Cooking: After eating many of their meals in restaurants, MHIRT students got together and cooked.

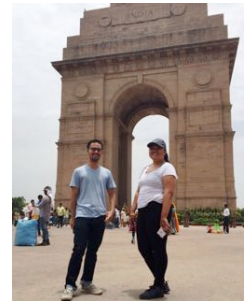


June 9th (Bangkok) - *"The highlight of the day would have to be our first homemade dinner, courtesy of Chef Jeff. For dinner he made curry with carrots, potatoes, onions, and chicken, while Tiff fried up some gyoza. We also had some fruits (lychee and mangosteen) and baked goodies from Jeff's coworker for dessert. Everything was so delicious! I attached a group picture of us eating in Jeff and Meno's room and a picture of our dinner."*



June 5th (New Delhi) - *"John and I (Tiana) took a cooking class just 10 minutes away from the guest house near Hauz Khas. We both enjoyed learning how to make Indian cuisine! We are very full and ready for the work week ahead."*

Sight-seeing: John - *"India's weather seems to be getting hotter and hotter as of late. During our time off we played tourist and visited the India Gate, the President's estate, the Red Fortress and Old Delhi. The sheer madness of Old Delhi was exciting. We've only had quick tour via a peddled rickshaw as a way to not get completely shocked. Hopefully we can visit it again and take our time there."*



"A cultural experience I (Meno) had this week was the floating markets in Bangkok. It was weird when we arrived there because the water was less than a foot deep, but within an hour the water quickly rose to become a river! It was a unique experience to see vendors on boats and the whole market right at the edge of the water. It was like a small Thai version of Venice!"

"On Friday after work Jeff and I (Tiffany) met up at Lumpini park and watched the Monitor lizards and fed the fish in the lakes. Jeff and I wanted to see the lizards catch fish or birds to eat, but they mostly just laid around."



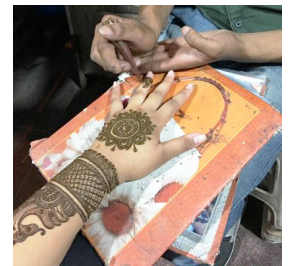
Taking in special events: *"On a happy note, I was able to visit Siam Paragon this weekend for the 10th anniversary of the Bangkok Royal Orchid Paradise. There I saw the most beautiful array of orchids I've had ever seen in my life! Since I've been missing the scenic views of Hawaii, it was quite refreshing seeing all the flowers. Attached is a picture of me at the event."* Gabby



Shopping:

In Cameroon, Jessie, Yukie and Michael attended a local crafts fair. Looks like someone back home is going to get salad tongs with giraffes, hand woven purses and homemade cards. In Jessie's left hand is a jar of homemade soap that comes in different scents, including avocado. Stay tuned to hear more about the soap. Nice African clothes everyone!

Trying something new: Tiana writes: “I was also exploring a local market this past week and came across a Henna booth! I've never had one before and it's very popular back at home. I was astonished to learn on Google that Henna takes its origin from India, and is typically done for special occasions. So what better place to try it then where it was created! The students back at school were very happy to see my henna and were very excited about me trying traditional things here.”

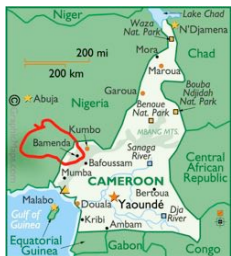


Visiting local spots: Gabby shares: “Cultural wise, the Thailand group has been trying to make the best of every weekend despite our exhaustion from a week of research and lab. This weekend we watched Finding Dory, went to Ratchada Train Market, biked around Benjakiti Park, and visited Ampwaha Floating Market. In my opinion, the highlight of the train market was eating grasshopper for the first time! It was actually not bad and I am curious to taste the other insects. My favorite part about this weekend was our excursion to the park. Benjakiti Park is known for its lush greenery encompassing a small lake. It was outside of the hustle and bustle of Bangkok so I enjoyed the refreshing atmosphere. I would definitely go back to bike or run if I ever need a break from the city. Attached are pictures of us at Benjakiti Park.”



Cultural report from John, “As for what's new in India nothing really happened. We did watch Finding Dory at the very least.” So, both MHIRT Thailand and India tried to find Dory last weekend.

Traveling: India: “Unfortunately our plans of a 14-hour road trip to Manali came to a halt when our pre-reserved bus never showed up Sunday evening. We had a first-hand cultural experience of booking a reservation via word-of-mouth and its consequences. There were supposed to be a total of around 25 people from three different labs within the biotechnology department who were packed and ready to go! Of course John and I were a little sad, but our party ended up going to a water park an hour away and still managed to have a blast. It was really fun getting out of the lab and splashing around like little kids again! Dr. Tandon and the rest of the faculty and students know how to definitely work hard and play hard!!”



Cameroon: This weekend, MHIRT Cameroon took a 6-7 hours road trip to Bamenda. “We went to Bamenda to attend a traditional African ceremony called a “cry-die”, where family members honored the death of a chief and the rise of his successor to carry the family chief title. The experience was fantastic! People came in vibrant outfits and chanted cultural rhythms, fired guns into the sky, played traditional instruments, and danced with a contagious energy that spread from person-to-person. Yuki, Jessie, and I were pulled into the middle of a traditional dance by a juju. The juju wore a garment of leaves with some sort of a net on his face and an animal mask on the top of his head. I wasn't sure what we were supposed to do, so I just copied the juju's dance. Next thing you know, the people surrounding us joyously yelled an African cry. It was so much fun!” They also visited Bafut Palace, where they were given a tour by one of the princesses.

