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Date: (2021/06/17)

Report on the Final Exam

Name of the Chair: Naoko Kumagai

On behalf of the Thesis Examining Committee, I would like to report the result of the Final Exam as follows.

1. Student ID	<u>1B8D02</u>
2. Name	<u>Preechaya Kittipaisalsilpa</u>
3. Cluster	International Relations
4. Thesis Examining Committee	Chair: Naoko Kumagai
	Referee: Tomohito Shinoda
	Referee: Motohide Saji
	Referee (External examiner): Teewin Suputtikun
5. Dissertation Title	<u>Japanese Cultural Diplomacy toward Thailand: An Analysis in Agent-Structural Relations</u>
6. Submission Date	Draft: April 19 , 2021
	Final: June 14, 2021
7. Final Exam Date	May 15, 2021
8. Faculty Meeting Date	June 21, 2021
9. Degree Title	Ph.D. in International Relations
10. Result	Pass

I. Dissertation Overview and Summary of the Presentation

The candidate makes analysis of Japan's cultural diplomacy toward Thailand from the structural approach. The main research questions are as follows: (1) how Japan-Thailand bilateral relations have shifted toward soft power, and (2) under what structural features the changes from government-based to private-based practices were permitted in the Japanese diplomatic styles vis-à-vis Thailand. Thus the dissertation examines how each structure has influenced the change of Japan's cultural diplomacy toward Thailand. By "structure" the candidate basically means the international system including the element of power composition among states. In the process of structural analysis, the dissertation also focuses on the constitutive aspect of structure by paying attention to diverse types of actors as acknowledged in the concept of new public diplomacy.

The dissertation divides the target period into four segments based on structure: the militaristic-based structure, the economic-based structure, the social-based structure, and the value-based structure.

The dissertation explains how the changing nature of the activities and programmes of the Japan Foundation Thailand from government-based practices to private-based practices corresponds with the changing structural conditions from economic-based structure to social- and value- based structures since the 1970s, with more non-state actors involved.

II. Notes from the Thesis Examining Committee (including the changes required to the dissertation by the committee)

The Thesis Examining Committee has found the work very comprehensive with the detailed case study of the Japan Foundation Bangkok. All the committee members acknowledge her hard work in terms of both theoretical concepts and empirical investigations with many in-depth interviews. The committee also noted that the candidate's attempt at rigorous theoretical study of Japan's cultural diplomacy can be a good academic contribution to scholarship in both international relations and Japan's foreign policy.

However, the committee has found the following problems in the dissertation:

1. The concept of structure as defined by the candidate remains quite unclear and too broad since it includes not only power but also ideal elements and domestic structure. It is puzzling that the time frame distinction does not correspond with the classification of each structure as examined by the candidate.
2. The interaction of the ideational element and material element of the structure needs to be clarified.
3. The analysis of constitutive aspect of structure, the interaction between agents and structure, is missing. This is important particularly because the dissertation deals with different types of agents, including government and private actors.
4. In a similar vein, more analysis of the domestic aspects in both Japan and Thailand is needed.
5. The justification of the time frame of the study and that of case selection of the postwar Japan Foundation Bangkok remain weak.

All in all, these points make the academic contribution of the work unclear.

Then the committee advised that the candidate revise the dissertation and rewrite the introduction so that the reader can understand better the academic purpose, research question, method, and scholarly contribution of her work.

The committee concluded that the dissertation is given a pass with minor revision.

III. Confirmation by the Chair that changes have been made to the satisfaction of the committee.

The revised version demonstrates that the above-mentioned points were better clarified.

In particular, the revised version has made the concept of structure clearer and explained the dynamics of the change in the activities of Japan Foundation Bangkok better, both empirically and theoretically.

Though there is more room for further theoretical clarification and empirical examination, the revised version shows significant progress.

IV. Overall Evaluation

The dissertation makes both theoretical and empirical contribution to the issue of Japan's cultural diplomacy and constructivism.

Further classification as explained in the previous section could be made as another academic endeavor of the candidate in her career as scholar.

As a Ph.D. student, the quality presented at this stage is acceptable for the committee.