

# MODAPTS Travels to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and Bangkok, Thailand

By Michael D. Shinnick

In November, 2005 I had the opportunity to travel to the beautiful cities of Kuala Lumpur and Bangkok to conduct training seminars and provide consulting in MODAPTS and Ergonomic Applications. The training and consulting were sponsored by Ken Knowledge International which is based in Singapore. The training was conducted in English, and I have to admit that I only understood about 25 percent of what was said by the participants during introductions. Thanks to the Training Manual exercises, my work task videos and TaskMaster 2000 Computer Program, the training programs were a great success. Every one of the participants successfully passed the MODAPTS examination and the training feedback was very positive.



Anticipating the language barriers, each participant was asked to bring a laptop computer and videos of at least three short cycle work tasks to the seminars. At the beginning of the training each participant was provided with a copy of TaskMaster 2000. The training was computer, power point, and video based. The technology significantly reduced any language issues. The fact that technology significantly reduced language issues reiterated my first published article entitled “The Common Language for

Understanding Work.” I prepared this article after studying with Chris Heyde in Sydney, Australia 1984.

I was not surprised that when we conducted MODAPTS studies of the videos it was found that MODAPTS results were a little bit on the loose side. This was adjusted for in the allowance percentages. After watching the videos, I can say with certainty that the Malaysian and Thai workers operate extremely quickly and efficiently, utilizing their hands with amazing coordination, probably above established industrial standards. Now, I more clearly understand that this is one of the contributing factors as to why the Southeast Asia manufacturing sector is so strong in the world economy.

Company participants included representatives of Osram Opto Semiconductor, Meiban Plastics, Guocera Tile Industries, Celestica Electronics, Braun Medical, Associated Motor Industrial, Mölnlycke Healthcare, Western Digital and Revertex. Additional company representatives also included perhaps more commonly recognized companies such as Goodyear Tire and Texas Instruments. The question of primary significance asked by companies that have implemented Six Sigma, Lean Manufacturing, and JIT Manufacturing, etc., was how would MODAPTS benefit these management programs? My response was that the fundamental basis of these manufacturing and management systems is that one must identify what their direct labor standards and costs are, and what productivity potential the current work force is capable of.

Without a system of establishing and keeping current updated direct labor capacities and costs, management and manufacturing systems cannot be effectively established.



I was very impressed by the capabilities of my participants and the personnel of Ken Knowledge International. I made new friends and professional colleagues; the countryside was beautiful and the people were extremely gracious and shared their culture with me. I am grateful and honored to have had such an experience. Not only did the participants leave with new knowledge, I also learned from working with them regarding the application needs in their respective industries. I would be happy to discuss my knowledge in this

innovative area of ergonomic applications and openly welcome discussions of your experience and understanding of this field. I can be reached by e-mail at: [DRG@Drshinnick.com](mailto:DRG@Drshinnick.com)

An updated and enhanced version of the Taskmaster software, utilized in this workshop, has recently been developed and is sure to generate new interest in Modapts based work study analysis. The software, which includes improved data entry as well new and productive ergonomic analysis, is available through my website, [www.drshinnick.com](http://www.drshinnick.com) and could be considered a vital tool for use by Modapts Certified instructors in many aspects of training . Current users of Taskmaster 2000 may upgrade to this new version at a reduced fee.