Planning for Sustainable Development in Thailand
PSDT 2009

Managing land use conflicts, mobility and cultural heritage in Amphawa, Samut Songkram [17-30 July 2009]

Objective:
Come up with a set of ideas that help to foster the good, deal with the bad and prepare for the challenges, taking into account principles of sustainability.

Approach 1: scale-sensitive
- Local problems may have regional causes...
or need regional interventions to be solved

Approach 2: future-oriented
- Different problems and challenges are related to different time-scales
- We must prepare for an uncertain future

Activities

Methods used to tap into sources of local knowledge
Students interview boatmen in Amphawa

Samut Songkram

Workshop design

The result:
- A set of ideas that may help Amphawa to conserve the good, to deal with the bad and prepare for the challenges ahead.
- Focus on employment opportunities on the long term, and the management of mobility on both the shorter and longer term.
- No definite plans, but visions and possible strategies, that are meant to inspire and stimulate discussion.
Dealing with high pressure:
how to prevent Bangkok’s last lung from turning red?  [6-20/August 2010]

How to keep Bang Kachao as a green space?

By complementing the conservation policies that are in place with more "offensive" strategies that depart from and aim to strengthen the (unique) qualities of the area in a sustainable way.

Two key objectives:
1) Contribute to making Bang Kachao a pleasant and viable place to live in
2) Encourage that Bang Kachao gets more appreciated by the inhabitants of the Bangkok Metropolitan Region for its greenness and environmental qualities.

Culture

Key messages:
- Urbanization or conservation: it’s a choice!
- Bang Kachao’s identity is vulnerable, requires attention
- There is little appreciation for Bang Kachao’s green qualities beyond Bang Kachao itself: something to work on
- Bang Kachao: full of potential to increase the value of the green space
- To make the most of the opportunities: it can only be done in collaboration
Saving Bangkok's last green lung: developing an ecotourism roadmap for Bang Kachao [5-19 August 2011]

Key outcomes of the workshop are:

1) Bang Kachao is home to abundant yet fragmented natural and cultural resources for ecotourism and there exist plenty of opportunities for enhancement by connecting, integrating and creating.

2) These resources partly already match and for the other part can quite easily be made to match the interests and desires of both Thai and foreign ecotourists.

3) Enough local residents are willing to contribute to turning Bang Kachao into an urban ecotourism destination, people do have ideas, knowledge, skills, and resources that can be used for this cause.

4) There are lots of interesting and easily achieved opportunities to market Bang Kachao as an urban ecotourism destination.

[Diagram showing Ecotourism Attractions with map of the area.

Thai text: แผนที่แหล่งท่องเที่ยวอุตสาหกรรม แสดงแผนที่แหล่งท่องเที่ยวอุตสาหกรรม แสดงแผนที่แหล่งท่องเที่ยวอุตสาหกรรม]
Learning from those who stayed dry:
Flood preparedness guide for local communities in Central Thailand [17-21 August 2012]

Aim of the workshop:
To learn from the experience of Krathum Baen / Samut Sakon (and enable other communities to learn from this experience), and to develop ideas to further enhance the community’s resilience to flood events.

Our approach:
Integrated Flood Management (IFM)

Stakeholders
- Public community
- Local government
- Engineers
- International organizations
- Research institutions
Paving the way for sustainable urban mobility in Bangkok
[0-23.08.2013]

Workshop objective:
- To contribute to improving conditions for non-motorized transport in Bangkok
- Make it easier and more pleasant to walk and ride bicycle in Bangkok in daily life
- Make walking and using bicycle for daily short-distance trips a viable choice for
  the people of Bangkok
- Contribute to sustainable urban mobility and a more sustainable city

How:
- Understanding the peoples’ walking and
cyling experience and needs
- Understanding the barriers to walking and
cyling presented by especially
  the physical environment
- Developing ideas, ways to improve
- Case study: Thong Lo / Ekkamai area

Analyzing conditions for walking
and cycling by looking at:
- Connectivity of path networks, both
  locally and in the larger urban setting
- Linkage with other modes of transport
- Safety, both from traffic and social crime
- Path context
- Land use patterns
- Quality of path
- Facilities for bicycle parking

How to start providing adequate walking and cycling facilities?
Educate those who should play a role in providing such faculties
(e.g. using 7 design criteria as a starting point)
- perhaps even educate the educators
Adjust the legal framework (planning laws, building codes)
- Make sure that no new housing/commercial/road construction or
  other urban development project can be planned and designed
  without taking interests of pedestrians and cyclists into consideration
- Improve legal possibilities for re-arranging / re-designing existing
  road space and public space

Distinguish between three key areas of interest?
1. Retrofitting existing neighbourhoods (provide better walking and cycling
   infrastructure, improve connectivity, linkages with public transport, etc)
2. New urban developments: planned and designed with pedestrian and
   cyclist in mind (with help of adjusted legal framework)
3. Provide connectivity for cyclists at district and city level