THE CONSERVATION OF ANCIENT CITIES AND ANCIENT SETTLEMENTS IN THAILAND : A COUNTRY REPORT

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ในช่วงระหว่างวันที่ 21 มิถุนายน 2530 ถึงวันที่ 28 มิถุนายน 2530 ผู้เขียนได้รับเชิญจาก SPAFA (Seameo Project in Archaeology and Fine Arts) ให้เป็นผู้แทนประเทศไทย ไปประชุมเชิงปฏิบัติการ ในเรื่องการอนุรักษ์เมืองโบราณ และแหล่งชุมชนโบราณ (ของกลุ่มประเทศในภาคพื้นเอเชียตะวันออกเฉียงใต้) อันมีชื่อเป็นภาษาอังกฤษว่า SPAFA Consultative Workshop on Conservation of Ancient Cities and/or Settlements.

จุดประสงค์ของการประชุมนั้นก็เพื่อที่จะให้มีการแลกเปลี่ยนความรู้และประสบการณ์ในการศึกษาข้อมูลเกี่ยวกับความสำคัญของเมืองโบราณและแหล่งชุมชนโบราณ รวมทั้งสิ่งแวดล้อมซึ่งมีผลต่อความเป็นไปของพื้นที่นั้น ๆ ในอดีตตลอดจนปัจจุบัน, แลกเปลี่ยนความรู้และความชำนาญในวิธีการและเทคนิคที่นำมาใช้ในการอนุรักษ์, ตลอดจนการกำหนดหลักการและมาตรฐานในการทำงานอนุรักษ์และการฝึกหัดบุคลากรซึ่งจะต้องเป็นผู้รับผิดชอบในการทำงานอนุรักษ์

การประชุมจัดขึ้นที่กรุงจาการ์ต้า และเมืองมาลัง ประเทศอินโดนีเซีย โดยมีประเทศต่าง ๆ ส่งผู้แทนเข้าประชุมทั้งหมด 3 ประเทศ ได้แก่ อินโดนีเซีย เจ้าภาพ, ประเทศฟิลิปปินส์ และประเทศไทย นอกจากนั้นยังมีผู้เชี่ยวชาญเข้าร่วมประชุมอีก 2 ท่าน คือ ศาสตราจารย์ ดร. โคโกโร ชิฮารา จากประเทศญี่ปุ่น และศาสตราจารย์ ดร. ชูโอโน จากประเทศอินโดนีเซีย ส่วนศาสตราจารย์ ม.จ. สุภัทรดิศ ดิศกุล

นั้นทรงได้รับเชิญให้เข้าร่วมประชุมด้วยในฐานะของผู้ที่กำลังจะได้รับตำแหน่งเป็นองค์ประธานขององค์การ SPAFA

สำหรับประเทศไทยนั้น ส่งผู้แทนเข้าร่วมประชุม 3 คน ได้แก่ นายวีระ โรจน์พจน์รัตน์ สถาปนิก กองโบราณคดี กรมศิลปากร, นายประทีป เพ็งตะโก นักโบราณคดี กองโบราณคดี กรมศิลปากร และตัวผู้เขียนเอง จากมหาวิทยาลัยศิลปากร และเนื่องจากผู้เขียนได้รับมอบหมายให้เป็นหัวหน้าคณะผู้แทนไทย จึงเป็นหน้าที่ซึ่งจะต้องเสนอรายงานเป็น Country Report เป็นการสรุปความเป็นมาของงานอนุรักษ์เมืองโบราณและแหล่งชุมชนโบราณในประเทศไทย ซึ่งก็ได้ผลเป็นรายงาน "Conservation of Ancient Cities and Ancient Settlements in Thailand" นี้ ส่วนรายงานจากประเทศไทยอีก 3 เรื่องนั้น ได้แก่รายงานเรื่อง Sri Satchanalai : The Studies and Conservation โดย นายวีระ โรจน์พจน์รัตน์; The Conservation of The Portuguese Settlement in Ayudhaya โดย นายประทีป เพ็งตะโก นอกจากนี้แล้ว นายวีระ โรจน์พจน์รัตน์ ยังได้เสนอรายงานพิเศษอีก 1 เรื่อง ได้แก่ รายงานเรื่อง The SPAFA Training Programme in Conservation of Ancient Cities and / or Settlements.

1. INTRODUCTION

In this modern world of the latter part of the 20th century, although high in technological progress, there has been a strong tendency for human beings all over the world to look back into their past history simply to investigate the civilization that once existed and has become the pride and value of human beings. Old buildings and art objects no longer belong to one place or people of one nation but have become the common property of the world, for example, Ankor Wat, or the Great Temple of Abu-Simbel.

The cry for conservation has been met with more and more positive reaction. Progress in conservation principles has come a long way though, from the conservation of the building or buildings alone to the conservation of areas and towns. Which means that the modern principles of conservation embrace not merely questions affecting a single structure or a group of structures related to one another, but it is also concerned with the environment of an isolated building or a group of buildings. Questions of visual appearance from viewpoints near and far, the effect of new and possibly much larger adjustment structures upon an apparent scale and the blocking of views or approaches, all arise in the general context of conservation.

2. AIM

This paper is not an attempt to produce a document that would provide the readers a

perspective of the Thai Conservation of ancient cities. It is hoped, however, that the readers would be able to get an overall view of the works being carried out in Thailand.

More importantly, the problems facing the Thai officials which may or may not be in common with their counterparts in the region of South East Asia, and the proposals attempted as the suggested solutions to those problems are presented.

3. DEVELOPMENT OF THE "CONSERVATION AREA" CONCEPT IN EUROPE

3.1 NETHERLANDS[1] The 1961 Act gives the first look into the group value and points out the designation procedure of the towns and villages.

The definition in the Act on cultural heritage is "Any group of immovable objects (such as roads, streets, squares, bridges, canals, waterways) which, in conjunction with one or more monuments in the group, forms a scene which is of public interest in that it lends beauty to the whole".

Article 15 of the same Act lays down the procedure to be followed : "After consultation with the Monuments Council, the Municipal Council, the Provincial Executive Council and the Permanent Commission for Regional Development, the Ministers of Culture and Housing shall be empowered to designate the towns or villages to be protected. The minister's decision shall be published in the Official Journal of the Netherlands and communicated to the councils concerned".

3.2 INTERNATIONAL GUIDELINE The "Venice Charter", the International Charter for the Conservation and Restoration of Monuments and Sites of 1964 has also laid down the early consideration for the conservation of old cities in Article 1.

"*The concept of a historic monument embraces not only the single architectural work but also the urban or rural setting in which is found the evidence of a particular civilization, a significant development or historic event. This applies not only to great works of art but also to more modest works of the past which have acquired cultural significance with the passing of time*".

3.3 CONSERVATION AREA In Great Britain, the Civic Amenities Act of 1967 made important changes in the law relating to old buildings.

It starts[2] from the realization that the case for keeping an isolated building of outstanding beauty may be lessened if the character of the surrounding area is destroyed. Perhaps no single building may itself rank as a fine work of architecture, intrinsically deserving preservation, but seen together as a group, a number of them may combine in a way which simply demands conservation. It is this concern with protecting the texture of the townscape that is the essence of urban conservation.

The Act itself has four parts, the first of which asked local planning Authorities in England, Scotland and Wales, after consultation with the local Authority, to designate

conservation areas "*the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance.*" Thus the Act makes provision for the first time in Britain for the protection of areas, as distinct from individual buildings of architectural or historic interest.

3.4 EUROPEAN ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE YEAR The year 1975 marked a positive and practical turn for European Conservation when it was announced to be the European Architectural Heritage Year.

Buildings and towns in Europe were selected to be awarded in that year in order to exemplify different aspects of the conservation problem and serve to demonstrate differing techniques and solutions in fitting historic buildings and areas for today's needs.

4. ASIAN CONTRIBUTIONS

In December 1979,[3] Thailand National Commission for UNESCO organised a conference at Phitsanuloke entitled "Meeting in Asia." Experts from 8 countries attended, including Afghanistan, People's Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, and Thailand. At this meeting, the experts discussed the study and planning of a number of historic cities conservation projects which would conserve more than 10 historic sites. Later in September 1982, and in March 1985, the Australian National Committee for ICOMOS and the Sri Lanka National Committee for ICOMOS organised conference at Sydney and Columbo respectively on the topic of "The Conservation of Historic Monuments and Sites." Both of these meetings enabled the sharing of knowledge and experience. In addition to the meeting at Columbo, field observations were made at Sri Lanka's Cultural Triangle Project in the cities of Anurajpura, Polonaluwa and Kandy.

In April 1985 the Institute of Asian Cultures, Sophia University, Japan, arranged a conference at Tokyo, the meeting was entitled "International Symposium on the Study and Preservation of Historic Cities of Southeast Asia." It was pointed out in this meeting that no university in Asia gave training in city conservation principles and techniques and that it was time that universities and institutions concerned with restoration and preservation of cultural properties combined their efforts to create such a training course.

The SEAMEO project in Archaeology and Fine Arts (SPAFA), officially launched in 1978, also aims to operate a training course in the Conservation of Historic Ancient cities for the staffs of member countries in Thailand in 1989 and 1991.

5. THE THAI LEGISLATION AND CHARTER

The Thai Conservation Act in 1961 gives the Director of the Department of Fine Arts full authority to designate and enlist a historic monument, and also to designate a historic area, which means that the concern for the conservation of area in Thailand also dated back to 1961.

In 1984, the Thai Architectural Conservation Charter was issued by the Department of

Fine Arts which is the main official body responsible for conservation works in Thailand. This Charter is in fact the Thai answer to the Venice Charter of 1964.

The charter does not elaborate the term "*Historic Building*" to cover a group of buildings or historic area but refers to the meaning and principles in the Act of 1961.

Article 2.1 gives the aim of the charter as to "*Make clear that the principles and practice of conservation works of building and environment be in accordance with the International Charter and with the Act of 1961.*"

Article 4.19 gives full concern to the landscape and also the physical environment.

6. HISTORICAL PARK

In Thailand, the project for the Conservation of Ancient Cities has been generally known as the "*Historical Park Project.*"

The term "Historical Park" derived from the first project in modern time to be thought of and carried out systematically–the Sukhothai Historical Park. For Sukhothai is known, from the Sukhothai stone inscription No. 1[4] to have forest of various kinds of trees in the capital city and the interpretation is that – Sukhothai was a Garden City, and hence "Historical Park."

The term "Historical Park" becomes common in reference to the conservation of the group of buildings, or immovable objects, or area. It means, in the Thai sense, "*the conservation of the monuments and sites which bear quality of a group value with clear definition of the project area.*"

7. ANCIENT CITIES AND SETTLEMENTS IN THAILAND

In their early settlements, it has been known that men had chosen the most fertile land for their settlements and by exploiting nature in agricultural process and farming they lived their lives, and from there civilization began: along the Niles, Tigris–Euphrates or Ganges etc., and in Thailand, along the Chao Phraya River of the central plain, the Ping River of the north and the Chi and the Mun Rivers of the north–eastern plateau and so forth.

Ancient cities and ancient settlements have been found in various parts of the country, for example, in Isan[5] (north–eastern plateau), in the north, and in the central plain.

Isan, the north–eastern region of Thailand, assumes 17 provinces consisting of one third of the nation's area and one third of its population. This great plateau is roughly square in shape and is traversed by two important rivers the Chi and the Mun, which rise from the mountains in the west and join together shortly before flowing into the Mae Khong east of Ubon Province.

Isan is a mine of art and culture dating from prehistoric time. Evidence[6] of human activity is clear that six or seven thousand years ago the inhabitants had a relatively high degree of social organization and were already cultivating rice.

It is in Isan that we find the earliest evidence of village societies and technological advancement in Thailand. To date, 159 ancient cities have been found.

But in the Chao Phraya Plain which is situated in the central region of Thailand extending 500 km. north of the Gulf of Thailand with 125 km. width at the base, 63 ancient cities so far have been found.[7] According to the archaeological documents, these cities have been identified as belonging to the Dvaravati period 6th–11th century A.D. This indicates that the Chao Phraya Plain has been a civilized region since the early time.

In the northern region, from the aerial–photos and by land survey, 203 old settlements and ancient cities have been found. Only 5 percent of them, though, have been excavated.

In the south, 64 old settlements and ancient cities have been found. Of these, only 15 archaeological excavations have been undertaken.

8. CONSERVATION WORKS IN THAILAND

8.1 ADMINISTRATION The Department of Fine Arts, the main governmental body directly responsible for conservation works in Thailand, is under the Ministry of Education.

The Department has 10 divisions, of all these divisions, conservation works fall into the hand of the Division of Archaeology and the Division of Architecture.

The Archaeological Division again has 9 Fine Arts Units spreading all over the country.

1st Fine Arts Unit is in Ayudhya
2nd Fine Arts Unit is in Supanburi
3rd Fine Arts Unit is in Sukhothai
4th Fine Arts Unit is in Chiengmai
5th Fine Arts Unit is in Cha–Choengsao
6th Fine Arts Unit is in Nakonratchasima
7th Fine Arts Unit is in Khon–Kan
8th Fine Arts Unit is in Nakornsidharmaraj
9th Fine Arts Unit is in Songkhla

8.2 FINANCE The National Social and Economic Development Plan is a 5–year–phase plan. At present Thailand is in the 1st year of the 6th Master Plan which spans from 1987–1991. The 6th Master Plan expresses great concern over the conservation of the nation's cultural heritage.

In the fiscal year 1987, the national budget is 230,000 million baht, or approximately US $ 9,200 million. Budget allocation to the Ministry of Education is 4,400 million baht (US $ 176 million) while the allocation to the Department of Fine Arts is 300 million baht (US $ 12 million). Conservation budget is 76 million baht (US $ 3 million).

8.3 HISTORICAL PARK PROJECTS All the historic sites are maintained, managed and taken care of by the historical park section, the Division of Archaeology and the Division of Architecture in the Fine Arts Department which control and are responsible for the process of developing historic monuments and sites into appropriate evidence of cultural heritage. This will then lead to the realization of the nation's cultural heritage

and also help promote the economy of the people around the country through tourism industry.

Looking into these historical park projects, one can see that most of the projects are directly related to historic towns and many of them are the conservation of significant religious monuments in historic settlements. In these latter cases, there may be few traces of the settlements left due to the deterioration over a period of time.

The projects are as follows:–

8.3.1 Sukhothai Historical Park Development Project
8.3.2 Ayudhya Historical Park Project
8.3.3 Panom Rung Historical Park Project
8.3.4 Srisatchanalai Historical Park Project
8.3.5 Muang Singh Historical Park Project
8.3.6 Pimai Historical Park Project
8.3.7 Kampaengpetch Historical Park Project
8.3.8 Srithep Historical Park Project
8.3.9 Phranakorn Kiri Historical Park Project

9. CONSERVATION IN SUKHOTHAI

Sukhothai is the first Thai Kingdom with clear evidence in existence. It was founded during the middle of the 13th century A.D. and lasted about 200 years before being ruled under Ayudhya.

During her golden days, Sukhothai was the centre of Buddhism of the Ceylonese Sect which spreaded to the neighbouring kingdoms such as Lanna and Lan Chang. Sukhothai Buddhist Arts remains influential over the subsequent art styles in Thailand, particularly the Buddha image.

The old town of Sukhothai is situated in the province of Sukhothai 12 km. on the west of the new town, and 560 km. from Bangkok. The town is rectangular, approximately 1,400 metres wide and 1,800 metres long, surrounded with three rings of earthen ramparts. Between each rampart then exists a moat of 20 metres wide.

9.1 CONSERVATION HISTORY Before 1977 Sukhothai has been twice restored.[8] The first restoration was carried out between 1953–1955 and covered 19 historic monuments, its aim was to restore only the outstanding ones such as Wat Mahathat, Wat Sri Chum. But technically speaking, the restoration was a hasty work and carried out with less regard to the archaeological evidences.

Another gate, for example, was added to the front wall of Wat Mahathat, while the remaining evidence prior to the restoration suggested only one main gate.[9]

The second restoration was undertaken between 1965–1969. It is worth noting that the Conservation Board was set up and the chairman of the Board was the then Prime Minister, Field Marshal Thanom Kitikachorn. The Conservation Board approved a proposed plan prepared by the Department of Fine Arts to carry out the excavation and restoration works at Sukhothai, Srisatchanalai and Kampaengpetch.

The second restoration carried out at Sukhothai covered 35 historic monuments. With

experience from the first restoration the second one was undertaken with better technique and understanding. Documentation and photographic recordings were also made during the course of the excavation and the restoration work, and a report was published in 1969.

9.2 SUKHOTHAI HISTORICAL PARK DEVELOPMENT PROJECT The historic area of Sukhothai city covers the area of 40,000 rai (16,000 acres) with 180 historic structures. The area was registered by the Fine Arts Department as a government protected zone on the 2nd of August 1961. This was-also announced in Volume 12, Part 112 of the Royal Gazette on June 12th, 1975.

9.2.1 IMPLEMENTATION The actual conservation project, the first one to be carried out systematically, started in 1977; the official name is "Sukhothai Historical Park Development Project." The aims of the project are to revive the historical atmosphere of the ancient city by preserving and restoring ancient edifices, reviving the landscape, improving communication systems and developing the community.

THE MASTER PLAN The master plan for the project was drafted in 1977 requiring a wide range of experts of various disciplines from many institutions such as the Fine Arts Department, the Military Mapping Department, the Land Development Department, Silpakorn University, Chulalongkorn University, Thammasat University, the Office of Policy and Planning (Ministry of Interior) and so forth.

The master plan, designed to coincide with the National Economic and Social Development Plan commencing from phase 4 plan (1977 – 1981), laid down the study and proposals in these areas.

1. *Present Condition in Ancient Sukhothai* :
   - Present state of the ancient monuments and sites
   - Landscape
   - Land use
   - Public facilities and utilities
   - Water resources
   - Economy and sociology of the old city
   - Tourism development
2. *The Study and the proposals* :
   - The restoration and preservation of the ancient structures and sites
   - Landscape development plan
   - Village renewal and resettlement
   - Tourism development programme
   - Promoting economy through increased job opportunities
   - Setting up public facilities and utilities
3. *Administration* :
   - Project expenses
   - Investment returns
   - Outline of managements

9.2.2 THAILAND AND UNESCO Conservation works started slowly and in 1979 the co-operation between Thailand and UNESCO to develop Sukhothai was announced with the aims to :

1. Undertake the conservation and restoration of the historic monuments.

2. Build up the landscape so as to bear the similarity of the Sukhothai landscape as described in the stone inscription No. 1.

3. Develop the urban areas into well organized areas with reference to the stone inscription No. 1.

4. Increase local income and local tourism and create more job opportunities.

5. Arrange proper utilities and facilities.

9.2.3 FINANCE Budget allocation for Sukhothai Historical Park Development Project during 1977–1986 was 108,000,000 baht (US$ 4,520,000). In 1987, budget allocation is 32,000,000 baht (US$ 1,280,000).

9.2.4 WORK IN PROGRESS During the course of the conservation work in 1977–1986, about 80 percent of the historic structures (or 144 historic buildings) have already been restored, along with the development of 13,200 rai of land (approximately 5,280 acres). The conservation work is scheduled to be completed in 1987.

9.2.5 PROBLEMS In the Technical Report[10] carried out by the Fine Arts Department in 1981, the following problems were pointed out :

1. Ineffective bureaucratic system resulted in the delay of payment which inturn delayed the restoration work.

2. Insufficient personnels and technicians to carry out the works.

3. Shortage of supply of the building materials.

4. Ancient bricks have been misused by local people out of the original context for their private buildings and also by the people responsible for restoration works in the area. When conservation works to be carried out require ancient bricks in large quantities, the supply of them become lacking.

5. The reconstruction of old bricks into the original form of the structure is problematic because most of the bricks are half broken.

6. The quality of strength of new bricks is far less than that of the old ones.

7. Careless craftsmanship affects the strength of bonding

8. Disproportion in allocation of finance between excavation works and restoration work. The restoration work received less budget while there were more problems and required more materials in the course of restoration work.

9. Lack of co-operation from local people because the works run against their interests.

10. Growth of big trees on the monuments have caused great structural deterioration.

11. Harsh climatic condition such as monsoon rain is the main cause of deterioration and ruins the details of ornamentation. Because the buildings were normally built of laterite, bricks (70 percent) with clay bonding and decorated by plastered stucco, they were sensitive to harsh condition.

9.2.6 SUMMARY The Sukhothai conservation is worth studying, it started from

the lack of understanding of the conservation concept in the first restoration work (1953–1955) and later on in 1955-1959, the second one had been carried out with greater care. The present project is, more or less, of international interest and has been undertaken with more international system and yet more problems remained to be discussed and to be solved.

10. AYUDHYA HISTORICAL PARK PROJECT

Ayudhya, an island city, was the capital of the Thai Kingdom for 417 years from the time when King Rama Thibodi I (King U-Tong) founded the capital city of Ayudhya in 1350 until it was destroyed by the Burmese in 1767.

In its golden days, Ayudhya was prosporous economically and culturally. The best evidences are the ruins of the palaces and temples on the island, There were also evidences of foreign communities such as Portugese, Japanese, etc.

The conservation work initiated in the time of King Rama IV included the conservation of some parts of the palace which were not yet completed when he died.

King Rama V, in 1907, gave an order to Phraya Boran Rajthani for the excavation of the Royal Palace and also to reserve the Island of Ayudhya as the nation's public property.

In 1956, under the premiership of Field Marshal P. Pibulsongkram and by his order, many historic monuments had been restored, but no documentation was made.

In 1969, the Fine Arts Department again started the conservation project. The project was later on managed as the Historical Park Project since 1977. The available fund from 1977–1986 was 50,000,000 baht (US$ 2,020,000).

The aim of the project was to preserve the art (architecture, sculpture, painting) and archaeology of Ayudhya period, to induce the Thai people to be value-conscious of the nation's cultural heritage and also to help promote the economy in the rural area.

The conservation and restoration project which had been done was the conservation of the historic monuments on the Island of Ayudhya especially the historic monuments in the old royal palace. The process consisted of the conserving, surveying and excavating the historic monuments on the site and its surrounding.

The work to be done during the year 1987 - 1989 will be the landscaping of the site and the setting up of its infrastructure. The project is scheduled to be completed in 1990.

11. PHANOM RUNG HISTORICAL PARK PROJECT

A major Hindu shrine, Phanom Rung was probably built between the 10th and 13th century A.D. It stands on top of an extinct volcano in Burirum, 400 km. north east of Bangkok. The monument is 380 metres above sea level and some 190 metres above the plain.

The area immediately around the mountain is a fertile land with traces of ancient settlements and several ancient monuments. This is an indication that the area might be an important community in the past.

The many structures at the site appear to have been gradually added over along period. Two brick towers, one facing east and the other facing south, appear to be the earliest structures dating from the 10th century A.D.

The main sandstone tower should be dated from the early 12th century. Other structures were added in the 13th century.

The shrine was found in a vandalized condition due to looting including the use of dynamite. The restoration, using anastylosis method, undertaken under the auspices of UNESCO with the supervision of Prof. Prince Yachai Jitrapong and his aids Bernard Groslier and Pierre Richard, both of UNESCO, has been underway since 1971. For the fiscal years of 1977 – 1986 a budget of 23,000,000 baht (US $ 920,000) was allocated.

The remaining work includes the renovation of the western and northern galleries, the excavation of the royal buildings, landscaping and relocation of an unofficial monastery. The project is scheduled to be completed in 1989.

12. SRISATCHANALAI HISTORICAL PARK PROJECT

Srisatchanalai was contemporaneous with Sukhothai. It was constructed in 13th century A.D. on the west bank of the Yom River 620 km. north of Bangkok. The city plan was an irregular rectangle. There were three concentric city walls. The inner wall was built of laterite blocks, the middle and outer walls of earth. Moats were found between each wall.

Srisatchanalai was the biggest center of the earthenware industry in Southeast Asia between the 13th and 16th century A.D. During the Ayudhya period the city was renamed Sawan Kalok. At present it is a district in Sukhothai Province.

Restoration has been undertaken during different periods of time. However, effort has been intensified since 1983 with a budget allocation of 9,500,000 baht (US $ 380,000) for the years 1983 to 1986. The work lying ahead consists of survey and excavation, the re-designing of roads and moats, electrification, restoration of 35 temples, and maintenance and upkeep. The project is scheduled for completion in 1990.

13. MUANG SINGH HISTORICAL PARK PROJECT

Muang Singh is situated on the bank of Khwae Noi in Kanchanaburi Province which is approximately 130 km. west of Bangkok.

The inner city wall is of laterite forming a rectangle 810 metres broad and 1,000 metres long, the southern wall being concave as it follows the bank of the river. The other three sides form straight lines and are augmented by seven earthen outer ramparts on each side, mostly destroyed but still visible at some points.

Within the boundary of the inner wall there are 4 groups of ruins.

Almost exactly in the centre of the rectangular walls stands the main temple, facing east. A short distance to the northeast of the main temple's walls is another ruined laterite structure; stone bases of religious images were found here.

Two groups of ruins lie close to the southern wall but their functions have yet to be identified.

In summary, Muang Singh is a "Pura" or "Temple–City" employing cosmological symbolism to form and control a community, perhaps reflecting Cambodian influence, symbolism as such is typical of Cambodian cities.

Dating of the city was based on the Mahayan Buddhist sculptures found at the site. They were dated to the Bayon Period of Cambodian art, corresponding to the reign of King Jayavarman VII in the late 12th to early 13th century.

Muang Singh is the only Khmer style building in the west of Thailand. The restoration work started in 1974 and from the fiscal years of 1982–1986 a budget of 12,500,000 baht (US $ 500,000) was allocated. The budget for 1987 was 12,000,000 baht.

The restoration had been undertaken by the Division of Archaeology and the Division of Architecture, Department of Fine Arts. It was completed and the opening ceremony took place on the 3rd of April, 1987.

14. PIMAI HISTORICAL PARK PROJECT

Pimai is the biggest ancient monument built of sandstone ever found in Thailand. It is situated in Nakon–Ratchasima Province, 300 km. north–east of Bangkok.

Pimai was probably constructed during the reign of Suriyavarman I. This Mahayan Buddhist Temple is thought to predate Ankor Wat[11] in Cambodia, with which it has some similarities. The monuments, though, faces south.

The group of edifices are surrounded by the walls which form a rectangular. Within the walls boundary stand 3 Prangs with another building which probably was a library.

The first restoration work, which was for the principal prang, was undertaken between 1964 and 1968 under the auspices of SEATO, especially France.

The Department of Fine Arts conducted various restorations from 1981 to 1983 and also in 1986. The total budget allocation was 4,500,000 baht (US $ 180,000).

The work completed includes excavation of 10 sites, solidifying structure of 10 sites, maintenance of the monument, renovation of the enclosure wall, excavation of gates and 55 rai (22 acres) of land development.

The remaining work includes the maintenance and upkeep of the monument, environmental development, electrification and the installation of water work.

The restoration aims at land development, technical excavation and environmental development in order to promote education and tourism. Also there would be a spread of income to local people and our cultural heritage can be preserved. The completion of the whole project is scheduled for 1987.

15. KAMPAENGPETCH HISTORICAL PARK PROJECT

Originally known as Chakangrao, Kampaengpetch was built around 1257–1357 A.D. and was an important city during the Sukhothai period along with Srisatchanalai and Pitsanulok, as well an important gateway town in the Ayudhya and Thonburi periods.

The community centre of Kampaengpetch was originally on the east and west banks of the Ping River. On the west was Nakornchum with a quadrangular town plan and on the east was Muang Kampaeng. The ancient sites on both banks have deteriorated over a period of time with unwanted trees and weeds growing wild on the ancient structures. Encroachment, trespassing, and modern development together with thieves, robbers and vandals also exacerbate the conditions. The Department of Fine Arts has been concerned with this matter and began preliminary studies for the restoration projects since 1980 under the budget of 11,500,000 baht (US $ 460,000).

The works so far undertaken, apart from setting up temporary administrative office and warehouse, 14 excavation sites both inside and outside the city walls have been worked on, the ancient city moat cleared and redeveloped, 4 historic places have been restored, surveys conduct for 3 restoration projects inside the city and 10 projects outside the city, footpaths redeveloped, ancient structures in the vicinity of Wat Prathat, the chapel of Wat Prasi Ariyabot and Wat Pra Kaeo have been restored together with the general relandscaping.

The next tasks would be maintenance, repair 6 kms. of the ancient roads, and general clearing over an area of 500 rai (200 acres).

16. SRITHEP HISTORICAL PARK PROJECT

Srithep is situated in Petchabun Province, 346 km. north of Bangkok. It has a size and characteristics of a buffer state or a thoroughfare state to the northern, eastern and central regions in its time. The ancient artifacts have been found to be in the style of Tvaravati and Khmer thus indicating that it used to be colonised back and forth under change of hands around the period of 7th–13th century A.D.

The city walls form the rectangular 2,000 metres long and 1,300 metres wide. Within the boundary of the walls 73 monuments have been found so far and outside the walls 28 have been found. The evidences remind one of the importance of the town although its past history has yet to be established.

However, the role of the city in the past is still debatable and excavations to find further evidence of the ways of life and artistic styles must be continued. The main approach in this project is therefore academically oriented, and the conservation of historic places is to be carried out together with archaeological finds.

The work began in 1982 with a budget of 3,200,000 baht (US $ 128,000) during 1983–1986.

The work so far undertaken concerns the study for a master plan, excavation and restoration of the twin stupas as well as analysing the artifacts discovered together with clearing and maintenance of the area within the boundary of the walls.

The next task is continuing the maintenance, setting up the park's administrative office and continue further archaeological studies.

17. PRANAKORN KIRI HISTORICAL PARK PROJECT

Pranakorn Kiri is the name of the suburban palace complex which was built by King Rama IV (1851–1868 A.D.) It is situated on Maha Sawan hill (Great Heaven hill) or known by the common of Khao Wang (Mountainous Palace) in Petchburi Province, 177 km. south of Bangkok.

The name "*Pranakorn Kiri*" which means the mountainous capital, is suited to its context since Pranakorn Kiri is in fact a miniature town which is comprised of 49 buildings with various sizes and functions, spreading throughout three peaks of 240 acres of the hilly area.

Some of the historic buildings are as follows :

1. Petchpum Pairoj Palace (The Grand Palace)

2. Pramoj Mahaisawan Palace (The Queen's Palace)

3. Wetchayan Vichien Prasat Hall (Royal Status Hall)

4. Rajathamma Sapa Hall (Royal Assembly Hall)

5. Chatchawan Wiengchai Observatory, etc.

Since the death of King Rama IV in 1868, the palace was seldom used by the later kings so that maintenance work has been gradually decreased since that time. Although there were several minor repairs carried out in 1883, 1910, 1954 and 1960 respectively, it was only the buildings in the Grand Palace compound which were repaired. On the other hand buildings which included a number of pavillions and temple have been neglected for over a hundred years.

The conservation project started in 1982. From 1983–1986 budget allocation was 21,000,000, baht or US $ 840,000 and 7,000,000 baht or US $ 280,000 in 1987. To date, 40 historic structures have been restored with a schedule of the work to be completed by 1988.

18. PROBLEMS

18.1 ADMINISTRATION

1. Excessive bureaucratic system affects the working process, such as payment, employment of temporary employees.

2. Lack of efficient co–operation among the central body in Bangkok and the working groups in the province.

18.2 FINANCE

1. Insufficient financing

18.3 PERSONNEL

1. Excessive undertaking in relation to the size of the working body.

2. Lack of technicians and professionals from other disciplines to support.

3. More trained technicians are needed.

18.4 SOCIAL PROBLEMS

1. The problems of squatters trespassing on the project areas such as Sukhothai, Pimai, etc.

2. Isolated project locations such as Srithep and Kampaengpetch are often vandalised and robbed.

18.5 TECHNICAL PROBLEMS

1. Conservation and Restoration is a sensitive matter. Hasty undertakings can end up in technical faults.

2. Technical knowledge on the conservation of each traditional building materials and craftsmanship has yet to be systematically established.

19. PROPOSALS

19.1 ADMINISTRATION

1. It is essential, and worth noting that, since the conservation of cities and/or settlements is a multidisciplinary work, the person in charge of the project should realize that his role is that of a co-ordinator with good experience and good human relationship nature.

2. More co-operation among the policy makers, project co-ordinators and personnels is expected.

3. Revision of regulations and procedure should be undertaken to encourage the more effective system.

19.2 FINANCE

1. There should be more co-operation between personnels responsible for the projects and the policy makers so as to be able to design proper plan and budget allocation.

19.3 PERSONNEL

1. Arrangement of a training course is desirable to train personnel in the specific field.

2. Budget allocation to increase personnels has to be carried out.

19.4 SOCIOLOGY

1. Encourage more public relation works and more co-operation among project personnels and local people and officers.

2. Value of the cultural heritage has to be fully understood by local people and local officers, particularly through public relation works.

3. Notification of the definite conservation area should be made to be easily seen and understood.

4. Arrangement of the more appropriate area for the squatters is to be carried out.

19.5 TECHNIQUE

Encourage more studies on the traditional building materials and traditional craftsmanship.

20. CONCLUSION

The legislation relating to historic places and monuments in Thailand in fact dated back to 1923, but implementation was rather slow. It was about 30 years since then before the first Sukhothai restoration (1953–1955) took place, and 54 years before the Sukhothai Historical Development Project started.

The conservation of the city is by far a more complex task than the conservation of a historic structure. In carrying out the conservation works, it requires the co-operation of a wide range of disciplinarians such as historians, architects, planners, economists, engineers, sociologists, and so forth, with an efficient administrative staff. Besides, the problems and the methodology have to be fully understood.

The concept of conservation in Thailand is still much in debate. There are still differences in thoughts particularly among some people responsible for the conservation works and some scholars.

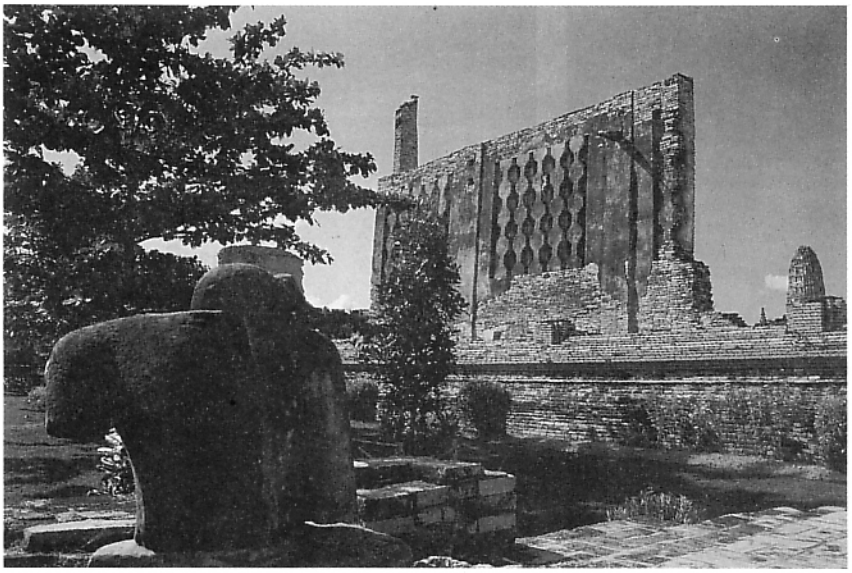
Problems arisen from conservation works in Thailand could be a good lesson, not only to Thailand but also to our neighbouring countries and for the benefit of conservation works as a whole.



ภาพที่ ๑
วัดมหาธาตุ 2522



ภาพที่ ๒
วัดมหาธาตุ 2530



ภาพที่ ๓
วัดมหาธาตุ 2525



ภาพที่ 4
วัดราชบูรณะ 2530



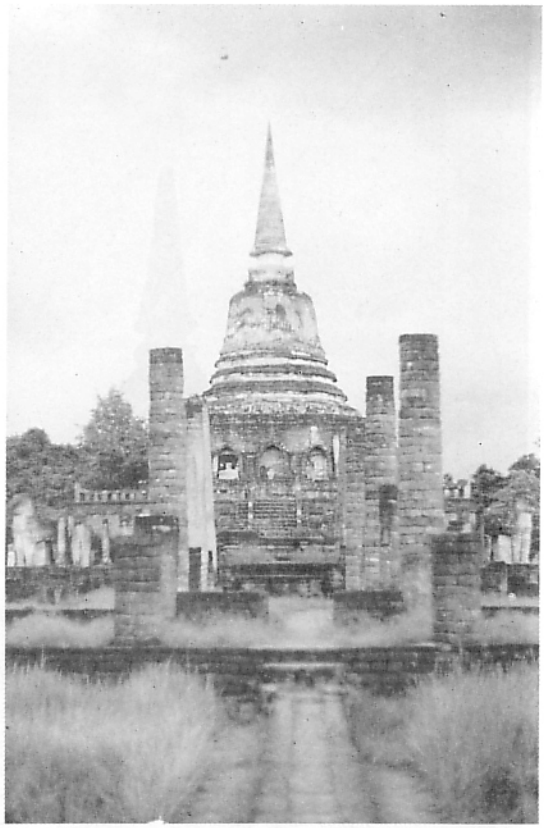
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ภาพที่ 6
ปราสาทหินพนมรุ้ง 2524



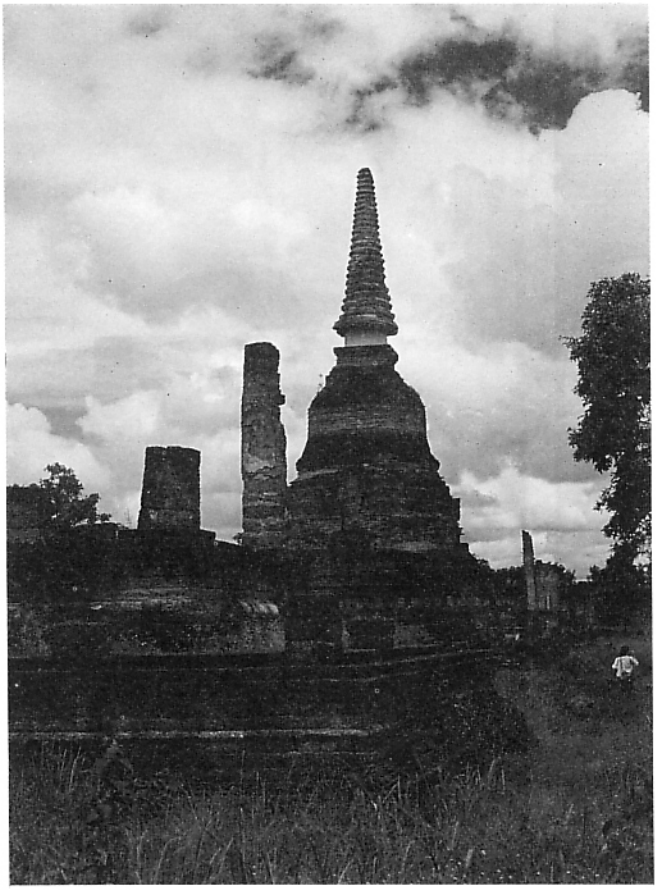
ภาพที่ 7
ปราสาทหินพนมรุ้ง 2524



ภาพที่ 8
วัดช้างล้อม ศรีสัชนาลัย 2522



ภาพที่ 9
วัดช้างล้อม
ศรีสัชนาลัย 2530



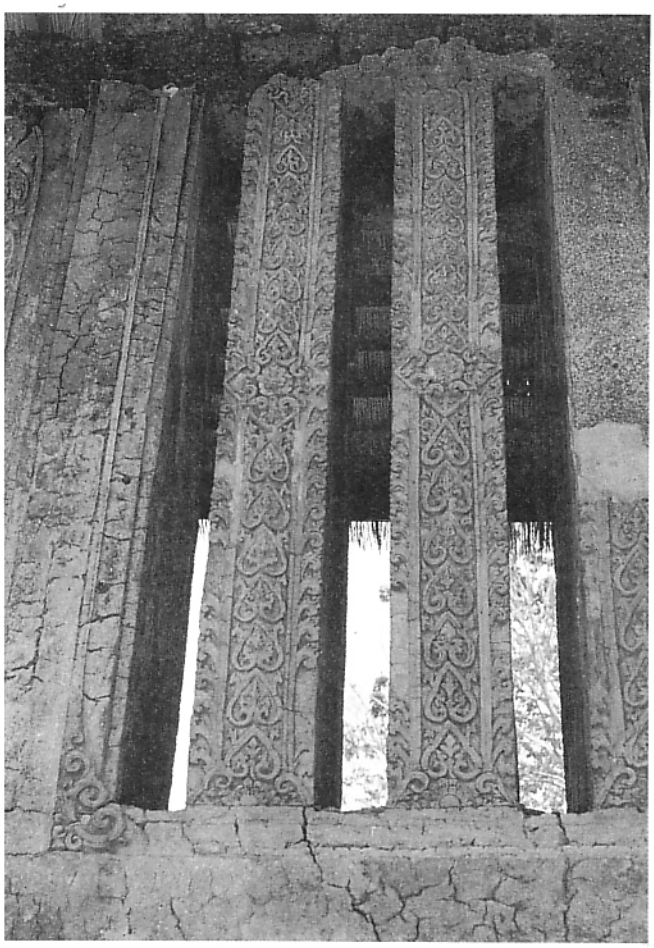
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ภาพที่ 11
วัดนางพญา
2522



ภาพที่ 12
วัดนางพญา
ศรีสัชนาลัย
2530



ภาพที่ 13
วัดนางพญา ศรีสัชนาลัย 2530



ภาพที่ 14
ปราสาทเมืองสิงห์ 2523



ภาพที่ 15
ปราสาทเมืองสิงห์ 2523



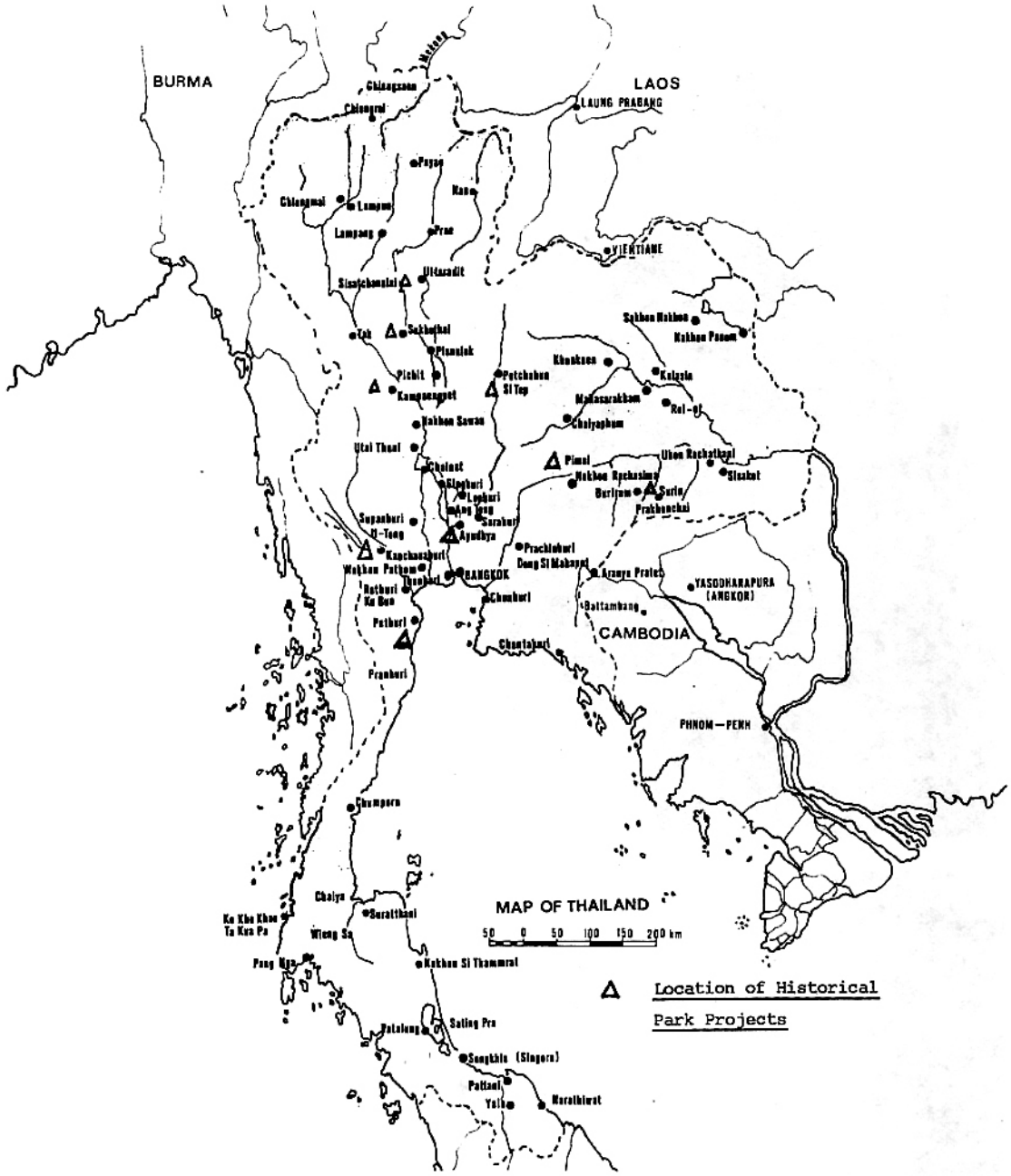
ภาพที่ 16
ปราสาทหินพิมาย
2524



ภาพที่ 17
ปราสาทหินพิมาย 2524

ภาพที่ 18
ปราสาทหินพิมาย 2524





ภาพที่ 19

ตำแหน่งที่ตั้งโครงการอุทยานประวัติศาสตร์ในประเทศไทย

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