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URBAN PLANNING

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BORDER TOWN / HUAY KHON

CHANYA POTGANATAREE : GUIDE-LINES ON BORDER TOWN DEVELOPMENT  
PLANNING : A CASE STUDY AT HUAY KHON AREA, NAN PROVINCE.  
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An objective of this study is to propose guidelines on border development planning at Huay Khon area which is located on the north of Nan province. This border check point works now as a commercial gateway connecting with Laos PDR and other countries. To be more successful border town, the study found that an area can still be fully developed from its potential as well as the promotion from Thailand 's development policy.

According to the study, there are many reasons why Huay Khon will be a successful border town in the near future. First of all, the advantage of location, connecting with production areas and resource areas via the transportation network leads its role as the outstanding connection point in commerce, investment and tourism among Thailand, northern Laos PDR, and Vietnam Southern China. In addition, Huay Khon is very close to Luang Phra Bang, the old capital city of Laos and a new world 's heritage, and Pak Bang, the nearest Mekhong 's river port. Besides peaceful border situation, they have the similar originality in social and culture, bases the planned cooperation commerc and political policy, besides peaceful border situation. These lead to the enthusiastic co-operation especially commercial and tourism development policy between both countries. Last of all, Huay Khon is one of the border town which is promoted to be a commercial gateway of the border development project of the 8<sup>th</sup> Thailand development plan. Therefore, many infrastructure development projects are being invested there. These urge private sector on investment, increase jobs and economic opportunities, and the poor people in this border area should lastly have better quality of life. However, there are also some disadvantages of Huay Khon which will be considered in this study as follows : (1) being a mountainous area of the national reservation forest and (2) low economic performance of Laos PDR which will effect the border town development policy of Thai side.

To serving a successful gateway and encouraging tourism in the future between Nan province, Luang Phra Bang and other related areas. This study proposes the guidelines of development plan for Huay Khon border area by emphasizing a well-prepared infrastructure, border facilities and growing community which base on its potentials and beware the impacts on the natural resources and environment of both countries.

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