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WILAWAN PHAMORNSUWAN : COASTAL DEVELOPMENT GUIDELINES FOR
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The research aims to recommend the guidelines for Samut Songkhram Coastal Development by taking the potential of the area which are likely to be developed efficiently and appropriately in the future into account.

Locating on the mouth of Mae Klong River and coastline Samut Songkhram endows with various resources which are major basic factors for economic development. In the past, the area was used for development activities such as agriculture, industry and aquaculture. The aquaculture is major activity causing the change of the coastal environment and becomes the major problem affecting other resources utilization and development activities.

From analyzing the problems which are taken place in Samut Songkhram coastal area, it is found that majority of the problems are related to the deteriorated natural resources and environment deterioration problems, Water resources is considered to be the major problem of this area. The problem occurred severely in the lower part of Amphoe Muang and Amphoe Amphawa and declined in the upper part of the province.

As a result, The coastal development of Samut Songkhram should be focused on the natural resources and coastal environment renewal as the first priority. It should be noted that water is the most important resource to be emphasized. The major activities suggested are, surface water treatment, allocation of consuming water supply and water supply for agricultural activities, and salinity treatment. Solving these problems will cut down the cycle of other problems and effect in the area. At the same time, other development activities can be continued. However, they consistent should be with the natural resource and coastal environment conservation policies mentioned in order to bring efficiency to the coastal development and achieve the development goals in the future.