

ABSTRACT

**Thesis Title : The Geographic Factors Affecting Hamlet Expansion
In Boraped Lake Area , Changwat Nakhon-sawan**

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Degree Sought : Master of Science

Major : Geography

Advisory Committee :

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Study on the geographic factors affecting hamlets expansions in vicinity of the Boraped Lake in Nakhon Sawan Province was carried out from 1995 to 1997. The objectives are to identify and analyse related geographic factors that influence small community expansion in the vicinity of the lake and to suggest appropriate strategies in protection of land encroachment and wetland resource conservation. The Boraped Lake is considered as one of the most important wetland in Thailand. It plays an important role in supporting species diversity of aquatic flora and fauna and having a complex and important food web. The Boraped Lake has been established to increase water storage level and enhance fish production.

Data were analysed under four categories including correlation analysis among settlement factors affecting community expansion, assessment on sedimentation of suspended solids on yearly changes in shore-line and water surface area of the lake at the storage level, and airphoto interpretation for land use monitoring in years 1955,

1968, 1991 and 1995. It can be concluded that important geographic factors affecting the community expansion in the Boraped Lake include expanding alluvial floodplain areas, empty land and transportation routes. At the present storage level, the sedimentation rate of the lake is expected to increase in the future. Some suggestions are given for future applications in planning on sustainable development of water resource and land use.