

C535716 MAJOR URBAN PLANNING

KEY WORD: URBAN DEVELOPMENT/VIENTIANE/BRIDGE

BOUNMAK KHOUNPHOM : DEVELOPMENT GUIDELINES FOR VIENTIANE IN
RELATION TO THE EFFECTS OF THE MITTRAPHAB BRIDGE. THESIS

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The objective of this research is to study development guidelines for Vientiane in order to deal with various changes and effects from the construction of the Mittraphab bridge linking Vientiane and Nongkhai which in accordance with Lao government's policy in opening up for foreign investment and with Thai government's policy in opening up trade to Indochina. The thesis also studies the way to spread development from the capital to the regions in order to obtain balanced development and to provide the regions with maximum advantages from the construction of this Mittraphab bridge.

The study found that the Mittraphab bridge played a vital role in expansion of Vientiane's economy at a greater rate; especially the increase in foreign investment and expansion of tourist industry, service and trade. The supporting and enhancing factors were the location of the capital which was in the central area of the country and had plentiful natural resources and low labor wage. Infrastructure of the capital was better than those of other regions causing economic activities to focus on the capital. This resulted in physical, social and cultural changes and rapid increase in population. The important problem was inadequate infrastructure that could not satisfy the economic growth and rapid construction of houses and buildings.

The problem of development which focused only in the capital was stemmed from economic growth provided by this bridge. The future trend is that the benefit from investment expansion will be centered at the capital more than other region. This kind of development made Vientiane a terminal station rather than a junction which would have spread investment to other regions of the country. At present, there are inadequate infrastructure in regional areas of the country, and this is an obstacle to distribution of growth. However, this bridge was one of the factors that speeded up development of communication and transportation network into external regions and connected conveniently with network of neighbouring countries than ever before. The extent of the effects of the Mittraphab bridge that have happened and will be happening on Vientiane and the regions depends on cooperation in development of the two countries as well as economic cooperation among countries of the Mekong subregion.

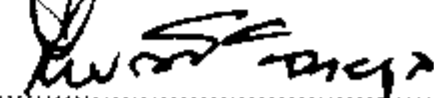
The findings of the study suggest that development scheme of Vientiane should stress conservation of ancient capital areas and promote development of city areas which can be expanded with proper size and direction and concern about the environment. Development of regional areas and major cities is suggested in order to distribute growth from the capital to the regions in a well-balanced fashion. Regional development must suit potential of each individual region and communication network which links with those of neighbouring countries other than Thailand; Vietnam, Cambodia and Southern China. This is to enhance potential of the country to be communication and transportation center of the countries in Mekong subregion.

ภาควิชา.....การวางแผนภาคและเมือง

สาขาวิชา.....การวางผังเมือง

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