

This study and development planning was carried out with the aims to examine the present condition and future trends of Amphoe Ko Phangan (specifically in Ko Phangan, consist of Tambon Ko Phangan and Tambon Ban Tai) in environmental and socio-economical aspects, and to propose for appropriate development plans.

The result of the study revealed that Ko Phangan has a rich amount of natural resources but not being properly utilized. Most of people involve in agriculture, especially coconut growing and fisheries and supplement their income by raising animals in their households or by taking labour works. Trade and services are the rapidly expanding occupation due to increasing in tourism.

Currently important problems of Ko Phangan include illegal deforestation, improper utilization of natural resources, inadequate water for consumption and irrigation, inefficient productivity, inadequate infrastructure and services. Per capita income was relatively low and not well-distributed, resulting in high level of migration. Moreover, tourism in Ko Phangan at present is expanding rapidly without proper direction and conservative measures for ideal environment.

However, Ko Phangan has high potentials for economic development under proper management of the resources, including potentials for expansion and increases in agricultural productivity and tourism.

The study suggested that Ko Phangan should be developed as and agricultural community with high productivity, being self-reliant at certain level, and natural place of tourist attraction in passive atmosphere, while maintaining its identity, natural environment that is in accordance with the local cultures. The proposed development plans are land use plan for conservation and appropriate development, agricultural productivity development plan, infrastructure and service development plan, water resource development plan, tourism development plan and organization improvement plan for higher efficiency and greater community participation. A committee should be organized to plan and control for land uses and tourism development with the existing laws or passing the new one for enforcement as necessary.