

C035115 : MAJOR URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING

KEY WORD : COMMUNITY PATTERN AND LANDUSE/THE LOWER MAEGLONG FLOOD PLAIN

JANTANEE LERTJINDASUP : A STUDY OF COMMUNITY PATTERN AND LANDUSE
OF THE LOWER MAEGLONG FLOOD PLAIN : CASE STUDIES OF AMPHOE MUANG
SAMUT SONGKHRAM, AMPHAWA, BANG KHONTHI AND DAMNOEN SADUAK. THESIS
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The objective of this study is to achieve better understanding about the community pattern and landuse. To identify the problems in the area in order to propose the guidelines for the development. To be a source for further study.

The study reveals that agrarian society is the most outstanding character of the community pattern and landuse of the lower Maealong flood plain, which was an estuarine community. The patterns of the communities can be categorized into three groups; fruit orchard, fishing and paddy farming. Fruit orchard farming community, which expresses the unique of the central flood plain, is the most important pattern. The way of life depends mainly upon waterways i.e. rivers and canals, and represents conventional Thai culture. At present, all communities in the area have been affected by the country's development according to the 'NICS' policies. These result make the landuse changed and cause economic, social and ecosystem problems, especially the agricultural production system affected. The production system in the fruit orchard can be divided into two types; the intensive commercial agriculture adopted by the fruit orchard farmers in Damnoensaduak, and the conventional agriculture adopted by coconut orchard farmers in Samutsongkhram. Rapid growth of intensive shrimp farmings deteriorate mangrove forest and ecosystem in fishing community. Paddy farming community is gradually converted to fruit orchard farming community.

The development guideline in accordance with the results of study is that natural-processed farming which can provide reasonable benefit is necessary in order to restore the ecosystem and conserve the character of conventional estuarine communities. Furthermore, household industries related to agriculture, and activities in waterways, such as water transportation and floating market, should be encouraged.

Water management is the most important issue in the development of the area; both in irrigation system and dealing of salt water and polluted water from outside the area. Moreover, to help fishing communities and create a balance of the off-shore ecosystem, restoration of mangrove forest and improvement of physical condition of coastal area is necessary.