

Abstract

As the most significant primate city in the region and Thailand, Bangkok Metropolitan's growth has been extended to its peripheries in terms of both expansion in demographic and land use patterns, resulting in a number of urban problems. Other local government organizations in adjacent provinces have to tackle the problems and formulate urban plans, particularly the comprehensive land use plan that reflect needs of each locality. However, the current urban planning in the Bangkok Metropolitan Region (BMR) is facing the important issue of lacking continuous coordination plan between Bangkok and adjacent areas. Along with the decentralization policy, the local governments are given more responsibility and authority in city planning and management. In order to achieve the new responsibility, local government organizations need to have adequate capacity building in planning to be able to make plans for their own areas. This study aims at evaluating experiences, attitudes and readiness in the process of making urban plans of the local governments in the BMR. Questionnaires are distributed to 60 local government staffs that are in charge of plan making. It is found that most of the local authorities are not ready to take a full responsibility in urban plan making due to the lack of qualified planning professionals. Nevertheless, most of the respondents agree that the local governments should take more responsibility in the planning process in the future because the local governments have close relationship with local citizens and can better promote citizen participation in the planning process than the central government body. The result from the questionnaire also reveals that the local government organizations are willing to develop their potential and readiness in formulating urban plans but they need support from the central government. Such supports are conferred administrative power, budget and personnel from the government and particularly from the Department of Civil Works and Town and Country Planning. The local government respondents also have a tendency to formulate their own plans in the future with positive attitude towards planning in such a way that will become effective tools for local development.