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SAOWAPONG YAMAPHAT : U - THONG IN THE ANCIENT WORLD TRADE NETWORK. INDEPENDENT STUDY ADVISOR : PROF.PHASOOK INDRAWOOTH.. 134 pp.

The purposes of research are to study the role of U-Thong in the ancient world trade network, and factors of U-Thong declining.

Findings indicate that U-Thong has been contacted with the ancient world trade from ca.350-50 B.C., and flourished to the late Indo-Roman period (2nd A.D.-3rd A.D.). In the 4th.A.D. to 6th.A.D. were found more religious artifacts than trading artifacts which indicate that U-Thong was an Buddhist center city of Dvaravati. In the 7th. A.D. to 10th. A.D. U-Thong was still developed and contacted with the ancient world trade which more expanding, especially Chinese trading expansion. The trading artifacts were found in this period: Chinese and Persian ceramics. Where as Literary, archaeological evidences, and geographical data of U-Thong confirm that U-Thong was an ancient port in the ancient world trade network.

In the 11th. A.D. U-Thong declined and fall by many factor such as; (1) lacking of water source for communities and inconvenience transportation contact, due to the major river flow changing, that was not pass the main land and directly flow to sea. (2) The increasing role of southern Thailand port (Srivijaya period), and directly sailed to Molucca island. (3) China changed the trading system that effected to sail new trade route.

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