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SUPAWAN PONAK : THE IMPACT OF TOURISM ON THE LIVELIHOODS OF THE  
KOH LARN COMMUNITY, PATTAYA CITY, CHONBURI PROVINCE. THESIS ADVISORS :  
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This research examines the impact of tourism on the livelihoods of the people in a community, focusing on occupational diversification, economic activities, socio-cultural change, and on the local environments with the aim of providing a holistic view of changes that have taken place in the community. The research employs a qualitative approach, with the emphasis on fieldwork and conducting in-depth interviews of local key informants. The key informants included native fishermen, local residents, proprietors of tourist services, all of whom were living on a small island known as Koh Laan, which was formerly a small-scale fishing village of Pattaya in Chonburi province. The fieldwork was conducted between July 2001-April 2002.

It was found that tourism, from its inception in the early 60s up to the present, had a great deal of impact, both positive and negative, to the peoples' livelihoods. On the positive side, tourism has provided alternatives for income-generating activities from that of the traditional fishing. Provided that the environment and natural resources, especially beaches and corals, are well protected for tourist attractions, the community's wellbeing is likely to be sustainable. Conversely a continued increase of migration might create social conflicts, unless a strong sense to community is built. Another serious problem that we anticipated comes from the solid wastes and sewage problems which, if not properly managed, could destroy the island resources. No systematic management is yet in place indicating a lack of collaboration among all stakeholders.

It is strongly recommended that, firstly, there is an urgent need to put an environmental monitoring system to keep updating the current situation of the natural resources. To ensure the effectiveness of the system, local people should be given an opportunity to participate throughout the process. There is also a need for further development of local initiatives on ecological tourism management. Finally, further research on equity issues in tourist businesses and services is recommended.