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PIYACHON PHOOSONGTHAM : INVENTED IDENTITY AND LOCAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT, PHETCHABURI PROVINCE. THESIS ADVISORS : SITTIPONG DILOKWANICH, Ph.D., OPAS PANYA, Ph.D., SUCHHEELA TANCHAINANT, M.A. 114 p. ISBN 974-04-2322-1

The objective of this study was to find ways of managing local resources by using the concept of political ecology to explain the context concerning change in the management of palmyra and jaggery at the community level. Discourse and Symbolic analysis were used to explain the meaning of the identity of Phetchaburi Province in the dimensions of the community cultural lifestyle and the process of creating the meaning concerning developmental discourse. This study was conducted by collecting the information from the related documents, observing without the participation, and indepth interview with the key informants during November 2000 and May 2001 at Tambon Rai Som, Amphoe Muang and Tambon Ban Than, Amphoe Ban Lad, Phetchaburi Province.

After studying, the researcher found that the industrial and agricultural policies and the growth of Phetchaburi Province influenced the change in the management of resources of Rai Som and Ban Than Communities. The agricultural policy had brought about the irrigation system in 1987. This caused farming twice a year. But the ecological system of the field and the Palmyra deteriorated. The industrial policy and the growth of Phetchaburi Province had a role in taking the agricultural labour out of the community. Meanwhile, villagers thought that the career of making the jaggery was a hardship, so they did not want their children to choose this career. The change in the management of the resources reflected a social crisis both in the system of the resource base and the failure of the community lifestyle.

As for the community lifestyle, the Palmyra and making the jaggery were regarded as the identity of Phetchaburi Province. This reflected the farmers stability in Phetchaburi Province because making the jaggery was the mechanism of reducing crisis when the community faced problems stemming from the uncertainty of rice production. Moreover, it showed the close relation, unity, and the power of the community, stemming from production system which there was mutual assistance among the relatives and the joint responsibility at the community level. The social context had changed. A social crisis had occurred. The power of the community was destroyed. The community still had no mechanism with which to manage the present situation.

Under the developmental discourse, the identity of Phetchaburi Province was used as the cultural goods by tourism. So, the desserts of Phetchaburi Province were created in order to link a relation with the identity of cultural lifestyle. When the failure of the community lifestyle concerning the change in the system of managing resources of the community occurred, it caused the identity to face the problem of linking with that identity of the community lifestyle. Therefore, as for the ways of solving the problem concerning the local resource management, the alternatives had to be created under the changing social context by increasing potential of the community, creating strength in the community, improving new production system on the basis of self-reliance, and restoring local resources. These would make the community fight when there is a crisis in the community.