

Thesis Title A History of Communities in Maelu Watershed Area , Maechaem District,
Chiang Mai Province.

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Abstract

The study of a history of communities in Maelu watershed area , Maechaem district, Chiang Mai province deals with the acclimatization of the communities by studying historical development of two villages in the same watershed area whose inhabitants are of two different races. The analysis covers the management of village resources which ensure their livelihood and maintain a subsistent-leveled existence. The extent of the analysis is to consider the relationship of man and nature and of man and man in successive periods of time.

The study of historical development of the village through the management of village resources yields 5 beneficial aspects;

1) Enabling us to realize two types of relationship, macro and micro levels. We find that the villages do not subsist on their own nor transform independently, but are all the time related with others in the same watershed or in the same region and even farther to the national and international level.

2) Enabling us to see the role of “man” of different groups who are complicatedly related. The relations are of three characters.

2.1 Ecologically, the relation of man and nature in his surrounding enables man to get acclimatized in his own community and in other communities which mutually share the resources. The latter case is considered a higher type of relation between man and man.

2.2 Racially, different cultures can bring different kinds of resource management or world-view.

2.3 Externally influenced, such as relation with government servants, capital fund religious organizations and other. This type of relation can be oppressive, controlling, dominant or exploitative or compelling the change in the community.

3) Enabling us to see the complexity of the problems. The analysis of problems must be holistic not separated, otherwise the mistaken analysis may lead to the wrong policy toward the community.

4) Making it possible to have a newly unusual popular history in which villagers play an important role in managing resources either on exploitative, defensive or responsive fronts.

5) Emphasizing the relation between the powerful groups which are unequal, as well as the balancing of powerful groups and other groups in or outside the village. Such a view can explain the acclimatization of villagers.

And from here we come to understand various other aspect of village activities and also find out variously complex factors of village historical development. Therefore, we can conclude that the development of the community is the history of the resource management of the community.