

The purpose of this study was to study the processes of community strengthening in Ban Pong, San Sai District, Chiang Mai. The project examines community contexts and organizations that lead to the strength of this community. Qualitative methodology is used in this research project. Examples of field methods are participant and non-participant observations, informal interview, group discussion, local activities involvement, fieldnote taking, and archival research. Key informants include community leaders, village and organizational committees, and villagers.

The findings of this project were that this community has a long and proud historical background. The important natural resources of this community are San Sai Preservative forest and Huai Jo Well. Community leaders are faithful, devoted persons, and great visions planners. People in the community are related by kinship. They support one another in their way of life. In terms of ethical and moral supports, there is a temple of Doi Thaen Phra Phaluang. The Ban Pong Development Project, created by the Royal Family, is an important project in this community. The purpose of this project is to preserve and develop forest resources in Mae Jo Stream and extend agricultural occupations and others for the villagers.

Main Community organizations are groups of floral planters, fund raised for dead persons' relatives and ecological tourism. Other organizations were organized by villagers facing problems who get together in a group in order to find alternative ways to solve their problems based on their social capital. The way people learn from working together, setting up good plans and management, devoting themselves for others, sharing benefits equally, and following the same belief bring peace to the community.

Since the social context and well planned organizations along with strong moral support in living together peacefully are the principal elements of this community, Ban Pong Community becomes one of those strong and self supported communities.