

Information Sheet about Samut Songkhram PEI



Background

Samut Songkhram Province in the Gulf of Thailand is one of three PEI pilot sites, representing the different development challenges in Thailand. Samut Songkhram development pathway has been historically different from the nearby coastal provinces, where industrialization process has been underway over the past decades. According to Thailand Human Development Report, Samut Songkhram ranks the 5th, among the 76 provinces in Thailand, in terms of Human Achievement Index.

However, the province is currently facing strong industrialization pressure from the nearby provinces and the mandate of the clustered provincial development strategy to focus on income generation and heightening Gross Provincial Products, due to quantifiable benefits, particularly in terms of job and income. Recently, there have been ongoing efforts made by lobbyists and land speculators to turn the coastal area into industrial zone in order to boost the land price. The coastal area is also facing constant threats of mega-projects development (e.g. coal-fired power plant was proposed in 2007). If happening, investment projects would pose serious threats to the coastal eco-system which provides variety of services to local communities.



Moreover, due to its vicinity closed to Bangkok, the Samut Songkhram has become a popular destination for tourism, resulting in an increase of resorts/ home-stays, together with a proliferation of floating markets and firefly-watching boat trips. The recent surge in tourism has posed a serious threat, not only to the

traditional life style, but also the unique environment of Samut Songkhram. Without proper management and timely intervention, the mass tourism style, focusing on income generation and number of tourists entering the provinces, is likely to dominate, posing serious threats to local livelihoods that depend on the unique balance of the 'three-water ecosystem' (saline, fresh, and brackish) for the fertile land and canal networks.



Therefore, under the PEI programme, Samut Songkhram illustrates the case of coastal zone development and tourism management. It illustrates the case of a well-off province that would like to be able to determine its own development pacing and pathway against the pressures and profits posed by higher figures of the Gross Provincial Products as in other coastal provinces.

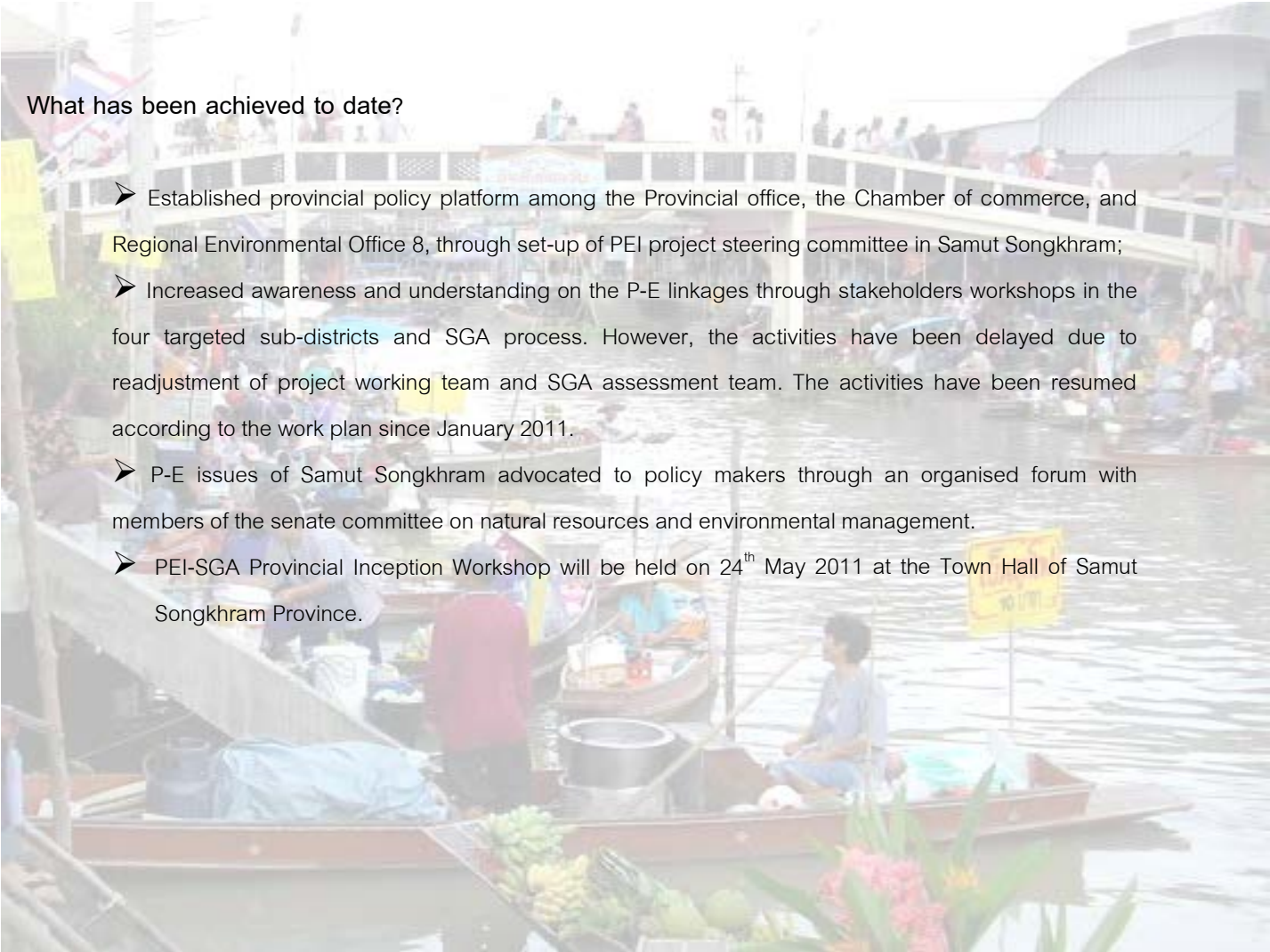
The PEI in Samut Songkhram aims at integrating the poverty-environment dimension into provincial and community planning process in order to address two development challenges: coastal land-use development and sustainable tourism management. Led by Regional Environmental Office 8 and Samut Songkhram Chamber of Commerce, PEI in Samut Songkhram is supporting capacity building process for provincial and local government planners to integrate these issues into the development plans and budget allocation. It is also strengthening community capacities in having scientific knowledge to support the sustainable utilisation of natural resources in their own locality.

Areas of PEI sites at Samut Songkhram



Four sub-districts were selected to be PEI sites of Samut Songkhram, namely Bangchakreng, Laemyai, PhaiPhongphang, SuanLuang, BangChakreng and Laemyaisub-districts are located along the coastal area which have been facing industrialization pressure and coastal erosion problem.

Where as Phai Phongphang and Suan Luang sub-districts are located at the inner part of the province where Mae Klong river is passing and tourism is spreading. Local PEI-SGA committees of the four sub-districts have already been established to work hand in hand with the PEI Samut Songkhram team.



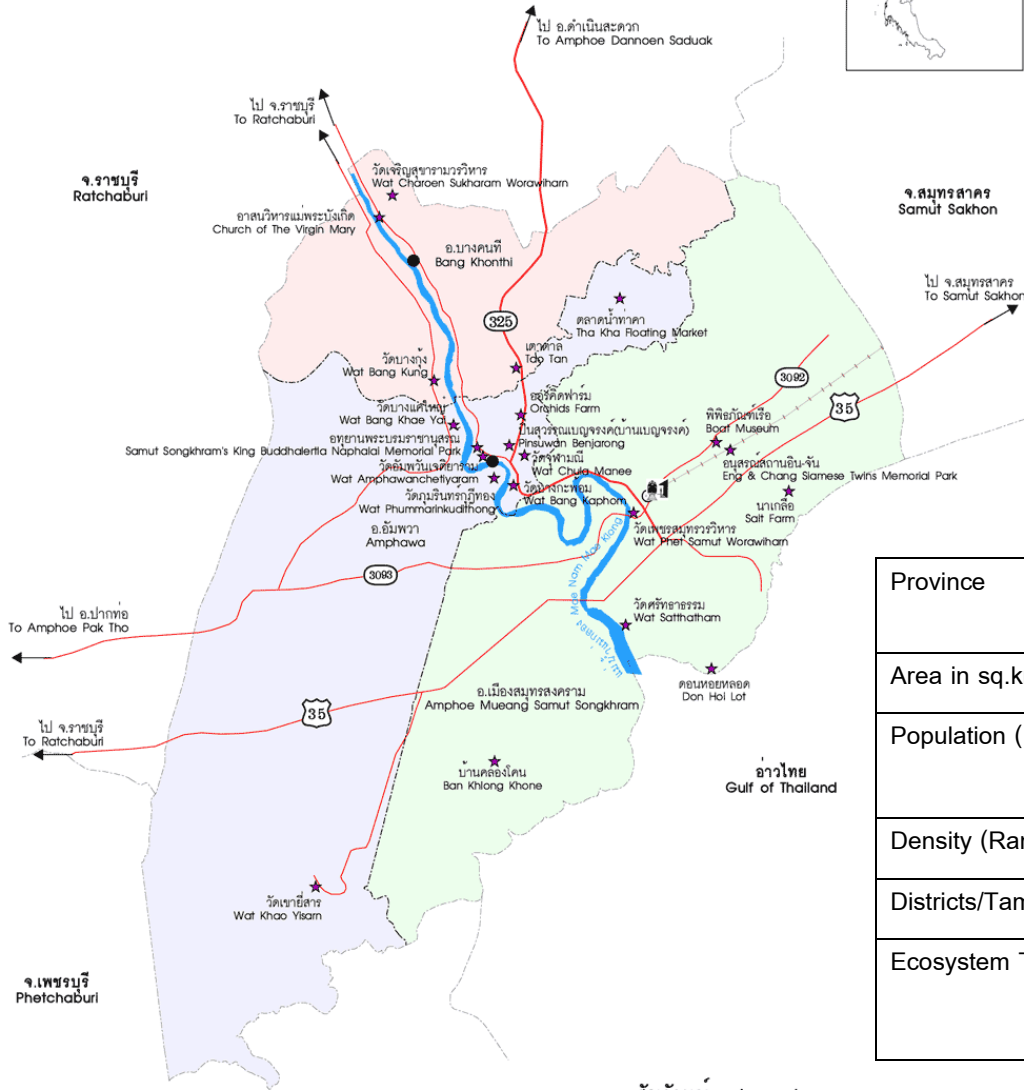
What has been achieved to date?

- Established provincial policy platform among the Provincial office, the Chamber of commerce, and Regional Environmental Office 8, through set-up of PEI project steering committee in Samut Songkhram;
- Increased awareness and understanding on the P-E linkages through stakeholders workshops in the four targeted sub-districts and SGA process. However, the activities have been delayed due to readjustment of project working team and SGA assessment team. The activities have been resumed according to the work plan since January 2011.
- P-E issues of Samut Songkhram advocated to policy makers through an organised forum with members of the senate committee on natural resources and environmental management.
- PEI-SGA Provincial Inception Workshop will be held on 24th May 2011 at the Town Hall of Samut Songkhram Province.

General Profile of Samut Songkhram Province



แผนที่ท่องเที่ยวจังหวัดสมุทรสงคราม SAMUT SONGKHRAM TOURIST MAP



Province	Samut Songkhram
Area in sq.km (Rank)	417 (76/76)
Population (Rank)	194,054 (75/76)
Density (Rank)	466 (7/76)
Districts/Tambons/Villages	3/ 33/ 284
Ecosystem Type	River System & Coastal Area

สัญลักษณ์ Legend

	ที่ตั้งจังหวัด	Province Location
	อำเภอ	Amphoe (District)
	สถานที่ท่องเที่ยว	Tourist Attraction
	สถานีรถไฟ	Railway Station
	ทางหลวง	Highway
	แม่น้ำ, แหล่งน้ำ	River, Stream
	เส้นขอบเขตจังหวัด	Province Boundary
	ทางรถไฟ	Railway