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A STUDY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT CHONBURI IN THAILAND

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ABSTRACT

The Chonburi Provincial Government is divided into three systems of local government: provincial and local government. Pattaya as Thailand's largest tourist-oriented city, has a special local government.

KEYWORDS: Chonburi Provincial Government , provincial and local government.

INTRODUCTION

Chonburi province, with a registered population as of 31 December 2018 of 1,531,407, is led by a governor and is divided into 11 districts (amphoe). Each district is led by a district chief (nai amphoe). Governor, district chiefs and district clerks are appointed by the central government. There are 92 sub districts (tambon) each led by a subdistrict chief (kamnan), further divided into 710 Villages (muban) each led by a village chief (phu yai ban). Subdistrict chiefs and village chiefs are elected by local citizens.

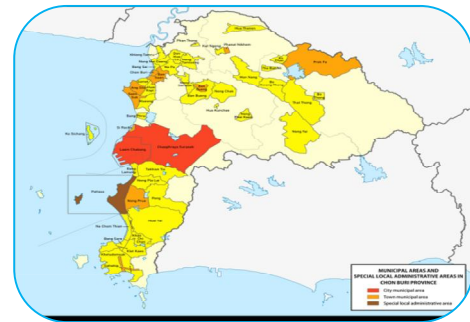
Chonburi has a tropical savanna climate (Köppen climate classification Aw). Winters are fairly dry and very warm. Temperatures rise until April, which is hot with the average daily maximum at 35.2 °C (95.4 °F). The monsoon season runs from May through October, with heavy rain and somewhat cooler temperatures during the day, although nights remain warm.

The provincial seal shows the hill Khao Sam Muk, on which there is a sala with a statue of the goddess Chao Mae Sahn Muk, who, it is believed, protects seafarers and the local population. The provincial tree and flower is the New Guinea rosewood (*Pterocarpus indicus*, called Mai Pradu in Thai). The provincial motto is "Beautiful beaches, delicious khao lam, sweet sugar cane, delicate basketry products, and buffalo racing.

Geography of Chonburi-

The province is on the Bay of Bangkok, the northern end of the Gulf of Thailand. The Khao Khiao mountain range stretches from the northwest to the southeast of the province. The plains of the north were long used for farming. Laem Chabang, between Chonburi and Pattaya, is one of the few deep-water harbours of Thailand.

The provincial permanent legal population rose at nearly four per cent annually, from 1,040,865 in 2000 to 1,554,365 in 2010. There is a large floating population of long-term non-Thai residents



without permanent status, on a perpetual tourist visa and/or migrant workers (legal or not), as well as heavy, short-term tourist influxes.

History of Chonburi-

Chonburi has been recognized since the Dvaravati Period and during the reigns of the Khmer Empire and the Sukhothai Kingdom. Chonburi was initially only a small agricultural town and fishing community, but during the Ayutthaya Kingdom (1350-1767), Chonburi was classified as a commodore class city. On the Triphum map, it appeared along with more major towns such as Bangsai now a sub-district of Chonburi), Bangplasoi now a downtown area in Chonburi), Bangphrarua (now a sub-district of Si Racha), and Banglamung (now a district of Chonburi). Although it was a small town, it enriched the natural resources both on land and at sea. Moreover, those in Chonburi contacted the Chinese sailors, who came to trade with Siam.

Local Government -

Thai local governments are classified into two main categories; general and specific. In the general form, there are three types of local authorities located throughout all seventy-five provinces except Bangkok. They are (1) Provincial Administrative Organization (PAO, seventy-five units), (ii) Municipality (1,136 units), and (iii) Sub-district or Tambon Administrative Organization (TAO, 6,740 units)

In the specific form there are two special units of local governments governing specific areas; namely, Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA) and Pattaya City. The three general forms of local governments are divided into two tiers. The lower-tier governments, municipality and TAO, function as a single operating unit, which is very close to local residents, providing local public services within their defined territory. While municipalities are located in urbanized areas, TAOs are mostly established in less-developed rural communities. By contrast, PAO is the upper-tier local government which covers an entire province and is responsible for administering local public services at the provincial level as well as for working in development projects that need collaboration among several municipalities or TAOs within the provincial territory.

In other words, the service functions that cross the boundaries of any single municipality or TAO are held by PAO. Political and administrative structures of Thai local government are similar to those of other nations. Each local government consists of the executive body and the local council, each of which is headed by locally elected persons from local residents and serves a four-year term. BMA has a rather unique administrative structure, however. It covers the whole Bangkok provincial territory and has partitioned its administration to 50 district units. Though each district is composed of the executive branch and the council, only the council members are locally elected by Bangkok dwellers. The district heads are permanent staff and indeed appointed by the BMA governor.

Chonburi Local Government

There is one Chonburi Provincial Administrative Organisation - CPAO (ongkan borihan suan changwat chonburi - oh bo tjo.chonburi). There are 47 municipalities, which are divided into 2 city municipalities (thesaban nakhon), 10 town municipalities (thesaban mueang) and 35 sub districts municipalities (thesaban tambon). Further for the local communities, which are not connected to a thesaban, there are 50 subdistrict administrative organisations - SAO (ongkan borihan suan tambon). All mayors, chiefs and councillors are directly elected by the local citizens.

Municipalities have communities (chumchon), although not directly chosen by the local citizens, which provides advice and recommendations to local administrative organisations. They also promote and support community participation and enterprises at the district level and sub district villages.

Provinces and Districts

The census population of Thai provinces - Chonburi.

Chonburi	Province	1,040,865	1,555,358
Ban Bueng	District	85,868	100,381
Bang Lamung	District	166,305	335,415
Bo Thong	District	40,928	44,177
Ko Chan	District	34,671	34,105
Ko Sichang	District	4,417	3,113
Mueang Chonburi	District	245,398	352,301
Nong Yai	District	20,757	22,066
Phanat Nikhom	District	113,830	119,749
Phan Thong	District	44,859	70,423
Sattahip	District	115,936	140,643
Si Racha	District	167,896	332,984

Local Government-

The local governments are overseen by the Pattaya City Special Local Government in Pattaya and the Chonburi Provincial Administrative Organisation (CPOA, ongan borihan suan changwat chonburi) throughout Chonburi. The 47 municipalities are split up into two city municipalities (thesaban nakhon), 10 town municipalities (thesaban mueang), 35 subdistrict municipalities (thesaban tambon). Local communities are also overseen by 50 subdistrict administrative organisations (SAO, ongan borihan suan tambon).

Health System of Chonburi -

Many hospitals exist in Chonburi, both public and private. Chonburi has one university hospital, Burapha University Hospital. Its main hospital operated by the Ministry of Public Health is Chonburi hospital. Hospitals operated by other organisations, such as the Thai red Cross Society's Queen Savang vadhana menorial hospital and the Queen Sirikit Naval Hospital run by the Royal Thai Navy, are also found in the province.

Transport of Chonburi -

The main road through Chonburi is Thailand Route 3, also known as Sukhumvit Road. To the northwest it connects to Bangkok and to south it connects to Rayong Chanthaburi and Trat. Route 344 leads east to Klaeng, also on Route 3. Route 7 runs parallel to Route 3 but bypasses the densely populated coastal area, connecting to the beach resort city of Pattaya.

Universities In Chonburi -

Public universities were formerly called "government universities" and were fully supported by the government. Currently they are independent as government-supported public universities. However, their staff are no longer civil servants. Application is by annual nationwide competitive admission examination or occasionally by special direct application.

- Burapha University (BUU)
- Kasetsarat University Si Racha Campus (KU SRC)
- Rajamangala University of Technology Tawan-ok (RMUTTO)
- Sripatum University Chonburi Campus (SPU)
- Thailand National Sports University (TNSU)

- Thammasat University Pattaya Campus (TU)

Tourism Background Of Chonburi -

Some nine million visitors to the province were recorded in 2012, of which 6.1 million were from abroad, 2.2 million of these being Russian. One major tourist attraction is the Chonburi Buffalo Race, which takes place in the districts of Ban Bueng and Nong Yai. The animals are dressed outrageously or creatively by owners. Assembled in the courtyard in front of the town hall, the buffaloes partake in racing or physical fitness and fashion contests. The Chonburi Buffalo Race festival started over 100 years ago. Usually, the races will be complemented with booths selling locally-made items, stage performances, games, and beauty contests. The annual Buffalo Race is held around the 11th lunar month, normally in October. It takes seven days and takes place on the field in front of the city and provincial government offices. The highlight of the festival is the buffalo race, which takes place on the last two days. This race is 100 metres (110 yd) long. The prize for the first nose past the finish line is a trophy and some money.

Songkran day in Bangsaen (Ko Phra Sai Wan Lai Bangsaen) is a tradition that has been held continuously for over ten years at Bang Saen Beach and Laem Thaen. The event takes place between April 16–17 of each year. The highlight of this event is a contest in which the contestants build a sand Buddha at Bangsaen Beach. In each Buddha sand arch is a decoration. The combination of the sea atmosphere and Thai decorations has helped this become one of the most popular Songkran festivals in Thailand. Other activities also take place, such as meriting alms to monks, bathing Buddha images, pouring water on the elders, traditional sporting events, sea boxing competitions, and oyster sheep competitions. Seafood and local food are often sold, along with other local products as part of One Tambon One Product (OTOP). Well-known artists have also given concerts at the event.

CONCLUSION -

In recent years, Thai local governments have attempted to implement a range of policies to promote more public participation and new public management practices. Both domestic and international influences have driven these public administration initiatives. Domestically, the financial crisis in 1997 spawned a new mentality that valued new principles of local government administration and administrative laws that were more open and that made bureaucracy more transparent. Internationally, the good governance trends of managerialism and market-based economy also pushed administrative innovation toward more efficient and mission-oriented public management. The emergence of new local governance structures and management initiatives has different characters and intensities according to local needs and determining factors. Though the reform packages are incomplete, they have been seriously undertaken and their future prospects seems positive. Understanding of causes and effects of six illustrative case studies can facilitate the generation of appropriate policies needed to design local administrative systems that best suit local communities.

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