



Guidelines for the Development of a Conceptual Plan for the Specific Area of Mukdahan Old City and the Mekong Riverbank, Mukdahan Province

Asst. Prof. Kritaporn Lappimol^{*1} and Sasikan Srisopon¹, Ph.D.

¹Faculty of Architecture, Rangsit University, Pathumthani,

^{*}Corresponding author, e-mail: kritapornrsu@gmail.com

Abstract

Mukdahan, a border town in northeastern Thailand, is situated along the Mekong River, which serves as a natural boundary between Thailand and the Lao People's Democratic Republic. The establishment of the Second Thai-Lao Friendship Bridge has significantly enhanced the region's connectivity to Laos, Vietnam, and China, aligning with the development objectives of the Greater Mekong Subregion's East-West Economic Corridor (E-WEC). This initiative aims to promote regional integration through advancements in trade, investment, labor mobility, tourism, and other collaborative areas. To accommodate the city's anticipated growth, a conceptual development plan has been devised for the Old Mukdahan Town and the Mekong Riverside. The primary objective of this study is to engage diverse stakeholders in a participatory process that contributes perspectives and recommendations for urban development. This bottom-up approach ensures that the issues and needs of Mukdahan residents are authentically represented and integrated into top-down government policies and strategies. The outcome of this process will be actionable pilot projects that serve as models for Mukdahan's evolution into a multicultural city with intelligent and sustainable growth. The formulation of the conceptual development plan for the Old Mukdahan Town and the Mekong Riverside represents an innovative urban development strategy. It leverages participatory mechanisms to integrate stakeholder insights, thereby driving pilot initiatives that reflect community priorities. These efforts aim to establish Mukdahan as a city characterized by economic vitality, social cohesion, and environmental sustainability, making it an attractive, livable, and enduring urban center.

Keywords: *Conceptual Plan, Mukdahan Old City, Mekong Riverbank, Smart Growth*