

Project Title: The project proposal for redesigning the lakeside area to support community activities and exhibitions in the old town area of Songkhla, Songkhla Province, in collaboration with the Southern Architects Commission for the fiscal year 2024.

Data Record Code: SE2024084

The Old Town of Songkhla is an area rich in historical significance and long-standing importance in trade and cultural diversity. Its historical sites and architecture led to the designation of the Old Town of Songkhla as a national heritage site in 2023 (B.E. 2566). This designation has increased awareness of heritage tourism and led to the adaptation of buildings for various activities, including street art events along Yala Road and Nongjik Alley. Data shows that not only are local youth involved, but also artists and architects who are continuously active in the area. During field surveys, it was found that a vacant area by the lakeside has been set up as a small exhibition space with only partial roofing, creating usability issues due to a lack of involvement in the design process.

The School of Architecture and Design at Walailak University recognized the issues related to coordination and spatial concerns. Consequently, they have developed a project plan proposing improvements for the lakeside area to enhance its use as a future activity space and a flexible exhibition area under community management in the Old Town of Songkhla, Songkhla Province.

On Thursday, January 4, 2024, the Taksin Architectural Commission of the Association of Siamese Architects under Royal Patronage, in collaboration with Walailak University, organized a field study project and an Open House Asa Cloud event. This included an ASA Taksin Special Talk on the topic "Building Regulations and Design in the Old Town of Songkhla," featuring speakers Dr Jare Suwannachat, Associate Professor of Architecture at the Rajamangala University of Technology Songkhla, Mr Chai Dan Setthian from SPACE PLUS ARCHITECT CO., LTD, and Professor Wiwat Chitnual, Regional Taksin Commissioner Consultant, at the Asa Cloud Center, Taksin Architectural Commission, Association of Siamese Architects under Royal Patronage, Songkhla District, Songkhla Province.

The aim is to integrate teaching, research, cultural preservation, and academic service to fulfil the university's mission in all four areas. Therefore, the project is coordinated with the Taksin Architectural Commission and utilizes design principles in accordance with heritage preservation laws. The design improvements will consider the environment, context, and community usage patterns, following Universal Design (UD) principles to create a cooperative network with relevant agencies. The goal is to ensure that the

area is accessible, safe, and adaptable for all users and activities, aligning with SDG target 17.2.1 on collaboration with government and NGOs to develop sustainable development policies.