

The project to develop a community-based development plan for Koh Lipe

SE2024079

Koh Lipe is part of Tarutao National Marine Park, located 62 kilometers from Pak Bara Pier. It lies south of Koh Adang and is surrounded by abundant natural resources. On the island, boat rental services are available for tourists to visit nearby islands. **Koh Lipe** has three main beaches: **Pattaya Beach**, located on the southern part of the island, which is the most popular with tourists and has the liveliest atmosphere; **Sunrise Beach**, situated on the eastern side of the island near the Chao Ley (sea gypsy) village; and **Sunset Beach**, on the western side, facing the evening sunset as its name suggests. The beaches are connected by walking paths, with a walk between them taking about 15-20 minutes. The island is mostly flat, with a few small hills. It is home to more than a thousand residents, who are primarily locals. In recent years, numerous hotels, accommodations, shops, and services have been built to meet the demands of tourism.

Government policies in various areas, such as infrastructure development, land reclamation, and the establishment of special economic zones, if not well-planned, can negatively impact different sectors of society. In the past, urban development plans in many areas were often dictated by policymakers, without the involvement of all relevant stakeholders. As a result, these plans lacked direction and failed to comprehensively address urban issues, such as resource management, housing, economy, and society. In particular, issues affecting lower-income groups were not addressed, leaving these groups without the opportunity to participate in shaping their own urban development. This has led to unresolved problems, social inequality, and, in many cases, the destruction of valuable urban elements that cannot be restored (SDG 11.4.7).

Therefore, this research focuses on **Koh Lipe**, in Koh Sarai Subdistrict, Mueang District, Satun Province. The objective is to conduct field surveys, foster collaboration, and hold forums to understand and gather preliminary information on **Koh Lipe**. The emphasis is on building a collaborative network involving educational institutions, local organizations, community members, and relevant agencies, such as the **Chumchon Thai Foundation**, an independent organization that plays a role in improving the lives of Thailand's ethnic sea gypsies. This effort is supported by the **Community Organizations Development Institute (Public Organization)**, which has the primary role of promoting housing security and quality of life (SDG 17.2.1). The research team will conduct processes to collect data, identify potential, resources, problems, and urban needs, as well as analyze and develop urban development plans from a multi-dimensional perspective with input from all sectors in **Koh Lipe** (Moo 7, Koh Sarai Subdistrict, Mueang District, Satun Province). Additionally, the research aims to support the creation of concrete development activities and establish a new generation of working groups to continue the efforts, ultimately improving the quality of life for the people of **Koh Lipe** with participation from all stakeholders.