

PHYSICAL PLANNING OF AN INDUSTRIAL PARK:
A GUIDE FOR PLANNERS AND DEVELOPERS IN THAILAND

by

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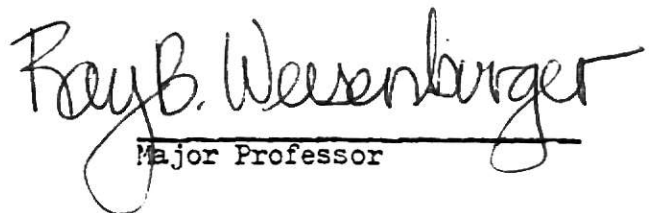
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INTRODUCTION

Thailand is a medium-size, torridly-hot, monsoon-beset, agriculturally-fertile, developing country in Southeast Asia. Thailand's 800 kilometer extension down the narrow Malay Peninsula provides a "handle" for bulk of the country, which covers an area roughly 650 by 800 kilometers bounded by Burma on the west, Laos on the northeast, Cambodia on the east, and Malaysia and the Gulf of Thailand on the south.

The most populous part of the nation is flat, alluvial, central plain, which suffers from near-intolerable heat and humidity for most of the year, influencing architectural styles, daily work and school schedules, cooking practices, and many other culture phenomena. In contrast to the nearly totally farmed and settled rice paddies of the Central Region, the teak-forested uplands of the North are relatively sparsely settled and often remote of access. The Northeast, a seasonably-arid plateau, is a fairly dense farming area suffering from lower levels of living than the rest of the country. The South, a mountainous sliver, is incompletely integrated with the other regions and also is the least productive of agricultural and manufactured products- although it does lead in rubber and tin.

Thailand has three seasons: hot and dry, from March to June; rainy and somewhat less hot, from June to October; and tropically cool, from October through February. The net result, although not particularly beneficial for the comfort of human beings, is a long and highly productive agricultural growing season.

The Thai People: The word "Thai" means "free", and the Thai people have justified its use in naming their country by so arranging their political and military history that Thailand remains the only nation in Southeast Asia that has never been ruled by a European colonial power. The king and the queen are universally revered, for the royal family embodies, to an ordinary citizen, the history and present unity of Thailand.

Income Levels: Like any other predominantly-agricultural nation, Thailand has a low level of income, by any measure. Although income is now increasing at about 4 percent a year, most Thai farm families still earn much less than \$ 1,000 U.S. annually.

Education of Population: Like most people in most countries, Thais generally go to school for the primary purpose of getting a good job. But in Thailand, most work is agricultural and therefore provides little stimulus toward educational attainment. There are four levels of education in Thailand: (1) Pre-school education; (2) Elementary education; (3) Secondary education; (4) Higher education.

Pre-school education aims at preparing children for elementary education.

Elementary education aims at developing children, by giving them basic education, through knowledge and towards better use of knowledge.

Secondary education, the continuation of the primary education, aims at exploring and developing interests and aptitude of children. According to the National Scheme of Education, secondary education is divided into two streams. The first, the General Stream, has its curriculum oriented toward general education with very little emphasis in occupational skills. The other, the Vocational Stream prepares children