

Planet Under Pressure

Session: Building climate resilience in an urban world

Building climate resilience in Thai cities

**PakamasThinphanga
Thailand Environment Institute
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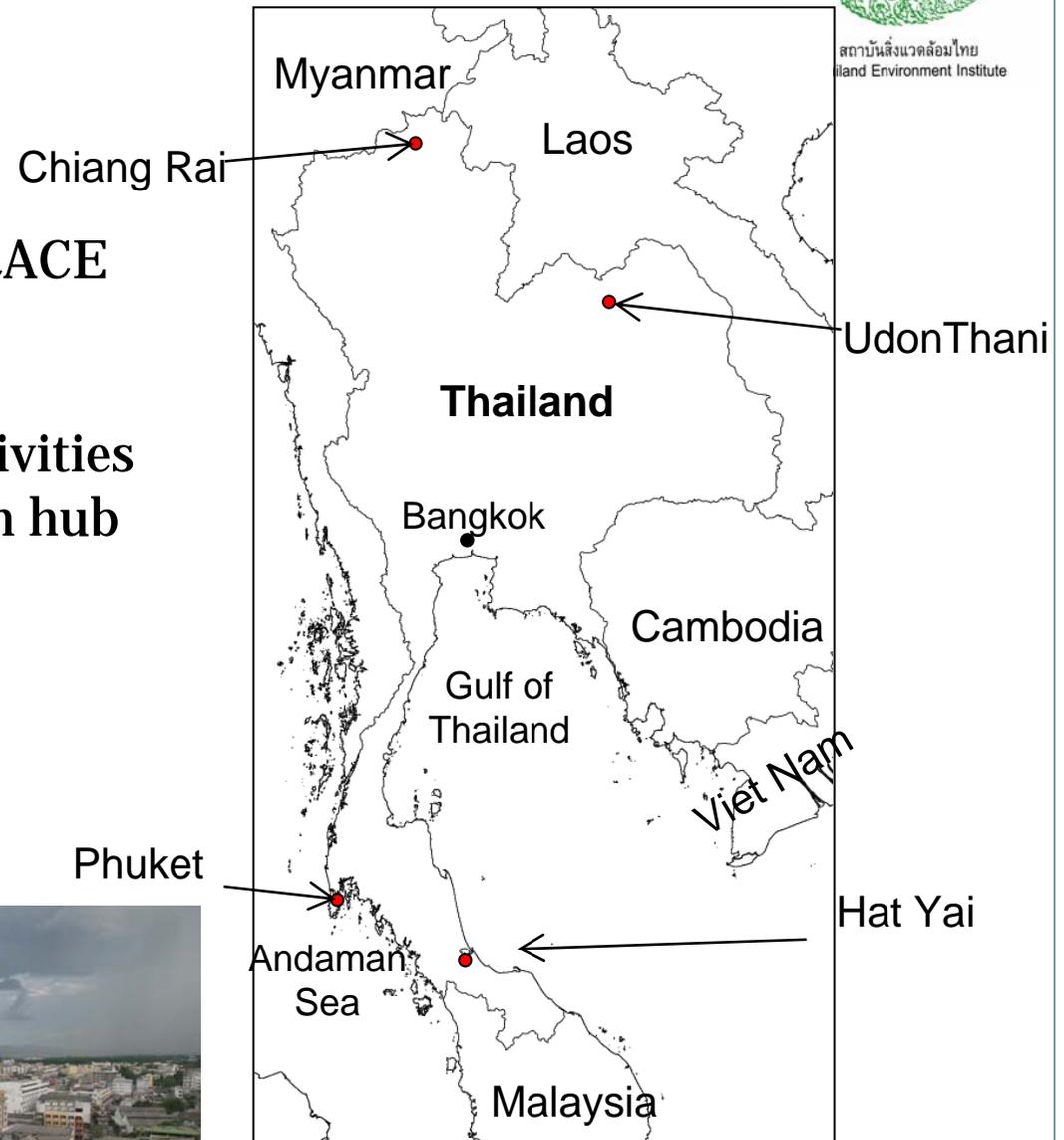
Urban climate resilience programme



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Background

- ACCCRN (Rockefeller) & M-BRACE (USAID)
- 4 cities
- diverse histories, economic activities
- important commercial, tourism hub
- highly urbanised
- City municipality engaged



Thai cities



Cities already faced with challenges

- floods, droughts
- land use change
- increasing demands on natural resources, water, energy
- infrastructure and basic needs
- waste problems
- pollution
- urban poor – housing, settlements



Thai cities



More challenges

- Thailand has never had a clear 'urban' policy framework
- The only metropolitan authorities are in Bangkok and Pattaya
- Decentralisation / deconcentration process
- Municipalities have new and increased responsibilities – but limited authority
- Cities designed to be commercial, trade, tourism hub
- Rapid urbanisation and development growth – through investors, business sector
- Municipal authorities play managerial and entrepreneurial roles
- ASEAN – transboundary issues, development opportunities
- Climate change

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- Climate vulnerability less obvious
- **Urban development leads to more climate risks**
 - Urban land use change
 - Floods
 - Water resources



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Urban land use and flood linkage

- Bangkok and northern provinces – location of large industrial estates
- Hat Yai
- Phuket
- Udonthani

Urban land use and water resource linkage

- Udonthani
- Phuket
- Chiang Rai



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Key messages

- Building climate resilience in Thai cities is not about tackling “climate impacts”
- Rapid urbanisation and development leads to more climate threats
- Policy change is not about “Champion”
- Building urban climate resilience is about strengthening governance – public participation process, public pressure and dialogues to influence change

