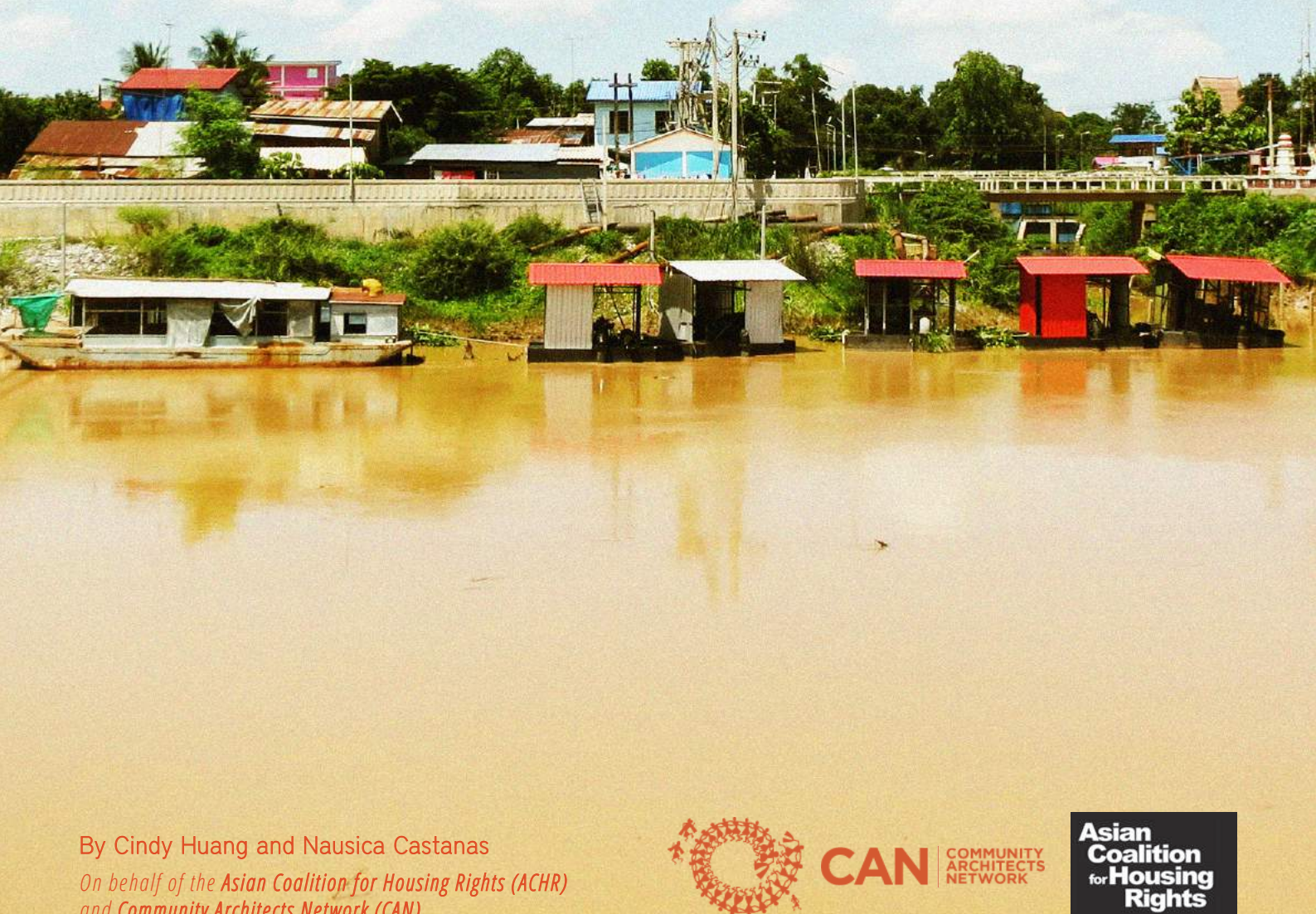


CAN CO-CREATE:

Exploring the co-creation of space with nature in community development

A Report on the 4th Community Architects Network Regional Workshop
in Chum Saeng, Nakhon Sawan, Thailand



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*On behalf of the Asian Coalition for Housing Rights (ACHR)
and Community Architects Network (CAN)*

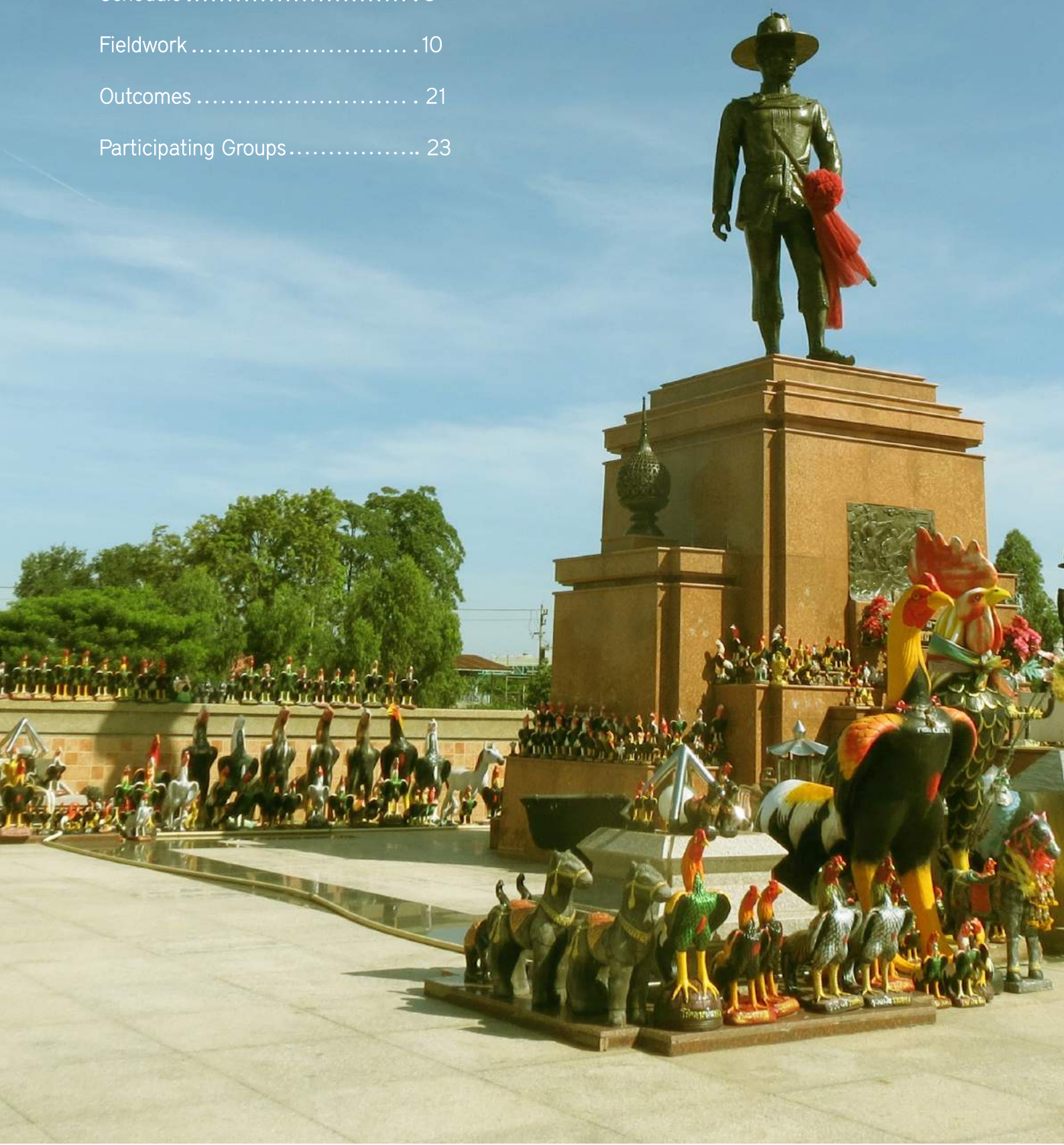


CAN | COMMUNITY ARCHITECTS NETWORK



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Introduction

Co-creation with Nature

When rapidly expanding cityscapes border on rural areas, a conflict of interest arises amongst planners; overly urbanized cities are trying to preserve remnants of natural landscapes, while economically deprived rural areas are eager for urban development and the probable financial gains. In urban planning and development, how do we find a balance between the urban and the natural, on top of a balance between what is profitable and what is socially-driven? How can a group of people go about co-creating a place and a process that is balanced in these ways?

The Community Architects Network (CAN) is a network of architects, planners, researchers, and institutions across Asia who work on community-driven projects related to housing, citywide upgrading, and disaster recovery, with a focus on poor areas. It promotes and practices participatory processes with local communities in design, planning, and capacity building. Once every two years, CAN holds a workshop that brings its network together to create community development solutions for a selected city, while encouraging **collective learning**.

This year, the CAN workshop was held in **Chum Saeng**, a small city in the Nakhon Sawan province of Thailand. Just a four-hour drive north of Bangkok, Chum Saeng is one of many Asian cities still covered in large areas of natural landscape but facing the pressure of urbanization, and with it insecurities in housing provision, agricultural land management, heritage preservation, and a risk of flooding. It was therefore appropriate that this year's workshop focused on **community development in the context of planning with nature itself**.

The workshop was held over the course of **8 days**, from July 14th-21st, 2016, and revolved around the co-creation of strategies and spaces for development, while allowing the spaces and ideas themselves to be co-created with nature. CAN brought together the community of Chum Saeng and built environment professionals from **15 Asian countries** (and some from non-Asian countries), and altogether approximately **180 participants** took part in the workshop. (For a full list of participating groups see page 23.) The event was hosted by the Asian Coalition for Housing Rights (ACHR), Community Organization Development Institute (CODI), Association of Siamese Architects under Royal Patronage (ASA), Community Act Network, Phranakhon Rajabhat University, Chum Saeng Municipality, and Chum Saeng My Beloved.

This report summarizes the workshop's objectives, activities, findings, and outcomes.



Context

The Workshop Site: **Chum Saeng**

Chum Saeng city was chosen as the CAN workshop site based on its geographical characteristics, its close proximity to the urban centres of Bangkok and Nakhon Sawan city, and recent changes in its development plans and social structures caused by a trend of younger people moving out. Currently, **30 percent of the population are elderly people**, and although there are concerns over the gradual neglect of local traditions, there is also an energy in the community to keep these traditions alive.

The city is located in the Chum Saeng district of Nakhon Sawan province, Thailand. Spanning **2.5 km**, it sits on the Nan River basin, on fairly flat lands with clay soil suitable for agricultural activity. It has a **population of 8,500**, with **3,400 households**, **10 communities**, and **50 civil groups**. These active civil groups regularly organize activities including cycling, aerobics, Eng Gor dancing, and community development. Most people make a living from harvesting crops, fish, livestock, and working in labor and trade.

The Nan River

The Nan River is a tributary of the Chao Phraya River and runs through the middle of Chum Saeng city, regarded by many as the heart of the landscape. The river served as a major route for transporting goods in the past, playing an important role in the city's development. Up until ten years ago, people spent their days swimming in and relaxing near the river. However, due to the construction of the dike along the river from 1998 to 2014 as a response to severe flooding in 1995, and due to the contamination of the river over time, people of Chum Saeng no longer interact with it as they used to.

The Railway

The Northern Line is a railway line which runs between Bangkok and Ching Mai, and passes through Chum Saeng. Chum Saeng Station was constructed in the early 1900s, and helped steer the development of the city as it brought goods and people through, boosting trade activities. Currently, plans are in place to relocate the station, build a new double track railway, and add an express railway in the next few years, which will bring further changes to the city development.

Housing

Of the ten communities in Chum Saeng, six have been or are being upgraded under the **Baan Mankong** ("Secure Housing") program and two are under the **Community-based Livelihood Support for Urban Poor project (SUP)**, all of which are implemented by Community Organizations Development Institute (CODI). Within the Baan Mankong projects, participating savings groups are categorized by: Baan Mankong savings, land and housing security savings, community welfare savings, and shareholders' savings. The SUP program, funded by the World Bank, was set up by CODI to help the recovery of 50 urban poor communities and 3,000 households across Thailand after the devastating floods of 2011, and Chum Saeng was one of the selected sites. They focused on fixing drainage pipes and renovating housing.

Culture

Chum Saeng has a rich history of Chinese culture, which stems from the Chinese migrants who established the city's market area and rice trading activities. Today, traces of the culture can be found on market shop signs, in the city's architecture, and most notably in the **Chao Pho Kut Pong Shrine** that is highly revered by local people. A particularly unique activity of Chum Saeng is their **Eng Gor dance**, a rhythmic, powerful, and colorful performance that combines Chinese traditional dance with local Thai culture. The men and boys of the community practice and perform the Eng Gor dance on special occasions, such as the Water Festival in December.



“ At this time in our history, we are in great need of processes that can help us weave ourselves back together. We’ve lost confidence in our great human capabilities, partly because we’ve been using organizational processes that have treated us as machines. We’ve ended up separated and divided, fearful and distrusting of one another. We need processes to help us reweave connections, to discover shared interests, to listen to one another’s stories and dreams. We need processes that take advantage of our natural ability to network, to communicate when something is meaningful to us. We need processes that invite us to participate, that honor our creativity and commitment to the organization. ”

– Margaret J. Wheatley

The Workshop

Objectives

The objectives of the workshop were to:

- Provide an opportunity for community development professionals from different countries to exchange experiences on pro-poor Asian city development
- Create a platform on which discussions surrounding community planning with the natural environment can take place
- Carry out fieldwork that produces tools and/or strategies for the Chum Saeng community to use for sustainable city planning

Process of Co-Creation

The workshop was structured to allow for flexibility so that the route chosen could be reshaped where necessary, and that community-led processes could be as present and influential as possible. It was expected that the community's needs and wants would be revealed in more depth as the fieldwork days went on, and that this new knowledge would inform new ways of thinking and working. For instance, during the first fieldwork day, the originally proposed working groups were redefined to match the community's clarified priorities.

CAN believes that the following three elements of self-organization lead to the successful co-creation of ideas and solutions:

- **Identity:** Making sense of your own unique perspective
- **Information:** Understanding the tools you have for gathering useful data
- **Relationships:** Knowing and strengthening your network in order to contribute your knowledge and to learn from others

Participants of the workshop were encouraged to think about these elements when working with each other and with the Chum Saeng community.

Potential Outcomes

The workshop aimed to explore:

- A vision for Chum Saeng for the next ten years
- Pitches for pilot projects that could contribute to this 10-year vision
- Next steps that CODI can take when working in Chum Saeng
- Community leaders taking interest in developing these projects with the local government
- New information gathered through mapping/profiling that local people can use

Schedule

Day 1

Phranakhon Rajabhat University, Bangkok

Morning	<p>Welcome Remarks and Introductory Speeches Chancellor of Phranakhon Rajabhat University Ajarn Monton Janjamsai, Dean of Faculty of Industrial Technology Ajaphol Dusitnanond, Executive Committee of the Association of Siamese Architects Chawanad Luansang and Supawut Boonmahathanakorn, Community Architects Network</p> <p>Forum I - Reflection on Asian City Development and Planning Somsook Boonyabanha, Kirtee Shah, Ruby Haddad</p> <p>Forum II - Co-Creation: A Path of City Development and Practices Dharmesh V. Jadeja, DUSTUDIO, Auroville, India Stanley Lung, Turenscape, China Wijitbusaba Ann Marome, Thammasat University, Thailand</p>
Afternoon	<p>Forum III - Voice from the Grounds Sharing CAN experiences and introduction of participants</p> <p>Field Visit to Bang Bua Community</p>

The first day consisted of guest speakers and discussions in which participants could familiarize themselves with the process of co-creation in the context of Asia, then a field trip to Bang Bua which served as a case study for community development. In the discussions, the role of “the architect” was examined; it was clear that most architects in the room had the same question at some point in their lives: **How can architects, who often work for society’s elites, support the poorest people in the world who have limited resources for improving their living environments?** For those who have chosen to work in slum communities or poor rural communities, it can feel isolating. CAN workshops serve as a platform on which people from different countries in this emerging field of community-driven and pro-poor architecture can share their experiences, learn from each other, and support one another.

Key points raised on Day 1:

- Co-creation is a reciprocal learning process between community architects and communities
- It is the architect’s role to help express people’s vision through their professional skills (drawing plans, 3D rendering, etc.)
- Mapping is useful in its ability to help people identify problems and solutions visually
- Data collection can provide awareness and assurance to communities on particular issues, and through this clarity, instil a confidence in communities to create solutions
- Recent trends in the field of development that focus on urban areas should not mean that rural development, and the connection between the urban the rural, is overlooked
- It is important that communities, stakeholders, and local governments work directly together when developing a town or a city, to ensure sustainability in both physical and social infrastructure

Day 2

From Bangkok to Thong En Community to Chum Saeng

Morning	Travel to Thong En Community, Sing Buri Province Case study site visit
Afternoon	Travel to Chum Saeng

On the second day, workshop participants first visited the community of Thong En in Sing Buri Province, who gave a presentation on the activities in their area, including their savings groups and various local crafts they have developed for income generation. It was wonderful to see that almost all community leaders were women. The workshop participants were split into two groups; one group visited a family-run farm designed to be self-sustaining and resilient to climate change impacts through the incorporation of diversified crops and livestock; the other group visited a women's cooperative that made and sold local products including fermented fish, wicker baskets, and Tong Muan (crispy roll) snack. These site visits were valuable in giving participants cases upon which they could reflect different approaches of sustainable local tourism and agriculture. Afterwards, participants traveled to Chum Saeng and had a welcome dinner with the city's mayor and the community, ready to start working the next day.

Day 3-7

Days three to seven were spent conducting fieldwork in Chum Saeng. The following pages cover the activities and findings from these days.



Site visit



Presentation in Thong En



Family farm in Thong En

Fieldwork

The CAN Regional Workshop brought together 80 participants from 15 countries, joined by 100 community members and leaders from Chum Saeng. They were split into 7 working groups to undertake fieldwork from the 16th to the 20th of July 2016. Each group included children, elderly people, members of different civil society groups, members of the communities that participated in Baan Mankong programs and the communities that will be affected by the new government projects. The mayor of Chum Saeng was also present every day, and actively participated in both the research and discussions.

On the first day of fieldwork, the community members were asked to reflect on the following 3 questions:

- What are the most important elements in Chum Saeng?
- How can we make Chum Saeng better for everyone?
- "If I could, I would": What can YOU do to improve Chum Saeng?

These questions allowed us to examine the strengths, problems and networks in the city from the perspective the community, and determine the focus of the 7 working groups.



Strengths, both tangible and intangible

- The God and Goddess shrine
- The food
- The market
- The old Chinese market
- The walking street market (every Friday)
- The 3 temples
- The Nan river, the blood of Chum Saeng
- Chum Saeng's long history
- People's generosity
- The rich traditions, like the Eng Gor festival
- The activity space (the stadium and the grounds)
- The school
- The eco-diversity
- The city's location, between Bangkok and Nakhon Sawan city
- The relation of Chum Saeng with other cities
- The different means of transport (train, bus, through the river, tricycle)
- The train station, indicative of Chum Saeng's importance in the past
- The Baan Mankong projects

Issues

- Need to increase tourism
- The younger generation moves away because there is no job creation
- Need to ensure that both the locals and visitors learn about Chum Saeng's rich history and the places of interest in the city
- Need to improve traffic
- Knowledge is power: need knowledge on how to make crops more durable, knowledge on packaging and marketing for local products
- Need to make a museum about the history of Chum Saeng
- Need to develop eco-tourism along the Nan River
- Need to make a bike lane, add traffic lights on 2 dangerous junctions and add street lights where they are missing
- Need to improve roads
- Need to improve garbage management and garbage trucks which are old and dirty
- Need to rearrange street vendors on the pavement to improve traffic
- Need to upgrade the new market and organize it better

Actions

- Lead by example
- Increase income from agriculture
- Encourage people to network
- Encourage people to buy local products from Chum Saeng, to support the local industries
- Everyone should be concerned with waste management: not littering, picking trash up
- More exercise for the elderly
- More seats along the river, to sit and relax
- Create space to discuss local issues and how to increase income
- Focus on local products, like palm sugar, rice, hammocks
- Everyone should follow traffic laws, to reduce traffic
- Teach the younger generation to save and value money
- Everyone should stop and respect the national anthem
- Ban drugs from Thailand
- Teach the younger generation about the history of Chum Saeng; get them involved

in biking and healthy activities; get them to volunteer

- Make a food and foodstuff market, for clean, organic agricultural goods
- Make road signs where they're missing
- Everyone and their families should be involved in making Chum Saeng cleaner
- Recycle
- Ensure good relations within and between different communities

Final Groups

1. Local Government and Policy
2. Urban Planning
3. Housing
4. Cycling
5. Health
6. The River and Open Spaces
7. The Old market, Heritage and Culture

Group 1

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND POLICY

The policy group did not have a clear mandate from the first day's discussion, as policy did not come up. The group was therefore divided amongst the other 6 groups for one day, to understand the issues each group would be examining and find ways in which policy could be useful. The policy group therefore served as a unifying platform, joining together the challenges of all the groups, and attempting to find a common solution through policy.

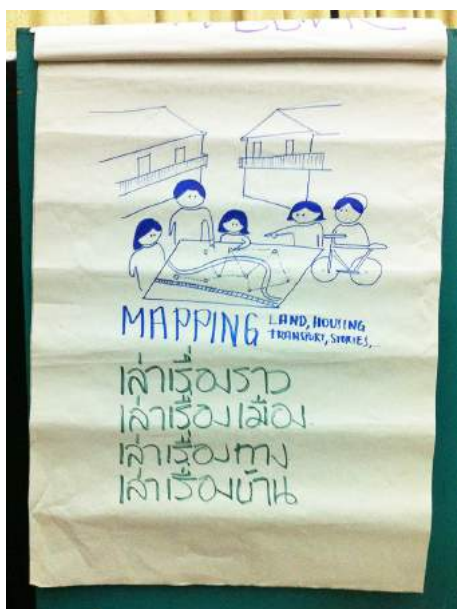
Once they set an agenda, they held **daily meetings with the mayor** to discuss the issues they had identified, as well as potential solutions. They developed a set of **interposing maps**, with layers for housing, the cycling route, the old market and possible tourist attractions, the existing and potential green spaces, all building on social networks. The group stressed the importance of linking different people and different communities in order to share their knowledge, and therefore spread knowledge.

The group reiterated the important of **participatory processes in policy making**, emphasizing that there should be:

- City walks and surveys
- Mapping, encouraging people to share their stories about the city, its people, the landscape, and allowing people to add to the map, and see what others have already added
- The use of gathered information (from previous points) to produce knowledge for the city
- A process that leads to pilot projects and concrete action
- A process that leads to a masterplan for Chum Saeng

Output

The policy group explained in detail the loop of **participatory design** to both the community and the local government: starting with planning it moves to action then observation and finally reflection. The next cycle must use the results of that reflection to inform the new policy cycle, attracting an increasing number of people every time round. The most important output of the policy group was an **agreement with the mayor** that the community would be included in the policy cycle. The mayor stressed the importance of public participation in all future projects on numerous occasions at the end of the workshop. They therefore strengthened the link between the government and the local networks, showing how the community can be an active driver in policy. CODI agreed to **facilitate** the participation of the community into this process.



Group 2

URBAN PLANNING

The urban planning group looked at the government infrastructure projects taking place around Chum Saeng in the next years, and the repercussions they will have for the residents.

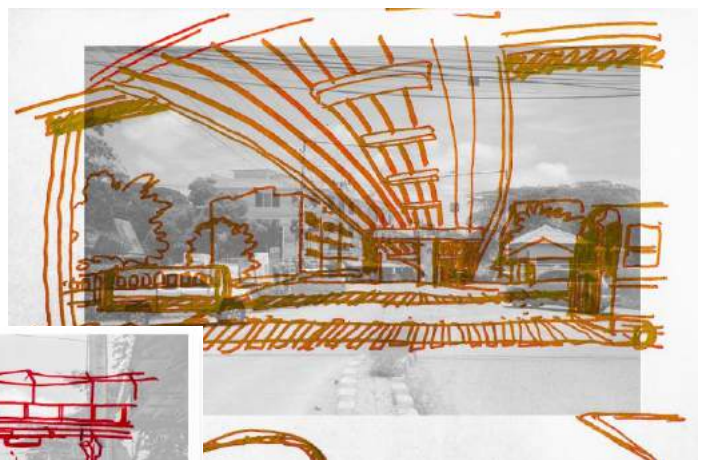
The 6 main projects are as follows:

- A double track railway and an express railway
- Two new roads: a ring road and a new main road by the train track
- A tunnel and 2 bridges crossing the railway
- A new train station
- A new bus station
- The repair of a destroyed walkway by the river and the broken dike

The first two projects, which will complete in the next 5 years, require the relocation of 71 households currently residing by the railway track. Land has already been secured for this community within the Baan Mankong program. The urban planning group worked with community leaders to identify their main concerns and possible opportunities arising from these projects, and **visited the sites of all the projects** guided by community leaders. They held **participatory mapping workshops** with members of different communities, using the map as an entry point for an envisioning exercise on the future of Chum Saeng, even beyond the scope of the projects. The participants were asked to locate the projects on the map, thus uncovering the areas that will be affected. They were also asked to look for potential relocation sites for the future, as future projects might require further changes in housing in the city.

Output

The urban planning group created a **large map** that was given to the mayor and the community, as well as a **handout** with the details of all the projects and the changes they would trigger, to ensure that all the communities are aware of the proposed changes. This was important as there were a lot of misconceptions about these projects. Lastly, the **spatial information** was inputted into a **website** created by the new media design studio Mor, and access was given to community leaders. Mor is also working on creating a mobile app with the spatial information on Chum Saeng for the mayor and the community to use.



Group 3

HOUSING

The housing group concentrated on the upcoming Baan Mankong project: the relocation of the 71 households affected by the new railway and road, as well as the relocation of the extended families of community members and of households who do not have a secure land tenure. The information on the latter has been gathered from community mapping data at the provincial level.

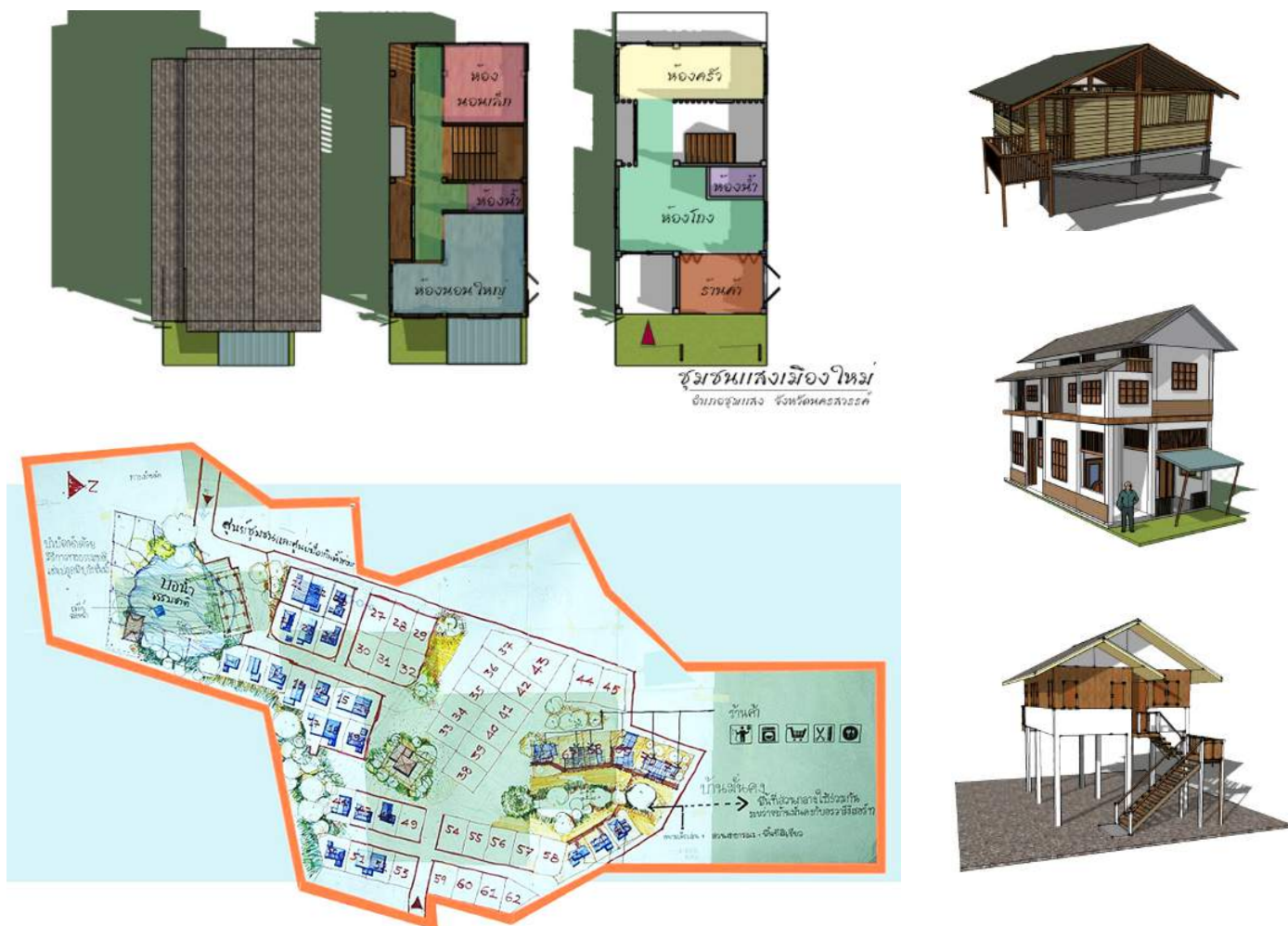
This group **visited the site** that has been selected for the relocation together with the community. As it is a lowland with bodies of water, they planned around that, rather than proposing to fill them in. They then held **participatory design workshops** to design 3 prototypes, based on the needs of the community:

- A house for a family that only lives in it
- A house that also serves for commercial activities (a shop house)
- A house for a family that includes people with reduced mobility, like the elderly or the differently-abled

This group included architects from CODI, the organization that will carry out the project. It was therefore very beneficial to discuss this project with both the community and the international architects present during the workshop.

Output

The group produced a detailed **plan** for the new settlement, and the **3 house prototypes**. They used a **computerized model** to depict what the future could look like after the completion of the Baan Mankong program.



Group 4

CYCLING

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The cycling group started the fieldwork with a **bike tour** of the city with members of different cycling groups, visiting important landmarks which could be of interest to tourists. They also carried out **interviews** with residents to analyze how they move around the city, why they visit certain places, how long they travel for and how safe they feel. They also had a **meeting with the community** to talk about the public spaces they deemed most important.

They did **focus groups** to deal with the 3 most important issues they found: speed, road safety, and mobility. The focus groups came up with 3 solutions:

- Develop small activities around the city to get people involved in cycling and provide more information on cycling
- Work on infrastructure: signage, traffic lights on major junctions
- Raise awareness of road safety and the importance of following traffic laws

As outsiders, the members of this group steered clear of suggesting changes in Chum Saeng. Instead, they focused on creating an atmosphere of opportunity and transformation, where the members of the community could initiate change for themselves by themselves.

Output

The biking group organized a **cycling event** on the last day of the workshop. The event, called “Ride, ride, ride for health”, was a bike tour where all members of the community and visitors were invited to join, going through important landmarks and getting to know the city better. By supporting the organization of an activity, and showing the benefit of such an activity, the event illustrated how a small action can lead to a bigger vision. If all the residents currently using a bicycle for whichever reason, be it to race, exercise, as a means of transport etc., organized and raised their issues, they could not be ignored by future policies. People are already aware of the solutions they need to the problems they have identified, but they are hampered by the old way of thinking which relies too heavily on the government, considering people unable to bring about change by themselves. This event served as a catalyst to more biking events, involving more than just the members of the various biking groups. More importantly, it showcased that people can get organized to bring attention to their issues, **strengthening existing networks** and creating new ones.

The cycling group also proposed the **creation of a cycling license** for all citizens using a bicycle, in order to empower the network and to raise awareness. This would also allow the community to take care of people who use bicycles, such as children who ride to school, people who cycle to deliver food and medicine to the elderly, people who work in service stations and fix bicycles, etc.



Group 5

HEALTH

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This group started off with a **discussion** with the community about the most important health risks in Chum Saeng. The question they sought to answer was: "How do we design Chum Saeng to be a healthy city?" They focused on health, safety, clean food, pollution, medical support (in particular the lack of doctors and medical tools), the fact that community security is decreasing, the lack of sufficient common space for young people, the fact that people do not have healthy habits despite the fact that they have the necessary knowledge, people's interest in their health, exercise, the fact that the most vulnerable cannot not make it out to exercise, and they prioritized the issues.

For the scope of the workshop, they decided to concentrate on an issue, which was deemed the most important to the community and could easily be linked to everything else which was discussed: creating green spaces near the market area. These green areas would be good for the environment, allowing the community to produce more food individually and collectively, they would create more shade and serve as homes for birds, and would also create more public spaces for everyone in Chum Saeng. Creating green spaces was seen as a big umbrella: if the community managed to do it in the way they envision, it would help solve many of the issues mentioned during the discussion.

The group used **participatory mapping** to identify the green spaces in Chum Saeng, as well as the areas that could become green within the next 30-50 years. They suggested endemic trees for each area, which could serve for shade, food and herbs, with flowers for decoration. The community could also grow organic vegetables in those areas, to offset the fact that most vegetables currently sold are replete with pesticides and other harmful chemicals. Green areas are also more ecological, and could protect the city from flooding by absorbing water.

Output

The health group created a **map** with the current and future green areas around the city, with a selection of trees, plants and vegetables for each area. As the plants can be moved at a later date, the group invited the community to come together and start planting in existing locations. The health volunteers group also **planned how their first collective green space** would work. They decided to do a collective vegetable farm with a learning center. They want to start with interested people from all 10 communities, using an initial nominal fee from each person to invest on some fixed costs. The members would get to buy the vegetables they produce first, and whatever will be left is sold in the market at the same price. They focused on fair pricing, in order to attract more people to eat organic, especially given that organic food is out of reach for many. All profit from the sales will be divided between:

- Paying back the initial investment
- Emergencies / Future plans such as buying more tools, land, accommodating visitors etc.
- Profit for the members and the care-takers

The community would only need to secure a very small budget to start planting. The mayor of Chum Saeng has agreed to assist with water management, so the locals can come together and co-create.



Group 6

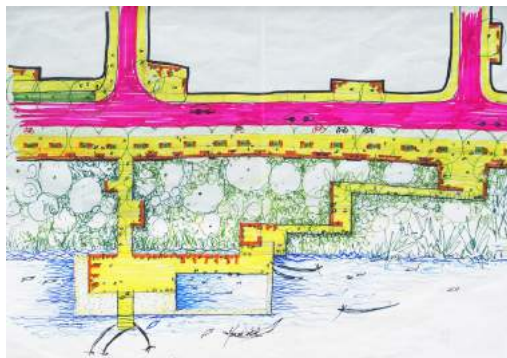
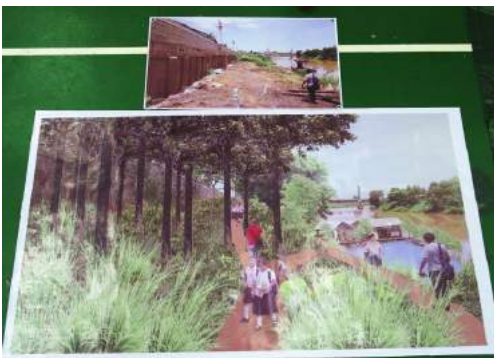
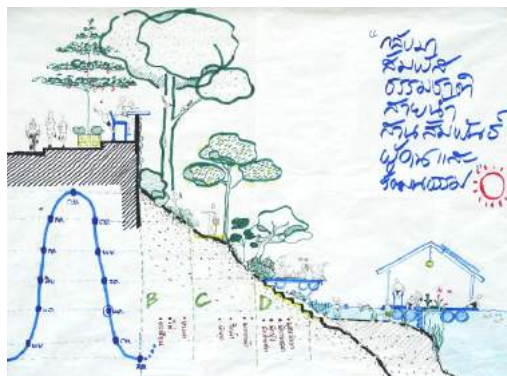
THE RIVER AND OPEN SPACES

This group looked at the river and how it relates to peoples' lives. The participants noticed that the two sides of the river were very different from one another, with one side physically separating the residents from the river with a wall. The wall prevents the residents from even seeing the river from their homes. The river group therefore focused on reconnecting people with the river, reviving the bond that they used to have with it. During a **survey** they carried out in the old market and around the river, the members of the group found out that most children did not know how to swim, while older people were afraid of letting their kids close to the water, a worrying find in a city bordered by a river and prone to flooding.

Output

The river group proposed a **pilot project** to build a platform on the river that would act as a community space, consisting of a seating area, perhaps a cafe, and a swimming pool inside the river for kids to learn how to swim. They also proposed to develop the open space around the river for people to come and relax. They proposed a bike lane, a walkway with trees that are appropriate to this area, and a seating area along the wall where people can sit and see the river. This project would be important to bring kids and the elderly together.

The group created **illustrative plans and elevations** of the future plans, to allow the community to dream about what could be. They created before and after perspective images of their proposed project sites along the river. These images were made into **postcards** for people to take with them, as a point of reference when thinking about their own ideas for revamping the riverside area. The group also produced an **illustrative "Plants Guide" pamphlet** suggesting the types of trees that can be planted along the river at different times of the year according to the changing water levels. The information was derived from a meeting with a local professor who specializes in local horticulture. The purpose of the pamphlet is to get people to start thinking about what they can actively do as a community to revitalize and reconnect with the river area.



Group 7

THE OLD MARKET, HERITAGE, & CULTURE

This group spent the second day **visiting the old market** guided by the community, asking people to show them the best shop or stand. They learnt about the history of Chum Saeng and what makes the area special. They realized there was a lot of history around the old market area, which the local residents do not always consider important enough to promote. They refer to this as the “**unsung song**” of Chum Saeng: while there is a wealth of stories and culture, the community does not spread the knowledge about them to visitors.

The group then held **participatory mapping** sessions with the community, asking residents of all ages to choose what is special in Chum Saeng, including unique foods only served in one stand, landmarks, shops (for example a medical shop, a shop that makes traditional masks, etc.), as well as the route of the Eng Gor festival.

Output

This group created a **culture and heritage map** of Chum Saeng, which includes places, events, and a heritage route, as well as a **leaflet** highlighting the important places in Chum Saeng for people to use while following the heritage route, or on its own. They also created the **Facebook group “The unsung stories of Chum Saeng”**, which gathers stories from Chum Saeng, with pictures and interviews of local residents. The control of the group was handed over to the community to share news and information about the city with a wider public.







Workshop Outcomes

- The workshop allowed the community to see that they can be a part of planning in their city.
- The community members gained knowledge on participatory mapping as a tool to drive engagement. Several communities have participated in Baan Mankong programs, and were thus familiar with some of the processes, but the focus of Baan Mankong has always been limited to housing. This time, the tools were used to think about the future, allowing the communities a broader view and triggering city-wide upgrading.
- The CAN Workshop allowed different communities to come together and discuss their common future, joined by the mayor. It opened a forum for better communication with the local government. The mayor of Chum Saeng reiterated on several occasions that he will need cooperation with community members in the future, especially to take the projects proposed during these 4 days forward.
- The mayor is concerned that government plans will go ahead without the local community knowing about or approving the changes. He stressed the importance of the CAN Workshop in allowing for the opportunity to ensure that people are informed of what is happening, and allowing them to participate in shaping their future.
- The mayor informed the community that the budget for the rest of the year has already been assigned, but that he will work on finding extra funding to turn some of the proposed projects into reality.
- The community members also saw that they already have tools in their possession to allow them to shape their future, through engagement and active participation.
- The mayor of Chum Saeng used the map created at the workshop and the handbook containing the information on the government projects to negotiate with the District Authority. He thanked the community architects as he said that he previously lacked a support that contained all the relevant information.
- After the final presentations, the community was invited to participate in the City and Community Rehabilitation Program. This program is open to any community that wishes to preserve the heritage of their city. The community can thus utilize the overall future plan elaborated during the CAN Workshop, and come up with a 3-4 page proposal, with the help of CODI. The projects expounded during these 4 days could become a reality, allowing for co-creation for the future of the community and their children.
- The community, CODI, and a group of young architects from CROSSs, who attended the CAN Workshop, are currently preparing a proposal for the City and Community Rehabilitation Program. They are seeking to continue some of the pilot projects proposed during the workshop, with an emphasis on the community space along the canal, the creation of vegetable and herb gardens and the creation of a documentary on the history of Chum Saeng. They are also proposing making the history of Chum Saeng a module in school, to ensure that the younger generation learns about it. Lastly, they are proposing to make the city a reference for cycling in Thailand, a must for foreign and local visitors, and link it to nearby cities to create a bicycle tour of the area. The proposal builds on the work of several of the working groups, and in particular the river group, the health group, the heritage group and the cycling group.
- The workshop joined together CAN architects and different organizations from Thailand. It was a reminder to the Thai organizations of the benefits of working together, which resulted in an agreement to come together annually to share their knowledge and experience, and co-create.



Participating Groups

Below are the groups and institutions that participated in this year's CAN Workshop. Thank you everyone!

- Ahmedabad Study Action Group (ASAG), India
- Architecture Sans Frontières Indonesia (ASF-ID)
- ARKOM Jogja, Indonesia
- ARKOM Makassar, Indonesia
- Arsom Silp Institute of the Arts, Thailand
- Asian Coalition for Housing Rights (ACHR), Thailand
- BRAC University, Bangladesh
- Ciliwung Merdeka, Indonesia
- Co-Creation Architects, Bangladesh
- Community Architects Network (CAN), Thailand
- Community Architect Network of Cambodia (CAN-Cam/CDF)
- Community Organizations Development Institute (CODI), Thailand
- CROSSs, Thailand
- Deltas Youth Alliance, Vietnam
- Development Planning Unit (DPU), University College London (UCL), United Kingdom
- Dustudio, India
- Kon Jai Baan, Thailand
- Kon Jing Joe, Thailand
- Lumanti Support Group for Shelter, Nepal
- Mor, Thailand
- National University of Singapore
- Noncitizen, Thailand
- Openspace, Thailand
- Perween Rahman Fellowship Program 2015
- Phranakhon Rajabhat University, Thailand
- Philippine Alliance - Homeless Peoples Federation Philippines, Inc. (HPFP)
- Philippine Alliance - LinkBuild, Inc.
- Philippine Alliance - Technical Assistance Movement for People and the Environment, Inc. (TAMPEI)
- SAFE Bangladesh (Simple Action for the Environment)
- Sevanatha Urban Resource Centre, Sri Lanka
- Silpakorn University, Thailand
- TAO-Pilipinas, The Philippines
- Thammasat University, Thailand
- Think Playgrounds, Vietnam
- Turenscap, China
- Urban Resource Centre, Pakistan

