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Strengthening Urban Climate Governance for Inclusive, Resilient and Sustainable Societies in Thailand (SUCCESS)

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Brief background

Climate change and rapid urbanisation are two major challenges faced by local communities and governments. Urbanisation in Thailand is primarily driven by large-scale infrastructure, industrial, and economic development. Areas where intense urbanisation is occurring are growing without urban strategies and land use planning. Unplanned and unregulated transformation of rural, agricultural, ecological and hydrological landscapes is changing water-related patterns, causing floods and water shortages. With inadequate and outdated urban infrastructure and systems, such as drainage, fast growing cities are faced with increasingly complex water-related challenges. The impacts of climate change are largely felt through water with unpredictable patterns of rainfall and extreme weather events. Small- and medium-sized cities where local governments have limited capacity and resources are urbanising at a much faster rate. With uneven urban development and access to critical urban systems, urbanisation is increasing social inequalities, poverty and contributing to the vulnerability of disadvantaged community groups, particularly the urban poor, women, informal residents, disabled, and elderly. Local governments with ineffective governance and limited institutional capacity are faced with increasingly complex urban, socio-economic and water-related problems that are being exacerbated by climate impacts. There is a pressing need for local governments and communities to increase the adaptive capacity and resilience to climate change and better plan and implement development pathways that are more inclusive and equitable.

SUCCESS project objectives

The SUCCESS project (Nov2019-Oct2024) focused on building the capacity of civil society organisations to play a critical role in driving inclusive and equitable climate actions and urban development. The goal was to improve the lives of urban communities, particularly marginalised and vulnerable groups, through urban development plans that incorporate climate adaptation and urban resilience strategic actions. The project was implemented in six provinces, Khon Kaen, Udon Thani, and Nong Khai in the Northeast, and Songkhla, Patthalung and Satun in the South, of Thailand. With an emphasis on rapidly urbanising areas experiencing water-related challenges, 12 sites across the six provinces were selected. Multi-stakeholders, particularly community-based and grassroots organisations, marginalised and vulnerable groups, and governments were engaged in a range of activities to increase knowledge capacity and develop new technical skills. Understanding the implications of urbanisation, the linkages



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between urbanisation and climate impacts, and how urbanisation is contributing to increasing climate vulnerability of socially vulnerable groups was critical. Key activities included climate vulnerability assessment, development of community-based urban and climate strategies, intervention projects, and policy engagement. Engagement of multi-stakeholders, including vulnerable community groups, officials and decision-makers of local governments and relevant government departments and agencies, was carried out throughout the project using the Shared Learning Dialogue approach to generate new knowledge and contribute to influencing policy change. The project supported building and strengthening multi-stakeholder networks to enhance collaboration and coordination in local decision-making and planning processes.

See project summary document in English

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1GxyTVzr_MTGDX0Hqq6LSL6tvWR_eZ2I9/view?usp=share_link

The project aimed to contribute to the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities and 13 Climate Action, with a strong emphasis on SDGs 5 Gender Equality, 6 Clean Water and Sanitation, 10 Reduced Inequalities, and 1 No Poverty. Focusing on two significant issues, climate impacts and urbanisation, the project was designed to promote intersectionality of justice and governance in order to effectively address the cross-cutting issues of uneven development, social and gender inequalities and water-related challenges. The project supported participatory approaches and provided inclusive space for local multi-stakeholders to plan, develop and implement community-based strategies that incorporate the promotion of human well-being, livelihoods, environmental health, housing security, disaster preparedness, and land-use and water resources management.

In addition to contributing to the SDGs, the project was designed to support the implementation of national plans and strategies, including the 20-year National Strategy, National Economic and Social Development Plan and National Adaptation Plan. The aim was to support mainstreaming of climate adaptation and building urban resilience at the local level. Key activities of the project were designed to engage with local governments to enhance understandings of cross-cutting urban, socio-economic development and climate issues and identification of practical solutions through bottom-up, participatory approaches. The project also aligned with other important international agenda, including the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

See SUCCESS project's policy alignment poster

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_I9OWstJaQZuyolKyGRVO1P_Luog16M1/view?usp=share_link

See details of SUCCESS project's policy alignment with different national plans and strategies

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1d4YdXT7qT6MjsNxuZw9rahQ9x5Nv84Lt/view?usp=share_link



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SUCCESS project achievements and impacts

The SUCCESS project achieved and delivered all expected outputs as planned. Throughout the five year period, large number of local- and national-level multi-stakeholders were engaged, knowledge and policy materials produced and disseminated, and communication and outreach to broader stakeholders and public carried out.

- **12 Local Teams formed and engaged in a range of capacity building activities**

The project engaged with vulnerable and marginalised groups, women groups, community-based and grassroots organisations in learning workshops and training exercises. 12 local teams were formed, each representing the selected cities of Khuan Lung, Patong, Boyang, and Padang Besar in Songkhla province; La Ngu in Satun; Tanode Duan in Phatthalung; Khon Kaen and Ban Phai in Khon Kaen province; Nong Samrong and Samprao in Udon Thani province; and Nong Khai and Sakrai in Nong Khai province.

A total of 170 persons represented 12 local teams (95 persons were women). The composition of local teams varied in numbers and background nature of members, consisting of women groups, informal residents, academics, local government officials, and those working for community-based and grassroots organisations. For instance, the Boyang, Ban Phai and Khon Kaen teams were led by women of informal settlements and low-income households. The local teams participated in the activities throughout the project and engaged with broader multi-stakeholders within their respective sites.

Stakeholder analysis and mapping at each site were carried out (see results presented in posters https://drive.google.com/file/d/16NAI43vpSv2bXEf1eYrtao_xESJo_I9/view?usp=share_link)

- **12 case studies of climate vulnerability assessments**

Climate vulnerability assessments were carried out by the local teams in 12 locations, encompassing 22 communities, 25 villages, and 18 local governments comprising 12 municipalities, and 6 Sub-district Administrative Organisations (SAO). With technical guidance and strategic support from TEI, CSNM and SCF, the local teams assessed climate vulnerability of local communities in their respective sites, using knowledge and tools gained from the practical training and learning exercises. They developed work plans, designed data collection, engaged with socially vulnerable groups, and interviewed relevant government officials.

See 12 climate vulnerability assessment briefs

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/10td4NakrA4KFitUiZY02LjYVfIw8qWct?usp=share_link

See Annex 1 – brief descriptions of climate vulnerability issues at each site in English



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The purpose of urban climate vulnerability assessments was to investigate and determine climate vulnerabilities of local communities, particularly socially vulnerable and marginalised groups, in the urban context. The objective of the activity was twofold. Assessments were conducted to generate new evidence-based knowledge and understandings of cross-cutting urban and climate issues to inform development, climate, and disaster preparedness decisions, planning and actions. Carrying out urban climate vulnerability studies was also a practical exercise for local CSOs/NGOs/CBOs to develop technical skills in field research and identify mechanisms to engage and collaborate with local multi-stakeholders, particularly relevant governments in planning and decision-making processes. As a practical exercise, the local teams focused on identifying vulnerabilities of vulnerable community groups, particularly of those who are usually excluded or left out of decision-making and planning processes. The aim was to better understand differential vulnerabilities and inequalities as well as uneven impacts of climate change and disasters across different community groups and genders.

Across the 12 studies, 436 persons (199 were women) of CSOs/NGOs/CBOs, 135 government officials (59 women), 65 academics/researchers (30 women), and 23 persons of the business and private sector (13 women) participated in the climate vulnerability studies and engaged by the local teams as resource persons, informants or interviewees.

Overall, the project produced 2 guidebooks, 2 synthesis reports, and a set of infographics, based on the 12 case studies of climate vulnerability assessments – see

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1R0msJmcRO8EcFLVv592jZNI9qiULv8LC?usp=share_link

Key findings, experience, lessons learned, and best practice of the 12 case studies of climate vulnerability assessment were also reflected, shared, and discussed among the local teams and broader multi-stakeholders. The implementing partners, TEI, CSNM, SCF, and UM, and National Advisory Committee (NAC), were also involved in the reviews of and reflections on the results of the climate vulnerability assessments. 99 persons (55 were women) of CSOs/NGOs/CBOs, 27 government officials (16 women), and 5 academics were engaged in dialogue activities which the results of the vulnerability assessments were reviewed and discussed.

- **9 intervention projects**

The SUCCESS project funded 9 intervention projects. Guided by the results of climate vulnerability assessments and community-based strategies, the local teams designed intervention projects with technical support from TEI, SCF and CSNM. The purpose of intervention projects was twofold – building the capacity of local civil society and grassroots organisations and addressing key climate vulnerability issues. The local teams gained new knowledge and technical skills in understanding and developing climate actions and disaster risk



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reduction measures as well as in project management and multi-stakeholder engagement. The development and implementation of intervention projects also provided an opportunity for local multi-stakeholders to collaborate to test and refine approaches and measures to increase the adaptive capacity and resilience of cities and local communities, particularly marginalised and vulnerable groups. Through the intervention projects, engagement of government officials and decision-makers aimed to contribute to influencing mainstreaming of climate vulnerability, adaptation, and resilience into local development plans.

The intervention projects engaged with 1,809 persons who were CSOs/NGOs/CBOs (1180 persons were women), 410 government officials (169 women), 49 academics (32 women) from 20 institutions, and 145 persons of the business sector (79 women). 93 marginalised and vulnerable groups were directly involved in the implementation. The intervention projects also engaged with 24 local governments, comprising 16 municipalities and 8 SAOs, and 76 government departments/agencies.

Each intervention project was designed to address key climate vulnerabilities faced by local communities, particularly marginalised and vulnerable groups and based on local-context priorities and needs. With varying urban and climate issues across the different sites, each intervention project was aligned with local development plans and National Climate Adaptation plans and addressed different sets of SDGs. It was important to promote cross-learning and exchanges of knowledge. Upon the completion of the intervention projects, the implementing teams and multi-stakeholders were engaged in shared learning dialogues to reflect on key findings, lessons learned and good practices. 145 persons of CSOs/NGOs/CBOs (79 were women), 142 government officials (57 women) from 11 municipalities, 7 SAOs and 45 departments / agencies, 21 academics (8 women), and 14 persons of the business sector (3 women) – were engaged in interactive dialogues.

See Annex 3 for brief descriptions of the intervention projects, implementing teams and key issues being addressed

See 9 intervention project briefs

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1SiYxuyaMVCVQDSvy02HE914eqnDQt1tMp?usp=share_link

See 9 intervention project posters

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1NtEjnK3RlvPCIF4t8FM2r_bwyepfw83z?usp=share_link

Based on the intervention projects – a guide for development of community-based adaptation and urban resilience actions in the Thailand context was produced and disseminated

https://drive.google.com/file/d/15UvbeT17BHgOUsayWTQP5jfPrL9PyadJ/view?usp=share_link



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- **9 sets of community-based strategies**

The project achieved 9 sets of community-based strategies. Based on key findings and results of both climate vulnerability assessments and intervention projects, the local teams were supported to develop community-based strategies to address key climate vulnerabilities and urban and water-related issues. Multiple stakeholders, including marginalised and vulnerable community groups, government officials and decision-makers, were engaged in dialogues to finalise the local strategies. 58 persons of CSOs/NGOs/CBOs (33 were women), 33 government officials (11 women) from 2 municipalities, 1 SAO, and 14 government departments / agencies, and 1 person of the business sector participated in development of community-based strategies. Final documents of community-based urban and climate resilience strategies were produced for dissemination and communication to support replication and scaling up of urban and climate actions.

See Annex 3 for summaries of the 9 sets of community-based strategies in English
The project produced 2 policy briefs and 9 sets of community-based strategies
[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1u17YwST1eVspXUWM83FI-N0sX1zf7VOW?usp=share link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1u17YwST1eVspXUWM83FI-N0sX1zf7VOW?usp=share_link)

- **Policy recommendations and urban climate resilience mainstreaming**

To support mainstreaming and integration of urban and climate issues into local development plans, the project was designed to engage with multi-stakeholders in knowledge and policy dialogues. The aim was to demonstrate practical solutions and approaches to address complex urban, climate and water-related problems based on the intervention projects. Upon the completion of the intervention projects, multi-stakeholders were engaged in knowledge-policy dialogues, including 145 persons of CSOs/NGOs/CBOs (79 were women), 142 government officials (57 women) from 11 municipalities, 7 SAOs and 45 departments / agencies, 21 academics (8 women), and 14 persons of the business sector (3 women).

A two-day shared learning dialogue workshop held in the South to reflect on key findings, lessons learned and good practices and to influence policy change involving multi-stakeholders, including government officials, decision-makers, planners, and community-based organisations, was recorded. The workshop was also live broadcast. Two video clips were also widely distributed and shared on mainstream and social media;

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0QaECiKU7JU>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=540trBYJOMY>



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The project engaged with local and national government officials, decision-makers and planners, as well as media / news reporters to support dissemination of knowledge and enhance mainstreaming of urban and climate actions. A national-local knowledge-practice-policy forum was organised, bringing together all the implementing partner organisations (TEI, CSNM, SCF and UM), local teams, NAC, and multi-stakeholders to share and discuss knowledge, practices and policy recommendations. The three-day event engaged with 87 persons (44 were women), comprising 33 persons (22 women) of CSOs/NGOs/CBOs with 8 organisations representing marginalised and vulnerable community groups, 34 government officials (16 women) representing 2 municipalities, 1 SAO, and 14 government departments and agencies, and 12 persons (6 women) of the business sector and media. Decision-makers, planners and high-level government officials participated in discussions and dialogues. Policy recommendations focusing on urban development, climate adaptation and resilience strategies, improving wellbeing and livelihoods of the urban poor, informal settlement dwellers, water resource management, and preparedness for water-related hazards and disasters, were proposed to relevant government departments and agencies. Representatives of national and local press were also invited to document and publish interviews and news stories.

See selected photos of the final knowledge-policy forum

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/12spqfsNWIWLUJJOFRUrWmc-s3Cx_7QN?usp=share_link

For the whole event, pictures of the three-day event (25-27 June 2024), including one-day field visits (on 26 June 24), and shared documents

People-centred urban climate resilience and adaptation: Knowledge Policy Dialogue

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1hh3qQscikOinvkRCbhOaoZ-IS60GZRMu>

A large number of media releases, news stories and short video clips were produced, published and shared across mainstream and social media outlets. These were from the 3-day knowledge-policy workshop held in June 2024.

Media stories / short documentaries

- ความไม่แน่นอนของความเสี่ยงเปลี่ยนแปลง กับ การเตรียมแผนรับมือของท้องถิ่น
<https://thecitizen.plus/node/99968>
- โลกร้อนกับคนเปราะบาง : ความขัดแย้งของการพัฒนาเมือง เสี่ยงของชุมชน ความเป็นธรรม และความยั่งยืน
<https://soundisan.com/news/vulnerable-people01/>
- การพัฒนาเมืองที่ไม่เอื้อต่อคนเปราะบาง ความเปลี่ยนแปลงสภาพภูมิอากาศรุนแรง ส่งผลต่อ “แผนปฏิบัติการ”
<https://soundisan.com/news/urban-city/>
- “ประชาคมร่วมแรงเพื่อเปลี่ยนแปลงเมือง” การใช้ข้อมูลเชิงประจักษ์สู่ความเข้าใจเกี่ยวกับความเปราะบาง
<https://soundisan.com/news/community-for-urban-transformation/>



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- ปลุกเมืองให้รู้ร้อนรู้หนาว ระดมความคิดสร้างความเปลี่ยนแปลง ชุมชนเมืองในยุคโลกเดือด

<https://theisaanrecord.co/24/10/01/wake-up-the-city/>

Short video clips

- <https://www.facebook.com/share/v/iUAhLsm3aDnuyGWA/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/share/v/Y7dV3oGVZwEo3t4t/>
- <https://web.facebook.com/share/v/DnMvUF8NHfM7qUPn/>
- <https://web.facebook.com/share/v/ffAjvJaDfZxVbi2k/>
- <https://web.facebook.com/share/v/uX5tevB1ZyBhxD69/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/share/v/ai1jye79rwY4TCMz/?mibextid=WC7FNe>

News articles

- <https://themasterth.com/?p=72535>
- <https://innews.news/news.php?n=61091>
- <https://x.com/ESGUniverse/status/1808025796159983953>
- <https://www.facebook.com/645481337624613/posts/880920030747408>
- <https://www.esguniverse.com/content/252531>
- <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/NxQvfzLMrCo7B2Kp/?mibextid=TrneLp>
- <https://www.facebook.com/share/EpieFM4W8Zmds4Sv/?mibextid=TrneLp>
- <https://x.com/SuccessChTv/status/1806196987492196711?t=O2Lzx6UIRr01p8NID4COA&s=19>

A&s=19

- <https://www.ryt9.com/s/prg/3527345>
- <https://www.thailand4.com/th/McD8>
- <https://www.newswit.com/th/ifanc1m7hzhpbqgl3ebn0vb8lgvxg6vg>
- <https://www.thaipr.net/general/3488376>
- <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/5sJpexp1HCdu1gVB/?mibextid=TrneLp>
- <https://www.facebook.com/share/r/FLhTX1mwgn2a6Deo/?mibextid=8O0DfK>
- <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/mUa6RdXty8uFaQEm/>

- **SUCCESS knowledge and policy products disseminated**

For communication and visibility, throughout the five year period, the project produced a wide range of knowledge and policy materials for distribution and dissemination. They included op-ed articles in English and Thai, news stories, video clips, and e-newsletters.

To strengthen the understanding and knowledge on climate change of local communities, the project produced a booklet of climate scientific key words with descriptions that are easily understood



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SUCCESS climate vocab booklet

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1QMLaUS4Qp66F4YBx5_4S0-LHWVAi5Pju?usp=share_link

Newsletters

To support regional multi-stakeholder networking and knowledge exchange, 10 e-newsletters issues were produced and widely distributed during the five year period of the project. They were distributed through regional mailing lists, which included approximately 370 persons of cross-sectoral stakeholders and 171 were women.

See all 10 e-newsletters

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1QMLaUS4Qp66F4YBx5_4S0-LHWVAi5Pju?usp=share_link

English op-ed articles

- We need climate adaptation now (2024)
<https://www.bangkokpost.com/opinion/opinion/2771528/we-need-climate-adaptation-now>
- Tackling Thailand’s water problems (2023)
<https://www.bangkokpost.com/opinion/opinion/2623807/tackling-thailands-water-problems>
- Smart cities listen to their citizens (2023)
<https://www.bangkokpost.com/opinion/opinion/2558961/smart-cities-listen-to-their-citizens>
- Cities of the future in an unequal world (2022)
<https://www.policyforum.net/cities-of-the-future-in-an-unequal-world/>
- The need for locally-led climate actions (2022)
<https://www.bangkokpost.com/opinion/opinion/2306718/the-need-for-locally-led-climate-actions>
- Who are the most vulnerable to climate impacts, and importantly, why? (2022)
<https://www.tcijthai.com/news/2022/1/article/12157>
- The challenge of water management in Thailand (2021)
<https://www.policyforum.net/the-challenge-of-water-management-in-thailand/>
- Ten years since the 2011 flood disaster and the inconvenient truth of climate change, urbanisation, and water crises is still ignored (2021)
<https://www.tcijthai.com/news/2021/9/article/11932>
- Resilience to what and for whom? Is it inclusive and equitable resilience? (2021)
<https://www.tcijthai.com/news/2021/4/article/11602>



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Thai op-ed articles

- “Climate Adaptation เหตุใดต้องเร่งปรับตัวต่อการเปลี่ยนแปลงสภาพภูมิอากาศ”
<https://www.nationtv.tv/gogreen/378941716>
<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/kpJtV7Zj7JaN4JqT/?mibextid=oFDknk>
- นักวิชาการ TEI เน้นมุมมองการขับเคลื่อน Urban Climate Resilience
<https://innews.news/news.php?n=57836>
- TEI เน้น “ภาคประชาสังคม” เตรียมความพร้อมรับมือการเปลี่ยนแปลงสภาพภูมิอากาศ
<https://innews.news/news.php?n=65076>
<https://www.thenicebrand.com/tei-เน้น-ภาคประชาสังคม-เตรียม/>

Other media and short video clips produced and disseminated

- Prepare for flooding in the urban areas of the Thai Samut community, Udon Thani Province, in the evening news, ThaiPBS (6 October 24)
<https://www.facebook.com/share/v/rjJhbMFwj3NaPRRX/>
- Mittraprap Community, a vulnerable area in the middle of Khon Kaen city via the page Sound Isan: SOUND ISAN
<https://www.facebook.com/share/v/uPQaKgR8aMEhDwPg/>
- Citizens change cities - Community Response to Global Crisis (SUCCESS Southern Region)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=534VM1OXivY>
- Boyang - Community Response to Global Crisis (SUCCESS Southern Region)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ggAZtwMUGhI&feature=youtu.be>
- Patong - Community Response to Global Crisis (SUCCESS Southern Region)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N6G9zhFkeKg>
- Khuan Lung - Community Response to Global Crisis (SUCCESS Southern Region)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZLpKEBFXIGg>
- La Ngu - Community Response to Global Crisis (SUCCESS Southern Region)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uQY8R5s5-n8&feature=youtu.be>
- Tanode Duan - Community Response to Global Crisis (SUCCESS Southern Region)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cnbLj3IV8p8&feature=youtu.be>
- Padang Besar - Community Response to Global Crisis (SUCCESS Southern Region)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4A87MCaSp0>
- "บาหลีเซาะที่เก่าแสน:ชุมชนประมงริมคลองสำโรง"
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FIF_H5QTedE
- รายการสภากาแฟ วันที่ 6 มี.ค. 2567: การปรับตัวของชุมชนต่อภาวะ โลกเดือด โดยคุณชาคริต โภชะเรือง ผู้จัดการมูลนิธิชุมชนสงขลา
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KuBVkrCLjKE>



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Pictures of SUCCESS project

The project was implemented in 12 sites involving a large number of multi-stakeholders

- Khon Kaen and Ban Phai in Khon Kaen province
- Nong Samrong and Samprao in Udon Thani province
- Nong Khai / Khok Mang Ngo and Sakra in Nong Khai province
- Boyang, Khuan Lung, Patong, and Padang Besar in Songkhla province
- La Ngu in Satun province
- Tanode Duan in Phatthalung province

Selected project site pictures (taken by Dr Pakamas Thinphanga)

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1-iDXmdRsazaxKTsFIYvMcXOC2Z3PGOWQ?usp=share_link

Selected stakeholder pictures (taken by Dr Pakamas Thinphanga)

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Rq4GCkzR08R5wokZVfDVz1E1SQqmoYFO?usp=share_link

All SUCCESS project materials and products are available and accessible

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1FPnXkjGcbf-gC6DFYCd8PXG9z44h_iiO?usp=share_link

<https://www.tei.or.th/thaicityclimate/success.html>

<https://www.facebook.com/UrbanClimateResilienceThailand>



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