

BALTIC JOURNAL OF LAW & POLITICS

A Journal of Vytautas Magnus University VOLUME 15, NUMBER 4 (2022) ISSN 2029-0454

Cite: Baltic Journal of Law & Politics 15:4 (2022): 1358-1367 DOI: 10.2478/bjlp-2022-004114

Integrating the CIQ System at the Fourth Thai-Lao Friendship Bridge with Localities for Effective Border Management

Somchai Thamsutiwat

School of Law, Mae Fah Luang University, Chiang Rai, Thailand 57100 Email: somchai@mfu.ac.th

Chalongrat Charoensri

Ph.D School of Social Innovation, Mae Fah Luang University, Chiang Rai, Thailand 57100

Corresponding author: Email: chalongrat.cha@mfu.ac.th

Received: August 29, 2022; reviews: 2; accepted: November 22, 2022.

Abstract

This study evaluates the CIQ system at the Fourth Thailand-Lao PDR Friendship Bridge in Chiang Khong District, Chiang Rai Province, and finds a model of borderland management for Chiang Khong to handle future changes. Documentary research, in-depth interviews, and focus groups were used to obtain information from Chiang Rai's public and commercial stakeholders between February 2014 and March 2015. Current spatial development in Chiang Khong is incompatible with the change. Locals worry about the Friendship Bridge's long-term economic implications and the CIQ system's fairness to the local population's share of development. Due to multiparty tensions in development administration, local administrative capability and collaboration remain ill. The research project examined ways to adapt Chiang Khong's spatial development administration to resemble a sustainable transportation city. One idea was to create support units to make managing the integrated borderland easier and to create a special local administrative body to provide local administrative bodies additional power.

Keywords

CIQ system, Chiang Khong borderland, the 4th Thailand-Lao PDR Friendship Bridge

Introduction

The commercialization of Chiang Khong, it is crucial to Chiang Rai's

development. Chiang Rai's location at the intersection of three nations makes it an ideal location for Mekong River transport. The following land routes: Chiang Rai's development strategy focuses on building economic infrastructure along its borders with three countries. Work on a Mekong River bridge in Chiang Khong District, a key border crossing, began. Chiang Khong District's Chiang Rai Bridge crosses the Mekong. Wiang Sub-district, Chiang Khong District, Chiang Rai, has 11 villages and covers 120 km² (75,000 rai). Its commerce is growing and it is a popular travel route for land and sea tourists. Chiang Khong District has also developed quickly. Heavy trucks transporting goods damage roads and cause soil erosion along the Mekong River. State land invasion due to capitalist invasion Most people cannot afford land. Drug problems, environmental issues, aliens escaping the city, etc.

This study identifies unique border characteristics. Soft borders are organized to encourage exchanges and growth, especially in economic matters like the state allowing the movement of people, products, and services. The National Single Window (NSW) and CIQ system are crucial for border control. Cross-border international collaboration actions soft border mobility poses non-adaptive state issues, such as multi-level integration from the bilateral to the sub-regional and regional levels and its connection to the global upper-economic structure. Once one-dimensional issues are now one-dimensional. especially stability This goes beyond state security. The impact on the nation's border landscape and other aspects of security must be managed. Both the continuation and center (border heartland) sections, as well as the intermediate and outer borderlands, are relevant. Integrated public administration, which is governance in government organizations in commercial dimensions, especially strategic management, helps economic development in the age of globalization by ensuring local development can accommodate future changes.

This study examines the effects of the CIQ system on Friendship Bridge's border and the application of current policies in accordance with the Integrated Provincial Administration Framework on Chiang Rai Province's border region. How to strengthen the link between regional and national plans so that complementary plans can be used in the future that following theories shows in figure 1. First, The CIQ system controls the importation of goods and immigration of people. Three immigration categories exist: Customs, immigration, and import quotas Border-control ideas Consider borders as structured boundaries that encourage trade and development (soft borders), focusing on border management. CIQ and NSW enforce shared borders between nations to facilitate free movement of people, goods, and services. Integrated Public Administration (IPA) Government organizations should help economic development in the age of globalization. This changes the mission from following central government orders to addressing local needs as part of a larger strategy. It reduces the government's role as a private-and public-sector advocate.

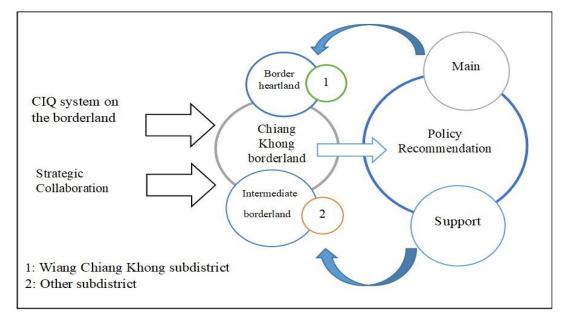


Figure 1 Framework of applied the CIQ system at the 4th Friendship Bridge.

Methodology

This study was qualitative in nature because it looked at both primary and secondary data taken from primary and secondary sources of documentary material. 1) The field data were gathered through conversations with experts in the relevant fields. 2) Host a workshop for the purpose of generating ideas, inviting participants from both the public and commercial sectors. Access to complete information for both the private sector and the residents of the area including impact issues, strategies, policies, laws, and municipal regulations. 3) Collaboration among the many government agencies in the Chiang district of Chiang Rai Using the ideas and recommendations developed by individuals who have worked on the problem of strategic integration, step four involves developing a management model, policies, and possibly even rules, regulations, or laws to encourage trade between Thailand and the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

Results

1. The impact of CIQ development on the community.

Economically, the international transport sector is increasing quicker because of the integrated service system, but the service industry has challenges with foreign tourists. The region is smaller and more difficult to travel because of the bridge. The relevant operators can benefit from the significant trade volume growth. Small enterprises and local dealers face growing transportation costs. Some contractor organizations lose from the bridge opening, while others gain. Due to uncertainties about the region's future, the high land price discourages investment because people cannot reap all the economic benefits. As intended, the Friendship Bridge's construction will boost economic activity. Table 1 illustrates the

value of products imported and exported across the 4th Thai-Lao Friendship Bridge (Chiang Khong-Houy Xay) throughout 2017 to 2019, with the value of imported goods in 2017 at 167,839,440.21 Baht. The value of exports was 177,566,078.22 baht, while the value of imported goods in 2018 was 42,187,231.54 baht. Exports were 177,566,078.22 baht, and imports were 99,870,379.52 baht in 2019. Three-year exports totaled 70,072,232.42 baht, imports were 309,897,051.27 baht, and exports were 339,702,947.47 baht.

Table 1 The value of goods imported and exported through the 4^{th} Thai-Lao Friendship Bridge during 2017 to 2019.[11]

Year	Import goods' value (Baht)	Export goods' value (Baht)
2017	167,839,440.21	177,566,078.22
2018	42,187,231.54	92,064,636.83
2019	99,870,379.52	70,072,232.42
Total	309,897,051.27	339,702,947.47

Socially, Chiang Khong's passive population grew with big corporations. The Friendship Bridge was unknown to Chiang Khong residents. Prioritizing the economy over culture at the 4th, this hinders Thai-Laos relations. Regional and state governments had trouble working together to solve environmental issues. If local people cannot negotiate for the protection of their natural resources and town planning rules are not followed, land use in Chiang Khong will change quickly. The fourth Thai-Lao Friendship Bridge's opening shows that prejudice can cause disputes. Rural communities struggle to adapt to economic and societal changes. Chiang Khong has frequent conflicts between losers and winners, conservation, and development, local and provincial (central) sectors, and the central government and itself.

2. The consistency of the development strategy.

The plan is formulated by the Integrated Provincial Administration Committee of Chiang Rai Province, which is responsible for the province overall. Acknowledge Chiang Rai's position as a border city, which makes it an important connection point or gateway to the countries that are adjacent to Thailand. Foreseeing the need for physical, economic, and social preparation, starting to formulate plans and projects since the fiscal year 2012, including emphasizing the importance of Chiang Khong as part of the development of the Chiang Rai border special economic zone, which is to be a city center, As the topmost concern, the formulation of an economic development strategy with the goal of integrating the region into an existing framework for international economic cooperation by means of a support system for border trade and logistics has taken precedence. Then there was the problem of increasing production, in addition to problems with the quality of life in a variety of areas.

The Chiang Rai Provincial Administrative Organization has established its own development vision, and the primary focus of that vision is to place an emphasis on the enhancement of the quality of life. This is in accordance with the organization's mission statement, which emphasizes the need to improve the quality of life, particularly in the realm of education. Amongst other things, in order to come in first and second place, agricultural production capacities need to be improved; nevertheless, while looking over the plan, this must be done. The Chiang Rai Provincial Administrative Arrangement has determined that the most essential strategic priority is the organization of the infrastructure found inside the province. The subsequent action is to promote economic growth, with a particular emphasis on agriculture and tourism, in addition to elevating the level of living in certain regions. Municipality of the Wiang Subdistrict located inside Chiang Khong District. It is an important point that is immediately impacted by both the expansion of the CIQ system at the Fourth Friendship Bridge and the growth of the surrounding area. Local economic development and tourism promotion have been classified as components of the "local agenda" due to its strategic, economic, and international links; yet, it is still relevant to the "real local" and not the "local border town."

It was discovered that when developing development strategies, core locations like Wiang Subdistrict Municipality gave infrastructural measures the highest priority, followed by economic, social, environmental, and other advancements. Subdistrict Municipality of Sathan It is a different local government entity that has been impacted by economic growth, particularly because it is a target region for the construction of logistics industrial estates, which is connected to the municipality's development of the CIQ system at the Fourth Friendship Bridge. Their region has the advantage of being a border region and benefiting from government development programs. They have also developed their own development vision and strategy based on a wide mission framework. Infrastructure development is included last in the economic development strategy, which includes the area's development as a distribution center city as its main strategy.

3. Integration approach

The method of management that is discussed in this section includes the concept of proposing Chiang Khong as a sustainable transit city, and the residents of the surrounding area benefit from the city's role as a logistics and urban border economy. It has been determined that a framework for action regarding tourism can be established, which can connect tourist areas both within Thailand and outside of Thailand, including Lao People's Democratic Republic and China. and various potential methods of management.

The research team took into consideration the document as well as the issues that were brought up during both the interviews and the small group meetings in order to provide a response to the final research question of the study, which sought a suitable approach or model to integrate the local strategy with the

strategy for the Chiang Rai provincial government. They did this by summing up the ideas as an integrated development framework that included development balance, convenience, safety, reduction of conflict, and good governance.

3.1 Considering the balance in the development of Chiang Khong in five main dimensions.

The development of Chiang Khong city must strike a balance across the following five major dimensions:1) ensuring that there is a sustainable equilibrium between technological advancement and environmental protection. 2) the harmony that exists between the central region and the continuously expanding periphery in order to equitably distribute the region's prosperity through the acquisition of government services and the equitable distribution of income. 3) Strive to have a balance of large, small, and medium-sized businesses in your portfolio. 4) Strike a balance between the businesses owned by people from Chiang Khong, which are typically of a medium or small scale, and the businesses owned by people from other countries (which are large, medium, and small). 5) the objective of making Chiang Khong a city that is conducive to both entering and leaving the country with ease. Developing Chiang Khong into a popular tourist destination Chiang Khong is included in the travel plans in two different ways: first, as an intended destination, and second, as a connection point between two other destinations. People in the community will see an increase in their income from the service sector as a result of this.

3.2 The simplicity of its management

In order to effectively develop Chiang Khong, it is imperative that the integration of regional development strategies be carried out with flexibility. or have a high degree of operation that must concentrate on the promptness and timeliness of different problems that are occurring in the area. There is sufficient leeway within which to work. Because it is a special economic development zone, it will be subject to the economic power of the liberalization trend as well as the efforts of the government to control the territories. Additionally, it will be subject to the political power at both the national level and in Chiang Rai itself, which may delay the development of Chiang Khong in the direction that is desired. It is possible that it will not take place at all. In the process of designing management systems, the primary focus should be on minimizing the number of steps involved and establishing an organization to assist with the integration procedure.

3.3 Safety in the Area.

Integration for the purpose of development must also take this additional factor into consideration. Chiang Khong is an important gate that allows people from different places to take advantage of the area's both life and property safety from crime because it has a long border area that runs parallel to the borders of neighboring countries. This is because Chiang Khong has a long border area that is

parallel to the borders of neighboring countries. Securing the public's use of newly built and developed basic utilities on the basis of maintaining the state's security at both the CIQ system and the border crossings Observing proper protocol along the Mekong River Suppression of illegal drug trafficking, smuggling, and importing and exporting of goods, as well as protection of human security having access to suitable social welfare services or social support networks is also essential.

3.4 Methods to Reduce Conflict.

One of the problems that gets in the way of the direction that development and strategic integration are headed is conflict. This research project uses the idea of reducing conflict in the area as an example of another important concept that needs to be considered when making an integrated approach. These concepts are as follows: (1) clearly defining the missions and responsibilities in the development area; (2) improving the administrative organization's communication ability; (3) developing an acceptable conflict resolution mechanism for all parties; and (4) the integrated management organization must be able to handle the situation.

3.5 Carried out in a manner consistent with principles of sound governance.

Another issue that cannot be disregarded is the inability to ignore its proper execution of good governance. It entails carrying out, for the benefit of the populace, the desired result of having effective governance. In compliance with the recommendations included in the Royal Decree on the Criteria and Methods for Good Public Affairs Administration As a result, the execution of responsibilities ought to involve adequate management. The community should be able to participate in the organization in an open and transparent manner, and the organization itself should have a healthy balance of power.

4. Management mechanism

The preliminary idea served as the basis for the research team's proposal to improve the management mechanism in order to accommodate the changes that are going to take place. However, this improvement would have nothing to do with the management of the CIQ system at the Chiang Khong border crossing. According to the resolution passed by the Special Economic Development Zone Policy Committee No. 2/2015 on March 16/2015, it is already convenient for the government to operate and establish special economic development zones covering the three border districts of Chiang Rai Province, which are Mae Sai, Chiang Saen, and Chiang Khong. This was stated in the resolution. Currently, it is already convenient to operate and establish special economic development zones. As a result, the primary objective of this integrated management mechanism is to integrate potential future local strategies for the advancement of Chiang Khong in accordance with the objectives. as will be shown in the following details It is made

up of the primary organization, which takes the form of a unique kind of organization for the local government. A centralized agency that helps with the integration and efficient implementation of the many decentralizations legislation that are already in place.

4.1 Local government mechanism

In Thailand's implementation of the Special Economic Development Zone, the Committee of Decentralization to Local Administrative Organizations believes that upgrading a local government organization to a special form does not conflict with decentralization. The establishment of special economic zones is in accordance with Prime Minister's Office regulations on special economic development zones B.E. 2556 (2013) because there is no abolition of local governance in the area, but rather an operation that aims to work in harmony and mutual support for Chiang Khong. Wiang Sub-district is the only one with two local administrative organizations: Wiang and Wiang Chiang Khong. The Cabinet is against dissolution. It may set up a special form of local government and elevate Wiang Sub-District Municipality. If the new constitution proposes dissolving local government entities as one sub-district, it will be easy. The current government's efforts to consistently accelerate the development of border areas will allow this local governance to emerge and serve as a model for future special economic development zones.

Support system

They still have to collaborate with other government agencies even if they have a unique administrative organization (or "local administration organization") as the principal entity to handle the area. many more, including neighboring communities and the Chiang Rai Provincial Administrative Organization, in order to carry out the operation successfully and in accordance with the intended goals. Two organizations that can aid in successful integration are the Chiang Rai Border Local Strategic Integration Bureau and the Joint Border Information Coordination Center.

Center for Border Information Coordination.

In order to make the work of the District and Provincial Development Plan Coordination Committee, the former working group, more effective and to be able to notify you, the Chiang Khong-Chiang Rai Border Joint Information Coordination Center was established. coordinating committee to spearhead a new policy initiative as well as a conduit to inform residents about how Chiang Khong's local government entities operate.

Bureau of Local Strategic Integration at the Chiang Rai Border.

The research team also recommended the creation of the Chiang Rai Border Local Strategic Integration Bureau as a public organization that could be

established by enacting a royal decree directly established with the Prime Minister's Office to oversee coordinating integrated development of local border areas, which may concentrate on tasks related to development in the Special Economic Development Zone. This proposal was made in addition to the data coordination center.

5. Implementation of existing and upcoming decentralization laws.

The implementation of the spirit of decentralization in order to strengthen the local communities that have existed in Thailand ever since the Constitution of Thailand should not be ignored as the primary principle, despite the proposed organization and restructuring of integrated management. This is the main principle that should not be ignored. Kingdom of Thailand, 1997, the year that marked the beginning of the current form of local administration and the laws that are in effect today. In particular, the Act lays forth strategies and procedures for decentralization to entities that are within the jurisdiction of local governments.

Conclusion and Suggestions

Conclusions and Recommendations for the Successful Combination of Management and Acceptance. Therefore, an appropriate implementation of good governance should be adapted to the context of management, taking into consideration the efficacy and cost-effectiveness of the purpose of the state. Do more effort than is absolutely necessary. In order for government agencies to keep up with the situation, their missions have been strengthened. In order to keep employee morale high while also facilitating and responding to the requirements of the public and periodically analyzing the performance of the government in particular, good governance should be taken into consideration inside the company.

Acknowledgement

The Thailand Research Fund provided financial assistance in the form of grant number RDG5710031 for this investigation. In addition, the author would like to take this opportunity to thank Mae Fah Luang University as well as a large number of other individuals for their participation in this study project.

References

- [1] "Joint cabinet retreat scheduled for the weekend". The Nation. 15 May 2013. Retrieved 31 May 2013.
- [2] https://www.newmandala.org/new-thai-lao-friendship-bridge-across-the-mekong/
- [3] The Provincial Development Strategy and Information Group Chiang Rai Provincial Office. Chiang Rai Provincial Hall, 2013, Annual report 2013.

- [4] https://www.flickr.com/photos/dfataustralianaid/10729268664/
- [5] Tananyarat Luasomboon. Policy and measure of Thai Government toward border trade management: A Case study of the Chiang Saen Customs Office, Chiang Saen District Chiang Rai Province, Thesis, 2008, Chiang Mai University.
- [6] Nusara Tanlaput. Management potential of the special border economic zone of Chiang Rai Province, Thesis, 2002, Chiang Mai University.
- [7] Pundop Tangsriwong. Land Link. Manager 360 Company Limited, 2012.
- [8] Prempracha D'mello. Border trade and communities' impact in Chiang Khong District, Chiang Rai Province, Thesis, 2007, Chiang Mai University.
- [9] https://thaipublica.org/2012/09/customs-department-3/
- [10] http://www.doingbusiness.org/rankings
- [11] https://www.chiangkhongcustoms.com/mainsit