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NAPHATSANAN VINIJVORAKIJKUL: PAK KLONG TALAD,  
RATTANAKOSIN ISLAND, BANGKOK: STEPS TOWARD THE CONSERVATION  
OF A HISTORIC URBAN COMMUNITY.

THESIS ADVISOR: PROFESSOR WILLIAM CHAPMAN, Ph.D., 216 pp.

Pak Klong Talad is located between the Chao Praya River (Inner Krung Rattanakosin) and Outer Krung Rattanakosin on the south side of the historic city of Bangkok. This area has great historical, architectural and cultural significance. The future of Pak Klong Talad, within the context of Krung Rattanakosin, is a subject of considerable debate and controversy.

The Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA) was to have developed a plan for the Pak Klong Talad area. However, the BMA faced a significant number of problems and obstructions. These included the fact that no specific conservation regulations were promulgated; that the owners of land and properties did not cooperate; that there was no budget to pay restitution; the negative response of people who were to be affected by the plan; and the lack of a truly comprehensive and sustainable development plan.

This dissertation is the reexamination of several factors including: taking a fresh look at the physical character of the community; an analysis of the present economy and social make-up of the community, and in particular, ways in which community participation may be encouraged and enlisted in future development and conservation schemes. The study also examines ways that economic change and new marketing strategies might be enlisted to further the aims of community sustainable future by learning from market models in other countries and consider their applicability to Pak Klong Talad. This study's final intention is to better understand existing factors and thereafter develop guidelines that might provide a better solution for future management – one that adequately takes into account the participation of the people in Pak Klong Talad as well adapt to new economic realities.