

## **Three Years after the Tsunami: “Sustainable Rehabilitation? Experiences and Prospects?”**

### Session 1: “**Good Practices**”

#### Speakers:

**Pakbhum Withanthirawat** (Save Andaman Network):

Positive and negative experiences arising out of the reconstruction process.

**Maitree Jongkraichak** (Bahn Nahm Khem Community Coordination Center): Politics and politicization in the post-disaster governance of Bahn Nahm Khem.

**C<sup>2</sup>** representatives:

Electronic Networking as an aid in post-Tsunami recovery.

When reflecting on the past three years of Tsunami rehabilitation, both successes and failures can be identified. (Almost) everyone who had lost his or her house to the disaster has now found new permanent shelter. Infrastructure and industry are up and running again. But some of the ‘opportunities in crisis’, as highlighted by the Krabi declaration, were missed out on. Unfair pre-disaster structures have yet again tended to be re-produced in the disaster aftermath, issues of land conflict most prominent among them.

Yet, on the positive side some examples of community (self-) empowerment have evolved, with communities and their support organizations emerging from the disaster aftermath stronger than before. To have a closer look at “good practices” is on the agenda for this session, in order to benefit from these experiences for the future.

### Session 2: **Tourism and Sustainability. Mutually exclusive agendas?**

#### Speakers:

**Thiwawan Chaikao, Romlee Maeroh** (Tsunami Aid Watch):

Natural resources and tourism in Takua Pa district.

**Panya Ananthakul** (Bahn Nahm Khem):

SCOPE-Charters: A post-Tsunami tourism concept for the benefit of Tsunami impacted communities.

**Thanu Nabnien** (Coastal Wetlands Conservation Project):

SoFaR: Communal participation in tourism concepts and policies after the Tsunami.

The reconstruction of the tourism industry and of the communities have been organized and implemented by separate agencies, following different rationalities in the disaster aftermath, capitalizing on the distinct institutional frameworks of the ‘urban economy’ on the one hand, and the ‘rural economy’ on the other. Conceptually treated as distinct and hardly related to each other, nevertheless a great deal of interaction and mutual interference takes place. Land and resources are limited, thus have been contested among those involved in reconstruction and (re-) development. At best, communities can take advantage of poorly paid employment in tourism businesses or selling their products to the industry. But the opportunities for them to actually participate in tourism businesses beyond small, informal ones are scarce. Sustainability and fairness in tourism development, especially for the economically weaker stakeholders, are the issue of this session, departing from an informed analysis seeking for ways for sustainable improvement.

## Discussion forum: **What remains to be done?**

### Speakers:

**Khun Pakbhum Withanthirawat** from Save Andaman Network (SAN)

**Khun Maitree Jongkraichak** (Bahn Nahm Khem Community Coordination Center)

**Prof. Surichae Wankaew** (Social Research Institute, Chulalongkorn University)

**Khun Preda Kongpaen** (Chumchon Thai Foundation)

**Khun Orawan Hanthaley** (Representative from the youth group of Bahn Thabtawan)

**Khun Anusorn Khaewkungwan** (Disaster Mitigation Directing Center for the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation, Thai Ministry of Interior)

Three years after the Tsunami, the visible traces of the disaster have mostly disappeared. Few are being kept as monuments or items of exhibitions. The Tsunami is history. With mid-term rehabilitation mostly completed, the long-term rehabilitation phases out to merge into the broader development processes of the affected areas. Hence, three years after the disaster, we are maybe face to face with one of the last occasions to shape and influence policies related to the post-Tsunami recovery, in order to capitalize on “opportunities in crisis”.

‘What remains to be done?’ is the question asked at the outset of the concluding discussion. Issues arising might be related to: How to tackle the remaining grievances of the communities? What needs to be done in terms of disaster preparedness? How to ensure further steps towards sustainable development when the special attention of the disaster aftermath dissipates? How can social and political awareness gained by many communities be translated into creating new economic opportunities for their sustainable development? The speakers have been asked for a short input about what they think is the most important issue on the post-Tsunami agenda, in order to, then, open up the discussion for the audience.