

Description

Location (accessibility, multiplier effects on neighboring regions), population, size, reputation in the country

Chiang Rai City is located in the North of Thailand, in Muang District, Chiang Rai Province and 840 kilometers away from Bangkok. Approximately 70,000 people are living in the city which has an overall area of 60.85 km². Due to its good accessibility and infrastructure Chiang Rai City is the economic development zone of northern Thailand, connecting the neighboring countries of upper Mekong region.

Political/legal position in the respective state structure (name of mayor and term in office, next election period, decision-making structures)

Since April 2008, Mr Sompong Koolwong is the elected mayor of Chiang Rai City. His term of office will last until April 2012. New elections are scheduled for June 2012. His work is supported by three deputy mayors. The city council is consisting of 24 elected council members. Decisions are taken in monthly council meetings.

Human and financial resources (no of civil servants working in the public administration, overall annual financial budget, etc)

In total, 1,090 civil servants are working in the public administration of Chiang Rai City with an annual budget of 390 million THB (10 mil EUR).

The administration is divided into seven departments, which are the Clerk Office, Department of Policy and Planning, Department of Finance, Department of Public Works, Department of Public Health and Environment, Department of Education, and Department of Social Welfare.

Specific political, social, cultural and economic character/framework

Chiang Rai City is well-known for its unique culture and Lanna's way of life which attracts visitors from both Thailand and around the world. The people in this region mainly speak



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Northern Thai, Kham Mueang, or Lanna, as the language of Thai Yuan people of Lannathai. Lannathai is a Thai language, closely related to Thai and Lao. Due to its location close to Myanmar, Chiang Rai Municipality is now recognized as the hub of Indo-China Region.



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