

Description

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

The municipality is the capital of Songkhla Province. Its area covers 9.27 km² with a population of 83,000 registered and 15,000 nonregistered persons living in 18,298 households at a density of over 10,500 persons per km² (VORRATNCHAIPHAN, C and VILLENEUVE, D in Urbanization and Sustainability in Asia, ADB).

The Songkhla Municipality is known for the following interests and key areas:

1. Tourist attraction e.g. beaches, historical sites, old town area
2. Custom i.e. Lak Phra (Buddha procession)
3. Educational administration
4. Natural resource and environmental management

Its reputations has led to several awards in the following sectors:

1. Good governance
2. Excellent registration service
3. Mobile unit for automobile tax payment
4. One stop service management
5. Sustainable city management

In 2017, Songkhla aims to become a blissful and sustainable city. The city's vision is to have residents who are content with their daily life and proud of the modern town with its unique history, culture, and natural resources. Songkhla's position will be strengthened in globalization era by its knowledgeable society and constructive economic system

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

Mr. Peera Tantisernee, the current mayor, was elected on November 30, 2009 and will end his term on November 29, 2013. The next election period is scheduled on January 2014.

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

Songkhla Municipality is administered by some 546 public servants.

General income: 79,768,531.27 THB



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A Project implemented by the consortium: Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung e.V., Thailand Environment Institute (TEI), Local Government Development Foundation Inc. (LOGODEF), United Cities and Local Governments for Asia and Pacific (UCLG-ASPAC), Association of Indonesian Regency Governments (APKASI), Association of Cities of Vietnam (ACVN), and National League of Communes/Sangkats of the Kingdom of Cambodia (NLC/S).

General subsidies: 226,993,997.66 THB
Government subsidies: 140,641,912.40 THB
Latest expense: 764,786,063.44 THB

Specific political, social, cultural and economic character/framework

Songkhla Municipality (Tumbon Bo Yang) with its plain along the beach filled with governmental units, temples, and housing, has 33 communities. Most of them are traders, fishermen, and general laborers. Generally it is partly urbanized. Its economic is moderate to good due to supportive topography for tourism e.g. Samila beach. There are programs for promoting tourism e.g. seafood festival, Songkhla, camping ground, etc. Songkhla's way of life is modest, simple, sparing. Its residents embrace various beliefs; locals majority believes in Buddhism and the rest of the communities are Muslims and Christians.



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