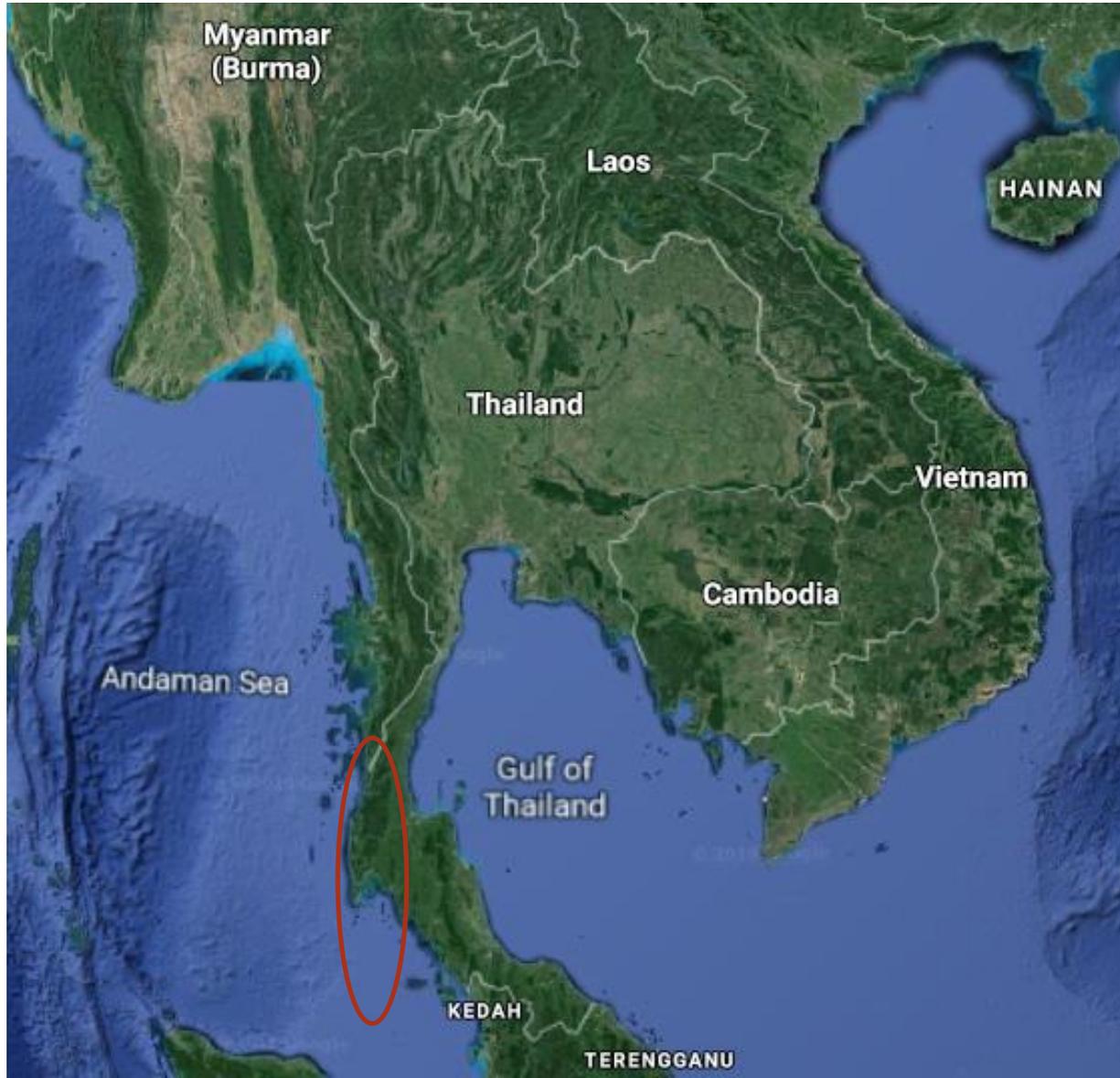


Redefining and preparing for disasters: some lessons from 2 cases in Thailand



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1. Sea nomads of the Andaman coast and islands and 2004 tsunami



Surin Islands, Phang-nga province





Address <http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2005/03/18/60minutes/main681558.shtml>



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Sea Gypsies Saw Signs In The Waves

How Moken People In Asia Saved Themselves From Deadly Tsunami

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June 10, 2007

(Page 1 of 3)



(CBS) This segment originally aired March 20, 2005. It was updated on June 8, 2007.

The tsunami may have lasted only a couple of hours, but it will not go away. New casualties are still being discovered: Thais, Swedes, Sri Lankans, and Indonesians. The death toll has topped 175,000. And there's more than 125,000 still missing and presumed dead.

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“Preparedness” of Moken sea nomads



- Cultural heritage/ social memory/ “oral history” of the non-literate indigenous groups
- The importance of local and indigenous knowledge
- Explicit/codified or implicit knowledge?

Survival? – Old legend



- The tsunami incident has proved that the Moken indigenous marine knowledge and their almost forgotten “legend of the seven waves” have saved them and others (especially tourists and park staff) from the disaster.
- The legend
 - “imprinted” “*laboon*”
 - unwritten “historical record”
 - recognizing the “warning sign” of the coming disaster
 - educating younger generations

Cultures and traditions and dealing with loss



- Moklen groups
- Elder/adults – rituals in order to deal with loss and build “collective” hope
- Youth and children – organized into groups to relay stories and to develop creative activities



Build back better



House and community redesigning

-Participation takes time



Build back quicker?

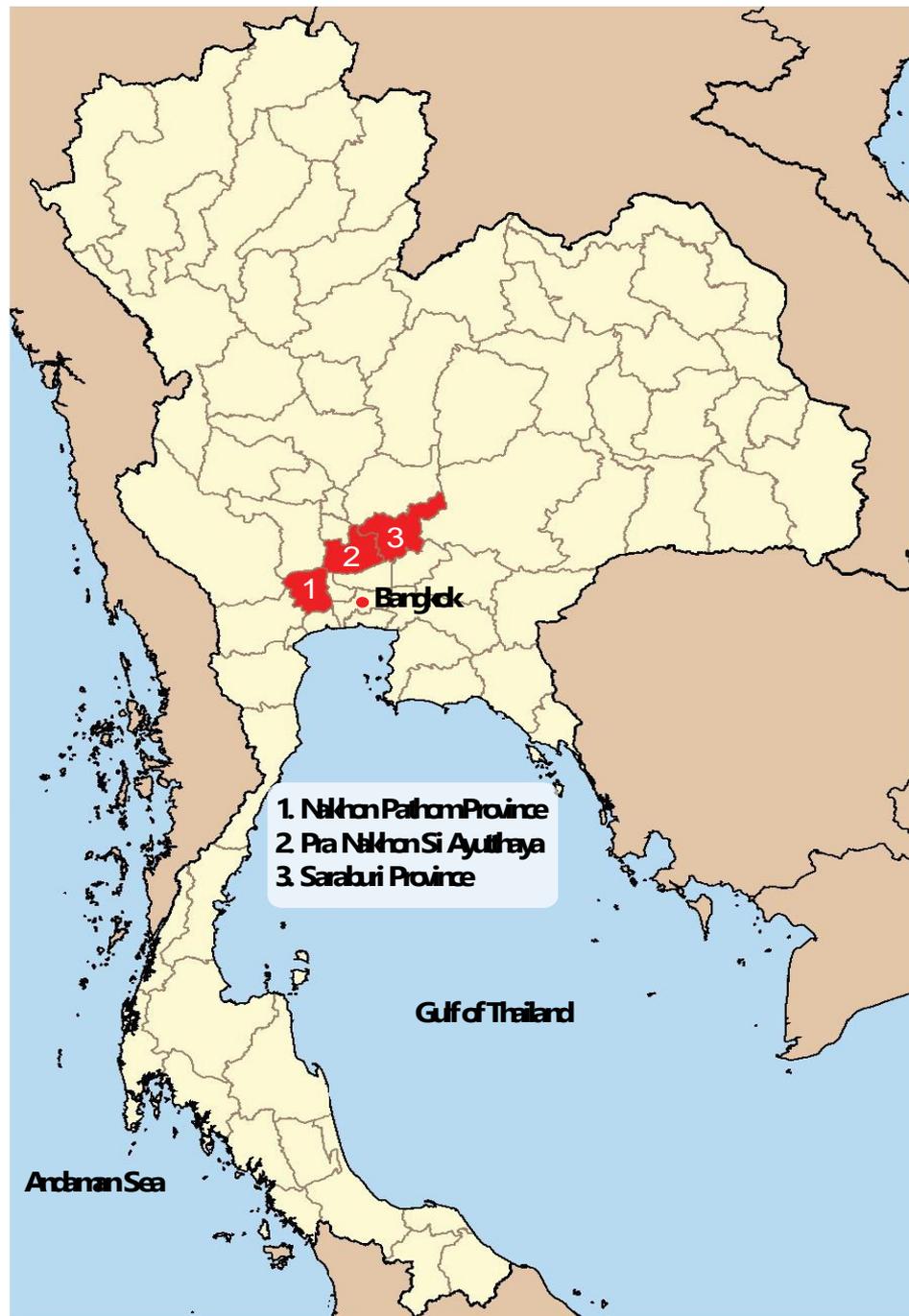


More “family space” needed in the new permanent housing community



Rebuilding identity and reconnecting social ties





2. Rural agricultural communities in the central plain and 2011 big flood

Rural agricultural communities

- Thailand's central plain has been a major agricultural area or "rice cradle"
- Seasonal flood is very common, and local villagers are adapted to this seasonal flooding



Rural agricultural communities

- The communities are generally familiar with seasonal flood, BUT
- 2011 is an unusual flood –
 - Longer
 - Deeper
 - Murkier and dirtier



Rural agricultural communities

- National policies prioritize
 - urbanization over rural development
 - industrialization over agriculture
- These have brought about environmental change and created vulnerability in rural communities
 - gradually weaken poor rural households who do not have resources and reserves
 - protecting urban and commercialized areas, and leaving rural and agricultural areas flooded

Rural agricultural communities



- The strength in rural households and communities lie in
 - tightly-knitted social structure
 - productive environment, i.e. fertile land and watercourse, and adaptability to local environment
- Rural households and communities serve as social safety net for family members who were affected
 - there was a movement towards returning home during those difficult periods

Rural agricultural communities

- Right photo – flood prevention and the dying of natural canals in central plain
- “How can we protect development from itself?”
- Redefining “disaster” and “development”

