

## COMPLETION REPORT

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### **Subject of Research Project: A Dynamic of Japanese Transnational Community in Chiang Rai, Thailand and Its Impacts on Local Development**

This study is dedicated to examining a contemporary Japanese community's influence on the local development of Thailand's northern region within the context of globalization. The research aims to unravel the dynamics of a community that transcends geographical boundaries, referred to as the Japanese transnational community under the Rungarun Project. Furthermore, it seeks to delve into the expansion of this community beyond place's interplay, shedding light on various facets of global cultural dynamics. Lastly, this study endeavors to analyze the impact of the Japanese transnational community on the economic, social, and cultural advancement of the local development.

To achieve these objectives, a qualitative research methodology is employed, specifically utilizing an ethnographic fieldwork approach to gather a comprehensive and pertinent dataset for the case study. The data collection process involves a multifaceted strategy, encompassing document analysis, participant observation, non-participant observation, focus group discussions, and in-depth interviews with key informants. The research encompasses interviews with a total of 5 individuals, comprising both Thai and Japanese participants affiliated with the Rungarun project, along with 30 Japanese individuals actively engaged in project-related activities in both Thailand and Japan. Additionally, focus group discussions are conducted within two ethnic villages located in the Mae Suai district.

This research revealed that the Rungarun project initiation phase, Japanese individuals in Thailand play a key role, but those in Japan are crucial for donations, program promotion, learning program, and tourism involvement. This forms a contemporary community that transcends physical boundaries, uniting individuals with shared interests globally. This challenge traditional notions of geographically limited communities.

The dynamics of global cultural exchange in a Japanese transnational community are intricate, shaped by factors like individual mobility, technology, financial movements, media dissemination, and the spread of ideas. These global cultural flows intersect with local settings, impacting how individuals view themselves and their societies in this interconnected world. The goal of this community is to assist locals, integrating them into broader social networks that promote the exchange of ideas and cultures. In essence, this interaction highlights the complex interplay between global and local influences within this transnational Japanese community, fostering cultural exchange and local development.

Additionally, the study assesses the project's impact across economic, social, and cultural dimensions. In Lo Jor, the Lahu ethnic group engages in weaving, augmenting family income. Women assume roles in caregiving, fostering inclusivity, enabling them to express their perspectives, and contributing to cultural preservation. Pla Kia villagers pursue sustainable agriculture, enhancing income and quality of life. Community engagement, resource sharing, and education support development, improving social status, and fostering ecological values passed down generations.

I argue that communities in contemporary society exhibit greater levels of variety, complexity, and

flexibility. Communities nowadays are often created around shared values, and interests, rather than just being physically adjacent. Modern communities are now deeply entwined with larger social networks, transcending their former isolated and self-contained nature. The exchange of ideas, cultures, and influences is made easier by interconnection with broader social networks, amplifying the sense of dynamism and globalization in individuals' perspectives.

Publication of the Results of Research Project:

Verbal Presentation (Date, Venue, Name of Conference, Title of Presentation, Presenter, etc.)

Jaruwan Hatapsau. 8 September 2022, Mae Fah Luang University, the 5<sup>th</sup> national conference of border study and international development, “Cross-border mobility and local development: A case study of Japanese transnational community in Chaing Rai”

Thesis (Name of Journal and its Date, Title and Author of Thesis, etc.)

- I plan to write a research article based on this research report and submit it to a journal. Once it is completed, I will notify the foundation and send them the research article file, aiming to do so within the next 6-8 months (from October 2023 to May 2024).
- The proposed title “ The Rungarun project: Japanese community beyond place and its impact on local development, a case study of Mae Suai district, Chaing Rai”

Book (Publisher and Date of the Book, Title and Author of the Book, etc.)