

Abstract

Water, Floods and 2011 Disaster : A Socio-Political Perspective

Water has long been an integral part of the cultures and everyday life of the Thai people. Water and floods were not seen as antagonism for peasant communities of Chao Phraya Delta, but rather as environment that demands adaptation. Flood disaster of 2011 has been called as worst floods disaster in Modern Thai history due to the wide, long inundation and devastating impacts on economy. The nature of impacts and response patterns from the official ministries and bureaucratic agencies were notably very much characterized by the language of struggle-against water so much separated from traditional cultural roots. This presentation attempts a socio-political perspective of the recent flood disaster by focusing on the formal response pattern of the agencies and the less formal ones by self organizing efforts of the civil society and communities.