



AN EVALUATION OF THE STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES OF THE PERMANENT BORDER CROSSING AT BAN HUAY TON NOON, MAE HONG SON PROVINCE

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Abstract

This study focuses on an evaluation of the strengths and weaknesses of the permanent border crossing at Ban Huay Ton Noon, Khun Yuom district, and Mae Hong Son province. The mixed method is employed at the research approach in the study. To evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of permanent border crossing at Ban Huay Ton Noon, we gather the secondary data and primary data from interviewers. The interview questions were designed towards open-ended structure questions to prompt respondent to think, expand their ideas and provide the answers, where the data are collected using purposive sampling method. To explore the factors influencing permanent border crossing at Ban Huay Ton Noon, a questionnaire survey is used. The survey was conducted through a closed-ended structured questionnaire. Moreover, we collected the data sampling by using non-probability sampling method in the form of the accidental sampling method. The four factors are important that economics factors, political and law factors, physical geography factors and social and cultural factors are used to investigate the influences on the permanent border crossing. We are interested in Ban Huay Ton Noon temporarily permitted border gate because it is likely to become a permanent border crossing in the near future. First, it connects the Republic of the Union of Myanmar with a road the BP13. Second, it is expected to be an important economic corridor which links Thailand, Myanmar and India together. The results of the study show that most people at Ban Huay Ton Noon, Khun Yuom district, Mae Hong Son agree with the establishment of the permanent border crossing at Ban Huay Ton Noon because it can increase the level of income in this area and enhances export and import between Thailand and Myanmar.

Keywords: Cross-border trade, Mixed method analysis, Permanent crossing point

Introduction

The temporary permitted border at Ban Huay Ton Noon was a very important area for Thailand and Myanmar, showing potential for development and support as a permanent border. The border allows for easier transport and communication for the AEC (Asean Economic Community) in 2015, and will receive benefit from the AEC through freedom of product transport, tourism, and logistics for both countries. Therefore, the Ban Huay



Ton Noon Border has high potential in the area of marketing communication between neighboring countries. However, at this time, the border is lacking in analytical data and information that will be important factors for the opening of a permanent border. These factors include policies, economy, society, law and physical aspects, all of which are of great importance in the forming of an information base for the permanent border crossing at Huay Ton Noon, Khun Yuam district, Mae Hong Son province. This study is part of a research project concerning the “An evaluation of the strengths and weaknesses of the permanent border crossing at Ban Huay Ton Noon”.

The Objectives of the Research that study the factors affecting the permanent border crossing at Huay Ton Noon, Khun Yuam district, Mae Hong Son province and to study the strengths and weaknesses of its permanent border crossing at Ban Huay Ton Noon, Khun Yuam district, Mae Hong Son province

Methodology

In this study, we mainly use the mixed method analysis in the form of qualitative and quantitative analysis. First, the qualitative analysis from interviews is to study the strengths and weaknesses of the permanent border crossing. We use the Purposive Sampling method in this interview. Second, the quantitative analysis from questionnaires survey is to study the factors influences the permanent border crossing. We use **Non-probability Sampling Method in the form of Convenience or Accidental Sampling Method**. There are 100 samples from entrepreneur, peoples and government offices.

Results

a. Factors influencing the permanent border crossing.

Table 1 shows the opinion of people in Ban Huay ton Noon about the permanent border crossing. The finding indicated that most people agree with the opening of permanent border crossing at Ban Huay Ton Noon. The average score is 3.85, representing the high important level of economic, political, physical and social factors on the permanent border gate. Most important factor to become the permanent border gate is physical geography factors (3.99). It includes the ease of market access, good utilities and facilities, convenience of transportation and the readiness. Moreover, economic factors (3.82), social and culture factors (3.82), and political and law factors (3.77) are still important factors as well as physical geography factors.

Table 1: Factor affecting the permanent border crossing at Ban Huay Ton noon

Table 2 exhibits the economic sub-factors influencing the permanent border crossing at Ban Huay ton Noon. It is found that the factors of value of import and export goods (4.14), the growth of the Ban Huay Ton Noon temporarily permitted area (4.11), the readiness in investment of local government (4.09) and natural resource for investment (4.01) are important to become the permanent border crossing. The results are supported by the growth theory by Rostow that economic growth seems as the changes in the transition from an underdeveloped to a developing country.

Table 2: Economic Factors affecting the permanent border crossing at Ban Huay Ton noon



Table 3 shows the political and law sub-factors influencing the permanent border crossing at Ban Huay ton Noon. It is found that the factors terms of trade in Thailand Import and Export (4.29), the political relations of Thailand and Myanmar (4.22), policies of the government of Thailand and Myanmar (4.21) and the consistency the national economic and Social Development Plan (4.05) are important to open the permanent border crossing. Certainly, the Economic Cooperation of Greater Mekong Sub region by Feuangarom (2009) helps to support the economic development in this area.

Table 3: Political and Law Factors affecting the permanent border crossing at Ban Huay Ton noon

Table 4 exhibits physical geography sub-factors influencing the permanent border crossing at Ban Huay ton Noon. The results indicated that the condition of area ready to open (4.21), the location can easily to travel in and out (4.20), the convenience of transportation in the region and near the Myanmar (4.08) and the utilities and facilities in the area (4.01) are important to become the permanent border crossing. The results are confirmed by Suriya (2009). That is the location is a main factor on increasing national income and income per capita.

Table 4: Physical geography Factors affecting the permanent border crossing at Ban Huay Ton noon

Table 5 exhibits the social and culture sub-factors influencing the permanent border crossing at Ban Huay ton Noon. It is found that the popularity in purchasing consumer products (4.15), Local government Model (4.02), Level of education of the people in area (3.81) and the ability to use language to communicate (3.78) are important to become the permanent border crossing.

Table 5: Social and culture Factors affecting the permanent border crossing at Ban Huay Ton noon

Moreover, the cross-tabulation between main factors and occupation are provided as shown in table 6. Almost occupation confirms that social and culture factors are impact to open the permanent border crossing. But However, the factors of politic and law are main factors on opening the permanent border crossing at Ban Huay ton Noon

Table 6: The relationship between factors on the permanent border area and the occupations

Moreover, the cross-tabulation between main factors and income per month are provided as shown table 7 confirms that physical geography factors are impact to open the permanent border crossing. But However, the factors of physical geography factors and social and culture factors are main factors on opening the permanent border crossing at Ban Huay ton Noon

Table 7: The four factors that affect the income per month for open the permanent area.

b. Strengths and weaknesses of permanent border crossing at Ban Huay Ton Noon



Strengths

The social has integration farmers, organization, and government sectors for development community and services that have a strong leadership which more departments

include government sector, private sector, and enterprises in the area. The people are active to develop for opening the permanent border crossing at Ban Huay Ton Noon. The physical at Ban Huay Ton Noon Crossing Point is the landscape is specifically around the fertile between mountain, forests of the lowlands and valleys. The agriculture is important especially forest resources that the forest conservation and management in the care of the illegal deforestation. In Mae Ngao sub-district has culture, archaeological and artifacts involve such as Ban-Pra-Tu-Muang temple it has footmark and Tor-pare temple. Especially, Tor-pare temple is the oldest temple about 100 years. The community has unique local culture and language. And Mae Ngao sub-district have products of agricultural goods and services resulting from the wisdom of the tribe thus have the uniqueness and quality as well as Thai herbal medicine community. Mae Ngao sub-district has the project works to promote handcrafts and agricultural practices sufficiency and new theory agricultural.

Weaknesses

The most people occupations are agricultural but also a lack of skills, lack of knowledge about new agricultural theory, lack of advice and support to technical in continuing such as the preparation of bio-fertilizers instead of chemical fertilizers, crop rotation to prevent soil degradation or crops economy. In addition there is little public land and people do not have knowledge in the processing of agricultural products. The physical of Mae Ngao sub-district has high mountains for communicate must take a long journey and the difficulties in communication between the province with rural and various utilities in urban areas are not standard. In Mae Ngao sub-district has a culture style about the sister city but lack of development about the modern culture with globalization and does not exchange culture in religion, language and culture of dressing. The people who live in the area are lack of development in the model and not changes in the culture. In tourist season is a short time (3-4 months) lack of continuity and improvement of quality tourism, travel and accommodation is not sufficient to support, and the lack of a good management system. The Promote about eco-tourism, it is not as popular with tourists because it is lack of attraction to improve quality when increasing number of tourist's effect to waste increased that lack good manage in the system. Tourism is focus on the benefits to a group of entrepreneurs who is influential in the area. It makes entrepreneur's tourism cannot operators. Tourism is focus travel in Mae Hong Son more than cross border because the availability of many different areas is mainly concentrated in the province of Mae Hong Son. In the economic has a product and agricultural goods not enough and not have standard, high production costs and low

price. It has lack of motivation and investment in modern technology. It makes the production and management processes of product crop economy including land of the few people. The people do not have knowledge of the processing of agricultural products



such as soy, garlic, etc. In economic is lack of sufficient funding to operations investment with people in the area.

Conclusion and discussion

This study is to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of permanent border crossing at Ban Huay Ton Noon. We gather the secondary data and primary data from interviewers. The interview questions were designed towards open-ended structure questions to prompt respondent to think where the data are collected using purposive sampling method. To explore the factors influencing permanent border crossing at Ban Huay Ton Noon, a questionnaire survey is used. The survey was conducted through a closed-ended structured questionnaire. Moreover, we collected the data sampling by using non-probability sampling method in the form of the accidental sampling method. The four factors are important that economics factors, political and law factors, physical geography factors and social and cultural factors are used to investigate the influences on the permanent border crossing. We are interested in Ban Huay Ton Noon temporarily permitted border gate.

The results of the study showed that most people at Ban Huay Ton Noon, Khun Yuom district, Mae Hong Son agree with the establishment of the permanent border crossing at Ban Huay Ton Noon. That is because it can increase the level of income in this area and enhances export and import between Thailand and Myanmar. Moreover, the government sector should solve the problem of the weaknesses at the permanent border crossing at Ban Huay Ton Noon.

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