• Paper / Proposal Title:
Developing Future Workforces in Historic Urban Context: A case study of Chareonkrung Creative District in historic area of Bangkok

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• Abstract (300 words):
This paper is a critical examination of the compatibility of workforce development policy and the implementations in context. Recently, Chareonkrung Creative District was designated as an impetus to Thailand 4.0 policy. Key agent is ‘Thailand Creative and Design Center’ (TCDC), with missions to support current and start-ups businesses to migrate to creative-digital-economy. TCDC-Chareonkrung headquarter is at a renovated building of ‘Central Post Office’ in Bangrak district, inner area of Bangkok. The area is of historical characteristics, derived from Chareonkrung Road which is the first automotive road in Thailand, run along on the eastside and Chaophaya river on the west. Historic features have been harvested to empower new businesses in Bangkok, in turn, the area would hopefully be rehabilitated and regenerated to its former prosperity.
TCDC policy is opened to all and all are needed to socioeconomic transformation. However, to focus mainly on “creative class” (Florida., R. 2002), it resulted in some sociocultural drawback. Firstly, mixed socio-economic classes of the workforces would be the key to the success, however, most local ‘operative class’ did not know what is TCDC. Thailand and Bangkok economy were largely based on low-skill workforces (National Statistical Office of Thailand, 2018). To transform current businesses, it requires re-training of local workforces. But educational agencies seemed to provide only obsolete curricular. Secondly, historic urban fabrics were conserved to give characteristics to ‘creative district’, however, local intangible heritage, as a resource of creativity, seemed to be forgotten. Gentrification may mitigate decline of Chareonkrung area but also would eliminate its historical roots, upon which people have been living and working for almost a century. Thirdly, our survey show that the locals perceived TCDC’s modernized learning space as too formal and not as much friendly and familiar as expected. In reality, a balance proportion of Creative and Operative Classes is in urgent need. Workforce education would make stronger impacts, if learning program is expanded to ‘operative class’ and if learning environment has a touch of local context atmosphere.

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currently study Fifth year in Undergraduate program at King Mongkut’s University of Technology Thonburi in faculty of Architecture and Design. Deeply focusing on design and theoretical approach. High motivation, seeking for the new possibility, opportunity, alternative solution for all task.

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Trained as an architect and his interest lies on history and social context behind traditional architecture of Southeast Asia. With almost 9 years experience in Scotland, personal horizon is expanded while travelling around Europe and obtaining a degree in Master of Science (Architectural Conservation) and a Ph.D in Architecture From Edinburgh University. Currently, full-time staff KMUTT: Teaching History of Architecture; introduction to western European architecture; Southeast Asian architecture. Research area includes Rajburi area-based Research in value of environment in cultural study, architectural conservation. Design thinking and educational development of tribal people in remote rural area.