



Bangkok, the capital of Thailand, is situated on the low flat plain of Chao Phraya river which extends to the Gulf of Thailand. Bangkok urban population is four times larger than the population of Thailand's second largest city, Nakhon Ratcharima. Compared to other cities in South East Asian region, Bangkok has the highest primacy level. With a population of 10 million and total area of 1,568 sq km, BMA creates Bangkok Metropolitan Region (BMR) with five other adjacent provinces namely Samut Prakarn, Nonthaburi, Pathumthani, Nakhon Pathom and Samut Sakhon with total covering of 7,758 sq km.



Figure 1: Thailand map and location of BMR.



Figure 2: Map of Bangkok Metropolitan Region

► *Administrative arrangement and planning fabric*

The Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA) was established in 1972 after the merging of two provinces, Bangkok and Thonburi. The metropolitan authority of Bangkok comprises of two branches: the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration headed by the elected Governor and the Bangkok Metropolitan Council made up of 57 members elected to a four year term from constituencies based around Bangkok and a secretariat as an executive agency. The administration's roles are to formulate and implement policies regarding the management of Bangkok, these include: transport services, urban planning, waste management, housing, roads and highways, security services and the environment. The BMA's revenues are derived from its regular income and a central government supporting fund. Sources of regular revenues comprises of local taxes, fees, fines, permits, service charges, asset rentals, utilities, and enterprises. According to the Town and Rural Planning Act of 1979 issued by Ministry of Interior, the Urban Development Planning Division pays the responsibility on planning and designing for the Bangkok Comprehensive Plan, updated every five years and used for development planning, maintenance as well as resource allocation and consists of three plans: land use plan, transportation plan, and open space plan.

► *Urban identity and some critical issues*

Bangkok is a rapidly expanding city, with the population growing from approximately 5 million in the early 1990s to more than 10 million at the beginning of the twenty-first century. The annual population growth rate was higher than 3% during 1960-1970 and decreased to approximately 2.7% during 1970-1980. However, it declined to 0.66% during 1990-2000. Urban Bangkok has been classified into three zones; the inner city, the urban fringe and the suburb. The inner city is the main concentration area for governmental offices, commercial



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