



มูลนิธิชัยพัฒนา

*Royal-initiated*







*If the name “Khwae Noi” is mentioned, many people immediately think of the Kwae Noi River which flows through Muang District of Kanchanaburi Province, for it is one of Thailand’s important tourist spots, being a very popular and well-known place for both Thai and foreign tourists. But if one mentions one of the “Khwae Noi” in Phitsanulok Province, many people would not have heard the name or let alone know that there is also a Khwae Noi River in this province.*

*From here on, problems facing Phitsanulok Province, including water shortages for drinking, daily use, and agricultural activities during the dry season, and flood disasters troubling Phitsanulok and neighboring areas during the rainy season, will be alleviated. It is because of the concern and compassion that His Majesty the King has for his Thai subjects which led to an ingenious assistance effort.*

# Khwae Noi Dam

*Royal Aegis for the Thai People*

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## *“Khwae Noi Dam Project According to the Royal Initiative”*

Throughout the past, “Khwae Noi” has been a main water stream, highly significant to the lives of the residents of Phitsanulok Province and nearby areas. It originates from the mountains in Chattrakarn District, Phitsanulok Province, and flows past the community and agricultural lands of the residents of Chattrakarn District, Wat Bos District, and Wang Thong District. Khwae Noi River then joins the Nan River at Phrom Phiram District and flows past Muang District of Phitsanulok Province, before intersecting with the Yom River, finally joining to form the Chao Phraya River which is the main river course of Thailand, nurturing the lives and communities of the Thai people for ages.

### *“Khwae Noi” in the Past*

From the first stone inscription during the Sukhothai kingdom, records documented that Muang Song Khwae was a former name of Phitsanulok Province. In the past, “Song Khwae” originated from two water courses flowing past the town, the Khwae Yai stream, known today as the Nan River and Khwae Noi stream which we are about to address. The two water courses are considered to be vital streams that enrich the lives and communities of Muang Song Khwae. It brought growth and prosperity and served as a communication route. It gave rise to riparian ways of life which became the simple traditional culture of the Thai people since the past to the present day.

*Preparing the construction site for the year 2004*





*The condition of the Khwae Noi stream at the Pid Chong Khao Khad Dam construction site.*

### “Khwae Noi in the Present”

Due to global changes plus the steep physical features of the Khwae Noi River today, when heavy rains pour consistently everyday in the rainy season, the volume of water from the mountains in Chatrakarn District, Phitsanulok Province, becomes massive and violent. It brings widespread damage to the residential and agricultural land areas. Furthermore, this large quantity of water causes the water level of the Nan River to increase and create flood impact to the Muang District of Phitsanulok Province. The residents of Phitsanulok Province have suffered tremendously from the economic damage. Conversely, during the dry season the quantity of water in Khwae Noi River is insufficient to satisfy the agricultural needs of the villagers and leads to the problems of drought for a considerable period of time. These two aspects of the problem are in dire need of being resolved with tangible results for they have been ongoing and increase each year.







### “Khwaee Noi in the Future”

“...As for Phitsanulok, there is another side-flow. The Khwaee Noi...On this river, there are no projects yet. It should be done in order to retain the water that comes from the Chatrakarn District. This project could draw some protests from some quarters on why such dams should be constructed and on what benefit would be derived from them. Well, we have already witnessed the usefulness of these two dams (the two big dams). Without these two dams, here, the central plains would have suffered more severe floods. The floods would not have been this limited but the whole area would have been flooded.”

*His Majesty the King’s Royal Speech granted on December 4, 1995*

Learning of the plight of the Phitsanulok residents combined with His Majesty’s expertise in the development of water sources to alleviate the suffering and help the people to be well-fed as well as have decent means of living, the “Royal-initiated Khwaee Noi Dam Project” was established. A body was set up to carry out the royal initiative of setting up the project and ensure that management of the project proceeds efficiently. The Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. Suwit Khunkitti) served as Chairman of the project’s Management Committee working together with different sub-committees comprised of relevant officials for running the work. The committee, were set up to ensure that work proceeded according to the plan and rendered benefits to the people quickly and efficiently.

The Royal Irrigation Department, the Phitsanulok Province, the Royal Thai Army, the National Park, Wild Life and Plant Conservation Department, the Department of





Land Development, and other concerned agencies, worked jointly in response to the initiative of constructing the Khwae Noi Dam. The dam is intended to store water for multipurpose uses. It has a total water retention capacity of 769 cubic meters comprising of three dams, the Khwae Noi Dam, San Takhien Dam, and Pid Chong Khao Khad Dam. The complete construction includes building Phayaman Dike and water delivery system at a distance of 293 kilometers. Once the construction is completed, it can benefit agricultural land areas of about 155,000 *rai* (62,000 acres) in the Phitsanulok Irrigation Project zone and about 250,000 *rai* (100,000 acres) in the Chao Phraya Yai Irrigation Project zone, around the southern part of Khwae Noi Dam, which constantly faces the problem of water shortage during the dry season.

### **Khwae Noi is the Second Pa Sak**

As mentioned earlier, the reason for the construction of the “Royal-initiated Khwae Noi Dam Project” was because of

the massive water quantity along with heavy and violent runoffs. This situation brought severe damages to the rice fields and orchards of the farmers every year. The damages that can be calculated are only in economics terms. Besides the calculated damages, there is also damage to the emotional spirits of the villagers living in this area, for their suffering is aggravated as years go by. Every time the problems emerge, it creates great depression in the hearts of every villager in Phitsanulok Province and nearby areas.

One of the objectives for constructing the “Royal-initiated Khwae Noi Dam Project” is to alleviate the problem of flood disasters occurring every year. The dam is able to decrease the volume of water runoff flowing from Chatrakarn District during the rainy season. This prevents the water level in Nan River from rising and inundating households and farmlands as well as important places in Phitsanulok Province. The “Royal-initiated Khwae Noi Dam Project” is highly beneficial, similar to the “Pa Sak Jolasid Dam” at the Pa Sak Basin. “Pa Sak Jolasid Dam” prevents water from rapidly flowing into Thailand’s capital, Bangkok, which partly contributes to reducing the cause of flooding crisis during rainy season. The “Royal-initiated Khwae Noi Dam Project” is therefore regarded as the second “Pa Sak Jolasid Dam” that helps the residents of Phitsanulok Province to escape from the flood disaster timely and efficiently.

All this is owing to the benevolence and skillful management on water resources by His Majesty the King, the beloved monarch of the Thai people.

*Today the long troublesome of the villagers have been successfully mitigated. From here on, the flood and drought dilemmas regularly disturbing the residents of Phitsanulok Province will be completely eradicated, owing to the patronage of His Majesty the King’s*

*“Royal-initiated Khwae Noi Dam Project”.*



*“Royal-initiated Khwae Noi Dam Project” is highly beneficial similar to the “Pa Sak Jolasid Dam” at the Pa Sak Basin. “Pa Sak Jolasid Dam” prevents water from rapidly flowing into Thailand’s capital-Bangkok which partly contributes to reducing the cause of flooding crisis during rainy season.*

