Social capital, human capital, disaster recovery and sustainable development in a fishing community in southern Thailand

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University of Technology Sydney

Thesis Part A: Text component
Thesis Part B: Video component in enclosed DVD

2015
Statement of authenticity

I certify that the work presented in this dissertation has not previously been submitted for a degree nor has it been submitted as part of requirements for a degree except as fully acknowledged in the text.

I also certify that the thesis has been written by me. Any help that I have received in my research work and the preparation of the thesis itself has been acknowledged. In addition, I certify that all information sources and literature used are indicated in the thesis.

Signature of student: 

Date:
I would like to thank the people of Koh Mouk village for allowing me to share part of their post-tsunami experience with them. In particular, I would like to thank the members of my adopted family, Cha Poum and Bang Bao, for their generosity, knowledge and hard work. This study benefited a great deal from their many attributes and from our long daily sessions, including mutual language teaching. Thanks also to the three NGOs that facilitated my access to the village, the Sustainable Development Foundation of Thailand, the Save Andaman Network, and the Federation of Southern Fisher Folk. Interactions among the villagers and NGOs originally inspired this research project. Thank you also to my principal supervisor, Professor Carolyn Cartier, my alternate supervisor, Professor Emeritus Tony Moon, and my academic adviser, Dr Barbara Leigh for the guidance, perseverance and support they offered me during this research project as well as to the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at UTS for diligent support. Finally, I would like to specially thank my wife, Umarat, and my son, Jayden, for their patience, understanding and unswerving support during this project.
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<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Full Form</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACFID</td>
<td>Australian Council for International Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADS</td>
<td>air-dried sheets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AED 2002</td>
<td>Amended National Education Act 2002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AUD</td>
<td>Australian dollars</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CBD</td>
<td>Convention on Biological Diversity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHARM</td>
<td>Coastal Habitat and Resources Management</td>
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<tr>
<td>CTF</td>
<td>Cement Thai Foundation</td>
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<tr>
<td>DOL</td>
<td>Department of Lands</td>
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<td>DoNP</td>
<td>Department of National Parks and Plant Protection</td>
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<td>FAO</td>
<td>Food and Agriculture Organization</td>
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<td>FSF</td>
<td>Federation of Southern Fisher Folk, or SAMAPAN</td>
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<td>GIS</td>
<td>Geographic Information System</td>
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<tr>
<td>GISTDA</td>
<td>Geo-Informatics and Space Technology Development Agency</td>
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<tr>
<td>JoMPA</td>
<td>Joint Management of Marine Resources and Protected Areas</td>
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<tr>
<td>KorBorRoe</td>
<td>Committee for Solving State Land Encroachment Conflicts</td>
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<tr>
<td>LTP</td>
<td>Land Titling Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MDG</td>
<td>Millennium Development Goal</td>
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<tr>
<td>MoNRE</td>
<td>Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment</td>
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<td>Abbreviation</td>
<td>Full Form</td>
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<tr>
<td>MPA</td>
<td>Marine Protected Area</td>
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<tr>
<td>NESDP</td>
<td>National Economic and Social Development Plan</td>
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<tr>
<td>NGO</td>
<td>non-government organisation</td>
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<td>NP</td>
<td>national parks</td>
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<tr>
<td>NS4</td>
<td>Nor Sor Si (4) Jor (Chanote). The NS4J or Chanote is a certificate of true ownership for land and the only true land title deed in Thailand.</td>
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<tr>
<td>PDA</td>
<td>Population and Community Development Association</td>
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<td>RDP</td>
<td>Regional Development Plan</td>
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<tr>
<td>RSS</td>
<td>ribbed-smoked sheets</td>
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<tr>
<td>SAN</td>
<td>Save Andaman Network</td>
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<tr>
<td>Schoko</td>
<td>Schopokit Thay Thale, or Sea Watch Patrol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SDFT</td>
<td>Sustainable Development Foundation of Thailand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SorTorJor</td>
<td>Centre for Fighting Poverty</td>
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<tr>
<td>THB</td>
<td>Thai baht</td>
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<tr>
<td>UN</td>
<td>United Nations</td>
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<td>UNDP</td>
<td>United Nations Development Programme</td>
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<td>US</td>
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Abstract

The Asian tsunami of 26 December 2004 affected millions of people in 10 countries around the Indian Ocean. More than 200,000 people died, tens of millions were left homeless and without livelihoods, and entire communities were dislocated. In Thailand, 408 of the 418 communities along the Andaman Sea were struck by the disaster; 47 of them were severely affected.

This study investigates how enhancement of existing social capital contributed not only to the re-establishment of the tsunami-affected island of Koh Mouk, in Trang Province, Southern Thailand, but also to its long-term sustainable development. The concept of social capital used in the thesis draws on literature from developed and developing communities and the lived experience of the people of the island of Koh Mouk. The study argues that NGO-facilitated capacity building, specific to local needs, enhanced human capital and played a crucial role in social capital building and the desired outcome of enriched sustainable development.

Through the case study of Koh Mouk, the thesis illustrates the ways in which local people drew on existing linkages whilst at the same time building new networks of trust and reciprocity. The case study also
demonstrates how capacity building, resulting in human capital, intersected with social capital to create something greater than the sum of its parts in the local sustainable development efforts. The case study of Koh Mouk explores the crucial areas of the management of marine resources, land use and housing, the participation of women into the money economy, the general economy of the island, the development of formal education through a new school curriculum, and engagement in the mainstream political process. The conclusion draws together these threads to establish the parameters of social capital and to explain its relationship with human capital in the recovery and sustainable development of this island community.
Figure i Administrative map of Thailand showing location of study site
Key: rectangle: Trang province; oval: Koh Mouk