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Impact of North South Economic Corridor on the Hmong Ethnic's Way  
of Life in Chiang Khong District, Chiangrai Province, Thailand

Phithak Rattanasawang



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Research Working Paper Series 2012

**Impact of North South Economic Corridor  
on the Hmong Ethnic's Way of Life in  
Chiang Khong District, Chiangrai Province,  
Thailand**

**Phithak Rattanaesawang**

December, 2012

**Phithak Rattanaesawang** is a Hmong ethnic. He holds a Bachelor Degree in Education with a major in Mathematics from Chiangrai Rajabhat University in 2006. At present, he is a researcher of International College of Mekong Region, Chiangrai Rajabhat University, and his utmost desire is to further study in order to increase his potential and working ability to do better for the Hmong society.

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For more information, please contact the Technical Coordination and Communication Department of Mekong Institute, Khon Kaen, Thailand.

Telephone: +66 43 202411-2

Fax: + 66 43 343131

Email: [library@mekonginstitute.org](mailto:library@mekonginstitute.org)

**Technical Editors:** Dr. Makha Khittasangka, Dean of International College of Mekong Region, Chiangrai Rajabhat University

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**Comments on this paper should be sent to the author**

**Phithak Rattanaengsawang:** International College of Mekong Region, Chiangrai Rajabhat University, Thailand, 57100. Tel: + 66 810307335, Email: [pitak\\_sa@hotmail.co.th](mailto:pitak_sa@hotmail.co.th)

**or**

**Technical Coordination and Communication Department, Mekong Institute**

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## Abstract

The objectives of the research aimed to study the impact of North – South Economic Corridor towards the changing economic, social and culture of the Hmong ethnic group residing in Chiang Khong district, Chiangrai province, Thailand.

The researcher selected 230 household samples out of 432 households by employing Taro Yamane for sampling selection. The questionnaires and participant observation were used as a method of data collection. The statistical tools for analyzing the data are frequency distribution, percentage, mean, standard deviation and t-test.

The study revealed that the Hmong ethnic group had transmigrated to settle in the areas of Chiang Khong district more than 20 years. The main occupation is agriculture, some income derived from maize, rice farming, gardening, and cloth sewing. The findings indicated that before and after the construction of the North South Economic Corridor, the ways of life of the Hmong ethnic has been adversely affected both in the past and at present with significant difference at 1 percent level.

The economic aspects; (1) there is an exchange of cultural goods along the borders which are benefited to trade and investment, (2) there is an opportunity to increase higher family income, (3) there is the gaining of skills and experiences in livelihood performance, (4) there is change in occupation and production technique. The social aspect: (1) there is a change in living pattern, material used for building and house structure, (2) there is communication and social mobility between the borders for economic and social purpose, (3) there is an opportunity for education. The cultural aspect: (1) there is a decrease in using local wisdom in health care pattern, (2) there is a decrease in desirable behavior and ethnic socialization in the family, and (3) there is a change and an exchange in tradition and tribal culture along the borders of Thailand and Lao People's Democratic Republic.

The direction of adaptation of the Hmong ethnic group towards the impact along the path of North South Economic Corridor which has been evidently observed that there are business networks established for value added to the cultural products, conservation, revitalization, and transmission of tribal identity. Of utmost importance is to develop the standard of living for quality of life improvement, and more importantly, the increase in earning capability, prevention of diseases, security in life and property, as well as facilitation in the border trades are required.

## **1. Introduction**

### **1.1 Background of the Study**

The Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS) consists of Cambodia, the People's Republic of China (PRC) (Yunnan and Guangxi) , Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR), Myanmar, Thailand, and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam. It has a combined population of nearly 320 million—more than that of the United States of America— and a contiguous land area of about 2.5 million square kilometers—roughly the size of Western Europe. The GMS is rich in human and natural resources, and its people are bound by a shared culture and history. In 1992, with the assistance of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the GMS countries met together for the first time and agreed to launch a program of sub regional economic cooperation designed to enhance economic linkages across their borders.

The GMS Strategic Framework (GMS– SF) covering 2002–2012 was the first attempt by the GMS countries to formulate and adapt in broad terms a sub regional development planning framework. The GMS–SF identified five strategic thrusts to be pursued to realize the vision and goals of sub-regional cooperation. These are to: (i) strengthen infrastructure linkages through a multispectral approach, (ii) facilitate cross-border trade and investment, (iii) enhance private sector participation and improve its competitiveness, (iv) develop human resources and skills competencies, and (v) protect the environment and promote sustainable use of shared natural resources. To achieve focus in its implementation, the GMS–SF specified 11 flagship programs in the following sectors and areas of cooperation: transport, and energy, telecommunications, trade, investment, tourism, environment, agriculture and Human Resource Development (HRD).



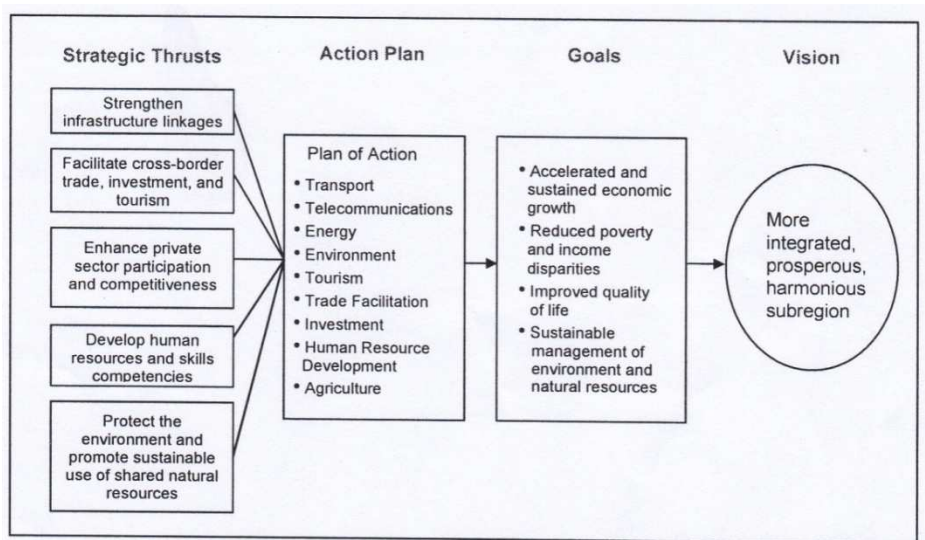


Figure 1. Summarizes the key elements of the GMS– SF.

Source: Summarizes the key elements of the GMS– SF. <http://www.adb.org/documents/reports/mid-term-review-gms/Midterm-Review - GMS-Final.pdf>. 2011

GMS Economic Corridor is the strip and belt economic zone where make one or several main transport and energy routes which are through north and south or west and east, develop various superiority characteristic industries and new and hi-tech industries to spur on the overall economic and social development. It is ADB-initiated and within Mekong basin area which includes Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam and China (Yunnan and Guangxi).

**North-South Economies Corridor (NSEC1):** Kunming-Houayxay (Tachilek) – Chiang Mai-Bangkok; **North-South Corridor (NSEC2):** Kunming-Hekou – Hanoi-Hai Phong; North-South Corridor (Middle Route) starts from Kunming, Yunnan province, China in the north. It is along Kunming-Bangkok Road (KunMo road in China) to Laos passing Yuxi, Simao, Jinghong and Mohan; and along Kunming-Bangkok Road (Lao part) which is built across Mekong River to Thailand passing Luang Namtha and Houayxay in which the concerning area of the corridor includes Mong La, Chiengtung and Tachilek in north-east of Myanmar; within Thailand, the corridor goes along Kunming-Bangkok Road (Thailand part) to the terminal Bangkok passing Chiang Rai, Chiang Mai, Tak, Chainat and then reach gulf of Thailand by passing Bangkok.

There are great differences in economy among varied industries along the corridors. Overall, relatively speaking, most of areas of China's Yunnan Province and Thailand are better, the parts of Laos and part of Yunnan are weaker. The Laos Luang Namtha and Bokeo province are also the domestic remote underdeveloped areas, and the agriculture natural economy is the primary one. Along the corridor, in Thailand three major economic development zones, namely, (1) Chiang Mai – Lamphun region, (2) Chiang Rai – Chiang Khong region, and (3) Bangkok – Ayutthaya area.

The Chiang Rai – Chiang Khong region is located closely link to the borders of Thai – Lao PDR and Thai – Myanmar, it is the important geographical strategic areas in particular tourism industry and other industries along the Golden Triangle area. During the past years, there was a consultation between Thailand and People's Republic of China to develop this area to be the Northern Thailand Technology, Economy and Trade Zone. This area is potential to the North South Economic Corridor and will be linked to Lao PDR and Myanmar. Presently, there is water transportation between Chiangrung and Chiang Khong. When the 4<sup>th</sup>. Friendship Thai – Lao Bridge is completed. Chiang Khong will become the important economic gate (Office of the National Economic and Social Development Board, 2012). The border trade of Chiang Khong from the statistical report of Chiang Khong Customs Office has increased to 6,726,451 million Baht, as shown in the following.

Table 1. Border Trade Value Report of Chiang Khong Customs Office, Chiang Rai Province

<b>Fiscal Budget Year</b>	<b>Value (million Baht)</b>
2007	783,823
2008	956,703
2009	986,331
2010	1,731,283
2011	2,268,311
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,726,451</b>

Source: Chiang Khong Customs Office, Chiang Rai Province, 2012

The border point of Chiang Khong district is situated at Wiang sub-district opposite to Houayxay, Borkeo provinve of Lao PDR. The Ministry of Interior has officially announced to be the border point under the restriction of North South Economic Corridor since 12 January 1989. It is the border special economic zone of Chiang Rai province. The plan has

been formulated to uplift Chiang Khong for the establishment of the comprehensive Agricultural Industry Settlement equipped with transportation facilities, goods product transferred sub-station in order to support all routes linkage to Borkeo to Kunming that will be an opportunity for development of trade and investment as well as basic infrastructure (The Office of National Economic and Social Development Board).

### **The Hmong in Thailand**

As an ethnic group, the Hmong have a long history moving from place to place and from generation to generation. Their story can be traced back about 5-6,000 years to China (Chuamsakul, 2006). The Hmong originated in the northern part of Mainland China. The term “Hmong” is probably a sub-group of the Miao people. However, at least in China, the term “Miao” is widely used to refer to these people. As a minority group, they were forced to move southward after several wars had broken out between the Hmong and the Han Chinese, the dominant group. Due to “resource scarcity,” “ethnic conflict,” and “population pressures,” some of the Miao solved these problems by relocating in the 18th and 19th centuries to areas of Southeast Asia; Vietnam, Laos, and Thailand.

In Thailand, the Hmong inhabit remote mountain areas in the Northern Region. The Hmong are agriculturists; they grow rice and corn for their own consumption. In the past, Hmong grew opium poppies as their cash crop, but today they grow vegetables, fruit, and flowers as their cash crops. The Hmong are animists; they worship their ancestral and house spirits. However, Buddhism and Christianity have been influence in Hmong communities since the mid- 1950s. Hmong clan (xeem) system or kinship is considered the most important system of social organization for the Hmong and it is a vital social control mechanism for these traditional people.

Makha Khittasangkha, “Socio Economic and Political Assimilation towards the World Perspectives of Hmong in Northern Thailand and Southern China” published in International Conference Proceedings, 2008, and “Culture and Language Communication in the Classroom and Workplace: Cases of Iu Mien, Hmong and Lahu Ethnic Groups in Chiang Rai Upper Northern Thailand,” published in International Conference : The Dynamics in Language Teaching in the 21 st Century November 25-26, 2010 has cited various authors with reference to Hmong ethnic groups from various perspectives in the following:

Young (1961, pp. 44-45) and Boonchuay (2002, pp. 425-28) write that in Thailand, the Hmong are classified into at least three sub-groups on the basis of linguistic differences and tribal names that they give themselves: (1) the Green or Blue or Black Hmong (Meo Dawk, Meo Lai, and Meo Dam respectively), this group of Hmong call themselves “Hmong Njua” or literally “Green Hmong.”; (2) the Hmong Daw or literally “White Hmong”; and (3) the Hmong Gua Bwa or Hmong Gua Ba or Hmong Gua Bang, literally the “Arm-band Hmong.”

The Green Hmong and White Hmong are the two major sub-groups of this ethnic group in Thailand. Hmong Gua Bwa has assimilated into the two former sub-groups since they are very few in number in Thailand. Each sub-group differs from one another in dress, dialect, locale, and migration backgrounds. They mentioned that the exact racial affiliations of the Hmong people is unknown since about 700 B.C., they have mixed with the Chinese, so that physically and linguistically they show strong Chinese connections and influence.

According to Department of Public Welfare (DPW) (1966), the Hmong and Yao's place of origin is roughly in the areas of Guizhou, Yunnan, Hunan and Kwangsi provinces in China. They had been exposed to Chinese influence for several centuries before they migrated into Southern Yunnan, Tongkin, Annam, Laos, and more recently into Thailand.

As well, Cooper (1986) explained that the Hmong migrated from China through the northern part of Vietnam and into Laos and finally into Thailand because resources were much better in the new locations. It seems likely that some of the Hmong land in the nineteenth century in southern China suffered from environmental imbalances and “resource scarcity.” Therefore, many of the Hmong solved this problem by relocating to other places in Southeast Asia. Tapp (1989) writes that the Hmong began immigrating into Thailand from Laos after the 1850s, coming from the Guizhou, Sichuan, and Yunnan regions of southwestern China.

Several sources and scholars have indicated that the Hmong emigrated into Thailand from south and southwest China about 100-150 years ago. According to Symonds (1991:6), the Hmong began to move out of southwest China into Vietnam, Laos, Burma beginning in the 17th century and within the last hundred years they migrated from those countries to northern Thailand. They have settled in the mountainous areas of these countries and they mainly practice swidden agriculture. Swidden agriculture was successful in the past as the Hmong had access to sufficient land to allow the restoration of the soil's fertility through fallowing.

However, the swidden agricultural system has been undermined by recent changes including population increase and the cultivation of cash crops. In the past, the Hmong grew rice, corn, vegetables, and other crops for consumption and grew opium poppies as their cash crop.

Lee (1987) said that the Hmong in Thailand have settled on hilltops and mountains and practice their traditional farming method of shifting or swidden cultivation in relative peace and isolation. The majority of the Hmong in Thailand are animists. They worship their 'ancestral' and 'house spirits.' However, Buddhism, Christianity, and even the Muslim religion have influenced Hmong communities for decades. Like other hill tribes in Thailand, the majority of the Hmong are illiterate. Statistics show that only about 22% of the Hmong have obtained primary education and 40% of them are unable to speak Thai, the national language (Office of Education Regional 8: 1992, pp. 20-21).

Benedict (cf. Mckinnon, 1989, pp.7-8) classified the Hmong and Yao peoples under the Austro-Thai ethno-linguist group, the super stock that makes up a very diverse group which includes not only the languages of the indigenous people of the Pacific but also the Tai-Kadai and the Miao-Yao also. On the other hand, states that Hmong language belongs to the Meo-Zao (Miao-Yao) sub-group in the Austro-Asiatic language family.

### **The Settlement of the Hmong Ethnic: In Chiang Rai Province**

The Hmong group had migrated into Lao PDR and continued the journey to Thailand. According to the Chiangmai Hill Tribe Research Center reported that the Hmong group has resettled in Chiang Khong since 1870 by taking a route from Muang Kai and Muang Houayxay of Lao PDR and then moved to Chiang Khong district. During that time, the Hmong had divided into two groups. One group had taken the Doi Luang mountain route that close to Chiang Khong which is situated between Chiang Khong and Wiang Kaen districts and connecting Chiang Saen in the west, and the other group taking the Doi Yao mountain route which is situated between Chiang Khong and Wiang Kaen and Terng districts close to Doi Pha Mon and Doi Pha Tang which close to Lao PDR border in the east.

In the early settlement, the Hmong grew opium and lived near the Mekong River which the land is suitable to grow opium and it was the major income for the family. In 1958, the Government has announced the prohibition by enactment of law. After that, the Hmong grew

agricultural crops such as rice, corn and growing fruit trees such as Lychee, Longan and Mangoo. The completion of construction of North South Economic Corridor has created opportunity for the Hmong to commute between Thai –Lao PDR borders that could enable the Hmong to earn a living through trade and investment. The chance to be assimilated and change the new way of life become at risk particularly in human trafficking, drugs, communicable diseases such as HIV/AIDS, malaria and illegal crossing the border into the country.

The situations during the construction and after the completion of the construction in 2013 of North South Economic Corridor motivated the interest of the researcher to explore whether the life style of the Hmong ethnic group has changed or not with the following research questions:

### **1.2 Research Questions**

1. How has North – South Economic Corridor changed the way of life in the economy, society, and culture of the Hmong ethnic group residing in Chiang Khong district, Chiang Rai province, Thailand, and what is the effects of the changes?
2. How have the proposed possible effective measures and approaches for enhancing adjustment improved the quality of life and human development of the Hmong ethnic groups in upper northern Thailand?

### **1.3 Objectives of the Research**

In line with the research questions, the objectives are the following:

1. To study the impact of North – South Economic Corridor towards the changing economic, social and culture of the Hmong ethnic group residing in Chiang Khong district, Chiang Rai province, Thailand.
2. To study the proposed possible effective measures and approaches for enhancing adjustment to improve the quality of life and human development of the Hmong ethnic groups in upper northern Thailand

#### **1.4 The Scope of the Study**

1. The emphasis of this research is to study the impact of North South Economic Corridor on the Hmong ethnic's way of life in Chiang Khong district, Chiang Rai province, Thailand.
2. The Chiang Khong district study area consisted of 5 villages namely: Ban Bost, Wiang sub-district, Ban Tung Na Noi, Wiang Sub district, Ban Tung Pattana, Wiang sub-district, Ban Kew Karn, Rim Kong sub-district, and Ban Maung Karn, Rim Kong sub-strict.
3. The sampling population consisted of 230 household heads.
4. There were two periods of study, the first period was before 1998, and the second period which the GMS Strategic Framework has been implemented, was from 1998 to 2012.

#### **1.5 Conceptual Framework**

Sanya Salamon (2006) in the “rural household as a consumption site” explained that “farm households, however, remain dependent on access to land for their livelihood. But factors other land tenure, and occupations other than farming now dominate the rural social hierarchy and shape rural consumption (Lobao and Meyer, 2001). Anthropologists, archeologists in particular, have long been attuned to what material culture tells us about social structure, social relations and consumption. According to Appadurai (1986) material culture or the thing people acquire or make, should be read as symbols through which social status is exhibited and maintained. In addition material culture reflects a moral economy that structures every day experiences. People can manipulate things/possessions to represent changes in their status or identity, relative to those around them.”

As explained by Sanya Salamon, the new global order redistributes populations as well as goods and wealth. This movement is accelerated by the trade agreement that constitutes the new global order in particular the Greater Mekong Economic Corridor especially the North South Economic Corridor that binds together Thailand, Lao PDR, Myanmar and People Republic of China in a neo-liberal regime of denationalized, reciprocal regulation of trade, investment and associated affairs. With this theoretical framework, the researcher selected

factors which were often found significantly related to the impact of the construction of North South Economic Corridor on the Hmong ethnic's way of life in Chiang Khong district, Chiang Rai province, Thailand, is shown in the following Figure 2.

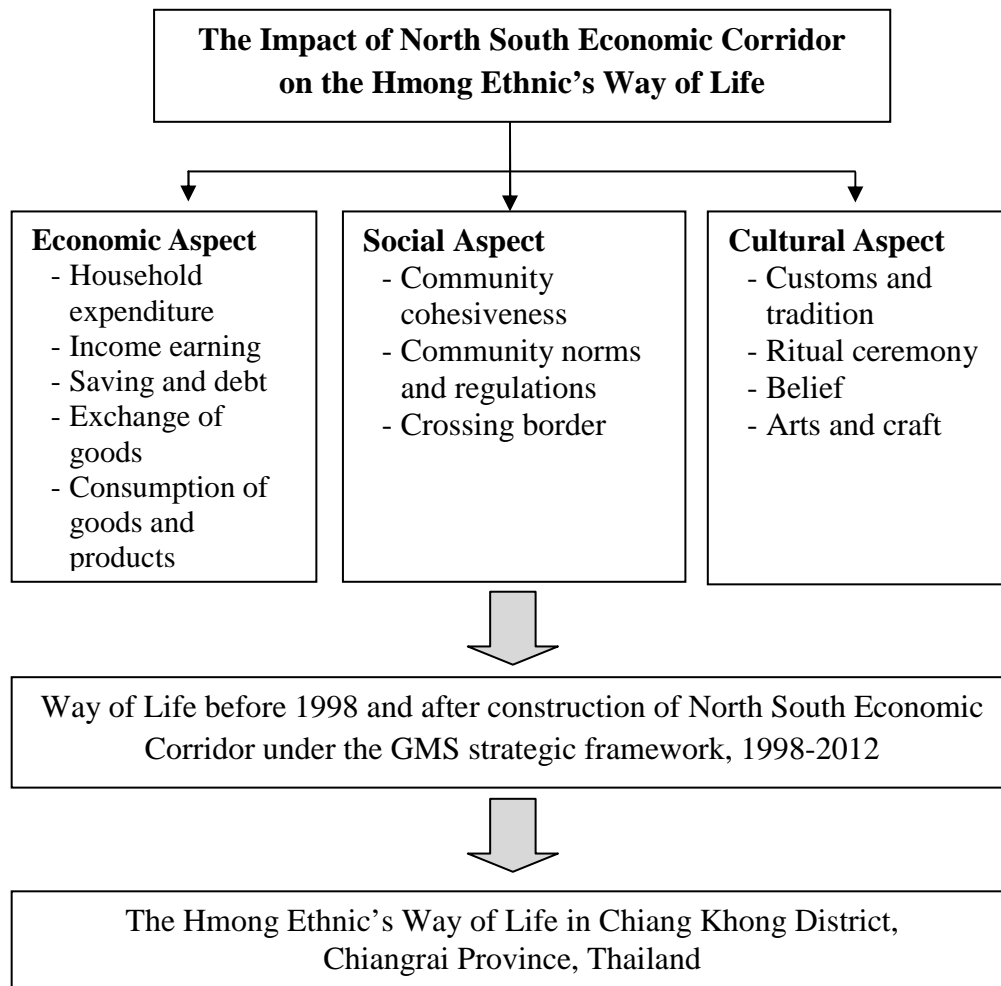


Figure 2. Conceptual Framework showing the relationship between the impact of North South Economic Corridor on the Hmong ethnic's way of life in three aspects; economic, social and cultural aspects.

## 2. Research Methodology

This research was based on the survey of Hmong ethnic's way of life which had an effect on the impact of North-South Economic Corridor that passed through Chiang Khong district, Chiang Rai province, Thailand. The questionnaires administered to the respondents were structured and unstructured. The questionnaires for data collection were divided into four parts; (1) Demographic characteristic of the respondents, (2) Economic Aspect on Impact of



North South Economic Corridor, (3) Social Aspect on Impact of North South Economic Corridor, and (4) Cultural Aspect on Impact of North South Economic Corridor.

There are 432 households in the residence village and the researcher selected 230 household heads to be the sample size by employing Taro Yamane. Statistical tools for analyzing the data were frequency distribution, percentage, mean, standard deviation, and t-test and the acceptable levels of significance were set at 5 percent (\*) and 1 percent (\*\*). The measurement of Attitude Scale, the researcher used the Likert – Type Scale to determine the impact of North South Economic Corridor on the Hmong ethnic’s way of life in Chiang Khong District, Chiang Rai Province, Thailand.

3	Very	2.34-3.00
2	Medium	1.67-2.33
1	Little	1.00-1.66

### 3. Results of the Research

The Hmong respondents were living in five selected villages in Chiang Khong district. The results of the research could be presented in the following.

#### 3.1 Part 1. Democratic Characteristic of the Respondents

Table 2. Sex of the Respondents

Sex	Frequency	Percent
Male	141	61.3
Female	89	38.7
Total	230	100.0

Table 2 shows that most respondents were male comprising 61.3 %, and female 38.7 %.

Table 3. Age of the Respondents

Age	Frequency	Percent
31-40	35	15.2
41-50	78	33.9
51-60	52	22.6
61-70	55	23.9
71- up	10	4.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 3 shows the age of the respondents, 33.9 % were between 41-50 years, mostly found between the ages of 61-70 years 23.6 % and 22.6 % between 51-60 years, respectively.

Table 4. Occupation of the Respondents

Occupation	Frequency	Percent
Field crops	64	27.8
Gardening	10	4.3
Field crops + gardening	78	33.9
Trade	32	13.9
Private enterprise	5	2.2
Employees	7	3.0
Construction workers	22	9.6
General hired labourer	12	5.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Table 4 shows the occupation of the respondents, 33.9 % of the Hmong earned an income from field crops and gardening, 27.8 % from field crops, and trade 13.9 %, respectively, 9.6 % from the rest were construction workers, 5.2 % from general hired laborer, 4.3 % from gardening, 3.0 percent from employee and 2.2 % from private enterprise.

Table 5. Educational Attainment of the Respondents.

Education	Frequency	Percent
Uneducated	54	23.5
Primary education level 4	45	19.6
Primary education level 6	50	21.7
Junior high school	18	7.8
High school	31	13.5
High vocational certificate	22	9.6
Bachelor's degree	10	4.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 5 shows the educational level of respondents which comprise uneducated 23.5 %, the majority obtained education at various levels; 21.7 % primary education level 6, 19.6 % primary education level 4, 13.5 % high school, 9.6 % high vocational certificate, junior high school 7.8 % and 4.3 % bachelor's degree.

Table 6. Types of Family

Family type	Frequency	Percent
Single family	111	48.3
Extended family	119	51.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Table 6 shows the types of family which found 51.7 % was extended family and 48.3 % was single family type.

Table 7. Length of Settlement in the Respondents' Villages

Length of settlements	Frequency	Percent
20-30	129	56.1
31-40	40	17.4
41-50	38	16.5
51 Up	23	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 7 shows the length of settlement of the respondents living in Chiang Khong district, Chiang Rai province which found 56.1 % were between 20-30 years of settlement; the highest were 17.4 % between 31-40 years and between 41-50 years 16.5 %, respectively.

### **3.2 Part 2. Economic Aspect on the Impact of North South Economic Corridor**

The Hmong respondents were asked about their sources of income.

Table 8. Income sources of the Respondents (N=230)

<b>Income sources</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Agriculture as a household income sources:		
Farm crops	91	39.6
Corn	131	57.0
Soybean	21	9.1
Cassava	11	4.8
Plantation:		
Lychee	89	38.7
Rubber	71	30.9
Employed in agriculture:		
- Contract farming.	28	12.2
- Contract Farmers	7	3.0
Non Agriculture		
- Trade	32	13.9
- Garment (cloth sewing)	100	43.5
- Cloth weaving	7	3.0
- Basketry	7	3.0
- Construction	7	3.0
- general hired labor	11	4.8

Table 8 shows the source of income of the respondents come from corn 57.0 %, garment 43.5 %, and growing farm crops 39.6 % and planting lychee trees 38.7 % and rubber plantation

30.9 %. These indicated the real life situation of Hmong as traditionally they work on farm and earn some income other means.

Table 9. Yearly Household Economy of the Respondents (N=230)

Household economic	Mean	Std. Deviation
<b>Income in cash</b>		
Income from agriculture (rice, corn, soybean, cassava, lychee and rubber growing)	35,994	17,523
Income from non-agriculture (cloth sewing, cloth weaving, basketry and general hired labor)	56,975	25,572
<b>Total</b>	<b>37,674</b>	<b>22,003</b>
<b>Expenditure in cash</b>		
Household operation expenditure	7,472	1,479
Farming expenditure (fertilizer, seeds, gasoline, hire labor)	16,988	8,646
Expenditure for paying debt	8,194	4,244
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,119</b>	<b>3,195</b>
<b>Total of sampling household debts</b>	<b>30,240</b>	<b>19,971</b>
<b>Total of sampling household savings</b>	<b>42,402</b>	<b>29,581</b>

Table 9 shows the yearly household economic of the Hmong ethnic group in Chiang Khong which found that the income in cash came from two sources of earning; agriculture ( $\bar{x} = 35,994$  Baht) and non-agriculture ( $\bar{x} = 56,975$  Baht). The cash income was used for household expenditure into three categories; for household operation expenditure ( $\bar{x} = 7,472$  Baht), farming expenditure ( $\bar{x} = 16,988$  Baht) and expenditure for paying debt ( $\bar{x} = 8,194$  Baht).

The average income of the respondents ( $\bar{x} = 35,994$  Baht/year) were mainly agriculture that derived from rice, corn, soybean, cassava, lychee and rubber growing (Table 7). The average income of the respondents per year from non-agriculture ( $\bar{x} = 56,975$  Baht) which came from cloth sewing, cloth weaving, basketry and general hired labor. The average expenditure for paying debt per year was 8,194 Baht. The average household expenditure per year was 11,119 Baht. The cash flow was categorized into three categories; household operation ( $\bar{x} =$

7,472 Baht), farming such as fertilizer, seeds, gasoline, hire labor ( $\bar{x} = 16,988$  Baht), paying debt ( $\bar{x} = 8,194$  Baht). The average debt of the sampling respondents was 30,220 Baht per year, and the savings capacity of the sampling respondents was 42,402 Baht per year.

### 3.3 The Economic Impact

The influence of North South Economic Corridor has brought about changes in Chiang Khong district that could be clearly seen in the development of the infrastructure. It has supported production, trade and investment among countries along the corridor, in particular the route R3a and in conjunction with the construction of the fourth Friendship Bridge that linking Chiang Khong district of Thailand and Bor Keo district of Lao PDR. The development of North South Economic Corridor infrastructure resulted in changes in the economic way of life of the Hmong ethnic groups of both countries. The investigated affecting factors as a result of the economic impact of the North South Economic Corridor in this research are the following: (1) Occupation, (2) Income earning capability, (3) Spending on a daily basis, (4) The ability to work, (5) Spending for health care and leisure, (6) The households savings, (7) Status of indebtedness, (8) Involvement in cultural tourism, (9) Exchange of cultural goods among various ethnic Hmong groups along the North South Economic Corridor, (10) Consumption of products and (11) Prices of products.

Table 10. The Economic Impact of North South Economic Corridor towards the Hmong Ethnic's Way of Life (N=230)

Economic Aspect	Past			Present			t
	Mean	Std. Deviation	Attitude Scale	Mean	Std. Deviation	Attitude Scale	
<b>Occupation</b>							
Household income earning	1.33	0.16	Little	2.15	0.35	Medium	174.32**
Skills and income earning experience	1.82	0.58	Medium	2.86	0.29	Very	168.45**
Unemployed and duration of seeking	1.89	0.64	Medium	2.67	0.74	Very	129.74**

Economic Aspect	Past			Present			t
	Mean	Std. Deviation	Attitude Scale	Mean	Std. Deviation	Attitude Scale	
<b>employment</b>							
Satisfaction on earning activities	1.56	0.23	Little	2.48	0.34	Very	84.74**
Acquire knowledge on marketing	1.97	0.16	Medium	2.61	0.52	Very	164.92**
<b>Income earning capability</b>							
Regular income earned	1.33	0.62	Little	2.30	0.30	Medium	210.34**
Special occasion on income earned	1.20	0.24	Little	2.47	0.56	Medium	89.21**
Income from welfare services (community cooperative/ funeral funds)	1.87	0.43	Medium	2.43	0.38	Very	82.46**
<b>Spending on a daily basis</b>							
Daily food expense	1.29	0.28	Little	2.40	0.38	Very	71.15**
Household maintenance expense	1.74	0.65	Medium	2.51	0.36	Very	84.71**
Occupational inputs expense	1.79	0.16	Medium	2.18	0.38	Medium	124.55**
Social activities expense	2.10	0.29	Medium	2.42	0.28	Very	137.81**
<b>The ability to work</b>							
Delicacy of working	2.30	0.88	Medium	2.60	0.49	Very	146.38**

Economic Aspect	Past			Present			t
	Mean	Std. Deviation	Attitude Scale	Mean	Std. Deviation	Attitude Scale	
situation							
Level of labor skills	1.97	0.66	Medium	2.75	0.18	Very	84.69**
Efficiency in work	1.97	0.49	Medium	2.54	0.36	Very	96.31**
<b>Spending for health care and leisure</b>							
Health care expense	1.24	0.32	Little	2.30	0.00	Medium	128.68**
Leisure expense	1.89	0.16	Medium	2.49	0.46	Very	149.37**
Entertainment expense (movie, music)	1.28	0.32	Little	2.89	0.86	Very	129.88**
<b>The households savings</b>							
Amount of savings	1.97	0.36	Medium	2.07	0.66	Medium	174.39**
Increment of saving amount in each month/year	1.47	0.16	Medium	1.94	0.36	Medium	128.75**
Amount in community fund or other savings	1.38	0.34	Little	2.12	0.76	Medium	127.91**
<b>Status of indebtedness</b>							
Existing debt	1.03	0.36	Little	2.13	0.36	Medium	237.84
Earning an income to pay debt	1.33	0.49	Little	2.03	0.41	Medium	98.64**
Punctuality in paying debt	2.02	0.76	Medium	2.10	0.62	Medium	89.62**



Economic Aspect	Past			Present			t
	Mean	Std. Deviation	Attitude Scale	Mean	Std. Deviation	Attitude Scale	
<b>Involvement in cultural tourism</b>							
Number of tourists visited	1.27	0.82	Little	2.30	0.49	Medium	219.42**
Provision of services to the tourists	1.38	0.43	Little	1.93	0.46	Medium	128.74**
Cultural entertainment to the tourists	1.24	0.23	Little	1.97	0.65	Medium	134.44**
<b>Exchange of cultural goods among various ethnic Hmong groups along the North South Economic Corridor</b>							
Hmong clothing embroidery	1.03	0.36	Little	2.74	0.60	Very	272.99**
Silver ornamental decoration	2.00	0.16	Medium	2.97	0.48	Very	143.74**
Household utensils	1.97	0.49	Medium	2.58	0.24	Very	98.94**
<b>Consumption of products</b>							
Household daily use items (soap, tooth paste, washing powder, hair and facial make-up)	1.40	0.72	Little	2.67	0.16	Very	141.74**
Industrial products (sewing machine)	1.20	0.36	Little	2.20	0.39	Medium	224.61**
Agricultural products (fruits, vegetables)	1.78	0.50	Medium	2.03	0.49	Medium	138.52

Economic Aspect	Past			Present			t
	Mean	Std. Deviation	Attitude Scale	Mean	Std. Deviation	Attitude Scale	
<b>Prices of products</b>							
Household daily use items (soap, tooth paste, washing powder, hair and facial make-up)	1.23	0.39	Little	2.15	0.56	Medium	142.35**
Industrial products (sewing machine)	1.50	0.28	Little	2.48	0.26	Very	68.13**
Agricultural products (fruits, vegetables)	2.03	0.68	Medium	2.47	0.76	Very	176.41**

\*\* Significant difference at 1 percent level

Table 10 shows the impacts of North South Economic Corridor toward the changing life's style by the respondents' self assessment affecting factors occurring from the past and compared with present situation which have shown significantly different at .01 level implying that there was a change in occupation which had indicated highest skills and income earning experience ( $\bar{x} = 1.82, 2.86$ ), second difference in unemployment and duration of seeking employment ( $\bar{x} = 189, 2.67$ ), and third difference in acquire knowledge on marketing ( $\bar{x} = 1.97, 2.61$ ).

The impact of North South Economic Corridor on income earning capability was found significantly different in special occasion on income earned ( $\bar{x} = 1.20, 2.47$ ), income from welfare services ( $\bar{x} = 1.87, 2.43$ ) and regular income earned ( $\bar{x} = 1.33, 230$ ). The impact of North South Economic Corridor on spending of a daily basis was found significantly different at highest attitude scale in household maintenance items ( $\bar{x} = 1.74, 2.51$ ), social activities expense ( $\bar{x} = 2.10, 2.442$ ), daily food expense ( $\bar{x} = 1.29, 2.40$ ) and medium in occupational inputs expense ( $\bar{x} = 1.79, 2.18$ ). The impact of North South Economic Corridor on the ability to work found significantly different in all aspects at highest attitude scale as

listing in order of importance consisting level of skills ( $\bar{x} = 1.97, 2.75$ ), delicacy of working ( $\bar{x} = 2.30, 2.60$ ) and efficiency in work ( $\bar{x} = 1.97, 2.54$ ).

The impact of North South Economic Corridor on spending on health care and leisure found significantly different at highest attitude scale in entertainment expense ( $\bar{x} = 1.28, 2.89$ ), leisure expense ( $\bar{x} = 1.89, 2.49$ ) and medium at health care expense ( $\bar{x} = 1.24, 2.30$ ). The impact of North South Economic Corridor on the household savings was found significantly different at medium attitude scale in all aspects in savings amount in community fund or other savings ( $\bar{x} = 1.38, 2.12$ ), amount of savings ( $\bar{x} = 1.97, 2.07$ ) and increment of saving amount in each month/year ( $\bar{x} = 1.47, 1.97$ ). The affecting factors on the impact of North South Economic Corridor was found significantly different at highest attitude scale in existing debt ( $\bar{x} = 1.03, 2.13$ ), earning an income to pay debt ( $\bar{x} = 1.03, 2.03$ ) and punctuality in paying debt ( $\bar{x} = 2.02, 2.10$ ), respectively. The affecting factors on the impact of North South Economic Corridor of involvement in cultural tourism was found significantly different at medium attitude scale in all aspects in numbers of tourists visited ( $\bar{x} = 1.27, 2.30$ ), cultural entertainment to the tourist ( $\bar{x} = 1.24, 1.97$ ) and provision of services to the tourists ( $\bar{x} = 1.38, 1.93$ ).

The affecting factors on the impact of North South Economic Corridor of exchange of cultural goods among various ethnic Hmong groups was found significantly different at highest attitude scale in all aspects as reported in order of importance consisting silver ornamental decoration ( $\bar{x} = 2.00, 2.97$ ), Hmong clothing embroidery ( $\bar{x} = 1.03, 2.74$ ) and household utensils ( $\bar{x} = 1.97, 2.58$ ), respectively. The affecting factors on the impact of North South Economic Corridor of consumption of products was found significantly different on household daily use items at highest attitude scale ( $\bar{x} = 1.40, 2.67$ ), and the other second priority at medium scale was industrial products ( $\bar{x} = 1.20, 2.20$ ) and agricultural products ( $\bar{x} = 1.78, 2.03$ ). The affecting factors on the impact of North South Economic Corridor of price of products was found significantly different at highest attitude scale on industrial products ( $\bar{x} = 1.50, 2.48$ ) and agricultural products ( $\bar{x} = 2.03, 2.13$ ), second at medium attitude scale was household daily use items ( $\bar{x} = 1.23, 2.13$ ).

### 3.4 The Social Impact

The influence of border trade has changed the social and economic way of life and the possibility that the Hmong ethnic groups of both countries could be assimilated through the exposure of new culture and may have to be lured into human trafficking, drug addicts, HIV/AIDS, illegal crossing border and destruction of the natural resources and environment. The af

fecting factors on the social impact of the North South Economic Corridor were investigated in this research included the following factors; (1) Social status of the household, (2) The physical condition of the household, (3) Participation in community activities, (4) Physical health, (5) Sense of security in life and property, (6) Opportunity in education and promotion of learning of the household members, (7) The household conditions and settlement movement, (8) Communications and transportation and (9) Travel between the border.

Table 11. The Social Impact of North South Economic Corridor towards the Hmong Ethnic's Way of Life (N=230)

Social Aspect	Past			Present			t
	Mean	Std. Deviation	Attitude Scale	Mean	Std. Deviation	Attitude Scale	
<b>Social status of the household</b>							
General social status of the household	2.04	0.36	Medium	2.13	0.16	Medium	93.38**
Acceptance from the society	2.12	0.34	Medium	2.29	0.74	Medium	138.95**
Warmth and relationship among household members	2.15	0.28	Medium	2.30	0.62	Medium	134.02**
<b>The physical condition of the household</b>							
Strong physical structure of	1.45	0.67	Little	2.34	0.52	Medium	90.11**

Social Aspect	Past			Present			t
	Mean	Std. Deviation	Attitude Scale	Mean	Std. Deviation	Attitude Scale	
Hmong's house Physical structure of Hmong's house changed	2.09	0.48	Medium	2.48	0.19	Very	148.30**
<b>Participation in community activities</b>							
Assignment of responsible function from society	1.49	0.47	Little	2.30	0.36	Medium	81.21**
Participation in expressed viewpoints	1.81	0.23	Medium	2.19	0.28	Medium	137.62
Knowing situations of local and outside communities	1.16	0.35	Medium	2.49	0.28	Very	142.35**
<b>Physical health</b>							
General health	1.84	0.27	Medium	1.97	0.16	Medium	25.31
Sickness or other communicable diseases	2.15	0.39	Medium	2.34	0.33	Very	82.64**
Problem of drug addicts or stimulant beverage	1.36	0.84	Little	2.67	0.19	Very	92.12**
<b>Sense of security in life and property</b>							
Security in daily life	1.60	0.65	Little	2.18	0.19	Medium	182.65**
Security in property	2.07	0.50	Medium	1.97	0.64	Medium	84.04**
Aspiration of well being and living	1.75	0.28	Medium	2.31	0.73	Medium	96.21**

Social Aspect	Past			Present			t
	Mean	Std. Deviation	Attitude Scale	Mean	Std. Deviation	Attitude Scale	
<b>Opportunity in education and promotion of learning of the household members</b>							
Financial support in education	1.28	0.52	Little	2.03	0.16	Medium	124.31**
Learning achievement of the household members	1.48	0.26	Little	2.83	0.37	Very	99.21**
Opportunity in education or searching information on trade	1.56	0.74	Little	2.86	0.35	Very	87.32**
<b>The household conditions and settlement movement</b>							
Youth moved to work in city	1.12	0.60	Little	2.55	0.36	Very	162.95**
Settlement of shops selling handicraft products (embroidery, clothing, hand bag)	1.18	0.23	Little	2.70	0.41	Very	76.85**
<b>Communications and transportation</b>							
Increasing numbers of vehicles	1.17	0.39	Little	2.19	0.26	Medium	97.38**
Road condition in use	1.97	0.26	Medium	2.64	0.48	Very	168.95**
Commute among areas	1.97	0.61	Medium	2.29	0.37	Medium	110.32**
Traffic condition	1.64	0.87	Little	1.98	0.46	Medium	97.09**
Safety in transportation in the areas	2.03	0.85	Medium	2.16	0.69	Medium	85.42**

Social Aspect	Past			Present			t
	Mean	Std. Deviation	Attitude Scale	Mean	Std. Deviation	Attitude Scale	
<b>Travel between the border</b>							
Convenience in crossing the borders	1.45	0.32	Little	2.83	0.43	Very	128.18**
Participation in traditional events (New year, wedding, funeral )	1.84	0.84	Medium	2.85	0.36	Very	96.12**

\*\* Significant difference at 1 percent level

Table 11 shows the impacts of North South Economic Corridor toward the changing in the Hmong ethnic's life style in the social status of the household as compared with the past and present situations was found statistical significantly different at .01 level implying highest in warmth and relationship among household members ( $\bar{x} = 2.15, 2.30$ ), second change was acceptance from the society ( $\bar{x} = 2.12, 2.29$ ), and general social status of the household ( $\bar{x} = 2.04, 2.13$ ). The social affecting factors on North South Economic Corridor in the physical condition of the household has shown highest in changing strong physical structure of the Hmong's house ( $\bar{x} = 2.09, 2.48$ ) and changed in physical structure of Hmong's house ( $x=2.09, 2.48$ ). The social affecting factors on North South Economic Corridor in participation in community activities has shown highest change in knowing situation of local and outside communities ( $\bar{x} = 1.16, 2.49$ ), second was assignment of responsible function from society ( $\bar{x} = 1.49, 2.30$ ), and participation in expressed viewpoints ( $\bar{x} = 1.81, 2.19$ ).

The social affecting factors on North South Economic Corridor in physical health was found highest change in problem of drug addicts or stimulant beverage ( $\bar{x} = 1.36, 2.67$ ), second was sickness or other communicable diseases ( $\bar{x} = 2.15, 2.34$ ) and general health ( $\bar{x} = 1.84, 1.97$ ). The sense of security in life and property's social affecting factors on North South Economic Corridor had indicated highest change in aspiration of wellbeing and living ( $\bar{x} = 1.75, 2.31$ ). It was found that security in properly ( $\bar{x} = 2.07, 1.97$ ) has decreased due to the development plan of Chiang Khong district that resulting in migration of various population

which was created a sense of insecurity of the Hmong Ethnic's way of life. The social affecting factors on opportunity in education and promotion of learning of the household members was highest in opportunity in education or searching information on trade ( $\bar{x} = 1.56, 2.86$ ), second was learning achievement of the household members ( $\bar{x} = 1.48, 2.83$ ) and financial support in education ( $\bar{x} = 1.28, 2.03$ ).

The social affecting factors on the household conditions in settlement movement was found significantly change at highest level in settlement of shops selling handicraft products (embroidery, clothing, hand bag) ( $\bar{x} = 1.18, 2.70$ ), second was found that youth moved to work in city ( $\bar{x} = 1.12, 2.55$ ). The social affecting factors on communications and transportation was found highest in increasing numbers of vehicles ( $\bar{x} = 1.97, 2.64$ ), second was commute among areas ( $\bar{x} = 1.97, 2.29$ ) and second traffic condition ( $\bar{x} = 2.03, 2.16$ ) which found less affected ( $\bar{x} = 1.64, 1.98$ ).

The social affecting factors as a result of North South Economic Corridor was found highest change in participation in traditional events (new year, wedding, funeral) ( $\bar{x} = 1.84, 2.85$ ) and second was convenience in crossing the borders ( $\bar{x} = 1.45, 2.83$ ).

### **3.5 The Cultural Impact**

The diffusion of communication media such as radio and television changed the adaption of practice and innovation. Improvement of infrastructure and transportation could facilitate the movement of people between the two countries easier than in the past. The affecting factors as a result of the cultural impact of the North South Economic Corridor were investigated into the following variables; (1) Pattern of indigenous health care, (2) Behavior and socialization in the household, (3) Dietary consumption habits, (4) Cultural exchange and (5) Cultural adaptation.



Table 12. The Cultural Impact of North South Economic Corridor towards the Hmong Ethnic's Way of Life (N=230)

Cultural Aspect	Past			Present			t
	Mean	Std. Deviation	Attitude Scale	Mean	Std. Deviation	Present Attitude Scale	
<b>Pattern of indigenous health care</b>							
External treatment of sickness	2.97	0.16	Very	1.86	0.46	Medium	29.84**
Ritual ceremony for health care	2.00	0.34	Medium	1.83	0.38	Medium	71.95**
Food for health	2.85	0.78	Very	1.90	0.30	Medium	41.98**
Herbal therapy treatment	2.59	0.50	Very	2.00	0.00	Medium	91.95**
Indigenous midwifery treatment	2.74	0.38	Very	2.45	0.40	Very	78.32**
<b>Behavior and socialization in the household</b>							
Traditional childcare in the household	2.95	0.16	Very	2.06	0.38	Medium	95.32**
Early childhood development through child care center	1.46	0.16	Little	2.55	0.84	Very	12.74**
Socializing children in the household (teaching for good behavior, obedience in elderly)	2.76	0.46	Very	2.91	0.35	Very	85.62**
Followed the instruction to work on farm, basketry, embroidery since childhood	2.85	0.84	Very	1.93	0.40	Medium	25.14**

Cultural Aspect	Past			Present			t
	Mean	Std. Deviation	Attitude Scale	Mean	Std. Deviation	Present Attitude Scale	
<b>Dietary consumption habits</b>							
Cooking utensils (bamboo tray, bamboo filter, bamboo rice cooker, axe )	2.08	0.45	Medium	1.29	0.35	Little	1.32**
Materials for food preparation	2.49	0.84	Very	2.68	0.67	Very	09.21**
Cooking method	2.65	0.28	Very	2.79	0.91	Very	2.16**
Food beliefs	2.89	0.31	Very	2.03	0.46	Medium	1.20**
<b>Cultural exchange</b>							
Local culture (New year, wedding, funeral	1.83	0.50	Little	2.92	0.27	Very	- 12.15**
Arts and culture, folk play and local music (bamboo flute, gong)	2.18	0.46	Medium	2.95	0.32	Very	19.12**
Arts and culture on musical lyric	2.00	0.62	Medium	2.58	0.63	Very	- 39.74**
Hmong costume	2.45	0.29	Very	2.01	0.75	Medium	- 29.45**
Hmong ethnic language	2.98	0.36	Very	2.05	0.46	Medium	- 32.62**
<b>Cultural adaptation</b>							
Playing bamboo flute	1.03	0.16	Little	2.21	0.41	Medium	- 34.21**
Spinning wooden ball	2.88	0.26	Very	2.43	0.37	Very	- 53.46**
Throwing cloth ball	2.75	0.16	Very	2.50	0.63	Very	- 51.54**
Embroidery	2.45	0.27	Very	1.79	0.54	Medium	- 13.65**
Wax paintings	2.64	0.34	Very	1.39	0.29	Little	- 21.42**

\*\* Significant difference at 1 percent level

Table 12 shows the impacts of North South Economic Corridor toward the changing Hmong ethnic's life style on overall cultural aspects as compared between the past and present situations. It was found significantly different at 0.1 level as describing by each affecting factor as followed:

The pattern of indigenous health care of affecting factors on ritual ceremony for health care was found highest decreasing ( $\bar{x} = 2.00, 1.83$ ), second was external treatment of sickness ( $\bar{x} = 2.97, 1.86$ ) and third was food for health ( $\bar{x} = 2.85, 1.90$ ). The behavior and socialization in the household affecting factors on socialization child care in the household was found highest change ( $\bar{x} = 2.76, 2.91$ ) and also early childhood development through child care center ( $\bar{x} = 1.46, 2.55$ ). The decreased cultural affecting factors was the followed instruction to work on farm, basketry, embroidery since early childhood ( $\bar{x} = 2.85, 1.93$ ) and traditional child care in the household ( $\bar{x} = 2.95, 2.06$ ) was decreased. The cultural affecting factors on dietary consumption habits was found highest change in cooking method ( $\bar{x} = 2.65, 2.79$ ) and materials for food preparation ( $\bar{x} = 2.49, 2.68$ ). The deceased cultural affecting factors was cooking utensils (bamboo tray, bamboo filter, bamboo rice cooker, axe) ( $\bar{x} = 2.08, 1.29$ ) and food beliefs ( $\bar{x} = 2.89, 2.03$ ). The cultural affecting factors on cultural exchange was found highest change in arts and culture, folk play and local music (bamboo flute, gong) ( $\bar{x} = 2.18, 2.95$ ), second was local culture (new year, wedding, funeral) ( $\bar{x} = 1.83, 2.92$ ) and arts and culture on musical lyric ( $\bar{x} = 2.00, 2.58$ ). The cultural affecting factors on cultural adaptation was found decreased in all cultural activities included wax paintings ( $\bar{x} = 2.64, 1.39$ ), embroidery ( $\bar{x} = 2.45, 1.79$ ), except playing bamboo flute ( $\bar{x} = 1.03, 2.21$ ) was increased.

#### 4. Summary of the Research

Table 13. The Impact of the North – South Economic Corridor on the Hmong Ethnic Lifestyle Changes as a Result of the Economic Aspect (N=230)

Economic Aspect	Past		Attitude Scale	Present		Attitude Scale	t
	Mean	Std. Deviation		Mean	Std. Deviation		
Occupation	1.60	0.15	Little	2.72	0.22	Very	138.174**
Income earning	1.33	0.22	Little	2.90	0.38	Very	119.303**

Economic Aspect	Past		Attitude Scale	Present		Attitude Scale	t
	Mean	Std. Deviation		Mean	Std. Deviation		
Spending on a daily basis	1.51	0.86	Little	2.26	0.65	Medium	70.742**
The ability to work	1.98	0.27	Medium	2.85	0.38	Very	80.597**
Spending for health care and recreation	1.00	0.32	Little	2.65	0.22	Very	234.872**
The households savings	1.66	0.28	Little	2.64	0.67	Very	139.932**
Debt	1.35	0.24	Little	1.68	0.71	Medium	94.121**
Cultural Tourism	1.32	0.31	Little	1.67	0.27	Medium	120.357**
Exchange of cultural goods among various ethnic Hmong groups along the North South Economic Corridor	1.67	0.29	Medium	3.00	0.32	Very	259.361**
Consumption of products	1.33	0.35	Little	2.65	0.46	Very	187.402**
Prices of products	1.67	0.20	Medium	2.33	0.72	Medium	273.327**
<b>Total</b>	<b>1.49</b>	<b>0.60</b>	<b>Little</b>	<b>2.47</b>	<b>0.50</b>	<b>Very</b>	

\*\* Significant difference at 1 percent level

Table 13 shows the impact of North – South Economic Corridor. The Hmong life style changed as a result of the economic growth in line with the construction of North – South Economic Corridor. The Hmong ethnic group had compared changes as occurred to them between the past to present. The difference has shown statistically significant at 1 percent level of economic factors that have indicated the trend of changes higher than in the past. ( $\bar{x}$  = 1.49,2.47), and the highest found in exchange of cultural goods among various Hmong ethnic groups along the North South Economic Corridor ( $\bar{x}$  = 1.67,3.00), followed by the family income increased ( $\bar{x}$  = 1.33, 2.90) and the development of skills and expertise in a career has high ( $\bar{x}$  = 1.98. , 2.85) and its cultural tourism on economic impact showed minimal effect ( $\bar{x}$  = 1.32,1.67).

Table 14. The Impact of the North - South Economic Corridor on the Hmong Ethnic's Lifestyle Changes as a Result of the Social Aspect (N=230)

Social Aspect	Past		Attitude Scale	Present		Attitude Scale	t
	Mean	Std. Deviation		Mean	Std. Deviation		
Social status of the household	1.67	0.37	Medium	2.01	0.27	Medium	97.416**
The physical condition of the household	2.50	0.51	Very	2.99	0.29	Very	92.46**
Participation in community activities	1.67	0.24	Medium	2.33	0.31	Medium	121.34**
Physical health	1.67	0.25	Medium	1.99	0.18	Medium	92.46**
Sense of security of life and property	1.00	0.64	Little	1.97	0.27	Very	92.46**
Educational opportunity and learning of the members of the household	1.33	0.39	Little	2.57	0.19	Very	113.94**
The household conditions in the settlement	1.00	0.49	Little	2.29	0.16	Medium	176.60**
Communications	1.73	0.21	Medium	1.93	0.15	Medium	18.97**
Travel between the border	2.00	0.19	Medium	2.84	0.26	Very	49.37**
<b>Total</b>	1.62	0.33	Medium	2.32	0.20	Very	

\*\* Significant difference at 1 percent level

Table 14 shows the impact of the Northern – South Economic Corridor on changes in the social aspect of Hmong ethnic group, as compared to their situations in the past and towards the present. The difference is statistically significant at 1 percent level, the overall social factors are likely to be affected by changes as shown in the higher level ( $\bar{x} = 1.62, 2.32$ ). The evidence of change is likely that most of the building material form and physical condition of the household ( $\bar{x} = 2.50, 2.99$ ), followed by travelling between the border ( $\bar{x} = 2.00, 2.84$ ) and indicating rise to higher in educational opportunity and learning of the household members ( $\bar{x} = 1.33, 2.57$ ).

Table 15. The Impact of the North – South Economic Corridor on the Hmong Ethnic's Lifestyle Changes as a Result of the Cultural Aspect (N=230)

Cultural Aspect	Past		Attitude Scale	Present		Attitude Scale	t
	Mean	Std. Deviation		Mean	Std. Deviation		
Pattern of indigenous health care	2.78	0.33	Very	2.08	0.19	Medium	53.22* *
Behavior and socialization in the household	2.99	0.55	Very	2.46	0.67	Very	52.45* *
Dietary habits	2.22	0.68	Medium	2.20	0.26	Medium	1.49**
Cultural exchange	2.21	0.18	Medium	2.49	0.37	Very	- 23.49* *
Adaptation of the art	1.67	0.27	Medium	2.09	0.28	Medium	- 38.99* *
<b>Total</b>	2.37	0.25	Very	2.26	0.37	Medium	29.21 **

\*\* Significant difference at 1 percent level

Table 15 shows the impact of the North- South Economic Corridor towards the changing lifestyles of Hmong ethnic group on culture. The respondents had compared the situations as occurred in the past and their adaption of practices in the present. The difference is statistically significant at 1 percent level. The cultural factors that have shown affected is lower in pattern of indigenous health care, ( $\bar{x}$  = 2.78, 2.08. ), followed by the behavior and socialization in the household ( $\bar{x}$  = 2.99, 2.46) and cultural exchange among Hmong ethnic group ( $\bar{x}$  = 2.21, 2.49) has increased at the high level.

## 5. Discussion of the Research

There is a distinct change in economic activities that in the past the Hmong ethnic earned a livelihood on subsistence farming in growing crops, rice, raising animals. The farm products were mainly consumed in the households except some surplus were sold. The construction of the North South Economic Corridor has changed Chiang Khong district to be established as the special zone for agricultural production and investment. The zone could link with the

neighboring countries. This has shown an adversely affected to the Hmong ethnic's way of life such as changing occupation in growing some type of crops such as maize, flower garden, ginger plantation. Moreover, there are the changes of goods and other products such as silver ornament, increasing number of cultural tourism tourists in the community that had made the household income increased. The household expenditure had increased and deviated the pattern of consumption on luxurious goods and depending on the convenience of household appliances. This phenomenon supported the research findings of Somsak Srisantisook (1987, pp. 18-10). In that he has proposed that in the past community economic had depended on traditional production with an exchange and consumed in the community. Now the new economic adaption has shifted to the new capitalism system as the basis of the society due to the people's wants and needs for leading their living. This work of Somsak Srisantisook has related to the findings of Nattaporn Saengpradap (1984) that changes in community had created changes in occupation, employment, income and expenditure. The indebtedness practice deviated has deviated the changing in attitudes and social value.

The diffusion of culture in the society and community had created changes in adaption of innovation especially the adaption of the material things but neglecting the spiritual appreciation. The changing in leisure style has shifted the people to watch television (Seri Pongpinyo 2009, pp. 172 – 179). He proposed that the communicative interaction could influence those who had shown weak culture and accepted the main stream culture of that society. The diffusion of culture through communication media such as television as well as the acceptance of the urban culture into their way of life sometime decreased the people's belief who was once believed in the supra-natural power.

## **6. Conclusion and Recommendations**

Factors that have been affected by North - South Economic Corridor on the Hmong ethnic's way of life in Chiang Khong district, Chiang Rai Province can be concluded in the following:

### **The Economic Aspect:**

The impact of the North South Economic Corridor provided sufficient evidence on the economic aspect of the Hmong ethnic group indicated that there are changes at the very high level in occupation, earning an income, the ability to work, spending for health care and

recreation, the households savings, exchange of cultural goods among various Hmong ethnic groups along the North South Economic Corridor and consumption of goods products.

### **The Social Aspect:**

The impact of the North South Economic Corridor provided sufficient evidence on the social aspect of the Hmong ethnic group indicated that there are changes at the very high level in the physical condition of the household, sense of security in life and property, educational opportunity and learning of the household members and travelling between the borders.

### **The Cultural Aspect:**

The impact of the North South Economic Corridor provided sufficient evidence on the cultural aspect of the Hmong ethnic group indicated that there are changes at the very high level in pattern of indigenous health care, but there is a slightly change compared to the past but not significant, implying that Hmong ethnic group still using local wisdom for health care, cultural exchange among various Hmong ethnic group along the North South Economic Corridor.

## **6.1 Recommendations**

### **Economic Adaptation**

1. The Hmong should be provided with educational opportunity and encouraged to be involved in managing community cultural tourism and strengthening the entrepreneurial skills in product development within North South Economic Corridor cooperation. The successful community cultural tourism should be based on effective public relations to be known in attracting the tourists which in turn the community increased in revenue.
2. There should be an established exhibition center for the Hmong handicraft products along the North South Economic Corridor. The Hmong handicraft products should be upgraded in accordance with the market demand. In particular, the products should be well categorized into standardized workmanship which increased value added of the SME.



3. The Hmong should adapt the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy in applying practices in the household so that the practices will involve the appreciation of Sufficiency Economy components in moderation, reasonableness, self - immunity, knowledge, and ethics. The practices will increase the household awareness on prevention of the financial risk and other crisis which have affected on earning an income.

### **Social Adaptation**

1. Ministry of Education should support the teaching and learning both in school and outer school systems particularly the encouragement of self – learning to the Hmong children and youth. The out of school youth should be provided the lifelong learning skills which correspond to Hmong ethnic’s way of life while living in the multicultural diversity of the Thai society, especially in the rapid change of the North South Economic Corridor.
2. The health organization should provide the protective health care systems in dealing with the new occurring disease as well as to assist in primary health care, mental and physical rehabilitation, self reliance on health care and with knowledge on consumer protection measure.

### **Cultural Adaptation**

1. The Hmong ethnic should organize the New Year event for reunion among other Hmong groups and also for the cultural exchange along the North South Economic Corridor.
2. The government should preserve and protect the Hmong ethnic local wisdom such as indigenous medicine and traditional herbs for household uses.

The direction of adaptation of the ethnic Hmong towards the impact along the path of North South Economic Corridor which has been observed that there are business networks established for value added to the cultural products, conservation, revitalization and transmission of tribal identity. Of utmost importance is to develop the standard of living for quality of life improvement and, more importantly, the increase in earning capability, prevention of diseases, security in life and property as well as the facilitation of service for the border trades are required.

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## **About MINZAS**

MINZAS program is a partnership program of Mekong Institute and New Zealand Embassy in Bangkok. The objective of this program is to enhance research capacity of young GMS researchers by providing a structured learning and field research application program for 36 master's degree students from provincial universities in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Thailand.

Through a comprehensive supports – trainings, roundtable meeting, constructive advices from MI advisors including financial supports – which are to be and have been provided to scholarship grantees, students' research skills and conduction of research deem to be developed. The completed research works will be published in 'MI Working Paper Series' and disseminated to related agents among the GMS.

The MINZAS Program is designed for 3 cycles; each cycle lasts for one year with 4 phases:

- Phase One: Training on Research Methodology
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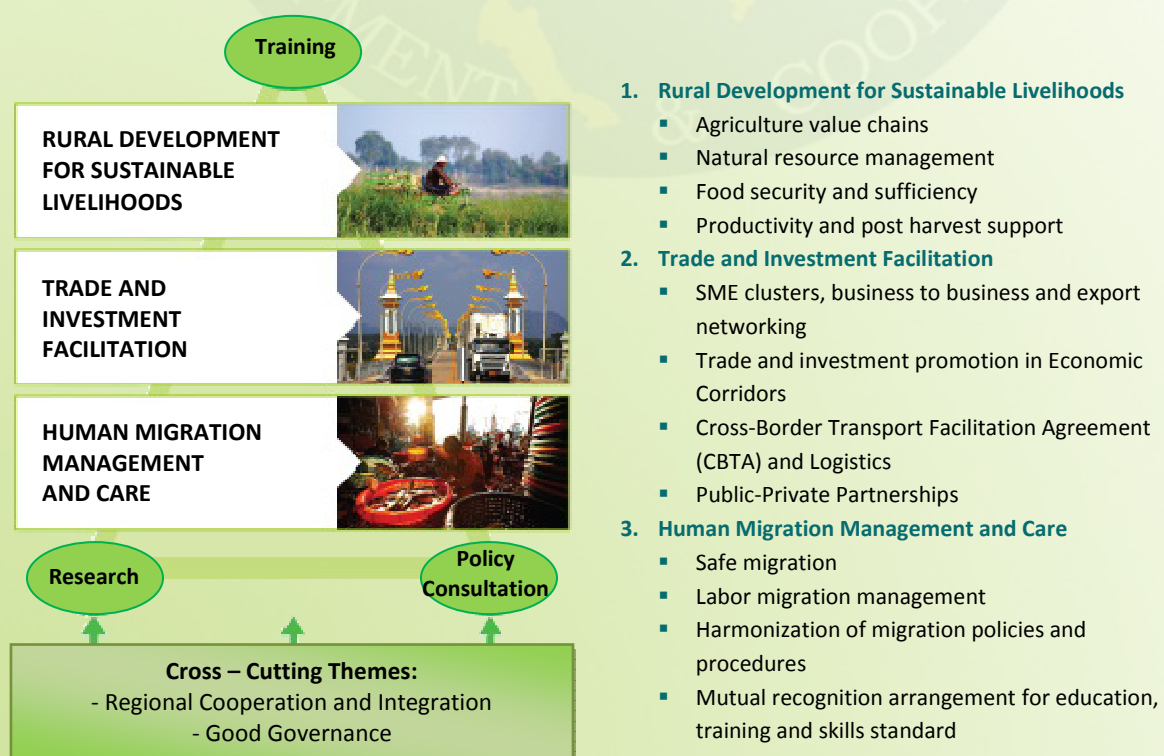
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