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## Chao Phraya river and canal network nostalgia of aquatic heritage

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***Abstract:*** "Venice of the East" is the term which represents Ayutthaya and Bangkok as cities of waterway network nurturing riparian settlement and transportation. Although Ayutthaya and Bangkok have certain aquatic features comparable to the city of Venice, the term "Venice of the East" does not contribute to the full understanding and appreciation of way of life, conception, beliefs, rituals, artistic and symbolic creations stemming from close association with water. This paper describes Chao Phraya River and its canal network as the origin of unique aquatic traditions. It also explores the decline of aquatic mode of life after rapid urban growth and orientation towards road transportation. In order to create new economic opportunities as well as to satisfy the sense of nostalgia, attempts have been made to revive or even reinvent certain traditions. Yet genuine aquatic traditions are fading through time, as the river and its canal network have been neglected and lost their meaningful existence.

*Full paper not provided*

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