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## Towards sustainable eco-cultural tourism for water-based settlements on the banks of the Chao-Phraya River, a case of Koh kret, Nonthaburi Province

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**Abstract:** *The Settlements and towns along the Chao-Phraya River banks, river islands and canals constitute a unique aspect of cultural heritage and national identity. With such characteristics, many water-based settlements on the Bank of the Chao-Phraya River are attracting and welcoming the tourism industry. Therefore how to derive the most practical way for the water-based communities to achieve a sustainable eco-cultural tourism and benefit from it is the objective of this paper. The study has been done by using "Koh Kret" as a case study. "Koh Kret" is a small island of 4.12 square kilometres in the Chao-Phraya River within the administrative boundary of Nonthaburi Province. The community of Koh Kret is a traditional settlement with historical value and identity. The residents are mainly from the Mon ethnic group, and have preserved their culture as beautifully expressed through the way of living, architectural buildings and cultural activities, eg, temples, ancient houses, settlement styles and the pottery artwork. At present, tourism on this island can be regarded as community development as well as cultural and art conservation. The finding from the study recommends that to prevent the negative impact from tourism leading to the unsustainability of the industry, the participation of Koh Kret community in their own tourism development needs to be promoted by the government. If the Koh Kret community can expose its way of life and manage the impact of tourism then Koh Kret can be protected as a living historic gem of the Chao-Phraya River.*

*Full paper not provided*

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