PROJECT INFO SHEET
DEVELOPMENT OF A FLOOD RISK MITIGATION PLAN
FOR THE WORLD HERITAGE SITE OF AYUTTHAYA

Background

In response to the 2011 flooding of Ayutthaya, UNESCO Bangkok liaised closely with the Thai Ministry of Culture’s Fine Arts Department and mobilized international and national expertise to assess the extent of damages. Expert missions were undertaken between November and December 2011 which recommended the development of an overall disaster mitigation strategy for the Historic City of Ayutthaya. More specifically, the experts recommended undertaking a flood risk study that will address issues specific to Ayutthaya and will identify effective flood protection measures that will form the basis for a flood disaster risk mitigation plan.

The project “Development of a Flood Risk Mitigation Plan for the World Heritage Site of Ayutthaya” will undertake a flood risk study to provide the necessary information for developing a flood risk mitigation plan for the Historic City of Ayutthaya World Heritage site. This initiative will be integrated with national flood-related activities that the Thai Government is currently undertaking.

Furthermore, this project is in line with the plans of the Fine Arts Department to move forward with developing disaster risk reduction plans for cultural heritage sites in Thailand and with the strategy set by the World Heritage Committee for reducing disaster risks at World Heritage sites. Seeing that up to date very few World Heritage properties have incorporated disaster risk mitigation strategies into their management systems, this will be one of the first projects of its kind.

Approach

The project will apply a multi-disciplinary approach involving experts from different fields such as water management, cultural heritage management, disaster risk management, spatial planning, land development and urban infrastructure planning in order to develop sustainable and cost-effective flood protection measures through integrated solutions stemming from these disciplines.

The project is structured into two phases. The first phase will focus on data collection and execution of the integrated flood risk assessment whereas the second phase will focus on the development of the disaster risk mitigation plan.

The phase 1 work will be concerned with the collection of data, execution of the numerical modelling work and the analysis of flood risk (including evaluation of effectiveness of different measures). The evaluation of effectiveness of different measures will be carried out for several key scenarios. Based on the analytical outputs of phase 1, phase 2 will develop the disaster risk mitigation plan for the Historic City of Ayutthaya. The development of this plan will be done through consultation meetings with relevant local stakeholders and international experts. The meetings will discuss intermediate results of expert assessments and formulate policies for the disaster risk reduction plan.

Project partners

With the support of
Partners

Donor: Asian Development Bank (ADB)

International implementing agencies: UNESCO-IHE and UNESCO Office Bangkok;

National implementing agency: Fine Arts Department, Thai Ministry of Culture;

International advisory institutions: Hydro and Agro Informatics Institute (HAIi), Asian Institute of Technology (AIT),