Bt1.4 bln budget sought to restore Ayutthaya historical sites

BANGKOK, Dec 6 – Thailand’s Ministry of Culture initially sought the budget of Bt1.4 billion baht (about US$40 million) from the cabinet to restore Ayutthaya’s historical sites, damaged by months-long flooding, Culture Minister Sukumol Kunplome said on Tuesday.

The minister said that following a survey by specialists from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) of historical sites in Ayutthaya, Thailand’s 600-year old former capital, the team found damage from flooding such as flaking, mildew stain and efflorescence on murals particularly at the Choeng Tha Temple where the damage is critical.

Structures of many historic buildings have also been affected such as at the Ayothaya Temple, which needs a revamp to rebuild its structure.

The ministry also has an initiative to revive the moat around the city as in the old days, to act as a flood prevention barrier for the city.

On Dec 18, Thai and Japanese experts will conduct another survey to assess the damage on historical sites following the flooding.

The ministry will also invite the private sector and other agencies to finance the restoration after the Finance Ministry announces tax incentives. (MCOT online news)