

Urban Transitions: Chiang Mai, Thailand

Chiang Mai Mobility Alliance Network launched:

With the support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Thailand Greenhouse Gas Management Organization (TGO), the City Municipality of Chiang Mai held a multi-stakeholder meeting for the Achieving Low Carbon Growth in Cities through Sustainable Urban Systems Management in Thailand (LCC) project on January 28, 2019 at the Northern Science Park, Chiang Mai University.



Joined by the School of Public Policy: Chiang Mai University, and local transportation providers and experts, the meeting saw a discussion of how novel urban mobility choices can reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The meeting paved way for the launch of a new platform called the “Chiang Mai Urban Mobility Alliance Network” and for the city’s transport operators to set aside their differences to sign a Memorandum of Understanding, outlining their roles and responsibilities with regards to the project.

To make happen the transition from car-dependent system to eco-friendly mobility, new ideas were explored – from the provision of fixed transportation routes, non-fixed routes, “smart” infrastructures, “clean” mobility, and low-emission public transport options, as opposed to the usage of private cars. Then, an ambitious target was set. The usage of public transport is to increase from 5% to 35% in the next 3 years. This could be achieved, for example, through a common ticketing system or e-ticket, which would allow Chiang Mai to become a Cashless Society in the future. However, it is yet to be seen if the meeting will result in any change of law and regulation, or any increase in investment, especially in electric buses and electric *tuk-tuks*.

Chiang Mai is looking into short- and long-term solutions to overcome environmental challenges and concerns attributed to the automobile sector, including controlling the number of private cars and increasing non-motorized transportation as mobility solutions in improving “last mile” connectivity. These are such as MoBike bicycle-sharing system and Neuron electric scooters. Perhaps, the evolution of Chiang Mai as a city is most tangible in how its residents move around the city.

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