

# OLD CANCELLED RAILROAD AND RAILWAY STATION AND ITS PRESENT ROLE AS ATTRACTION: CASES FROM THAILAND

SORA YASRI<sup>\*</sup>, VIROJ WIWANITKIT<sup>\*\*</sup>

## ABSTRACT

The railway is the basic transportation system in several countries around the world. Sometimes, the old railroad and railway stations are canceled due to several reasons and usually abandoned. The reborn of the canceled railroad and station is very interesting. Here, the authors presented cases from Thailand and point to the new form of the abandoned cancelled railroad and railway station as the tourist attraction.

**KEYWORDS:** Attraction, Railroad, Railway Station, Cancel.

## INTRODUCTION

The railway is the basic transportation system in several countries around the world. Sometimes, the old railroad and railway stations are canceled due to several reasons and usually abandoned. Several reasons for the cancellation include the replacement by the new line, improved land communication system by road, safety, etc. The use of the cancelled railroad and railway station after the cancellation is very interesting. The reborn of the canceled railroad and station is very interesting. Here, the authors presented cases from Thailand and point to the new form of the abandoned cancelled railroad and railway station as the tourist attraction.

## CASES FROM THAILAND

### OLD RAILWAY STATION AS RELIGIOUS PLACES

This is a very interesting scenario. There are some specific famous old railway stations that

presently become sacred religious sites. The good examples are the old Praputhabat station which becomes the Chinese style shrine in the complex of famous Buddha footprint pagoda in Saraburi province and the Ladkrathing station which becomes the local spiritual shrine in Chachoengsao province. The first station is the old station of the specific short railway from the river to the famous Buddhist pagoda which is out of use and replaced by the good road at present. The later station is the part of the old forestry industrial railroad that is already cancelled due to the cancellation of forestry industry at that area.

### OLD RAILWAY STATION AS HISTORICAL SITES

As old places, the old railroads and railway stations sometimes become the present historical site. The most famous case in Thailand is old railway station namely Songkhla station at Songkha province.

---

<sup>\*</sup>KMT Primary Care Center, Bangkok, Thailand.

<sup>\*\*</sup>Vadjunct Professor, Joseph Ayobabalola University, Nigeria.

**Correspondence E-mail Id:** editor@eurekajournals.com

The station was out of use due to the replacement of the railroad communication system by the new connecting road. This place has ancient style building and is the present national heritage of Thailand.

### **OLD RAILWAY STATION AS MUSEUM**

The most famous museum from old railroad and railway station in Thailand is the dead railway

museum located at the old Hintok Station in Kanchanaburi province of Thailand. This is the part of the World War II railroad constructed by Japanese soldiers for invasion to Myanmar and India. At present, this museum is a popular tourist attraction in Thailand and there are many donations to support the development in several aspects to this specific railway line [1].



(a).Holy scared places



(B).Historical places



(C).Museum

Figure 1. New forms of the old cancelled railway stations in Thailand

## DISCUSSION

As noted by Brasil et al., “*The railway buildings are important landmarks in the history of the city and its surroundings was formed the first core of urban development [2].*” The reborn of the old railway stations in new forms is very interesting and has the potential as tourist attraction. The reborn can be seen in many forms. The common forms as museum and historical site can be seen in some countries whereas the reborn as sacred holy site is rather specific case studies from Thailand. To reform the old abandoned places to be the new places for new purpose for usage is very interesting and can help decrease the loss of the advantage of the old places. It can be the intelligence in making use of refashioning of old

thing to serve the need of the searching for new interesting products from the tourism market.

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST:** None

## REFERENCES

- [1]. Kittisupamongkol W. Death railway and Weary-Dunlop Boonpong Fellowship Program. QJM. 2009 Jun; 102(6): 435. doi: 10.1093/qjmed/hcp022.
- [2]. Brasil CC, Costa AM, Castañon JA. Abandonment and accessibility in railway historical buildings: Central doBrasil and Leopoldina Railstation. Work. 2012; 41Suppl 1: 5431-3.