

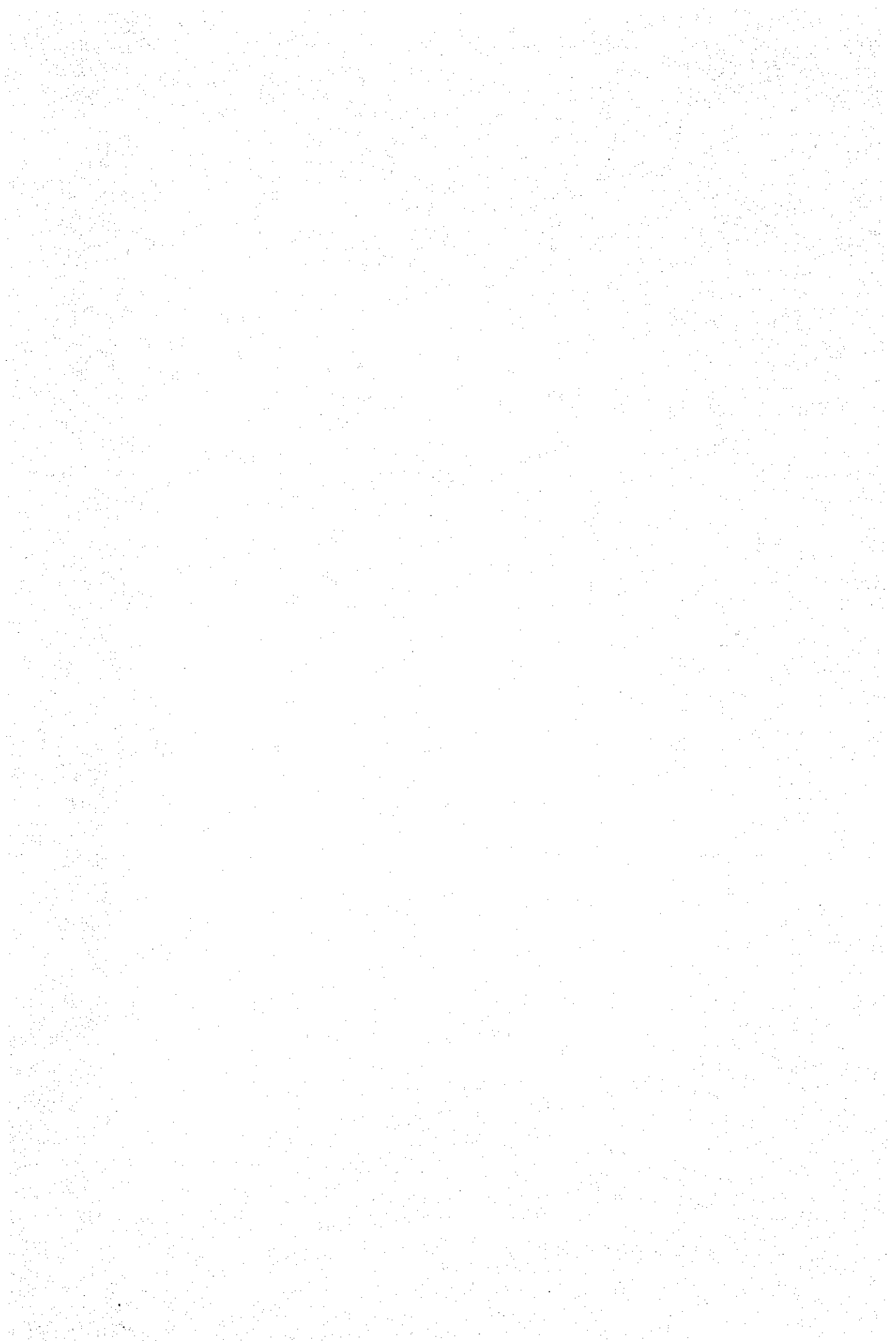
No. 04

**BASIC DESIGN STUDY REPORT**  
**ON**  
**THE PROJECT**  
**FOR CONSTRUCTING**  
**THE AYUTTHAYA HISTORICAL STUDY CENTRE**  
**IN**  
**THE KINGDOM OF THAILAND**

**SEPTEMBER 1987**

**JAPAN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AGENCY**

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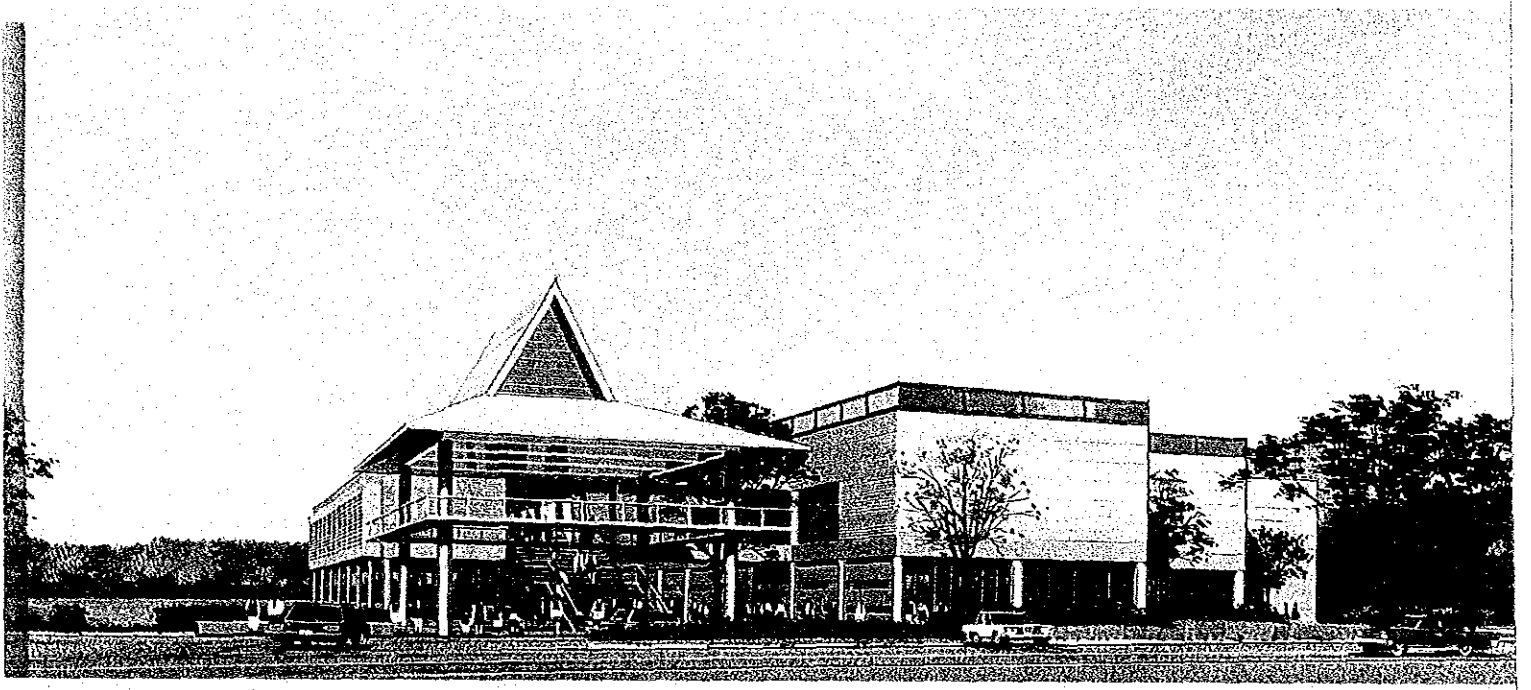


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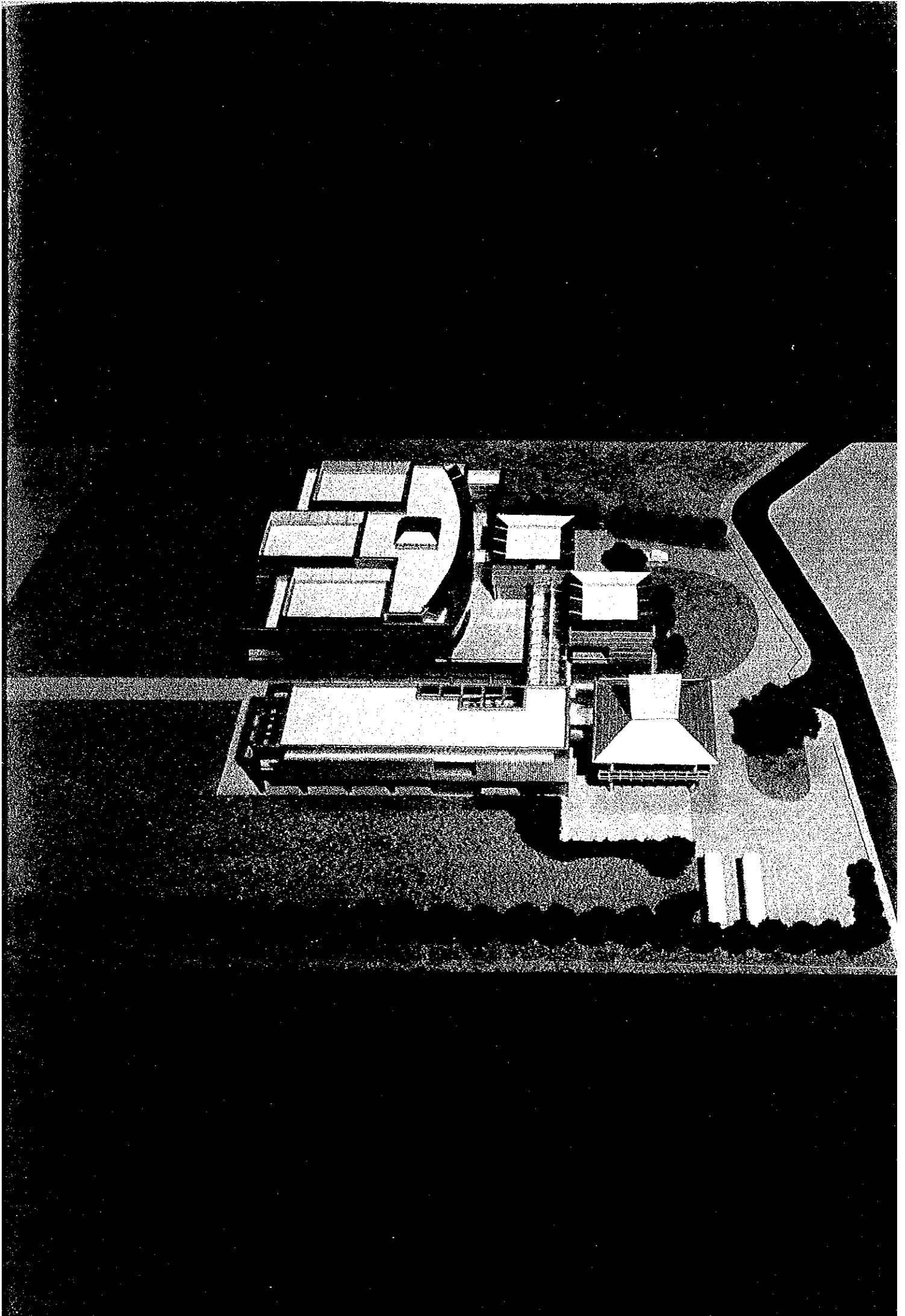
**JAPAN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AGENCY**

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## P R E F A C E

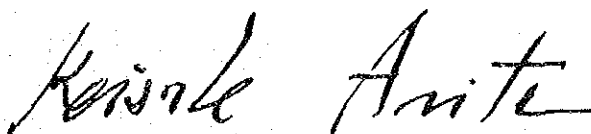
In response to the request of the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand, the Government of Japan has decided to conduct a basic design study on the Project for Constructing the Ayutthaya Historical Study Centre and entrusted the study to the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). JICA sent to Thailand a study team headed by Mr. Yoshitaka Hanada, Deputy Director, Grant Aid Division, Bureau of Economic Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, from March 25 to May 31, 1987.

The team had discussions on the Project with the officials concerned of the Government of Thailand and conducted a field survey in Ayutthaya area. After the team returned to Japan, further studies were made, a draft report was prepared and, for the explanation and discussion of it, a mission headed by Mr. Toshio Nakamura, Deputy Head, Second Basic Design Study Division, Grant Aid Planning and Survey Department, JICA, was sent to Thailand from August 5 to August 12, 1987. As a result, the present report has been prepared.

I hope that this report will serve for the development of the project and contribute to the promotion of friendly relations between our two countries.

I wish to express my deep appreciation to the officials concerned of the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand for their close cooperation extended to the team.

September, 1987.

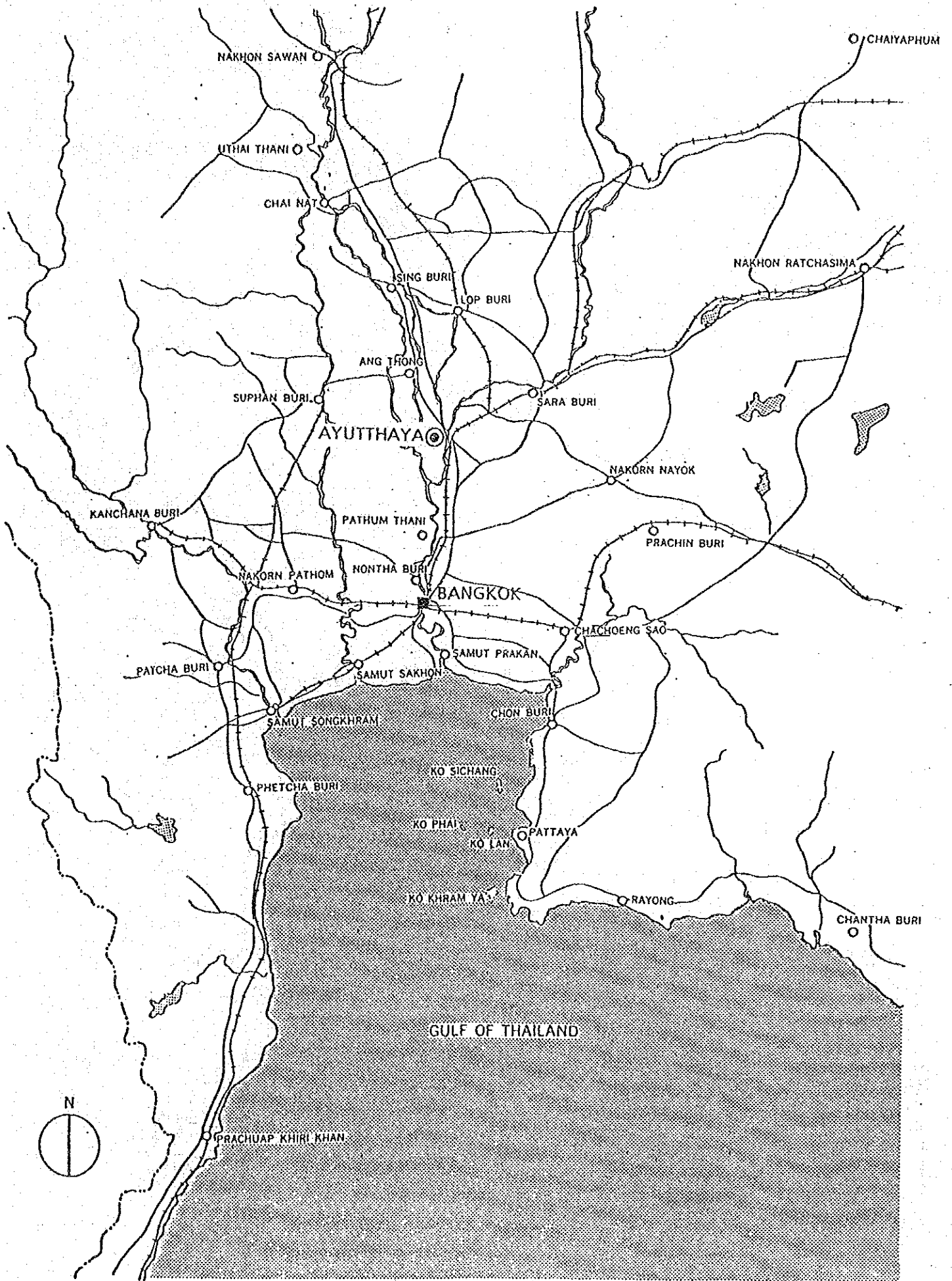


Keisuke Arita

President

Japan International Cooperation Agency



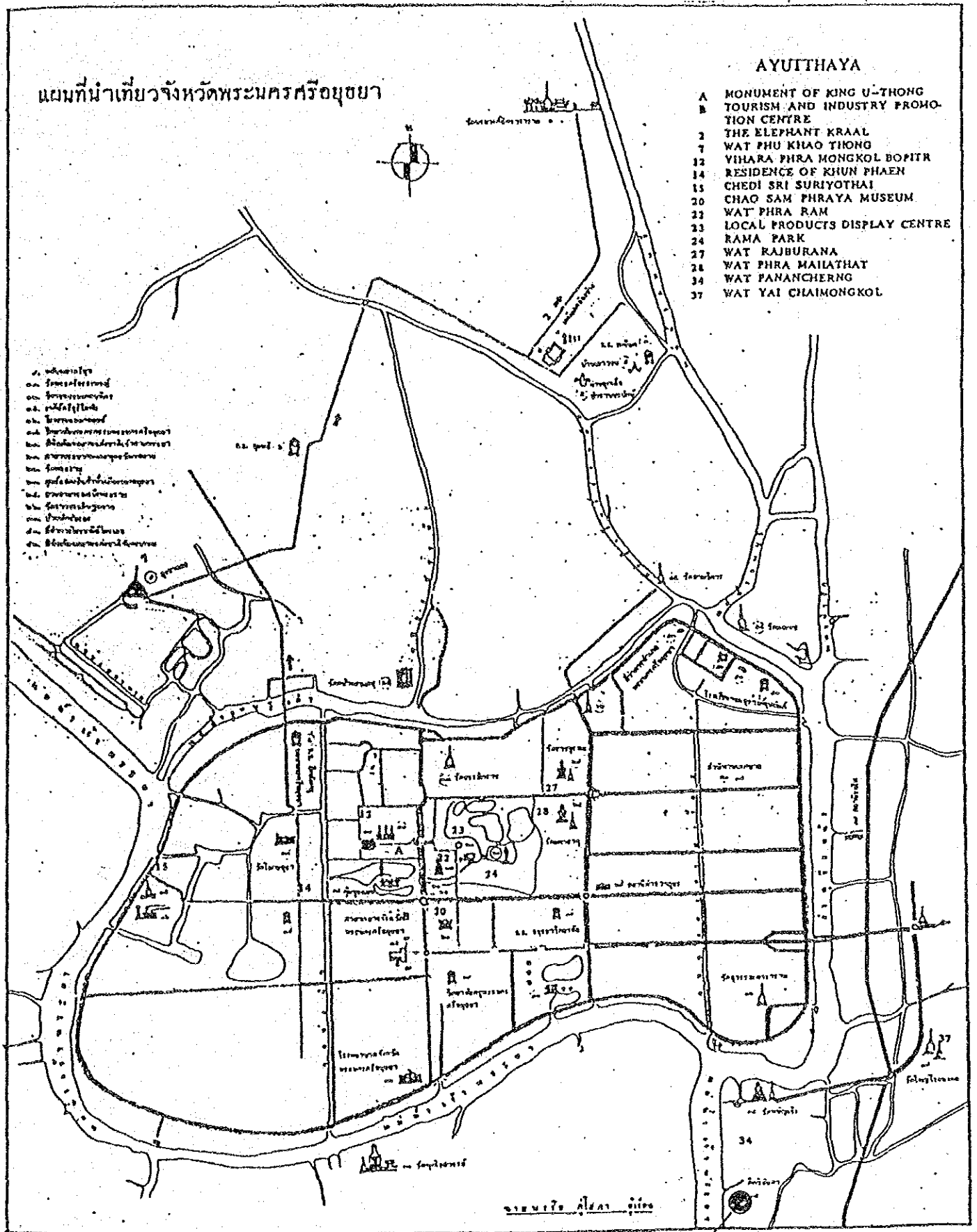




# AYUTTHAYA

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- ๑๑. วัดราชบูรณะ
- ๑๒. วัดราชประดิษฐ
- ๑๓. วัดราชโอรสาราม
- ๑๔. วัดมหาธาตุยุวราชรังสฤษฎิ์
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- ๕๐. วัดราชประดิษฐ

Project Site





## SUMMARY

The Government of the Kingdom of Thailand is now implementing the Sixth Five - Year National Economic and Social Development Plan (1987 to 1991). The educational policies outlined in the Plan lay emphasis on the expansion of social and lifetime education, preservation of the country's cultural heritage and the harmonious development of traditional and modern cultures.

The Government has been encouraging excavation studies on historic sites around the country with the aim of deepening Thai people's knowledge of the history and culture of their country as well as developing among them a spirit of national unity. For putting these policies into practice, historical museums are expected to play an important role as a place of education for the general public. Improvement of museums and their facilities is of particular significance in Thailand, a country of great historical heritage.

The Ayutthaya period (1350 to 1767) is particularly notable in the long history of Thailand in terms of society, economy, culture and foreign relations. Some of the historically valuable articles that bear witness to the achievements of the Ayutthaya period are displayed in national museums. However, many of them have been dispersed throughout Thailand and abroad.

For the purpose of providing the people with an opportunity to understand the Ayutthaya period and thereby deepen their knowledge of the history of Thailand, the Government has drawn up a plan to establish a historical study centre where findings of research work concerning the Ayutthaya period will be presented through modern and sophisticated techniques. Having a plan of constructing the centre on the site of the Old Japanese Village, one of the places associated with the Ayutthaya culture, the Government of Thailand has requested the Government of Japan to extend grant aid for this project.

In response to the request, the Government of Japan despatched, through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), two preliminary study teams and two basic design study teams during the period from August 1986 to August 1987. The study teams held discussions with officials of the Government of Thailand, the Ayutthaya Sub-Committee (chairman: Mr. Chaiwat Hutacharoen, The Ayutthaya Provincial Governor, comprised of 25 members from among administrative officials and the academic community), Task Force (chairman: Prof. Dr. Phaisith Phipatanakul, Permanent Legal Advisor, Ministry of Interior, comprised of 11 members of the Ayutthaya Sub-Committee), the Academic Committee and Thai architects. The subjects discussed include the background of the Project, details of the request, exhibitions, scale and style of the facilities as well as confirmation of the executing agency for the Project and the operation and maintenance system of the Historical Study Centre.

It was decided that the Ayutthaya Historical Study Centre should have the following three functions:

- 1) To serve as a place for social education on Ayutthaya history, through its exhibitions, to the people of Thailand as well as to the visitors from abroad.
- 2) To function as a reference centre on the history of Ayutthaya, based on data and materials compiled during the preparation period for the exhibitions and also in the course of continuous studies after its opening.
- 3) To promote and organize future extensive research on the history of Ayutthaya, through collaboration with educational and research institutes both in and outside Thailand.

It was also agreed that the exhibition shall cover all aspects of the Ayutthaya period including its society, economy, external relations and culture, based on historical evidence uncovered through carefully conducted research, and that various examples of local customs shall also be incorporated. To achieve the above objectives, the following were selected as the main themes of the exhibition:

## I. Introduction: Ayutthaya as a capital

### Sub-Themes:

- i. Ayutthaya
- ii. Royal Palace
- iii. Wat Yai Chai Watthanaram
- iv. Wat Na Phra Men
- v. Elephant Kral
- vi. Wat Maha That
- vii. Wat Yai Chai Mongkhon

## II. Ayutthaya as a port city

### Sub-Themes:

- i. Ayutthaya as an international port
- ii. The portrait of Ayutthaya port
- iii. Trade through Ayutthaya
- iv. The relation with foreigners

## III. Ayutthaya as a centralized state

### Sub-Themes:

- i. Indraphisek
- ii. Pre-Ayutthaya states
- iii. Kingship and bureaucracy
- iv. State and Society: Social integration

## IV. Village life of Ayutthaya

### Sub-Themes:

- i. Peasant community life
- ii. Life cycle: 1
- iii. Inside the house
- iv. Cultivation
- v. Calamities
- vi. Life cycle: 2

The following are the details and types of facilities and equipment required for carrying out the functions and activities of the Historical Study Centre, and for preparing the necessary exhibitions outlined above.

Facilities:

* Exhibition Space	990m <sup>2</sup>	This will accommodate Themes I, II, III and IV.
* Storage Rooms	300m <sup>2</sup>	The possibility of future expansion will be taken into account.
* Multi-Purpose Hall	150m <sup>2</sup>	To be used as Lecture Room or for special exhibits
* Administration Rooms	260m <sup>2</sup>	This will include Reference Centre and Library.
* Corridor, Staircase, Lavatories, etc.	230m <sup>2</sup>	
* Machine Room	70m <sup>2</sup>	
Total	2,000m <sup>2</sup>	

Equipment

- \* Video System
- \* Overhead Projector
- \* Copy Machine
- \* Camera and Dark Room Equipment
- \* 3 Typewriters
- \* Bookbinding Equipment
- \* Automobile

The proposed construction site for the Historical Study Centre is situated within the site of the Old Japanese Village in the Ayutthaya Province (total area: 11,200m<sup>2</sup>). It was confirmed from archaeological point of view that the area covering the western one-third of the site and the area 8m wide which includes the central sidewalk stretching in the east-west direction should be preserved as a historic site. The Department of Fine Arts, Ministry of Education approved to use the eastern two-thirds of the site excluding the central sidewalk as the construction site for the Historical Study Centre.

It was also confirmed during the field surveys that the work for the land reclamation and preparing the site shall be completed before January 1988, the designated starting date for the construction work, and that the electricity and telephone services shall be provided prior the completion of the construction work.

The construction cost to be borne by the Thai side is estimated to be about 19.6 million Bahts (equivalent to about 115 million yen).

The Historical Study Centre will be managed by the Ayutthaya Provincial Authority. The Executive Board and the Academic Committee will be organized for the purpose of the maintenance and operation of the Historical Study Centre under the Ayutthaya Provincial governor. The annual cost for its maintenance and operation is estimated to be about 1.5 million Bahts.

The Historical Study Centre will not only provide a place for social education to the people of Thailand but will also contribute to furthering studies on the Ayutthaya culture, which is an important historical heritage for all mankind. In the event that the Project is carried out under the Japan's grant aid program, a substantial contribution to the education and culture of Thailand is anticipated. It is concluded that this cooperation project is highly significant and will contribute to furthering the friendly relationship between Thailand and Japan



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## CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION



## CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Request

In the Fifth Five-Year National Economic and Social Development Plan (1981-1986), the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand stressed the need for shifting the focus of education from quantitative expansion to qualitative upgrading, the importance of social and lifelong education and the urgency of preserving the country's cultural heritage. In the Sixth Five-Year National Development Plan (1986-1991) beginning 1987, educational policies are being continuously focused on lifelong education, education for better living and the improvement of society, and the fusion of traditional and modern cultures.

The current condition of museums in Thailand as places for education in traditional Thai cultures is that exhibitions mainly consist of historical old and valuable vestiges, excavated articles and antiques with little explanation on the items exhibited. As a result, the current system of museums is not well established enough to facilitate the understanding of the visiting schoolchildren and the general public.

The Ayutthaya Period spanning 417 years from 1350 to 1767 was a particularly notable period in the long history of Thailand, in terms of society, economy, culture and foreign relations. However, many of the historically valuable articles that bear witness to the achievements of the Ayutthaya Period are dispersed within and outside Thailand. It has become widely recognized that great importance should be placed on reproducing the history of the Ayutthaya Period, based on historical facts revealed through meticulous research and adoption of modern and sophisticated exhibition techniques in order to promote education regarding traditional cultures.

Under these circumstances, the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand conceived a plan for constructing a historical study centre, on the site of the Old Japanese Village, one of the places deeply associated with the history of Ayutthaya, for the purpose of facilitating the Thai people's understanding of the history of Ayutthaya. The Government forwarded a

request in May 1986 to the Government of Japan for the extension of grant aid for the realization of the above plan.

## 1.2 Dispatch of Preliminary Study Teams

### 1.2.1 Dispatch of the First Preliminary Study Team

In response to the request from the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand, the Government of Japan decided to undertake preliminary studies on the Project for Constructing the Ayutthaya Historical Study Centre and the Japan International Cooperation Agency dispatched to Thailand from August 17 through 27, 1986 the first Preliminary Study Team headed by Mr. Masaharu YOSHIDA, Assistant Director, Grant Aid Division, Economic Cooperation Bureau of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, for the purpose of confirming the background and details of the request and discussing various related subjects.

The Study Team suggested that the Thai side review as soon as possible the following subjects: (1) executing agency, (2) archaeological aspects of utilization of the proposed site and (3) basic policies related to the contents and methods of exhibitions, etc. Both sides agreed that the Project should aim at providing sound knowledge on the history of the Ayutthaya Period to the people of Thailand and to foreigners visiting the country, contributing in the long run to the development of social education.

Subsequently, in Thailand, the Committee for the Celebration of the Thai-Japanese Centennial Anniversary (Chairman: former Minister of Finance, Mr. Sommai Hoontrakool) was officially approved by the government on December 23, 1986, and the Ayutthaya Sub-Committee was formed under the Committee as an executing agency for the Project. The Ayutthaya Sub-Committee, presided over by Mr. Chaiwat Hutacharoen, the Ayutthaya Provincial Governor, is comprised of 25 members from among administrative officials and the academic community. Out of these 25 members, 11 members form a Task Force (Chairman: Prof. Dr. Phaisith Phipatanakul, Permanent Legal

Advisor, Ministry of Interior) which functions as a collaborating organization for the Study Teams dispatched from Japan.

The Ayutthaya Sub-Committee met for the first time in January, 1987 to review such questions as the proposed site of the Historical Study Centre and its basic concept of exhibition. Then, the Sub-Committee made a request to the Government of Japan for the earliest possible dispatch to Thailand of another study team for constructing the Historical Study Centre.

#### 1.2.2 Dispatch of the Second Preliminary Study Team

Taking into account the above-mentioned request by the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand, as well as the progress of preparations made by the Thai side, the Japan International Cooperation Agency sent a study team for the Second Preliminary Study headed by Mr. Hiroshi MANABE, official, Grant Aid Division, Economic Cooperation Bureau of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, from January 21 through 30, 1987.

As a result of the discussions on the Project with the Ayutthaya Sub-Committee and the Task Force, both sides agreed on the following points:

1) Name of Project:

The Project for Constructing the Ayutthaya Historical Study Centre

2) Executing Agency:

The Ayutthaya Provincial Authority, with the cooperation of the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Education and the Thai-Japanese Association.

Until completion of the Project, the Ayutthaya Sub-Committee is responsible for the development of the Project, but substantial

negotiations will be carried out by the Task Force under the auspices of the Ayutthaya Sub-Committee.

After completion of the Project, the Ayutthaya Provincial Governor will take charge, with the assistance of an executive board comprised of members from the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Education and the Department of Fine Arts, scholars and the Thai-Japanese Association.

### 3) Proposed Site:

Part of the Old Japanese Village (11,200m<sup>2</sup>, located approximately 2km from Ayutthaya and owned by the Thai-Japanese Association) shall be used for the site of the Project. This area was judged by the Department of Fine Arts as presenting no problems in terms of archaeological studies and was allocated for the building of the Historical Study Centre. The Thai-Japanese Association has agreed that the Ayutthaya Provincial Authority uses the site for this purpose.

### 4) Objectives of the Project:

The following are the major objectives for establishing the Ayutthaya Historical Study Centre:

- \* The Study Centre will offer both the people of Thailand and visiting foreign tourists a place for social education on the history of Ayutthaya through its exhibitions and various activities.
- \* The Study Centre will also function as an information centre through the collection of materials and implementation of surveys during the period of preparation of the exhibits and also after its completion.
- \* In the future, the Study Centre will play a major role in promoting and organizing a wide range of studies on Ayutthaya history through collaboration with both domestic and overseas educational and research institutes.



## 5) Basic Plan for Exhibition (Tentative)

The Study Centre will provide exhibitions covering all aspects of the Ayutthaya Period (1350-1767 A.D.) including its society, the economy and external relations, based on historical evidence uncovered through carefully conducted research. Various examples of local culture observed today are also to be incorporated into the exhibition, so that visitors will be able to grasp how the culture of the Ayutthaya Period has been handed down to the present age. To achieve the above objectives, the exhibition of the Study Centre will be composed of the following three themes and further divided into different topics.

### 1) Ayutthaya as a Port City

Exhibition on this theme highlights how Ayutthaya prospered as an international trading city from the 14th to the 18th century, based on historical data collected in Thailand as well as in other countries.

a) Contacts between Ayutthaya and other nations: relations with China, Japan, the Islamic peoples, Burma, Laos, the Khmers, Vietnam, Malaya and European countries including Portugal, Holland, Great Britain and France

b) Foreign Settlements: Japanese, Dutch and Portuguese villages

c) Trading System: internal and external trade structure and facilities of port

(Materials for Exhibition)

A table showing the history of external trading; city plan of Ayutthaya indicating the foreign settlements; old maps, coins (cowrie and silver); trade items (deer hide, shark skin, lacquerware, tin, pottery); models of different kinds of cruising ships (Chinese Junk ships -- the Japanese Red Seal ship is one of them, Dow ship, western sailing ship, etc.)

### 2) Ayutthaya as a Centralized State

Ayutthaya was not only an international trading port but also the centralized administrative state that first emerged in Thailand. Exhibits on this theme include materials related to the social, economic and military systems of Ayutthaya and

its kingship and Buddhist traditions.

a) Pre-Ayutthaya States: Lopburi, Nakhon Prathom, Sukhothai, Chiang Mai, etc.

b) Kingship and Buddhism: various aspects of Ayutthaya culture as a great tradition

c) Bureaucratic System: central and provincial administration and the status system

d) Warfare in the Ayutthaya Period  
(Materials for Exhibition)

City plans of pre-Ayutthaya states; aerial photographs; illustrations (kingship, nobility, imperial palace and Buddhism) drawn by Europeans who were contemporaries of the Ayutthaya Period; model of Ayutthaya Royal Palace; model of royal throne (reconstructed throne in Phrathinang Sanphet Prasat); model of pulpit; replica of temple mural paintings; charts of the bureaucratic system; historical documents such as Ayutthaya code of laws; various kinds of weapons including artillery

### 3) Life in Ayutthaya: Society and Culture

The various aspects of city and village life in the Ayutthaya Period will be shown. The exhibits will be displayed to show how the traditions of the Ayutthaya culture have been handed down and have influenced the present local customs of the people living in Ayutthaya Province today.

a) City and Village Life: industrial sections in cities and villages, foreign settlements, marketplaces, farming villages

b) Rituals and Festivals: Buddhist rituals and festivals, spirit cults, boat races, "Thet Mahachat", "Songkarn", games and musical instruments.

c) Literacy and Literature: reading and writing lessons in temples, various genres of literature

(Materials for Exhibition)

Models showing city and village life and models of different types of houses; farming and fishing tools; ox-carts; boats; cooking utensils; articles for daily use; musical instruments; replicas of temple mural painting that show

local customs; photographs; Khoi manuscripts; ornaments for Buddhist rituals

In addition to the exhibitions on each of the three themes outlined above, a large-scale model of the city of Ayutthaya will be exhibited in the Main Hall in a comprehensive and symbolic manner. Although this model of Ayutthaya will not accommodate all the individual topics, it should sufficiently reflect the contents of the three major exhibition themes. The model will show geographical details of Ayutthaya and its vicinity, consisting of natural environmental features such as rivers, waterways and the general topography. It should also attempt to reproduce faithfully the cultural aspects of Ayutthaya --- canals, castle walls, fortresses, port facilities, palace, temples, settlements, customs house, etc., based on historical and geographical evidence.

The Second Preliminary Study concluded that this historical study centre will not only be extremely beneficial and useful to Thai society in terms of implementing studies on the history of the Ayutthaya Period and providing a place for social education, but will also play a pioneering role as a model case for other educational and academic institutions in Thailand.

### 1.3 Dispatch of Basic Design Study Team

#### 1.3.1 Dispatch of the First Basic Design Study Team

Based on the results of the two preliminary studies, the Government of Japan decided to conduct a basic design study on the Project for Constructing the Ayutthaya Historical Study Centre and the Japan International Cooperation Agency dispatched to Thailand, for the period of April 5 to 25, 1987 (the period of March 25 - 31, 1987 was devoted to the study related to the exhibitions), the First Basic Design Study Team headed by Mr. Yoshitake HANADA, Deputy Director, Grant Aid Division, Economic Cooperation Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Study Team held discussions with the

Ayutthaya Sub-Committee and the Task Force, conducted on-site studies and collected materials.

The Thai side newly set up the Thailand Academic Committee under the Task Force for the purpose of giving instructions and advice to the Study Team from the academic viewpoint. It is expected to collaborate with the Study Team in reviewing the materials for exhibition. Both sides recognized the fact that the building of the Ayutthaya Historical Study Centre would be a cultural facility by and of itself and confirmed that Thai architects should give advice to the Team on architectural work.

The following are the main subjects of the First Basic Design Study:

\* An outline of the exhibition

Regarding the outline of the exhibition, it was decided that the theme "Ayutthaya as a Capital" be selected to integrate the three themes already confirmed during the Second Preliminary Study: (1) Ayutthaya as a Port City, (2) Ayutthaya as a Centralized Administrative State and (3) Life and Culture in Ayutthaya. As a result, the following four themes shall be used for the exhibition:

- Theme I : Ayutthaya as a Capital
- Theme II : Ayutthaya as a Port City
- Theme III : Ayutthaya as a Centralized State
- Theme IV : Life in Ayutthaya

\* Details and scale of the building and facilities

It was confirmed that the following be provided as facilities for the Historical Study Centre:

Exhibition Hall, Multi-Purpose Hall, Storage, Administration Offices, Machine Room etc.

\* List of required equipment

It was confirmed that the following be provided as equipment for the Historical Study Centre

video system, slide projector, copying machine, camera etc.

\* Scope of respective work to be carried out by the Japanese Government and the Thai Government

\* The tentative schedule of the Project

The basic items agreed upon through discussions between the Study Team and the Thai side are outlined in the Minutes of Discussions dated April 13, 1987.

### 1.3.2 Dispatch of the Second Basic Design Study Team

Based on the results of the First Basic Design Study, the Japan International Cooperation Agency dispatched to Thailand, for the period of July 2 to 8, 1987 (studies related to the exhibits were made during the period of June 23 to July 15, 1987), the Second Basic Design Study Team headed by Mr. Toshio NAKAMURA, Deputy Head, Second Basic Design Study Division, JICA, for the purpose of having discussions with the Thai Task Force, Academic Committee, and prominent Thai architects.

The following are the main subjects discussed during the Second Basic Design Study:

\* Confirmation of the executing agency and management and maintenance system on the Thai side

a) It was confirmed that the Office of the Ayutthaya Provincial Governor (Ministry of Interior) is to take charge of the implementation of the Project under the control of the Ayutthaya Provincial Governor.

b) Confirmation was also made of a plan to form an executive board (chairman: the Ayutthaya Provincial Governor) organized by members of the Ayutthaya Provincial Authority, Ministry of Education, Department of Fine Arts, Thai Academic Committee, and the Thai-Japanese Association, to undertake the required work for managing the Historical Study Centre and related facilities around the Centre to be provided by the Thai side.

- \* Summary of the basic design for the themes and sub-themes of the exhibition

Sub-themes were established on the basis of the themes confirmed at the time of the First Basic Design Study, and it was also confirmed that the title "Village Life of Ayutthaya" be adopted for Theme IV.

- \* Drawing up of the master plan for site and a conceptual plan for the building and facilities. After receiving the advice of the Thai architects, the Study Team and the Thai side reached an agreement on the general master plan of the site and conceptual plan of the Historical Study Centre, and also reviewed the architectural style of the Historical Study Centre as a whole.

The basic subjects agreed upon through discussions between the Study Team and the Thai side are outlined in the Minutes of Discussions dated July 7, 1987.

This Report describes the result of the study based on the discussions held with related officials in Thailand and materials collected in that country for drawing up the optimum basic design for the Project. Related appendices including the Minutes of Discussions, the list of members of the Study Teams, itineraries, the list of members of the Task Force and the Academic Committee are attached to the Report.

## CHAPTER 2 BACKGROUND OF THE PROJECT





## CHAPTER 2 BACKGROUND OF PROJECT

### 2.1 Current Circumstances of Education in Thailand

#### 2.1.1 Education policies in the Five-Year National Economic and Social Development Plan

Preservation of traditional culture and reinforcement of social education in local districts are the main subjects highlighted in the fourth and fifth Five-Year National Development Plan of Thailand. The following are the education policies described in the plans:

##### 1) The fourth plan (1977-1981) and the fifth plan (1982-1986)

- \* Formulation of National Education Program (It was completed in 1977 and implemented from 1978)
- \* Establishment of 6-3-3 System, implementation of 6-year compulsory education and the adoption of new curriculum
- \* Emphasis on social (non-formal) and lifetime education
- \* Education for better life and society
- \* Education as a means of socio-economic development of the nation
- \* Shifting of focus from quantitative expansion to qualitative upgrading of education
- \* Emphasis on democracy and equality
- \* Promotion of preservation of cultural heritages

##### 2) The sixth plan (1987-1991)

- \* Adoption of curriculum for integration of science, technology, social development, culture and ethics

- \* Mobilizing local, private facilities for education
- \* Fusion of traditional and modern culture
- \* Emphasizing the education for industrialization, local development and equal opportunities
- \* Upgrading of living standards

### 2.1.2 Educational system in Thailand

A new National Education Program was established in Thailand in 1977, and an epoch-making reformation took place in its educational systems and school curriculums. The new Program adopted a 6-3-3-(4) system.

	Elementary school						Junior high school			Vocational high school			Professional education (vocational)			
										Senior high school			University			
Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Standard age	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22

The enrollment rate of primary school in Thailand, which is compulsory education, has reached 98.08%.

As to secondary education, the enrollment rate of junior high school and senior high school are 35.12% and 26.01%, respectively. (source: Educational Statistics Handbook, 1984)

Non-formal education is also carried out actively outside the formal school education. These programs are designed to enhance people's problem-solving capability and to offer them specialized knowledge and information as a part of lifelong education.

### 2.1.3 Historical education in Thailand

Education on the history of Thailand (Thai history) begins in primary school. Although there is no independent subject called history, the history of Thailand is taught under the subject called "Soemsan Prasobkan Chiwit" which combines social studies and ethics. (The school subjects are called by the names of the textbooks in Thailand.) The main objectives of this subject are to develop a feeling of pride among schoolchildren in their nationality, make them understand the role of individuals in the society, and enhance their respectful attitude toward their nation, national religion and kingship. History in primary school (grades 1 - 6) under the compulsory education system aims at a consistent education about the nation and people of Thailand, but it does not go far beyond introduction of the main historical facts.

The following, for example, are the subjects covered by the textbook "Soemsan Prasobkan Chiwit" (1987) published by the Ministry of Education and used in Grade 3.

Lesson 23 Founder of the Thonburi Dynasty

Lesson 24 Kings of the Rattanakhosin Dynasty

More detailed historical education, adhering to the above-mentioned basic policies, is provided during the years of junior high school (Grades 7 - 9).

The following are the subjects related to history included in the textbook "Prathet Khong Raw" ("Our Nation", 1987) published by the Ministry of Education for Grade 7.

Lesson 1: Origin of Thailand

Lesson 2: Establishment of the Territory

Lesson 3: The Sukhothai Kingdom and Unification of the Nation

The historical subjects taught in Grade 8 are as shown below:

a) Centralized Political System of Ayutthaya

\* Significance of studying Ayutthaya history

\* Foundation of the Ayutthaya Dynasty

\* Administrative system of the Ayutthaya Dynasty

b) Socio-Economic Status of Ayutthaya

- \* Society
- \* Economic conditions

c) Ayutthaya Culture

- \* Fine arts
- \* Literature
- \* Buddhism

d) Relation between Ayutthaya and Other Countries

- \* Nature of relationship
- \* Relation with Asian countries
- \* Relation with European countries

The teaching method is largely dependent on classroom lectures using textbooks and reference materials. Students rarely have a chance to visit museums or go on a field trip. It is important for the Thai people to learn the nation's history, and therefore it is hoped that the Project will serve as a means of providing adequate facilities for this purpose.

## 2.2 Current Circumstances of Museums in Thailand

### 2.2.1 Museums in Thailand

The national museums related to cultural studies in Thailand can be roughly classified into the following four categories:

- 1) Temple museums which collect cultural assets of temples are called "national museums".

Examples of museums under this category are shown below:

Name of Museum	Location
Wat Prachetuphon Museum	Bangkok
Wat Benchama Bophit Museum	Bangkok
Wat Maha That Museum	Chaiya, Suratthani
Maha Wiraong Wat Suchinda Museum	Nakhon Ratchasima
Intaburi Wat Bo Museum	Singburi
Phra Pathom Chedi Museum	Nakhon Pathom
Wat Phra Maha That Museum	Nakhon Si Thammarat
Wat Phrathat Hariphunchai Museum	Lamphun
Wat Machinimawat Museum	Songkhla
Chainatmuni Wat Phrabromthat Museum	Chainato
Wat Phrathat Lampang Luang Museum	Lampang

- 2) Museums which were built on historic sites by the Department of Fine Arts and exhibit relics.

These museums display many fine art objects and relics of Buddha that were excavated while the Department of Fine Arts was investigating historic sites and conducting restoration works. The Department of Fine Arts constructed the museums for preserving these cultural heritages so as to upgrade the Thai people's level of knowledge on fine art, culture, history and archaeology of their country and cultivate their pride as Thai nationals.

\* Chaosamphraya Museum (Ayutthaya Province)

This museum was built by the Department of Fine Arts. Profit from sales of miniature images of the Buddha covered a part of its construction cost. This was the first museum in Thailand that adopted modern exhibition facilities.

\* Ramkhambaeng Museum (Sukhothai Province)

This was also built by the Department of Fine Arts and was partly funded by the sales of miniature images of the Buddha.

\* UThong Museum (Suphanburi Province)

This museum exhibits relics of the Dvaravati Period.

- \* Kamphaengphet Museum (Kamphaengphet Province)  
This museum exhibits relics of the Sukhothai and Ayutthaya period.
- \* Ban Kaw Museum (Chorakhephuak Ward, Muang County, Kanchanaburi Province)  
This museum has exhibits in archaeological fields.
- \* Phra Pathom Chedi Museum (Nakhon Pathom Province)  
Nakhon Pathom is a significant city of the Dvaravati Period in terms of archaeological findings. A part of the missionary hall of Phra Pathom is used as the museum building.
- \* Ban Chiang Museum (Nong Han county, Udon Thani Province)  
This museum exhibits colorful earthen vessels.
- \* Wang Chatharakasen Museum (Ayutthaya Province)  
The Chantarakasen Palace is used as the museum building.
- \* Phra Nakhonkiri Museum (Petchaburi Province)  
The Phra Nakhonkiri Palace is used as the museum building.
- \* Somdet Phra Narai Museum (Lopburi Province)  
King Phra Narai's palace is used as the museum building.

### 3) Local museums

In addition to the museums constructed on historic sites, the Department of Fine Arts has built the following museums to promote studies in the areas of fine art culture, history and archaeology so that the museums will play a central role in cultural education of the local residents. The following are some examples:

Khon Ken Museum	(Khon Ken Province, North-eastern Region)
Chiang Mai Museum	(Chiang Mai Province, Northern Region)
Nakhon Si Thammarat Museum	(Nakhon Si Thammarat Province, Southern Region)

Prachinburi Museum (Prachinburi Province, Eastern Region)

Bangkok National Museum (Bangkok, Central Region)

4) Provincial museums

Lamphun Museum (Lamphun Province)

Sawankhalok Museum (Swankhalok Province)

Songkhla Museum (Songkhla Province)

Nan Museum (Nan Province)

5) Other museum institutions

The Department of Fine Arts plans to set up the following two institutions related to local customs and fine art.

National Museum of Ethnology

National Museum of Fine Art

2.2.2 Current conditions of museums in Thailand

The current conditions of Museums in Thailand are as follows:

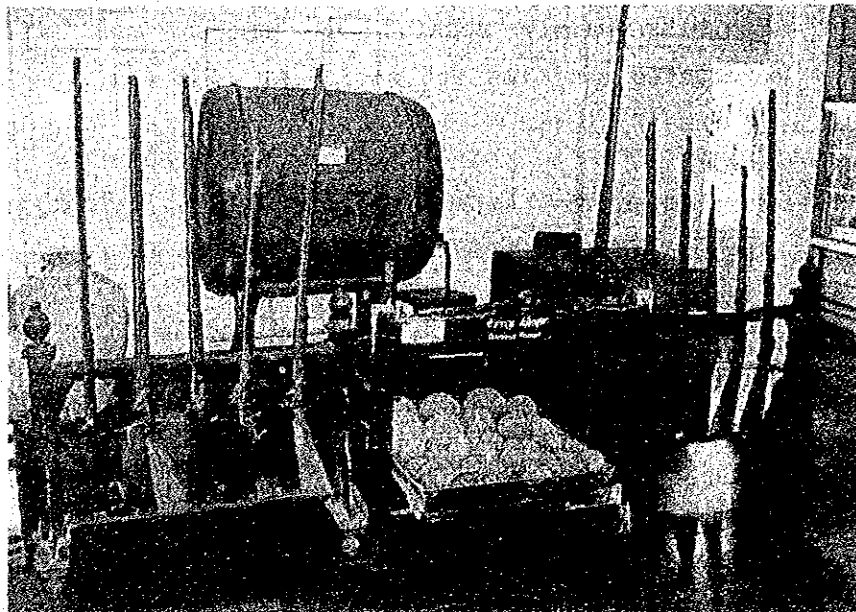
- \* Exhibits mainly consist of "ancient and valuable" relics, excavated articles and antiques. Explanations on them tend to be insufficient.
- \* Facilities are both insufficient and outdated. The exhibit items are not necessarily preserved in good condition.
- \* In the main, actual objects and samples are exhibited. Visual exhibition aids such as models, charts, photographs and images are not fully utilized.
- \* Most of the exhibitions are permanent ones. Few museums provide special (non-regular) exhibitions.
- \* The museums do not necessarily have sufficient educational and research functions despite the fact that they are frequently

used by schoolchildren, in addition to general visitors, as part of their classroom work and extracurricular activities.

\* Information is not collected or arranged in a systematic manner. There is little exchange of information among museums.



(Chaosamphraya Museum)



(Wang Chatharakasen Museum)