

Basic Information

- **Project Title:** Klongtoey Symphony: Empowering Youth through the Harmony of Music
- **WPSP Theme:** Community Building (Societal integration of ports)
- **Port Authority:** Port Authority of Thailand (PAT)
- **Project Status:** Ongoing (2019–Present); No End Date Planned
- **Total Budget Support Since Project Inception (THB) :** 5.65 Million

Project Narrative & Description

“Klongtoey Symphony: From Community Echoes to the Harmony of Opportunity”

- **Context & Challenge:** Bangkok Port serves as a vital heart of the Thai economy. However, it is adjacent to “Klongtoey Community”, one of the largest slums facing complex social challenges. Youth in this area often grow up with limited opportunities, constantly shadowed by the risks of drug involvement, and a lack of safe spaces for expression. Recognizing these vulnerabilities, Port Authority of Thailand (PAT) actively looks beyond the port’s walls to address the fundamental issues of its long-standing neighbors.
- **Philosophy of Transformation:** This project is not merely a recreational activity but a strategic tool for social transformation. Driven by this vision, PAT believes that every musical instrument serves as a tool for practicing “discipline” while music skills foster “concentration” and ensemble playing teaches “unity and respect for others”. This forms the strongest social immunity for the youth.
- **From Charity to Empowerment:** At the heart of this project’s uniqueness is a paradigm shift: moving away from temporary relief toward building a sustainable “Learning Space”. Guided by this transition, PAT has dedicated resources and knowledge to build an ecosystem specifically designed to discover the “Hidden Talents’ within the community. Our primary focus remains on developing “Human Capital”, thereby empowering these youth to elevate their social status and pursue stable careers through their own inherent abilities.
- **A Decade of Devotion:** For over 7 years, this project has steadily evolved into a “Symbol of Connection” that deeply links the port and the community together. As a result, the music rising from Klongtoey Community today is no longer a sound of despair, but rather one of pride and hope. This transformation further proves PAT’s leadership, demonstrating a vision that focuses not only on logistics excellence but also on social responsibility for truly sustainable growth.

Innovation & Distinction: Music as a Tool for Social Transition

Rather than adhering to the traditional CSR limits that often focus on temporary donations, this project strategically employs “Classical and Thai Music” as a symbolic innovation to dismantle barriers of opportunity. The project’s true distinction lies in its power to transform societal perceptions towards slum youth by shifting the narrative from one of vulnerability to a compelling image of determination on the musical stage.

Social Refinement Process: We utilize “Ensemble” training as a vital key to instilling discipline and concentration, foundational traits that are often difficult to nurture in chaotic environments. Consequently, this innovation transcends mere music instruction; instead, it creates a “Human Development Ecosystem” that effectively converts the echoes of a marginalized community into melodies of excellence.

Vision and Leadership:

The long-standing success of “Klongtoey Symphony Project” stands as the most compelling testament to the vision of PAT, underpinned by the core belief that “a strong port must grow alongside a sustainable community”. Our leadership extends far beyond achieving regional logistics excellence; it encompasses a profound social responsibility as a “Change Agent”, one that is prepared to proactively confront the structural challenges facing the communities surrounding our operational areas.

- **Strategic Stewardship:** Under the strategic vision of PAT’s executive leadership, we have purposefully elevated this music initiative from a mere recreational activity into a primary pillar of our Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Strategy, specifically aligned with our second strategy focused on Education and Culture. Our leadership is distinctly evidenced by a conscious decision to prioritize “Investing in Human Capital” over physical infrastructure. This is driven by our fundamental conviction that true sustainability inevitably begins with the cultivation of high-quality individuals.
- **Commitment to Global Standards:** PAT has adopted the World Ports Sustainability Program (WPSP) as our organizational compass. We view the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) not merely as a regulatory checklist but as a core element woven into our corporate DNA. This leadership shines through our efforts to harmonize the local mission at Klongtoey with world-class standards, orchestrating a global model that proves a port can truly serve as a “Center of Opportunities” that effectively closes social divides.
- **Driving Sustainability through Human Capital Cultivation:** Our vision goes beyond short-term perspectives, as Leader of PAT focused on creating a steady and continuous drive to uplift society. Even in the face of the most testing time, we have remained unwavering in our support of this initiative for nearly a decade. This unwavering continuity is a testament to our authenticity and a leadership committed to shifting from traditional charity toward cultivating true human capital, empowering individuals to sustainably support themselves and their families in the future.

Alignment with UN SDGs

Klongtoey Symphony Project is purposefully designed with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at its core. Driven by our fundamental conviction that a sustainable port must grow alongside an enhanced quality of life for its people, this initiative serves as a vital bridge, deeply linking the port's mission with global sustainability objectives across multiple dimensions:



- **SDG 4 - Quality Education:** PAT transcends the boundaries of conventional schooling by strategically delivering “Alternative Excellence” to the youth of Klongtoey. Rather than viewing music as a mere hobby, we recognize it as both a life skill and viable profession. To achieve this, the project provides unprecedented access to a high-standard international music curriculum, which is typically financially prohibitive and inaccessible for low-income families.
 - **Nurturing Lifelong Learning:** Through structured training that requires rigorous discipline and deep concentration, we instill essential “Learning to Learn” skills. Consequently, these foundational traits remain with the youth throughout their future education and diverse career pathways, thereby creating a truly solid and sustainable educational foundation.



- **SDG 10 – Reduced Inequalities:** Serving as the absolute heart of the project, our primary focus is centered on “dismantling the barriers of opportunity” between marginalized slums and wider society. While Klongtoey Community is often plagued by a perceived lack of opportunities, “the Klongtoey Symphony” has effectively transformed societal skepticism into profound admiration. This is achieved by placing classical instruments, traditionally viewed as elite and out of reach, directly into the hands of community youth.
 - **Driving Social Mobility:** When a child stands on a national stage performing alongside a professional orchestra, predefined socioeconomic disparities are seamlessly replaced by recognized talent. As a result, this profound empowerment fosters high self-esteem, ultimately inspiring them to courageously pursue a future of equal opportunity.



- **SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals:** The enduring success of this project offers a vital blueprint for cultivating a “Collaborative Ecosystem”. Rather than operating in isolation, PAT takes a proactive leadership role in harmonizing efforts between government sectors, civil society, local foundations, and volunteer artist networks.
 - **A Model for Sustainable Alliance:** The convergence of dedicated partners united by a single vision demonstrates that a port can effectively function as a “Connectivity Hub”. Moving beyond logistics and cargo, this alliance seamlessly connects human empathy and collective resources, thereby driving a far greater social transformation than any single agency could accomplish alone.



- **SDG 3 & SDG 8 – Good Health and Well- Being & Decent Work and Economic Growth:** In addition to these core pillars, the project extends a positive ripple effect toward SGD 3 (Good Health and Well-being) by utilizing music as a therapeutic tool to nurture mental well-being, effectively mitigating the stress and pressure of a chaotic living environment. Simultaneously, it advances SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) by equipping youth with professional musical skills. This enables the youth to earn a stable income to support their families, effectively transitioning from passive aid recipients into active drivers of the future creative economy.

Stakeholder Engagement: Bonds of Trust and Shared Commitments

The core foundation that has enabled “Klongtoey Symphony Project” to endure and flourish for over a decade does not rest upon the port’s isolated efforts. Instead, it is driven by a thriving “Collaborative Ecosystem” woven from deep mutual trust between PAT and the dedicated network of local foundations surrounding the port area.

- **Strategic Grassroots Partnership:** PAT has purposefully partnered with non-profit organization rooted in Klongtoey Community, including Music for Life Foundation, Paint Brush Foundation, and Human Development Foundation (Mercy Center), all of whom possess a profound understanding of the residents’ way of life and core challenges. Rather than acting as mere external entities, these foundations serve as the very “heart” that bridge the port with local youth. Consequently, this close collaboration injects immense flexibility into the project, thereby ensuring it successfully reaches the most vulnerable groups. In this synergy, PAT operates as the primary “Enabler” by providing vital infrastructure and resources, while the foundations act as “Heart-led Connectors” who deliver intimate, day-to-day mentorship to the youth.
- **Authentic Community Engagement:** Collaborating with grassroots non-profit organizations significantly narrows the traditional gap between state authorities and community residents. Having these trusted foundations stationed on the frontline allows the community to truly feel that PAT is not simply executing a temporary project and leaving. On the contrary, it demonstrates that we are genuinely “living” and “growing alongside them.” Ultimately, this consistent presence fosters a profound, long-term relationship that financial capital alone could never replicate.
- **Shared Value Creation:** PAT steadfastly supports these foundations by pooling essential resources, including sustainable budgets, high-quality instruments, and professional expertise to drive these musical initiatives. This collective mobilization creates meaningful “Shared Value”, where all parties are firmly aligned toward a singular, transformative goal: shaping a brighter future for the youth of Klongtoey. As a result, this exceptional solidarity between PAT and local organizations have evolved into a tangible success model for mitigating socioeconomic inequalities around port perimeters, earning widespread recognition as one of the most sustainable collaborative models in Bangkok.

Concrete Outcomes: The Journey from Dreams to Measurable Success

The true impact of “Klongtoey Symphony Project” extends far beyond the beautiful melodies performed on stage; rather, it is profoundly reflected in the transformed lives of local youth and the enhanced social stability of Klongtoey Community. Over the past seven years, PAT has systematically converted its financial backing into invaluable “intellectual capital and vital life skills”, thereby driving concrete, sustainable results across several key dimensions, as follows:

- **Sustainable Investment:** From the project’s inception, PAT has consistently allocated budget to secure premium-grade musical instruments and employ professional instructors to mentor the children closely. Far from being a one-off charitable contribution, this initiative represents a “long-term budgetary commitment” Consequently, children from Marginalized neighborhoods gain access to elite musical education on par with peers from affluent families, effectively bridging the socioeconomic divide through the power of music.
- **Concrete Statistical Outcomes:** When examining the data, the project’s success is vividly demonstrated through tangible figures:
 - **Total Youth Enrolled:** What began as a modest endeavor has since expanded significantly, with over 400 youths having undergone rigorous, intensive musical training.
 - **Behavioral Rehabilitation Rate:** Furthermore, continuous follow-ups reveal a 0% delinquency rate among active participants. This remarkable statistic underscores how music acts as a powerful “social vaccine”, especially within high-risk environments.
 - **Career Pathway Progression:** At the same time, more than 10% of project alumni have advanced to higher education in music or successfully transitioned into professional careers. Today, they thrive as professional musicians, educators, and members of prestigious government orchestras. In addition to this, these young talents frequently showcase their abilities on national stages and major concert venues, ultimately fostering genuine “Economic Self-reliance”.
- **Social Recognition as a KPI:** Moving beyond mere statistical metrics, PAT has integrated “community pride” as a core performance indicator. By offering Klongtoey youth the opportunity to perform on both national and international platform, the project builds robust “Social Capital.” This recognition not only instills deep pride within the community but also crucially reshapes external perceptions, redefining Klongtoey from a troubled neighborhood into “a zone of potential and talent”.
- **Long-term Social Mobility:** To ensure lasting sustainability, a comprehensive Alumni Tracking system has been established to monitor the long-term journeys of our graduates. The findings are profoundly encouraging: these empowered individuals are now generating stable incomes to support their families while serving as inspiring role model for the next generation. This embodies a powerful “Multiplier Effect”, all starting from the moment PAT provided a child with a first musical instrument.

Impact Table

<i>PAT's Support</i>	<i>Concrete Outcomes</i>	<i>Social Impact</i>
Budget for Musical Instrument & Equipment	Over 400 youth gained access to international standard musical instrument.	Eliminated financial barriers; transformed scarcity into educational opportunities.
Hiring Music Professionals and Experts	Youths developed standardized musical skills and became capable of performing in major concerts.	Fostered community pride and broke down walls of social inequality.
Allocating of Learning Spaces & Activities	0% involvement in at-risk behaviors and drug abuser among youths in the project.	Built a resilient social safety net (SDG3: Good Health and Well-being).
Collaboration with Local Foundations	A framework for close mentorship and active youth monitoring.	Strengthened trust and partnership between PAT and the community (SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals).
Promoting Career Paths & Scholarships	Youths successfully secured university admissions and entered professional music careers.	Created sustainable career paths (SDG 4: Quality Education & SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth).

Case Study

At the heart of the Klongtoey Symphony initiative is PAT's commitment to creating sustainable opportunities for at-risk youth through education and human capital development. Through intensive classical music training, the program equips young people with internationally recognized skills and pathways to higher education. Its impact is best reflected in the success of participants who have earned admission to Thailand's leading music institutions and universities, demonstrating the project's contribution to UN SDG 4 (Quality Education) and UN SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities). The following section presents the number of participants who have successfully gained admission to higher education institutions, categorized by faculty and university.

<i>Educational Institutions and Music Majors</i>	<i>No. of</i>
<i>Mahidol University</i>	
Classical Music Performance, College of Music, Mahidol University, Major in Violin	3
Classical Music Performance, College of Music, Mahidol University, Major in Cello	1
<i>Princess Galyani Vadhana Institute of Music</i>	
Princess Galyani Vadhana Institute of Music, Bachelor of Music Program, Major in Violin	1
Princess Galyani Vadhana Institute of Music, Bachelor of Music Program, Major in Cello	1
Princess Galyani Vadhana Institute of Music, Bachelor of Music Program, Major in Viola	1
<i>Kasetsart University</i>	
Faculty of Humanities, Department of Western Music, Kasetsart University, Major in Double Bass	1
Faculty of Humanities, Department of Western Music, Kasetsart University, Major in Violin	3
Faculty of Humanities, Department of Western Music, Kasetsart University, Major in Cello	1
<i>Chulalongkorn University</i>	
Department of Western Music, Faculty of Fine and Applied Arts, Chulalongkorn University, Major in Cello	1
<i>Rangsit University</i>	
Conservatory of Music (Violin Performance), Rangsit University	1