

History of Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya City Hall

The former city hall was situated at Pratu Chai Sub-District, Krung Kao District (Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya District at present). It was the three-story building in T-shape constructed in 1941 when Luang Borihan Chonnabot (San) was the provincial commissioner with the support from Pridi Banomyong, the Minister of Finance at that time. In front of the city hall, there were six statues of heroes and heroines, who had made great contribution to Ayutthaya and the nation in the past. The statues are:

1. Statue of King Ramathibodi I (Prince U-Thong) who was the king who established Ayutthaya as the capital city in 1350, holding the conch shell in the left hand.
2. Statue of King Borommatrailokkanat who was the expert in administration, holding code of Law in both hands..
3. Statue of Queen Suriyothai, the heroine who was on the battle field in 1548 and sacrificed her life for her husband, Phra Maha Chakkraphat.
4. Statue of King Naresuan (1490-1605), holding guandao in the right hand and hat on the left hand. He retrieved independence from Myanmar and engaged in seven combats with the enemy.
5. Statue of King Narai (1656-1688), holding the royal letter in both hands. He built the relationship with foreign countries such as France during the period of Louis XIV de France, spread out the western culture during the reign of Chao Phraya Wichayen. Trade was very prosperous during his reign.
6. Statue of King Taksin (1656-1792), holding sword in both hands. He retrieved Independence from the last loss in 1767 and relocated the capital city to Thonburi.

The formal city hall was used for governmental operation and service public until it deteriorated and was unable to maintain, as well as unable to support the growth of the provincial administration. Further, the former city hall was situated in the area of Ayutthaya Historical Park, which was admired by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization or UNESCO as the World Heritage, and Fine Arts Department had a plan to reconstruct the city hall building and other places to be the historical center and tourist attraction of the province. Therefore, it was relocated to the outside of historical park area.

Afterwards, Mr. Jaturong Danchaiwiroj, Mrs. Kwanluck Danchaiwiroj, Mr. Worapoj Danchaiwirit, and Mrs. Sompit Danchaiwirit granted the land, 70 rai and one square wah that cost 70, 004, 951.60 baht, on the Asian Highway M. 3 Klong Suan Phlu, Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya District to the government for

1. Construct government center – 53 rai, 2 Ngan, and 16 square wah

2. Provincial Administrative Organization to construct public roads for 16 rai, 1 Ngan, and 25 square wah

There was the ceremony of title deed on Wednesday 22 August 1990 at Ministry of Interior. Mr. Banharn Silpa-archa was the guest of honor. Thus, Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya Province proposed the City Hall construction project to Ministry of Interior for the approval of Master Plan of Regional Government Center Commission, Ministry of Interior. The Commission approved the construction project, which divided into three phases:

Phase 1 (during fiscal year 1993-1995) - Construct Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya City Hall and public utility

Phase 2 (during fiscal year 1994-1995) - Construct Community Hall

Phase 3 (during fiscal year 1995-1996) - Construct two 10-story high rise buildings to support government sections

In 1992, Ministry of Interior allocated budget 6, 000, 000 baht for land reclamation at the construction area for 10 rai. In 1993, allocated budget 5, 900, 000 baht for city hall and public utility construction by committed to the budget of 1994 for 52, 100, 000 baht and of 1995 for 61, 700, 000 baht. Moreover, Ministry of Interior allowed the province to organize the bidding. Samcon Company Limited was the contractor in the budget of 119, 000, 000 baht and scheduled for completion at 675 days. The contract signed on 15 March 1994, completion date set as 18 January 1996. The construction was the 4-stories Thai style building with utility space for 9, 196 square meter.

Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya Province held the foundation stone laying ceremony on Monday 8 August 1994, at 1.01 pm. General Chavalit Yongchaiyudh, the Minister of Interior was the guest of honor at the construction site. Worship ceremony to the former city hall was held on 25 January 1996 at 8.00 am. and the religious ceremony and worship the new city hall was held at 10.00 am. The new city hall has operated since 29 January 1996.

Mr. Wittaya Phiewphong, who was the Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya Provincial Governor since 16 March 2009, realized that the new government center was declined. Thus, he ordered to reconstruct the government center using government budget and fundraising from distributing sacred object, Phra Trairattana Nayok (Luang Phor To) Wat Phananchong. Total budget was 13, 666, 758.77 baht and operated the construction since fiscal year 2009-2010 according to the following details.

Phase 1: Spent government budget fiscal year 2009 for 7,342, 500 baht

- Improved landscape in front of Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya Government Center

(construct concrete quad) - 6, 142, 500 baht from Provincial Strategy budget

- Improved Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya City Hall - 1, 200, 000 baht from the remaining budget

Phase 2: Spent budget from sacred object distribution for 3,161, 028.77 baht

- Built spirit house - 150, 000 baht
- Built the safe for sword and Phra Phuttha Nawaratchabophit and the safety system - 532, 404 baht
- Created watering system - 200, 000 baht
- Constructed Buddha hall and spirit house basement - 1, 190, 000 baht
- Installed electric power system - 655, 64.77 baht
- Improved landscape (park) - 213, 150 baht
- Reconstructed King Chulalongkorn Monument - 120, 000 baht
- Constructed the pond behind the spirit house - 99, 800 baht

Phase 3: Spent government budget fiscal year 2013 for 3, 163, 230 baht

- Paint Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya Government Center - 1, 850, 000 baht spent from Ministry of Interior budget.

- Installed CCTV at Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya Government Center - 859, 230 baht - spent from Wang Noi Power Plant Fund.

- Constructed reinforced concrete building spending from Wang Noi Power Plant Fund - 454, 000 baht, spent from Wang Noi Power Plant. There was addition reconstruction in 2011.

1. Improve car parking surround the City Hall
2. Interior paint for City Hall and had additional improvement in 2012
3. Paint AYUTTHAYA WORLD EXPO 2020 advertisement board
4. Installed 2 LED signs - Provincial Budget and Provincial Administration Organization budget.