BUILDING PEACE IN THE THREE SOUTHERN BORDER PROVINCES WITH HALAL PRODUCTS

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Abstract

The objectives of this research are 1) to study of peacebuilding in the three southern border provinces and 2) to study on ways to bring Halal products to create peace in the three southern border provinces. This is documentary research, using research, analysis and synthesis of information taken from public sector publications. The study found that 1) the creation of peace in the three southern border provinces consists of 4 areas: 1.1) politics, 1.2) economic, 1.3) social and cultural aspects, and 1.4) education. In terms of co-planning, co-working, co-using the service from the project, and co-participate in receiving benefits in a balanced manner, which includes both the public, private, public and civil society. 2) bringing halal products to create peace must be developed in four areas: 2.1) develop halal food to make people in the area, people in the country and people around the world and to be able to compete in the world market. 2.2) develop certification systems and processes. Thailand's halal standards to gain confidence, 2.3) develop a logistics system for halal products, and 2.4) develop food business restaurants and hotels to be certified by international standards, to achieve peace in the three southern border provinces including survival, welfare, freedom, and identity and identity in meaning of life.

Keywords: Peacebuilding, Three Southern Border Provinces, Halal Product

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Introduction

Thailand vision "Thailand is stable, prosperous and sustainable, is a developed country with the development of the philosophy of sufficiency economy" (Government Gazette, 2018). All people of the nation must enjoy equality in life and live in peace in his own country. But in the three southern border provinces, there has been unrest in the area for a long time. The government sector has a solution to the problem with 3 approaches: 1) reviewing structure of the Southern Border Provinces Committee (CPC) and the District Action Center working group (FEC) by integrating work and communication between government officials, media workers, leaders, and people in the three southernmost provinces along with determining the main host to fix the problem; 2) appointing an independent working group to solve the problem in order to drive solutions continuously despite the change in government or policy makers both central, regional and local; and 3) focusing on economic development through the participation process of society to create and develop the economy in the three southern border provinces that causes a balanced growth consistent with the potential cost of the three southern border provinces, leading to cooperation to create a good economy and quality of life for people in the area (Srichai, 2018). The government sector has tried to solve problems through various forms of peace. The Operations Coordination Center 5 (Security Administration Division under the Kingdom) has proposed a 20-year national strategic plan to build peace in the southern border which consists of three key actions: Create understanding with people in and outside the southern border provinces, as well as abroad, to the security aspect with law enforcement and justice in the area, and for the security development by strengthening villages and generating income (Internal Security Operations Command, 2018) but still unable to achieve true peace in the area.

Researchers are interested in studying building peace in the three southern border provinces with halal products. Since the majority of the population 70.99 percent are Muslim (4-year development plan for the Southern Border Provinces (2018-2021), who must eat food that has passed the process of cooking according to the Islamic law. Therefore, the study aimed to study peace building through participation by using halal products as a link factor.

Research objective

1. To study peacebuilding in the three southern border provinces with a participatory approach.

2. To study guidelines to bring halal products to create peace in the three southern border provinces.

Terminology definition

Peacebuilding means conducting activities in an area to achieve a state of peace with no conflict or any violence and people can live happily. Unrest is made possible by human thoughts and actions which are related to selfishness, making others in trouble, no happiness and no peace.

Halal goods means products or services that are manufactured with taking into account of the Muslim consumer and must not contradict to Islamic law

The three southernmost provinces refer to Pattani, Yala and Narathiwat, with the administration directly to the Southern Border Provinces Administrative Center and there is a multicultural with unrest.

Concepts / theories and related research

Concepts and theories of inequality

There are various scholars categorizing inequality (Kaewthep, 2020) as consisting of 1) Economic inequality is the most easily seen inequality such as the different in income figures, property ownership, and production factor. 2) Legal and Rights Inequality with the different knowledge level. 3) Inequality in welfare access in four factors: housing, food, clean water, medicine, and health. 4) Education inequality in category of formal, non-formal, and life-long education. 5) Cultural inequality means that cultures/ languages/ beliefs/ traditions of different groups of people in society are treated/ valued unequal, and 6) Inequality in dignity and human values such as people with disabilities, elderly, ethnic groups, etc. were ignored in terms of dignity/ human values.

Concepts and theories of participation

Participation is very important to peace-building because peace building must arise from cooperation among many sectors. There are many scholars who have given the meaning of participation such as Ruangwathasilpa (2007) is to allow people from all sectors to participate in all activities according to the capacity of members in making decisions, activity operation, monitoring, and joint evaluation. In addition, Chomphan (2012) has divided the level of participation into 7 levels, which are: 1) Informing level is the lowest level of participation. 2)Information provision when citizens and stakeholders have received information and able to find the cause of the problem, analyze needs, and determine what they want. 3) Consultation is the level that allows formal dialogue between policy makers, project owner and the affected people and the public. 4) Involvement level is the level that allows two-way communication, in order to reduce the impact that may arise from the project implementation and reduce conflicts. 5) Partnership level is a policy implementation or a joint project to achieve the objectives or goals. 6) Delegated power level is the level of joint decision-making, monitoring and evaluation , and 7) Citizen control level is the highest level of participation In which people can initiate policies, plan and execute projects by themselves from the beginning. The officials or government agencies are the only providers to support the operation.

For the participatory process, Fornaroff (1980), outlines four steps of community engagement: 1) Planning, including decision-making, goal setting, method, resource, and monitoring and evaluation of the operation. 2) Implementation 3) Use of services from the project, and 4) Participation in receiving benefits.

Civil society concepts and theories

The civil society is a sector of society that is not part of government and business. The civil society plays an important role in the implementation of replacement and complement activities for the demographic sectors difficult to access by government or business. There is no incentive to proceed because it is often a group of people who are poor, live in a remote are, and is a vulnerable group. Civil society also plays a role in reflecting the problems of citizens with low social costs to governments and other sectors in order to gain opportunities and information (Baum, 1997; Greer et al., 2017; Jareg, & Kaseje, 1998).

Wasi (1998) explained how to support civil society by dividing into 10 aspects, consisting of: 1) policies and social trends should be studied by all parties in society to understand each other; 2) there should be a survey on the community chart and network in each province to know where civil society exist; 3) there should be a promotion of the expansion of community networks and encourage villages or sub-districts to learn from civil society networks; 4) there should be a building of a comprehensive academic service center; 5) connection to trade; 6) creation of social media that support by government; 7) adjustment of budget methods and establish community funds; 8) legislation for civil society strength; 9) trainings for civil society building skills; and 10) community strengthening research and evaluation.

Concepts and theories about peace

Galtung (1969) presents a theme on violence, peace and peace research which explains the scope of human peace (a state free from war). Peace is not enough; it must be a condition where there is no violent action against fellow human beings which is direct violence arising from the action between people including structural violence caused by an unfair social system. Galtung (1969) divided the four needs: 1) survival 2) welfare. 3) freedom and 4) being unique and meaningful in life (identity).

Halal product

Department of Industrial Promotion states that "Halal" is an arabic word meaning "approve, authorize". The halal product is action, production, service or distribution that is not contrary to the commandments of Islam. Halal products cover both food and non-food products and services (Department of Industrial Promotion, 2020). It can be concluded that halal food means food or food products approved under the Islamic law for Muslims to consume or utilize.

Method of conducting the study

This study was documentary research (Scott, 1990; 2006) using research, analysis and synthesis of information taken from public sector publications. The secondary document is related to peace building in the southern border provinces.

Study results

Results of the study to answer the 1st objective to study peacebuilding in the three southern border provinces with a participatory approach.

Building peace in the three southern border provinces with a participatory approach found that peace-building efforts in the three southern border provinces were participatory but not yet effective. There was a problem of security and peace in the three southern border provinces, explained in 4 areas: 1) The political aspect is linked to the state mechanism. Participation has not yet been achieved and the conflict has escalated into a more serious problem. This is due to the deficiency of the state that does not try to understand the problem and accept the diversity of cultural areas. 2) Economic aspects, it is found that the government does not really understand how to develop the economy in the area. Solving problems according to plans and projects are determined centrally without listening to public opinion. 3) Social and cultural aspects: It is the society and culture of Thai Muslims in the southern border provinces to maintain their original identity. The Thai state has tried to strengthen the Thai identity to the Muslims in the southern border provinces with various forms of state mechanisms. The lack of state knowledge and understanding and a lack of accepting cultural differences became a problem, and 4) The Islamic school was followed principles of Islam to conduct teaching, but the state viewed as a danger to national security. However, public education still not as effective as expected. Lack of understanding of the traditional way of life of Thai Muslims in the area and creating distrust against the people and the state. (Usman et al., 2018)

Therefore, a participatory peace-building approach must be linked by the public, private and civil society sectors in the area. The most important factor that will cause cooperation is to have mutual benefits, followed by mutual agreement. To have common goal and data sharing or exchange by the government model proposal for cooperation with the private sector. There are nine components of civil society in the southern border provinces, presented by (Kampiranon, & Na Ranong, 2020) as follows: have a common goal, mutual benefit, collective agreement, sharing or exchanging information, have work structure and mechanism for coordination and communication, resources and management processes, organization culture and relationship between organizations, competencies of personnel in the organization, and the environment of the organization (Kampiranon, & Na Ranong, 2020). In summary the participatory peace-building is a political contribution which is consistent to the needs of the people in the three southern border provinces of Thailand. They want a politically participatory culture to create peace in the area (Ben Ibrahim, & Satvit, 2018). Guidelines for building political participation means that people in the area can participate in formulating policies or laws that are relevant to themselves. In the case of the southern border provinces, it is involved in the following processes: 1) The structural review of the Southern Border Provinces Corrective Action Committee (CPC) and the District Action Center Working Group (Sor Por Sor) by integrating work and communication among government official's media workers, leaders and people in the three southern border provinces. 2) The appointment of an independent working group to solve the problem of the

three southern border provinces. In order to drive solutions to the problems in the three southern border provinces continuously despite the change in government or policy makers, both central, regional and local; and 3) Focus on economic development in the three southern border provinces through the participation process of society. To create and develop the economy in the three southern border provinces. To have a balanced growth Consistent with the potential cost of the three southern border provinces. Leading to cooperation to create a good economy and quality of life for people in the area (Srichai, 2018).

Study results for the 2 nd objective to study guidelines to bring halal products to create peace in the three southern border provinces.

It was found that there were 9 strategies regarding halal strategy (Halal Institute, Prince of Songkla University, 2018) consisting as follows. 1) Developing halal food to be competitive in the world market by development in raw material, agricultural products, process, and standard certification process. Develop branding in halal food marketing which consists of 1.1) research and development of halal food product innovation for competition; 1.2) production of agricultural raw materials for halal food production; 1.3) production process according to the halal principle; 1.4) production process and packaging development to have quality and long shelf life; 1.5) development of halal food products from local materials; 1.6) production of substitutes for additives in halal food products; 1.7) inspection process for halal quality analysis and certification; 1.8) marketing of halal food abroad; and 1.9) Halal food branding abroad.

2) Developing a Halal certification system and process includes: 2.1) the need to develop halal certification personnel and 2.2) the development of halal certification auditing and halal standards treatment monitoring. 3) Developing the logistics system for halal products consisting of 3.1) the transportation demand for halal products and 3.2) the development of various modes of transport suitable for the transportation of halal products. 4) Developing food business, restaurants, and hotels that are certified to international standards, including 4.1) Halal Slaughter Certification System and 4.2) Development of halal certification system for food business, restaurants, and hotels. 5) Developing halal financial transactions consisting of 5.1) halal attitudes toward accessibility and opportunities for halal financial institute and 5.2) Financial transaction systems that support halal production. 6) Developing the production of apparel and accessories that are certified to international standards including 6.1) production and material inspection for the production of halal-certified clothing and appliances and 6.2) development of halal-certified clothing and appliances. 7) Developing halal-certified cosmetics including 7.1) production and component analysis of raw materials for halal cosmetic production; 7.2) production process and use of halal cosmetics materials; 7.3) development of halal cosmetics products from local materials; 7.4) production of substitute materials for used as a flavor enhancer in halal cosmetic products; and 7.5) analysis of consumer demand and halal cosmetics market. 8) Developing a hospital service system consisting of 8.1) the needs of the Muslim-style hospital

service, 8.2) Muslim style hospital personnel, and 8.3) Standardized Muslim medical system to support medial tourism. Lastly, 9) Developing halal spa services including 9.1) development of spa service personnel and 9.2) Development and use of halal standardized spa materials.

Summarize and discuss study results

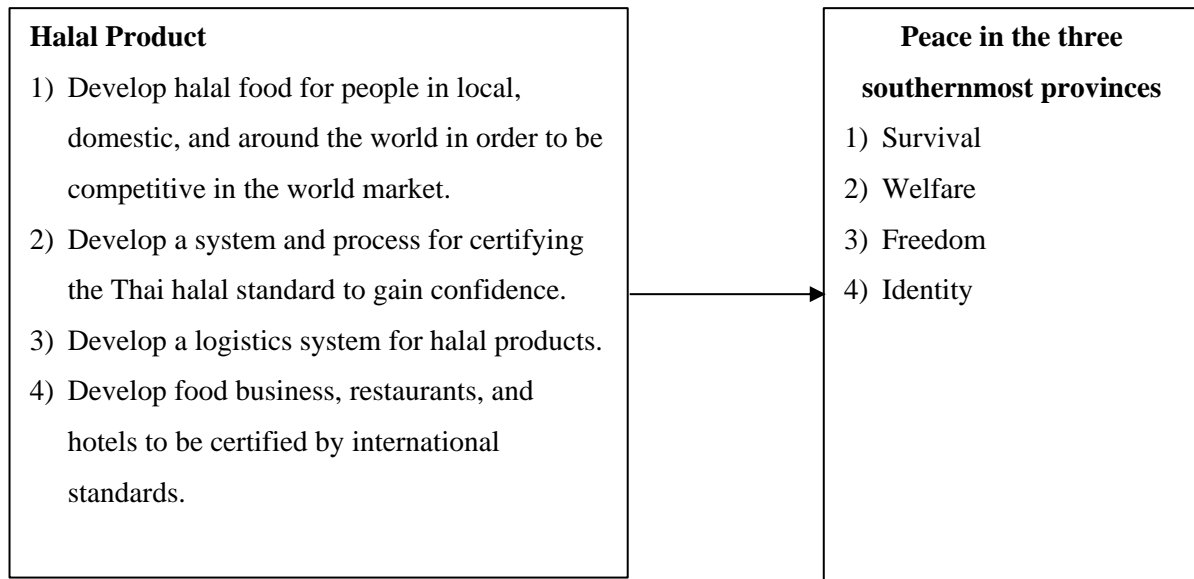**Summary of peacebuilding in the three southern border provinces with participation guidelines**

The study summarizes peace building in the three southern border provinces with a specific political participation guideline, correspond to Satpoon and Sahaphatthana (2019), found four factors of successful implementing the action plan are: the participation factor of civil society and the people sector, the cooperation mechanisms between government agencies, performance and resource sufficiency, and attitude of relevant government officials. In the past, there are four aspects of peace building: 1) Political, 2) Economic, 3) Social and Cultural, and 4) Education, which may not be sufficient to build peace in the three southern border provinces. There must be increased participation between the public sector, the private sector, and civil society under a culture of political participation.

From the approach for building peace in the three southern border provinces with a participatory approach, there must be a concrete development approach that is correct and transparent. There should have sharing among decision- making, join works, join benefits, and join evaluation of the results. The evaluation conducts in 8 different development areas which are justice system, public utilities, public telecommunication network, education system, economic, trade and investment, social psychological, and political. In order to achieve peace building in the three southernmost provinces, actions should be taken in regard to having a common goal, mutual benefit, collective agreement, sharing or exchanging information, structure and mechanism of work for coordination and communication, resources management processes, organization culture and relationship between organizations, competencies of personnel in the organization, and the environment of the organization that can be managed together.

Summary of guidelines for bringing halal products to create peace in the three southern border provinces

The study found that stimulating the production of halal products that is in line with social, cultural, lifestyle, beliefs, and Islamic principles will motivate the economy growth. When the economy is good, people have income, work and stable occupation, these will result in happiness, peace, security, and finally have peace in their lives. The research result is in line with Galtung (1969) which suggested four needs: 1) survival, 2) welfare, 3) freedom, and 4) uniqueness and feeling identity.

Halal Product	Peace in the three
1) Develop halal food for people in local, domestic, and around the world in order to be competitive in the world market. 2) Develop a system and process for certifying the Thai halal standard to gain confidence. 3) Develop a logistics system for halal products. 4) Develop food business, restaurants, and hotels to be certified by international standards.	southernmost provinces 1) Survival 2) Welfare 3) Freedom 4) Identity

Figure 1 Guidelines for bringing halal products to create peace in the three southern border provinces

From figure 1, the potential development of halal products in all over Thailand and around the world can be made by: 1) developing halal food for people in local, domestic, and around the world in order to be competitive in the world market, which consists the development in raw material and agricultural products, process and product, standard certification process to be trusted, branding, and marketing; 2) developing a system and process for certifying the Thai halal standard to gain confidence; 3) developing a logistics system for halal products; and 4) developing food business, restaurants, and hotels to be certified by international standards. This will bring peace in the three southern border provinces due to the strengthening of halal products. By using local resources, involvement of local people, join production by private sector, and the use of civil society such as community enterprises, folk philosopher, and local community groups to create halal products, is the main use of halal products to create peace. The most effective methodology should gain support from the public, private, and civil society sectors from outside the area. The supporting could be in a form of money, knowledge, guidelines for the development and production of standardized products, and a combination of a directional participation model.

Suggestion

This study was a qualitative study that look at only the issues of participation in peacebuilding in the three southern border provinces with halal products. This is an issue that is specific in the context of the three southern border provinces. To cover all relevant issues, studies should be done in the form of survey research and quantitative research for the sake of being more extensive and tangible.

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