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IURC Asia & Australasia

THAILAND



Country Information

- Currently, roughly 50% of the country's population (70 million) lives in urban areas, and the number is expected to rise to 72% by 2050.
- Its capital, Bangkok, is the most populous city, being the fifth largest in East Asia in terms of area and the ninth largest in terms of population.
- Apart from Bangkok, there are sizeable cities in every region of the country, such as Chiang Mai in the north, Nakhon Ratchasima (Korat), Khon Kaen, and Udon Thani in the northeast, Pattaya in the southeast, and Hat Yai in the far south.

Thailand Smart City Programme

- <https://smartcitythailand.or.th/>
- As the country tries to escape the middle-income trap, the government has launched several schemes to garner the power of digital technology and intellectual property to increase its economic competitiveness.
- The current goal is to develop 100 smart cities across the country by 2022, starting with 10 pilot Smart Cities in seven provinces, namely Phuket, Khon Kaen, Chiang Mai, Chonburi, Rayong, Chachoengsao and Bangkok.
- To accelerate the proliferation of smart cities, DEPA also award particular areas or communities that have concrete smart city development plans with “Smart City Promotion Zones” certification.

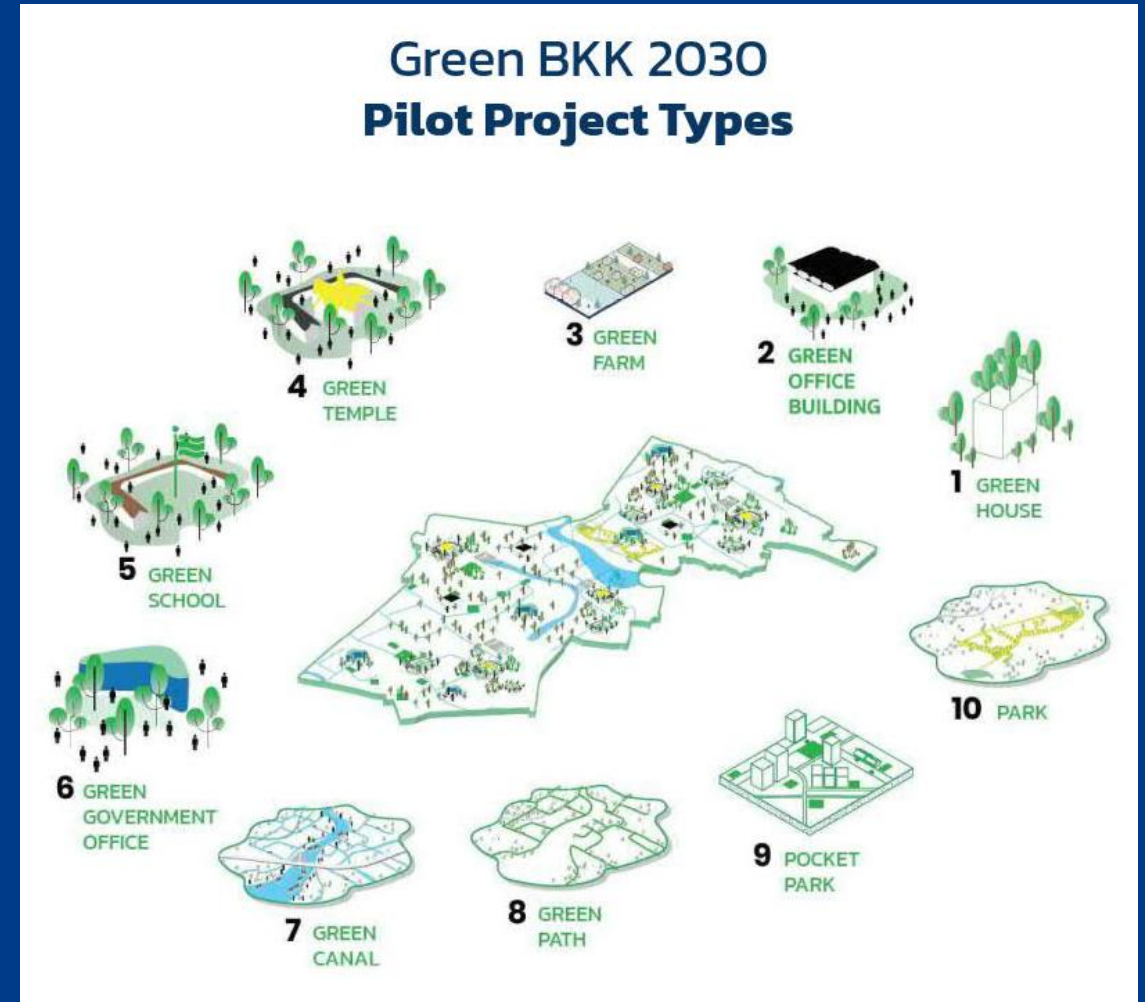
Culture

- [Creative Economy Agency \(cea.or.th\)](http://cea.or.th)
- There has been renewed interest in the creative economy, a concept once widely promoted in the country over a decade ago, with the establishment of the Creative Economy Agency (CEA) in 2019. The mission is to promote entrepreneurship and use culture and creativity to create social and economic value, particularly in urban areas.
- [Charoenkrung Creative District, Bangkok](#)
- [Prachakom Yan Kadeejeen-Khlongsan Foundation, Bangkok](#)



Green and Walkable Cities

- IURC is exploring partnership with [we!park](#), a civil society organisation based in Bangkok whose mission is to create more green spaces in the city. we!park is a partner of the [Green Bangkok 2030](#) initiative by the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration.
- In this partnership, activities expected for this year as part of the Bangkok Design Week 2021 include an international forum on green public space policy and design, showcases of green space best practices from Europe and Asia and a walking tour of community parks in Bangkok.
- Other noteworthy green projects in Thailand include the [Chao Phraya Skypark](#) and the [Benjakitti Forest Park](#) in Bangkok and the [Good Walk Chiang Mai](#) project.



Info-aa@iurc.eu



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