

Songkran Tradition: An Invented Tradition of Thai Buddhists and Thai Muslims for Peace and Happiness in Southern Thailand

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Abstract : Purpose: To investigate an invented tradition of Thai Buddhists and Thai Muslims for peace. Methods: The data for this qualitative research were collected from related documents and research reports, field data, and in-depth interviews with Buddhist and Muslim religious leaders and people in the community. Results: The results of the research revealed that Thai Buddhists and Thai Muslims in Tamod Community in the Southern part of Thailand who have lived in the same community and shared the same history of the community jointly invented the Songkran tradition holding on to the reason that they have lived in the same community founded by the same person. The reason for inventing this tradition is that Songkran is a tradition for paying respect to ancestors who passed away and people in Tamod have the same ancestor even though they believe in different religions. Therefore, paying respect to the ancestors can be performed together by people of the two religions. The invented tradition has not only united them and empowered them to drive their community to development but also brought peace and happiness to this community.

Keywords : invented tradition, Thai Buddhists, Thai Muslims, peace

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