

Flowing Through The Wreckage of Despair

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This photographic series was created in 2011 during the worst flood in 50 years of Thailand's history. The images portray the paralysed atmosphere of Bangkok and its outskirts together with their inhabitants during the three month natural disaster. It also documents the physical damage endured by the cities and the people because of political turmoil.

One of the greatest causes of this natural disaster was the country's slow and ineffective urban development. In the past, people in Thailand lived harmoniously with water in wooden houses raised on stilts in waterside communities. We travelled mainly by boat along a network of canals and rivers. Through the decades, we have destroyed the water network by building roads, modern houses and condominiums over canals and rivers. Today, we rely on cars and buses as the main transportation. We live in high buildings and ground-level houses with all the modern conveniences.

A lack of understanding and mismanagement of politicians in charge worsened the situation. Corruption and political power at play between the government and the opposition left the country in despair.

Thus, the country's unorganised development obstructs the water flow downstream, creating an increased risk of flooding. In earlier times, floods were an annual. We accepted them as a part of life. Today, we see them as a threat or enemy—one we will never be able to defeat.