

2 Study Area

2.1 Location and Boundary

Uttaradit is located 485 kilometers far from Bangkok by train. Uttaradit occupies an area of approximately 7,838.6 square kilometers (km²) or 4,899,125 Rais (1 Rai = 1,600 square meters). Uttaradit is surrounded by various provinces indicated in Figure 2.1-1.

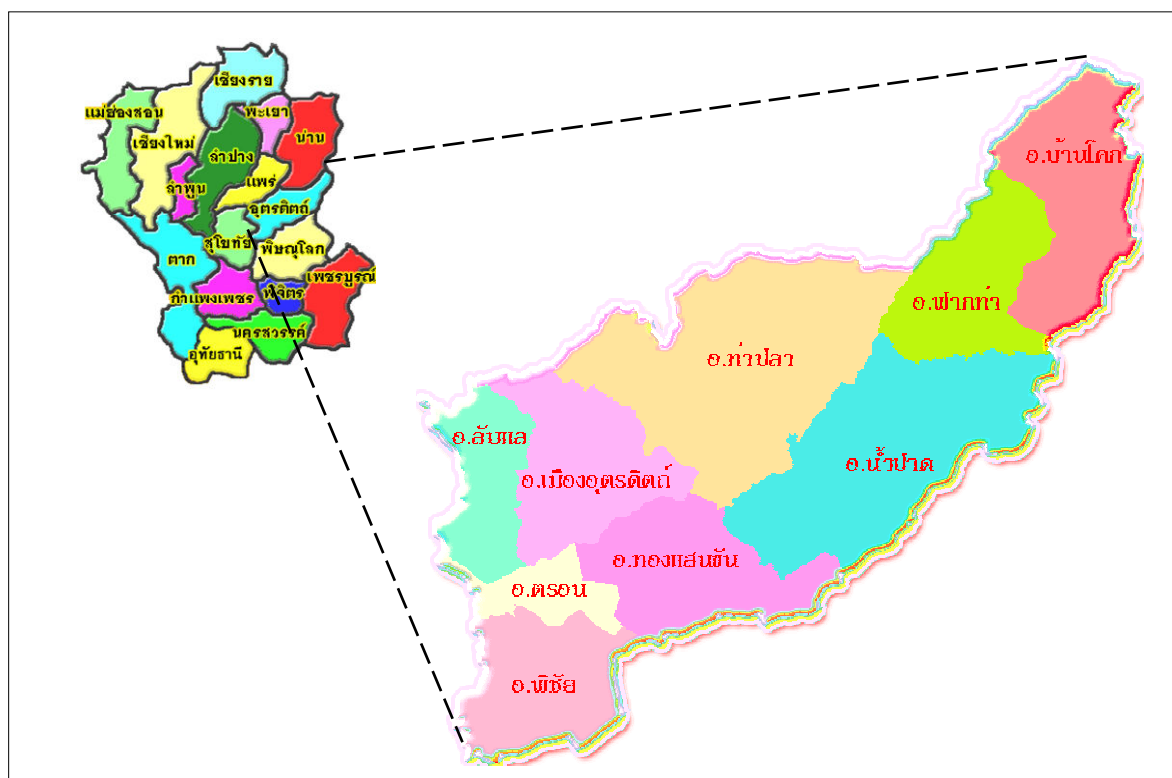


Figure 2.1-1 Map of Uttaradit

Source: Land Development Department.

The North: Connected to Phrae and Nan Province.

The South: Connected to Phitsanulok Province.

The East: Connected to Phitsanulok Province and Laos.

The West: Connected to Sukhothai Province.

2.1.1 Geography and Climate

(1) Geography

Geographical characteristics of Uttaradit can be divided into 3 parts: Plain area, Plain area between mountains and Mountainous area

- Nan River Plain area – located along Nan river banks and others small rivers connected with Nan river.
- Plain area between mountains – located next to Nan river plain area in Northern part and Eastern part of the province.
- Mountainous area – almost half of province area located in the North and East

(2) Climate

Climate of Uttaradit province is considered mainly as a hot and humid. The average temperature is 35 degree. The major seasons are as of Thailand's climates; summer, rainy, and winter.

- The Summer: It begins around February and end at around April.

-The Rainy Season: It begins around May and end at around October.

-The Winter: It begins around November and end at around January.

2.2 Social Characteristics

2.2.1 Administrative Management

According to the administrative deviation, Uttaradit province can be divided into 9 districts, 65 sub-districts, 523 villages, 1 city municipal, 15 sub-district municipals, and 63 sub-provincial administrative organizations.

2.2.2 Population

The total population of Uttaradit gaining from the department of provincial administration; The Ministry of Interior in 2006 was 467,482 people. The most crowded population area was the City district with density of 60 persons per square kilometers.

2.2.3 Religion, Culture, and Tradition

Most population of Uttaradit province is Buddhists. There are almost 300 temples and 14 churches.

2.3 Infrastructures

2.3.1 Education

There are 354 educational institutes in Uttaradit province with 5,813 teachers/lecturers, 113,478 students and ratio of the teacher/lectures per students as 1:19.

2.3.2 Public Health

There are 10 hospitals (640 beds) in 2006. The number of public health staffs are 142 doctors, 29 dentists, 777 nurses and 19 supporting staffs. There are 128,279 In-wards patients and 1,639,360 out-wards patients.

2.3.3 Electricity

Electricity for Uttaradit province is supplied from 3 sources, Sirikit Dam, Bhumibol Dam and Mae Moh power plant.

2.3.4 Water supply

Water supply is available in most urban area. For suburban area, there are community pipeline systems for supplying 30 families size, 50 families size and 100 families size, which completed 523 communities in 1994.

2.4 Economy

In 2004, Uttaradit economy is ranked to be 12th for northern region, and 56th for the whole country. Gross Provincial Product (GPP) of the province is 10,903 billion Baht or 0.28 percent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Major sectors for Uttaradit economy consists of agriculture 24%, fishery 13%, and business 17%. Main agricultural products are rice, cane, corns, and beans. Uttaradit is also famous in fruits, especially durian.

2.5 Tourist Attractions

Uttaradit is full of various tourist attractions ranging from the archeological sites, the historical sites, the educational sites, as well as the natural sites. The names and the locations of the sites can be found through the websites, or other publications.



Figure 2.5 – 1 Tourist Attractions

2.6 Uttaradit Municipality

2.6.1 Location

Uttaradit municipality is located in Amphoe Muang, Uttaradit. The area of the municipality is 8,431 rai or 13.49 square kilometers. The map of the municipality can be shown in Figure 2.6-1.

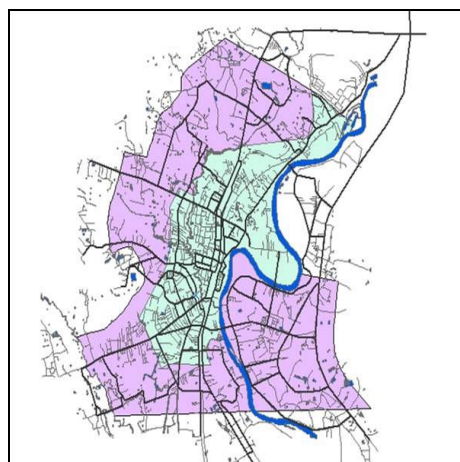


Figure 2.6 – 1 Map of Uttaradit municipality

Source : Department of public work and town and country planning

2.6.2 Population

The total population of Uttaradit municipality was 36,338 persons in 12,299 houses with hidden population of 5,230 persons. The population density is 2,611 persons per square kilometers.

2.6.3 Education

There are 6 educational institutes in Uttaradit municipality with 382 teachers/lecturers, 5,836 students, 2,953 male and 2,883 female.

2.6.4 Public Health

There is a hospital in municipality area with capacity of 580 beds. Meanwhile, there are 2 Public health service offices and 44 private clinics.

2.6.5 Economy

Most of people in Uttaradit municipality are in agricultural and service sectors. The average income is 48,000 Baht per year per person. There are 11 hotels, 12 banks, 1 theater and 205 restaurants.

2.6.6 Road network

30 roads are maintained by the municipality. The roads can be divided into:

- 12 Asphaltic roads
- 18 Concrete roads
- 11 Bridges
- 2 Pedestrian bridges