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Paper Title: **Yutithum Samarn Chan: Justice for Social Harmony**

Abstract:

There are many lessons to be learned from the ideals of Thailand's approach to juvenile justice, and from Thailand's unique experience with wall-free detention at Kanchanapisek. By increasing the focus on restorative justice, the Thai approach emphasizes rehabilitation and reconciliation over punishment and incapacitation. It prefers a community-centered approach, that requires many different parties to come together to determine the best possible outcome for each individual child, over a heavy-handed authoritative system that metes out a top-down judgment. By evaluating each child on an individual and personal basis, it appears to emphasize individuality and personhood over the anonymous robotic approach seen elsewhere in the world of juvenile justice. In short, by bringing the child, as an individual, back into the folds of the community and crafting an individualized, yet structured, approach and plan of action for each individual child, the Thai system of juvenile justice seeks to improve upon strict and system-based methods of dealing with juveniles who have committed a crime.

It is heartening to note that a general reliance on the principals that underscore the international standards, humanity, respect, and dignity, are credited to be the bedrock principals in the current Thai approach. What's more is that these principals are having their intended effect. The example of a successful detention facility without walls seems to affirm the notion that there are workable effective and creative approaches to humanely deal with the ever-growing problem of juvenile crime.

Our group sought to research the steps that Thailand was taking to improve juvenile detention. We wanted to study Thailand's juvenile alternative detention center and other progressive aspects of Thailand's juvenile justice system. Through our research and field interviews, we found that Thailand places a large emphasis on restorative justice in their juvenile justice system. Some examples of this include Family Community and Group Conferencing, sending juvenile to drug rehabilitation hospitals instead of detaining them, and an alternative detention center without walls, Kanchanapisek.