

## Abstract

This study is entitled *The Narratives from CPT Comrades: Forms and Emergence of Collective Memory*. It aims to understand forms and conditions of collective memory as well as social relations, resulting from participating in the Communist Party of Thailand (CPT) movement of villagers in Baan Khok Khao, Pa Kham District, and Buriram province during the past two decades. A case study of a commemorative celebration of a monument or stupa, held annually on every second Saturday of January in the village was conducted for this study. Ethnographic data were collected with the use of anthropological method through participant observation and indept interview.

This past year the stupa celebration consisted of several activities pertinent to the CPT, such as the stupa itself, comrade pavilion, stone inscription narrating revolutionary activities of former CPT cadres, and the celebration rituals. In contrast, there were some non-related CPT activities, such as Isan Tai folk museum, Luang Pu Koh pavilion celebration, childrens day celebration and various shops in the open market. Those related and non-related CPT activities help create fragmented remembrance and collective memory to different groups of people, especially those who are non-CPT cadres.

Narratives from those who once joined the CPT at different periods have signified the relationship of those stories with the current sociopolitical Thai context that has affected on their collective memory. Different interpretations based on their fragmented live experiences of and involvement with the CPT do not create social disparity among groups of villagers in the community. Instead, they have revived their collective memory of the CPT movement at different periods and history of the early settlement of their community. Besides, those narratives show that there is a close relationship between history and collective memory.

The study of collective memory thus does not aim only to understand each social event but also the sociopolitical context affecting the memory of owners. Therefore, the collective memory is an instrument to control or specify the direction to people in contemporary period to connect with their past.