Rooted in Water

By Vicky Wong

Thailand is an amphibious country, with the Chao Phraya River (แม่น้ำเจ้าพระยา) running through it. As also a Theravada Buddhist country, it holds deep reverence for the lotus flower, which grows in muddy water and symbolizes the enlightenment of the true Buddha nature, mind, and heart of the Thai people. This thread between water and the lotus flower runs through the landscape, where water is integrated into canals, fountains, and ponds in city parks, educational institutions, and structural elements of cities—such as waterways, pathways, and bridges—preserving the presence of water throughout urban spaces. These practices reflect resilience to climate change by serving as a constant reminder that water is essential to life; without it, there can be no vitality or beauty in the land or its people.

At the same time, this thread also reveals vulnerability, as the heavy dependence on water in daily life and cultural identity makes the country sensitive to droughts, floods, and other climate-related disruptions to water systems.

Amphawa Floating Market

ตลาดน้ำอัมพวา

Amphawa Floating Market

ตลาดน้ำอัมพวา