

V. ICH for Social Cohesion/ Sustainable Development

1. Basic Information

Takro is a traditional folk sport in Thailand. It was first mentioned in a memorial record written by a missionary named “The Bass” during the reign of King Narai the Great (Ayutthaya era: 1656 – 1688 A.D.). And also popular playing in every province of Thailand.

2. Explanation: abstract

Takro playing in Thai style can be divided as five playing styles:

- Takro Wong, or Takro Te Thon (circle takro). It is played in teams of two and the takro ball is played between the team mates trying to keep the ball from falling to the ground. A point is given for each contact with the ball before it falls to the ground and the team with the most hits wins.
- Takro Phlik Phlaeng (trick shot takro). Here a solitary player will show off his ability to keep the takro ball up in the air for as long as possible using all parts of his body.
- Takro Lot Huang, or Takro Lot Buang (ring or noose takro). A ring or noose is put above ground in the center of a team and acts as a target for the players. Points are given for each ball shot through the ring and the difficulty of the kicking technique.
- Takro Lot Kham Takhai (net takro). Two teams face each other across a net. Points are scored when one team manages to put the takro ball on the ground of the opposing team. The playing fields and playing rules are similar to volleyball.
- Takro Ching Thong (takro race). This is a race with a distance of around fifty meters in which the takro ball has to be held high using every part of the body

except hands while running. The fastest person the finish without letting the takro fall to the ground wins.

3. Roles for social cohesion / sustainable development

Presently Sepak Takro is recognized as the international playing style. It is promoted by both government and private sectors and is now the preferred playing style by both youth and general public and is the more popular than takro playing in Thai style. The Takro Association of Thailand is trying to promote traditional Thai “Takro Wong” and “Takro Lot Huang” to other countries and has altered its playing regulations. These altercations might be beneficial to popularize the traditional Thai takro styles abroad but it may affect the unique identity of traditional Thai takro.