

Pattaya Plans Monorail – TTR Weekly, January 19th 2011

“Pattaya city will own the system,” said Mr Visanu. “But we will open the management contract to private companies through a bid process to find the right company to run the line.”

When asked for concession details, he said it was still three years away so there was time.

“Sure there are many companies from many nations showing an interest in this project but for now we have to wait for the bidding details to be approved by the city before we can provide more details,” he added.

The new Marina Pier, will feature the latest technology in managing a mooring system for boats and parking spaces for cars. Work should start next month and take a year to complete.

According to Mr Visnu, the pier will help solving the lack of moorings for boat and parking spaces for cars.

The project will cost Bt735 million and once completed will be able to accommodate 370 speed boats and 400 cars.

He also added that the project will help improve safety levels for tourists boarding boats, while helping to solve environment issues. He did not elaborate on how that would be achieved, but he said a system to deal with oil spills from speedboat will end oil slicks on the surface of the sea at the southern end of the bay.

Other projects are planned to deal with environmental issues such as a project to turn Larn Island into a day trip reserve where overnight stays will not be allowed. The city will also study a fresh water pipeline to be built under the sea from the mainland to the island, a distance of around 8 km, to reduce the cost of transporting fresh water by boat.

The monorail project was first introduced by Pattaya City mayor, Itthiphol Khunploem, when he ran for election in 2008. According to the original plan the train system would improve the environment for tourism by reducing traffic congestion and helping to make transfers less troublesome for visitors who cannot speak Thai.

Pattaya welcomes around six million tourists a year, but has a resident population of just 107,538 people and 500,000 of non-residents who work there but are registered elsewhere in the country. When the tourist population is taken into account a mass transport system proposal becomes feasible for the city financially.