

Heritage Conservation a tool for Sustainable Urban Regeneration: A Case study of Kaohsiung and Tainan, Taiwan

Introduction

Most of the world's major cities have been facing the pressure of new development and redevelopment due to their rapid socio-economic development during the last few decades. This rapid increase in urban regeneration has created problems for the heritage in these cities. Every new development and redevelopment is going to tear down the old fabric and socio-economic character of towns and cities. The urban growth planned to improve urban life, affected the social, cultural and environmental fabric. After the evolution of term "*sustainability*" urban planners, developers and policy makers have started thinking to create a balance between development and heritage conservation in the coming times. On the other hand rapid increase in the socio-economic conditions has also changed the people's aspirations and expectations of their common future. The local community and people have also shown their concerns about heritage conservation and its loss with the passage of time.

This creates a "Win Win" situation between heritage conservation and urban regeneration. Urban development was not only affecting the city fabric but also destroying the vernacular built environment, cultural values and collective memory of habitants. Therefore urban planners and policy makers thought about some practical way to solve this crucial problem. That is how to create a balance between the new development and the old urban fabric and townscape. How to retrieve the collective memory of community that can be a bridge between their ancestors and coming generations, as well?

This paper aims to study the theoretical and practical aspects of heritage conservation and sustainable urban regeneration. What role heritage conservation and sustainable urban regeneration can play for sustainable development and how? This paper is mainly divided into two parts. The first part will explain the theoretical context of heritage conservation and sustainable urban regeneration. It will also explain the role of heritage conservation and sustainable urban regeneration for sustainable development.

The second part is about the practical aspect of heritage conservation and sustainable urban regeneration. This part will explain how heritage conservation and urban regeneration have been used to achieve sustainable development. Taiwan has been selected as a case study to explain the concepts because of its best practice for heritage conservation. A comprehensive plan is introduced by involving, motivating, educating and encouraging the local community to give ideas, work and think of their heritage. Government is trying to integrate heritage conservation, urban regeneration and tourism in the broader policy of urban planning.

Objectives

This paper aims at explaining the idea of heritage conservation and sustainable urban regeneration: a way forward for sustainable development. The basic objectives of this paper are as follow

- To study the role of heritage conservation for sustainable urban regeneration.
- To study the role of heritage conservation and urban regeneration for sustainable development.
- To study the practice of heritage conservation for sustainable development in cities of Taiwan: Kaohsiung and Tainan.

Heritage conservation

The term heritage has different meanings to different context. World Heritage Convention classifies heritage into two categories:

Cultural heritage: a monument, group of buildings or site of historical, aesthetic, archaeological, scientific, ethnological or anthropological value.

Natural heritage: includes outstanding physical, biological, and geographical features, different kind of plants or animals species and areas with significant scientific or aesthetic value those could be best for conservation (UNESCO, 1972)

This paper mainly focuses on cultural heritage which includes both tangible and intangible heritage. Heritage can bridge a link between different generations with their ancestors. Hence heritage is a source of social attachment and sense of belongings.

Heritage conservation refers to the protection of heritage from damages since heritage is non-renewable in nature. Sustainable heritage conservation is *“an approach to conservation that preserves the best of the heritage but does so without imposing insupportable costs and which affects a rational balance between conservation and change”* (Delafons, 1997). The basic concept of conserving a building is to protect the built and cultural heritage (Nasser, 2003). This can significantly maintain social capital and generate economic resources as well as can strengthen the sense of living place and sense of belongings.

Sustainable Urban Regeneration

Urban regeneration involves comprehensive attempts to retrieve the decline in urban areas. The decline could be in the form of physical, social and/or economic functions in the urban fabric. The regeneration process is thus an integral part of urban planning which aims at reconciling the decline in the urban society and townscape.

The very nature of urban regeneration is interventionist activities (Roberts, 2000, p.21). It could be operated through various modes: by demolition and redevelopment, through refurbishment for the current use or conversion for a new use (Tiesdell *et al*, 1996, p.31). But these two modes can not assure the sustainable and vibrant urban life and coherent city fabric.

Long-term urban regeneration should thus incorporate the concept of sustainability as Roberts (2000, p.17) defines sustainable urban regeneration as

Comprehensive and integrated vision and action which leads to the resolution of urban problems and which seeks to bring about a lasting environment in the economic, physical, social and environmental condition of an area that has been subjected to change.

Comprehensive policy measures are required to deal with the crucial problem of dilapidated urban fabric and townscape to bring back the sense of living place to secure the social coherence, economic efficiency and environmental sustainability in urban areas. The comprehensive policies for sustainable urban regeneration can be attained by integrating heritage conservation in the broader framework of urban regeneration.

Heritage Conservation, Urban Regeneration in the context of Sustainable Development

World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED) defines sustainable development as “*development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs*” (WCED, 1987). This emphasis for a balance and integrated urban growth by utilizing minimum resources for dynamic results of sustainable development.

During the preparatory meetings for the URBAN21 Conference (Berlin, July 2000) the following definition was developed to define sustainable urban development:

"Improving the quality of life in a city, including ecological, cultural, political, institutional, social and economic components without leaving a burden on the future generations. A burden which is the result of a reduced natural capital and an excessive local debt. Our aim is that the flow principle that is based on equilibrium of material and energy and also financial input/output plays a crucial role in all future decisions upon the development of urban areas."

Heritage conservation can help to visualize the diversity of urban form and to explore the cultural, political and historical character of the urban areas. Heritage conservation can also support to dig out some crucial incidents and events that might have brought major changes in the development trends, urban fabric of the city and the townscape. In a way the conservation of heritage is a crucial factor in the long-term prosperity of a city. Furthermore the involvement of community in the process of heritage conservation can bring sustainable results.

Sustainable urban regeneration is a comprehensive process which deals with the social, economic and environmental vitalization at the same time for a long term urban vibrancy. Sustainable urban regeneration refers to a process that will help reconstruct or rehabilitate the urban fabric, revitalize community-based economy and built social capital (Ng, *et. al*, 2001). It not only deals with social equity and justice issues, but also promotes and enhances diversity in culture, economy and built form (Ng, *et. al*, 2001).

Heritage conservation is a broader and holistic term which needs broader policy for better results by involving the community for getting the sustainability principles. Actually community participation increases the effectiveness and can initiate transparent measures to control the regeneration process. Effectiveness in this context is measured in terms of how well the process serves to solve urban problems. Heritage is a catalyst for sustainable urban regeneration. A comprehensive policy for heritage conservation by involving the community as a partner and integrating the heritage conservation in the process of urban regeneration which can lead a way to sustainable development. The results of sustainable development can be attained by achieving social coherence, economic viability and environmental up gradation by the comprehensive policy for sustainable urban regeneration.

Heritage Conservation in Taiwan

The conservation of heritage in Taiwan is the evidence of efforts made by the Taiwan government. Taiwan government is working on a comprehensive policy framework for heritage conservation by integrating heritage conservation in the urban regeneration. The Taiwan government is visioning heritage conservation as a tool for sustainable tourism not only to expose their social and cultural image but also to have economic efficiency as well as effective environmental considerations. The government's policy and their vision for city development support their arguments to achieve sustainable development.

In Taiwan, Cultural Heritage Preservation Law provides a territorial legal framework for heritage conservation. Mainly the policy initiatives and implementation mechanism experienced by Tainan and Kaohsiung being the largest cities in Taiwan will be explored. Tainan and Kaohsiung share similar institutional frameworks. But both the cities have different city vision and development pressure. The substantial approaches used by both cities for heritage conservation can be differentiated in a way that Kaohsiung has a comprehensive approach and city government is trying to incorporate heritage conservation into overall city planning, while Tainan is working on a framework with which NGOs initiatives for heritage conservation is commendable.

Legal & Institutional Framework for Heritage Conservation in Taiwan

Cultural Heritage Preservation Law was prepared by the Ministry of the Interior of Taiwan, which came into effect in 1982 and is applicable to the whole Taiwan. The Law is the only mechanism that is regulating and providing legal framework for heritage protection. The law is aiming to ensure that heritage in Taiwan can be saved from demolition and for their continuous purposeful use. The law is supported with conservation guidance and enforcement rules to enact the policies in its true sense.

In the legal framework, heritages were classified into 3-level grading system. In 1997 the Law was revised by adding new Article 27 which stipulates regulation regarding evaluation and classification of historical relics. The law states that there shall be three categories of historical relics: National, Municipal and Counties (Cities) (Ministry of the Interior, Taiwan, 2005).

Thus, there are two classification systems in Taiwan: Grade 1, Grade 2 and Grade 3 refer to the historic relics designated before the amendment of Article 27 of the Cultural Property Preservation Law; National Relic, Provincial (Municipal) Relic and County (City) Relic refer to the historic relics designated after the Article amendment in 1997. All new relics are to be classified under the new system, while the old graded heritage will not be reclassified into new system.

National, Municipal and Counties (Cities) are to be designated by the Ministry of the Interior, special municipal governments and county (city) governments (Ministry of the Interior, Taiwan, 2005). According to the Law, the local governments are responsible for examining, deciding and proclaiming the monuments. However, it should be noted that at least five heritage experts are required to be invited for examination and making decision. Then the final decision is required to report to the Ministry of the Interior for further examination.

By the end of 2003, over Taiwan there were 24 Grade I relics, 50 Grade II relics, and 222 Grade III relics, with a total 296 statutory graded relics. In accordance to article 27 of the Law, in addition there were 16 National Relics, 74 Provincial (Municipal) Relics, and 169 County (City) Relics, totaling up 259 heritages designated (Ministry of the Interior, Taiwan, 2005).

Case Study: Kaohsiung, Taiwan

Kaohsiung is the major port in Taiwan situated on the southwest coast of Taiwan, the second largest city, comprising an area of 153.6 square kilometer with eleven districts, accommodates a population of 1.5 million (Kaohsiung City Government, 2005).

The city grew up from a small village in the 17th century. The Dutch established a fort there in 1624 but were expelled by the Chinese in 1661. In the late 1670s, the town grew dramatically

with immigrants from the mainland China. Kaohsiung was first opened as a port during the 1680s. In 1895 Taiwan was ceded to Japan as part of the Treaty of Shimonoseki. During the time of the Japanese Occupation, ambitious plans for port construction and urban development were implemented (Wikipedia, 2005).

In 1920, Kaohsiung Town was set up, which was turned into the city of Kaohsiung in 1924. In 1979, Kaohsiung was elevated as a Special Municipality which is now administered directly by the central government of the Republic of China (Kaohsiung Government, 2005).

In 2000, Kaohsiung ranked 14th among the best Asia's cities by the journal Asiaweek. Going beyond a port and an industrial city, Kaohsiung has been developing a strong vision in its city identity and cultural distinctiveness, by exposing its built heritage.

Heritage Conservation in Kaohsiung

Built Heritage in Kaohsiung

Kaohsiung has a history spanning over three centuries and the city possesses a range of heritages including residential houses, study houses, temples, forts, government office buildings. By the end of 2003, there were 16 places of designated historical relics in Kaohsiung in accordance with the Cultural Property Preservation Law (Cultural Affairs Bureau, Kaohsiung, 2005).

Table I - Current Heritage in Kaohsiung

Classification	No. of Heritage	Examples
Grade I	1	The Old Gate of Fengshan
Grade II	2	Chichin Fortress
Grade III	5	Confucius Temple
National Relic	1	Zhongdou Tangrong Brick Factory
Provincial (Municipal) Relic	0	----
County (City) Relic	7	Sankuaicuo Train Station

Source: Adapted from Cultural Affairs Bureau, 2005

Apart from the designated historical relics, there are also a number of historical architectures, on which the government has put great efforts on preservation and conservation. Kaohsiung Municipal History Museum and Kaohsiung Train Station are examples of this kind. The former was a municipal office and in 1998 the 50-year-old building has been turned into a history museum.

The later is a mixed Chinese-Japanese-Western styled architecture built in 1938. Due to advancement in railway development in the city, the train station became abandoned. The

government, however, still put lots of effort to conserve the building aiming to strengthen the social cohesion. Kaohsiung Train Station is a great success of the city.

Institutional and Administration Framework

In City Government of Kaohsiung, the Second Division of the Cultural Affairs Bureau is responsible for conservation of cultural assets among which built heritage is a key category. Heritage preservation and conservation through recording, research, planning and reuse, as well as fostering public awareness of Kaohsiung heritage fall into the scope of duties of the Division (Cultural Affairs Bureau, Kaohsiung, 2005).

Kaohsiung abides by the Cultural Property Preservation Law as well as its enforcement rules which were promulgated to establish specific provisions regarding the procedures for preservation, maintenance of historical relics and necessary guidance for this restoration. In the meantime, the Kaohsiung City Government has established a heritage examination committee and a set of guideline for the work of the committee.

Vision of Creating Heritage

According to Mr. Lin, every infrastructure project is an artwork of urban aesthetics, which could inspire public participation and recognition for the change of the urban landscape. The vision of the Public Works Bureau is not only for the provision of infrastructure to the city but also to produce new agenda of city transition and reform. One of the means to achieve the vision is through incorporation of heritage conservation into city planning as well as urban design.

Besides the designated historic relics and some other historical architecture city government is proactively linking up physical fabrics with the intangible cultural and social values within the community. In this sense, landmark buildings are turned into 'heritage' of cultural and social significance with a creative strategy of city marketing in order to promote city pride among the citizens as well as to the world.

In Running Water Park the city government is linking up physical fabrics with the sense of place by cultural and social values. There is a gigantic water tower in the park constructed in 1960, which has been a familiar landmark in the area since then. In this regard, the government makes use of its historic nature and has turned the water tower into



**Water Tower a Sense of Place
Source: Public Works Bureau,
Kaohsiung City Government
(2005)**

a district focal point.

Innovative Conservation

Kaohsiung Train Station was built in 1940 in a typical imperial style. The Station not only represents the image of the city, but remains as a memory for the passengers and Kaohsiung citizens. However, because of the railway development in the city, the Station had been put in a dilemma between being preserved and demolished. In this struggle, the Kaohsiung City Government finally decided to move the Station to an adjacent site aiming at preserving the building while preceding the railway development in the meantime.



Kaohsiung Train Station a City Image

Source: Public Works Bureau, Kaohsiung City Government (2005)

which is also believed to be the most historical and economic solution, even though it has cost NT\$1 100,000,000 for the move and will cost another NT\$100,000,000 for the move-back seven years later.

In 2002, the government moved the Station building to 82.6m southeast of its original site.

The decision is innovative to fulfil the two aims,

After being moved to a new location, the Kaohsiung Train Station is still functioning as an exhibition centre entitled 'Vision for Kaohsiung' rather than a train station. The historical building has been used for displaying ideas for urban development through exhibition for the future plans of the city. Complementary to the moved train station, the government constructed a bridge connecting the old station to the new one, where the bridge is also a public art project on which people could safely look at the construction site of the new railway.

The goal of this project is to provide a point of reference for people in the changing city. From the new setting of the train station, through the innovation reuse of the historical building, a space for reflection, observation and experiencing time and space has been created, which also transform anxieties about changes and uncertainties into positive anticipation of the future.

Government-led Public Participation Program

The Kaohsiung City Government encourages public participation in the planning for the city, in which their belief is to involve the community in the city-making process so that through the participation; the community could build up stronger sense of belonging and their pride of the city.

One of the public participation programs is to invite architects to work as volunteers for proposing community projects, for which the government will provide funding. The scheme of community architects, which is first-ever in Taiwan, has been implementing in Kaohsiung for three years and currently there are 75 architects working in the team (Public Works Bureau, Kaohsiung, 2005).



Community Architects working Group

Source: Public Works Bureau, Kaohsiung City Government (2005)

Projects by community architects mainly focus on improving cityscape through the joint effort among the community, some of which involving heritage conservation. House of the Old Banyan Tree is a successful project. An abandoned house right beside a landmark banyan tree has been renovated for public use, where in the project the most important achievement is the successful co-ordination among the government, the professionals and the locals (Public Works Bureau, Kaohsiung, 2005).

Case Study: Tainan, Taiwan

Tainan is located in the south western part of Taiwan and in the north of Kaohsiung City. Being the fourth largest city in Taiwan, Tainan has an area of about 174 square kilometer with population of 750,000. The city is famous for heritage because of its long history of development (Wikipedia, 2005b).

Tainan is the island's oldest city which was settled in 1590, which was once under Dutch colonial rule from 1624 to 1661. It became an ancient capital of Taiwan after Cheng Cheng-kung took over the island from Dutch. In 1684, the Qing Empire conquered Taiwan and established Taiwan Fu (Taiwan Government) as the first official local government in Taiwan. The city was later renamed as Tainan Fu in 1885 when Taiwan was established as a province. Thus, the name 'Tainan' is derived from such a history (Wikipedia, 2005b).

After 100 years, the Qing dynasty was defeated by Japan and Tainan was ceded to Japan (Wikipedia, 2005b). The essence of the culture accumulated during the last four hundred years has made Tainan an irreplaceable cultural capital. Taking its historical and cultural

advantages, Tainan is on its way to regaining its historical prominence and glory.

Heritage Conservation in Tainan

Built Heritage in Tainan

Tainan has a long historical development and thus there is a range of heritage found in the city including temples, forts, government office building and court. By the end of 2004, there were over 100 places of designated historical relics in Tainan under to the Cultural Property Preservation Law, including 7 Grade I, 8 Grade II, 38 Grade III and 2 National relics, 50 County (City) relics and 1 Historic relic.

Table II - Current Heritage in Tainan

Classification	No. of Heritage	Examples
Grade I	7	Tainan Confucius Temple
Grade II	8	Tainan District Court
Grade III	38	Anping Fortress
National Relic	2	Old Tainan Meteorological Station
Provincial (Municipal) Relic	0	---
County (City) Relic	50	Old Tainan Prefecture Hall

Source: Adapted from Tainan City Government, 2004

Beside the statutory designated built heritage, there are some historic buildings of historic, social and cultural significance, such as Koxinga's Shrine, while on the other hand, some old buildings are adaptively re-used, for instance for operating traditional tantze noodle.

Institutional and Administration Framework

Heritage conservation in Tainan falls into the scope of work of the Cultural Affairs Bureau. Under the Bureau, there are five Divisions, including the Cultural policy Division, the Cultural property Division, the Cultural Development Division, the Historic Sites Preservation Division and the Museum Division.

Built heritage is defined as part of cultural properties, while the Cultural Policy Division constitutes cultural policy and rules which covers heritage conservation policy in Tainan, the Historic Sites Preservation Division is the major section responsible for executing conservation works, including (Cultural Affairs Bureau, Tainan, 2005b):

Like Kaohsiung, Tainan abides by the Cultural Property Preservation Law as well as its enforcement rules. The Tainan City Government has also established a heritage examination committee and a set of guideline for the work of the committee.

Specific Focuses

Area Based Conservation

Heritage Conservation and Provision of Open Space

Heritage conservation in Tainan is mainly implemented by an area-based approach, instead of performing conservation of individual historical building or heritage. Tainan City Government has integrated heritage conservation with the provision of open space or parks in the city. Open space or parks are found adjoining locations of heritage, for instance, Anping Fort, Eternal Golden Castle and Confucian Temple.

Locations of heritage in Tainan are mostly found in the city centre, which is enclosed with 'emerald necklace'. The city centre is surrounded by traffic circles (East Gate Traffic Circle, Siao-Si-Men and Si-Men Traffic Circle). Greening and open space are found with these traffic circles and in the middle of the city centre, there is a major traffic circle with the provision of a park (Tang-de-jhang Commemoration Park). Radial road network is designed for linking the major and the surrounding traffic circles (Tainan City Government, 2005a) and therefore, an urban fabric with the pattern like 'emerald necklace' is formed. Different traffic circles are connected and one may say that heritage in the city centre are connected with each other by 'emerald necklace'.

Cultural Parks

Tainan City Government has adopted the concept of 'Cultural Park' for heritage conservation. Under this concept, heritage, historical buildings and old streets are integrated with restaurants, souvenir shops and cultural activities into a historic region (Cultural Affairs Bureau, 2005c). There are 3 conceptual principles and one of them is urban fabric. The unique historical character of the city should be strengthened and urban fabric and spatial pattern should be protected. Besides, visual corridors of heritage should be protected. The third principle is sustainable development. Heritage and historical buildings should be conserved and revitalized. Besides, the surrounding environment of the heritage should also be regenerated and revitalized. Sustainable heritage conservation can also be achieved by allowing public participation during the process as well as the mode of operation of 'build, operate and transfer' (Cultural Affairs Bureau, Tainan, 2005a).

There are 3 cultural parks in the city and they are, Confucian Temple Park, Chihkan Park and Anping Park. Regarding Confucian Temple Park, heritage conservation of the Confucian temple is integrated with the organization of art and cultural activities such as exhibition of paintings. The government also repaved the pedestrian pathways and conducted improvement work of lighting, landscaping and greening in the cultural park. On the other hand, in Chihkan Park, besides the conservation of Chikan Tower, areas nearby the tower are revitalized by the regeneration of the old streets and business activities like restaurants and shops. The local community is involved in the conservation and regeneration work.

Concerning Anping Park, there is public-private partnership in the conservation of different heritage. Different heritage are revitalized by the existence of cafes, open space, museums as well as cultural activities in nearby areas.

On the whole, there is the emphasis of the integration of heritage conservation and urban revitalization for the concept of cultural park. Urban fabric and visual corridors of heritage should be respected throughout the implementation of heritage conservation. More importantly, principles of sustainable development should be incorporated with heritage conservation. Heritage conservation can be socially sustainable if the local community can involve in the conservation and revitalization work. Environmental sustainability of heritage conservation can be achieved by conserving the heritage and heritage conservation can fulfill economic sustainability by means of revitalization activities, like cultural activities in nearby regions.

Cultural Zones

Tainan City Government has established 6 cultural zones for the implementation of comprehensive heritage conservation. Heritage conservation is incorporated with urban regeneration as well as revitalization. They are Chihkan Cultural Zone, Confucian Temple Cultural Zone, National Anping Harbour Historic Park, Taijian Ecological & Cultural Zone, Minsheng Green Park Cultural Zone and Old Five Channels Cultural Zone.

It is noticeable that the heritage conservation and urban revitalization projects in Old Five Channels Cultural Zone have resulted in fruitful outcomes. Old Five Channels Cultural Zone is the region where prosperous trading activities were found in the past and the development of the region marked a golden page in the history of Tainan. One may discover the existence of characters and features of old streets nowadays. In the past 10 years, the construction of Hai An Road led to destruction of buildings as well as urban fabric in the area. Nevertheless, after the start of the usage of the road, the region has been revitalized. Hai An Road has become an art street with cafes and restaurants.

On the other hand, local communities in the region have carried out heritage revitalization for preserving local culture. They aim at revitalizing the local culture, promoting cultural industries by engaging in the revitalization process. These are fulfilled by the establishment of 5 different types of centers in the region, including life culture centre, historical information centre, healthy life centre, community learning centre and traditional art centre (Cultural Affairs Bureau, 2004). The establishment of the cultural zone facilitates the integration of heritage conservation and urban revitalization.

Urban Planning and Heritage Conservation: The An-Pin Canal

To a certain extent, heritage conservation in Tainan is integrated with heritage conservation and one of the examples is the improvement work of the An-Pin Canal. The construction of the canal was completed in the early 20th Century and the improvement project of the canal has been started since the 2000s. The project includes re-pavement of pedestrian pathways, greening of promenade and improvement of lighting can facilitate the development of National Anping Harbour Historic Park (Tainan City Government, 2005b). It is predicted that the improvement of the 'blue string' can motivate the development of heritage conservation in Anping. In this case, urban planning helps the achievement of heritage conservation in the city.



Chihkan Park

Source: Authors

NGOs and Public Participation

Tainan is a good example for studying the participation of the NGOs and the general public in heritage conservation. People in Tainan are much more concerned about their historical and cultural properties. The establishment of the Foundation of Historic City Conservation and Regeneration can indicate the role of NGOs in conserving heritage. The main objective of the foundation is to promote the conservation and adaptive re-use of the cultural properties or heritage (FHCCR, 2005). In the vision of the foundation, heritage conservation is difficult to be carried out without public support. Therefore, they have put in efforts to stimulate public awareness in heritage conservation. Their main tasks mainly emphasize educating the public to treasure cultural properties, promoting academic researches on conservation and regeneration of historical buildings and environment, as well as encouraging students to conduct relative studies on conservation so as to establish a strong basis on cultural properties.

Community participation is highly encouraged in heritage conservation in Tainan and this can be shown from the example of Old Five Channels Cultural Zone. The local people in the region want to preserve the intangible cultural heritage within the district. At the very beginning, the level of community participation was very low. However, in course of time it is increasing gradually. Both tangible and intangible and also local cultural heritage are focused here. For encouraging the community participation, a ceremony was held to gather local people to let them know the redevelopment of the area. Regular meetings were held and workshops were organized to educate the people and stimulate their awareness on heritage

sites and values. Besides, as mentioned in the discussion of the Old Five Channels Cultural Zone in the previous section, the local community actively participates in heritage conservation and urban revitalization by establishing 5 centers in the region.

Conclusion

Heritage conservation is a broader and holistic term which needs broader and comprehensive policies for protection of collective memories. Although the legal and institutional framework plays an important role in the conservation of vernacular built environment and cultural values but community has a key role in achieving sustainable results in the urban development. The community involvement gives more diverse policies, open and transparent procedures and a strong sense of belonging and ownership to their ancestor's social cultural and historical values.

Taiwan governments is doing a lot for conserving their physical, cultural and historical relics at National, Municipal and Counties (Cities) level for a wider spread of their vernacular identity of Chinese culture. The governments efforts to involve the community and motivate other stakeholders like NGOs, community professionals and volunteers to work for sustaining their heritage that could be a symbol of pride and give a sense of belonging and ownership to the coming generations.

The main objective of Taiwan government is to diversify the cultural activities in all cities. They are trying to make each city self sufficient and indigenous, utilizing the local resources accessing the local need and requirements that can support decisions making process. Involving the local community and different interest groups to work for heritage conservation because the local authorities and local community can better assess their cultural and historical identities. The comprehensive policy for heritage conservation by involving every member of community and integrating the heritage conservation in the process of urban regeneration is making its way to success. Conserving the heritage for sustainable tourism is also a major breakthrough in the policies. Overall vision and policy initiatives of government by involving the heritage conservation, urban regeneration in the main stream of city planning can result in achieving sustainable development.

Notes

NT\$ is the currency used in Taiwan Republic of China. One NT\$ equals approximately to US\$ 0.0313986.

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