

COMPLETION REPORT

Bridge the Gap between Local Governments and Communities: A study on Local-level Cultural Resources Management in historical preservation district in Japan

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Since 1795, 98 districts in Japan were selected as the Important Historic Preservation Districts (Juuyo dentouteki kenzoubutsugun hozon chiku [Juudenken]). The system for protection of cultural properties enables the local-level government to decide a "Preservation District" and allow developing a preservation plan based on the local ordinance. Moreover, the well-organized bottom-up networking, which is the group for community development activity on the basis of local participation, plays an important role in raising awareness and conducting several preservation projects in their own town.

Fifty groups of Non-Profit Organizations and active citizens, who were engaged in an advance stage of community participation in Juudenken, were selected to be questionnaire surveyed and interviewed. The results then were analyzed using STAT program (SPSS 16.0). Series of consequent significant variables were interpreted by public process mapping in relating to conservation participatory. Each variable shown its own significant meanings and yet contributed credible in-directed association to community involvement.

To prioritize the community involvement-centric networking, all associations had been identified as a hierarchical ordering in 7 rings layer in corresponding to statistical analysis. The network mapping of associated signification indicated that balancing of the local economy and technical conservation was a big clue in generating community involvement. When consider why local dweller participated in the activities, indeed, increasing of economic power and social awareness on environment and community improvement reached the two highest numbers among responders. This data from the survey supported a sustainable social and economic development ideology that a reflection on the changing role of urban historic areas and on the way to synergize socio-economic development and conservation strategies is necessary, in order to identify the new policies and the resource stream necessary to maintain the historic urban landscape in a sustainable way.

However, the ensemble depicted the richness of the processes through a great variety of variables where the immediate layer seems to be more crucial to community involvement than the outer one. However, no single variable alone could generate participation. A serial consequence networking was considered as a part of public process in achieving community involvement.

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