

COMPLETION REPORT

The Role of Japanese Aesthetic Concepts in Environmental Conservation -Focusing on the Philosophical Aesthetics which is accustomed in Japanese traditional arts or custom associated with the appreciation of nature such as 'Japanese Garden', 'Cha no Yu', 'Haiku' and 'Bonsai'-

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The main objective of the research is to explore the role of Japanese aesthetic concepts in environmental conservation of today's world. The research focused on the two main concepts such as the 'climate' (*fūdo*) in Watsuji Tetsurō's cultural theory and the 'everyday aesthetics' in Saitō Yuriko's environmental philosophy. In order to achieve the aim of the research, it is specifically focused on some Japanese traditions which are associated with the appreciation of nature such as 'Nihon Teien', 'Cha no Yu', 'Haiku', and 'Bonsai' from the standpoint of the Philosophical Aesthetics. In the nowadays' environmental issues, we cannot ignore the crucial role of aesthetic appreciation of nature because of its indispensable factor for awakening the human conscience with regard to ethical responsibility to the natural environment.

The main aesthetic concepts highlighted in this research are *wabi-sabi*, *mono no aware*, and *mujō* which reflect the uniqueness of Japanese way of thinking namely, 'syncretism'. The aesthetic concepts in Japanese culture are ordinarily interrelated with their 'nature appreciation spirit' as their cultural gene. For that reason, the Japanese people easily to adopt the 'natural objects' or 'natural phenomenon' into their everyday life, but not only as it is, with the deep philosophical contemplation of the law of nature. In addition, the Japanese aesthetic concepts such as *wabi-sabi*, closely related with the sense of 'eco-friendly', and it can lead the people to be aware and practice of 'eco-friendly' life style. In other words, the tendency of appreciating or experiencing aesthetic taste in everyday life is closely connected with 'a culture of recycling' which is most prominent in Japan rather than other countries. Hence, it can lead the people to practice some important moral principles of nowadays' human being towards 'natural environment'. For example, the ethical concept of 'frugality' in environmental ethics necessarily relates to the keeping old things and reuses them or doing 'recycle' called 'a culture of recycling' against 'consumerism'. It also encourages the tendency of 'co-existence' between nature and culture or human being by the sense of 'eco-aesthetics'.

In order to explore the role of Japanese aesthetics in environmental conservation and sustainable development by means of its significant conception 'nature appreciation' and 'aesthetics in everyday life', there are five chapters to support for achieving the aim of this work. This research is comprised of five main chapters:

Introduction

Chapter-I The Role of Environmental Aesthetics in Environmental Conservation and Sustainable Development

Chapter-II Reconsideration of the Concept of "Climate" (*Fūdo*) in Watsuji Tetsurō's Cultural Theory

Chapter-III Reconsideration of the Conception of "Everyday Aesthetics"

Chapter-IV Nature Appreciation Thoughts in Japanese Tradition

Chapter-V Nature Appreciation Tendencies in Japanese Aesthetic Concepts

Conclusion

Hopefully, this research will contribute to deepen the understanding of the Japanese culture and their significant ways of thinking which is noteworthy to apply some innovative ideas of environmental conservation strategies through the new approach of environmental aesthetics.

Publication of the Results of Research Project:

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| Presenter | : Lé Lé Wynn (Professor & Head) |
| Thesis (Name of Journal and its Date, Title and Author of Thesis, etc.) | |
| -It will be scheduled to submit to the “Universities’ Research Journal” 2017, Vol.10 (but it will usually be issued one year later 2018). | |
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