

## **Conservation of historic buildings for promoting sustainability in future tourism development of the Nan Province.**

As it is known, Architects cover planning, designing, space adjustment to reflect the functionality, technical usage, social, environmental and aesthetic feel within the physical landscape. By looking at the architecture around us we can see how, in the past, human beings lived their lives. Nan architecture is an excellent example of this. We can discover a lot about Nan's rich history through the buildings in the city. Back in 1850 to approximately 1970 we learned how creative Nan architects and designers were. We were able to see the innovation, the manipulation and coordination between the available materials and the technology at that time. This combination is between Sukho-Thai and Sino-Portuguese architecture is called "Nan Colonial style". We can look at some of the buildings and it will give us a clear picture of the history of the Nan city. As the story from the past unfolds giving us the idea of how the structures were created.

Over the years, Nan has tried to submit a proposal to be registered as a World Cultural Heritage City. Nan has its own unique artistic achievements that influence the development of

architecture, art, urban planning and landscape architecture. Nan was presented to the World Heritage Committee in Thailand in 2014 as a Tentative List under the "Prehistorical and Cultural Site in Nan" but unfortunately it wasn't registered as a World Heritage city. This decision results in the limits of urban construction to be reduced and disappear. Old building demolition occurs and there remain only some important buildings such as Temple, School and the Noble Houses.

In recognizing the value of local artistry and social responsibility to be involved in conserving cultural heritage, a co-ordination between local community leaders, academicians, private business owners and government officials from the ministry of tourism and culture occurs. The meeting to finding a solution and method for Nan's local people, private organizations and government agencies which presently own the old heritage buildings can help conserve and use the buildings in the correct way. Renovation of the old heritage buildings in the way that harmonizes with local architecture art and landscape.

From the beginning of this co-operation with the support from Designated Area for Sustainable Tourism Administration

(DASTA) and Nan's Provincial Cultural Council leads to the establishment of Nan Old Building Conservation Fund. The objectives are to support, collect and publish information regarding Nan Architecture and local art together with the researching of new knowledge. Therefore becoming a resource center for conservation, development and renovation of old heritage buildings. Also using a suitable technology for building to be in line with the local culture as well as honoring those who help benefit from the conservation of the old heritage buildings. This includes campaigns which involve various government and private sectors to take part in strengthening the local artistic identity and making old heritage buildings in Nan to become The Living Old Town and continue to be the important breath of Nan. This has repercussions on implementing the conservation project.

One of the most significant works by the Nan Old Building Conservation Fund is the conservation of the Rungsri-Kasem building of the Nan Christian School. The objective is for the building's historical and cultural story to remain valuable through time. The project was awarded the Outstanding Architecture Art Conservation Building in 2014. Additionally

helped protect the “Hong Jao Fong Kham” residential type (KhumJao) in 2015 from The Association of Siamese Architects to be demolished. Moreover, the restoration of the monks’ residence in Satharos Temple and Gukham Temple. “Haun Jao Udom” has also been developed into the Community Museum for Learning Art and Cultural Center and to support the local community.

In addition to that it has been establish into the The Nan Community Center for Cultural and Cycle Tourism or “Long Nan Center” as a Learning Center for the Old heritage building of Nan Province. In co-operation with Thailand Research Fund (TRF), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Office of the National Economic and Social Development Council (NESDR) under the project for promoting sustainability in future cities of Thailand (TFCP project) for establishing the development plan in every aspect.

The issue of the “PANKLED Journal” is used as a media to share the knowledge in Architecture and Local Arts for whoever might be interested. It helps create the trend in conservation of the old building heritage and promoting tourism which results in influencing private business owners both in the

Nan province and foreign investors adapting their building style to be in line with the Old Nan City. For example the convenience store: 7-Eleven, Coffee shops: Amazon Coffee, Ice Cream shops: Swensen's.

The conservation of the old building heritage in Nan has helped stimulate the tourism in a sustainable way because it creates a management system that involves the entire responsible organization sector. Furthermore, it supports and preserves the national tourism resources to remain valuable and beautiful which provide the local community to create their own business and earn more income. Not only having a better quality of life but also making Nan a quality society for the people to be living in and a happy community will build pride for the local people to preserve their own cultural heritage which will make Nan the true Living Old Town and ready for the next generation.