Professional Networking and Creative Conservation in the Historic City of Taiwan

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Governments, museums and universities have been the major institutions in the conservation of heritage. Yet, it has been observed that in many places the value of conservation and the resources designated to the conservation activities have been seriously reduced in recent years, hence the sustainability of heritage conservation in many places are in danger; and there is a need to change the perceived value of conservation and to find effective ways of enhancing conservation. Tainan is a historic city with the largest number of designated monuments and historic buildings in Taiwan, it has been generally regarded as a city dedicated to conservation and regeneration, but, with limited public resources for conservation activities, much of the conservation activities have been initiated and implemented by other parties. This article will take two major conservation organizations – National Cheng Kung University Museum and Foundation of Historic City Conservation and Regeneration in the historic city Tainan as special examples, trace their development, major activities and influence on the civic society in general and conservation achievements in special. The author would argue that the orchestrated activities including the continuous research, promotional education, cross-sectoral and interdisciplinary networking have been important in upgrading the awareness of conservation to the general public, and in turn triggering the formation of new business, new lifestyle based on tradition, and political attitudes favorable toward conservation.