KEY WORD: PARTICIPATORY APPROACH / PONGSANUK / COMMUNITY RIGHTS WORALUN BOONYASURAT: THE RESTORATION OF THE VIHARN PHRA CHAO PUN ONG (VIHARN OF THE ONE THOUSAND BUDDHAS) AT WAT PONGSANUK, LAMPANG PROVINCE: A PROPOSED MODEL FOR SUSTAINABLE CONSERVATION PRACTICE. THESIS ADVISOR: PROF. WILLIAM S. LOGAN, Ph.D., 194 pp.

The purpose of this study is to establish an appropriate conservation approach utilizing cultural heritage conservation process and methodology to achieve most effective cultural heritage management particularly designed to suit Northern Thai context. This resulted in the Proposed Model applicable for Sustainable Conservation Practice in Northern Thailand.

Dissertation methodology is developed under inter-disciplinary approach integrating art and science, social science etc. This was put through trials with exceptional community involvement emphasis. The process of study was then modified to create a model specially devised to serve northern Thai context while universal concepts and standard practices are closely considered. The model was applied to Conservation of The Viharn Phra Chao Pun Ong (Viharn of the One Thousand Buddhas) at Wat Pongsanuk, Lampang Province where a historical building with significant aesthetic and spiritual value stands against the challenge of preserving local identity constantly marginalized by mainstream culture. With the "open-door" approach based on community participation, implementation of the model provides opportunities to interact with a great variety of factors including basic ones i.e. stakeholders' needs, their social background, community bond, level of awareness, sense of place and, most importantly, collaboration of concerned parties resulting from thorough understanding of conservation. Also emphasized is the spirit of place, the core idea of cultural heritage management.

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