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KEY WORD: SUSTAINABILITY, CHIANG MAI, WAT, ABANDONED WAT, CHEDI, MANAGERIAL APPROACH, SACRED MONUMENT, DEAD MONUMENT, INTANGIBLE VALUE, ANCIENT MONUMENT

TANWUTTA THAISUNTAD: SECURING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE FOR CHIANG MAI'S HISTORICAL RUINS: A CASE STUDY OF TEN ABANDONED WAT WITHIN THE CITY'S WALLS. THESIS ADVISOR: DR.WILLIAM LOGAN. 167 pp.

This thesis is aimed at studying the abandoned wat dilemma within Chiang Mai's city's walls. Chiang Mai is reported to have some 948 abandoned monasteries (wat), including 99 in the old walled city centre where there are only 35 living wat and 10 abandoned chedi remains today. These sacred remains are situated in various places and fit into the contemporary land-uses. From the study, it was found that the abandoned wat remains have been seen as 'dead monuments' in managerial approaches to them over time. Furthermore, there are some social misunderstandings that result in unsustainable conditions into both their managerial approach and solutions. To clarify these social misunderstandings in people's minds is the first step to sustainable development. The next step is to focus on the present circumstances along the lines of the five categories identified from the ten case studies. Since abandoned wat remains are often seen as dead monuments, the securing of a sustainable future for these is based on an understanding of the 'livability and continuity' of sacred heritage through both tangible and intangible means of enhancing them.

Linking the chedi of abandoned wat to the everyday lives of local people will enable the remaining structures to continue to survive into the future. The three integrated factors of zoning management, sacredness fulfillment, and the linking of abandoned wat to the present context are another sustainable solutions. Good visions and diverse ways of thinking are crucial for the managerial approach, but the question how to stimulate people to achieve these new ways of thinking is harder to solve. Possibly, the ways to sustainability for the sacred heritage (abandoned/living wat) depend upon how to bring heritage awareness into people's minds. It could be said that, of all of the solutions considered in this research to achieving a sustainable managerial approach, trying to raise the people's vision, their way of thinking is the key. In fact, the sustainable future of any sacred heritage site is never concerned only with periodic reinforcement alone but also with how to encourage people to be aware of their heritage in both tangible and intangible ways.

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