

Charm of the Cities — Taipei

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Taipei city is known as the representative metropolis and the city of gastronomy, on the other hand, there is many advanced experiences aim at producing new charm by revitalizing unused facilities with public-private partnership approach.

For instance, a public-led project called “The Old House Project project” which is operated by the Department of Cultural Affairs, Taipei city governmentsince. The project aims revitalizing and preserving historical building by using the capital and operation ability of private sector. What’s more, these buildings are expected to produce cultural and creative contents and create new added value. They are reproduced as the core and headquarter of various cultural creativities. One of the case called “No.1 granary”(Photo.1, 2) which renovated the ex-granary building of Japanese colonial period as the organic food shop in the 1st floor and Italian restaurant in the 2nd floor in the off-street of Bade Road . Taipei city government works as a mediator between national government and private company. The concept of thie facility, according to the operation company, is trying to construct a field which can provide the well food that is better than the modern supermarket and meanwhile provide the chance of communication and interchange for local people.

On the other hand, a private-led project of community food bank in Nanchihchang community is quite impressive (Photo.3). The community is a resettlement housing complexe which many of the residents are socially disadvanatged households such as elderly, disabled or foreign spouses. In order to respond to the strong demand on welfare service, the community proposed the food bank project by revitalizing the ex-post office facility in the community and negotiated with the public sector actively. The community utalize public subsidy from URS (Urban Regeneration Station) project of Urban regeneration office, Taipei city government and donation from private foundation to renovate the facility and collect goods from outlet, company and individuals to provide them to socially disadvanatged households appropriately.

Finally, the case of “Museum of Contemporary Art”(Photo.4) was constructed as an elementary school in 1921 during Japanese colonial period and was reformed into the Taipei city hall after the 2nd World War. After the transfer of city hall the building became unused facility while it was designated as historical building by Taipei city in 1996 and was revitalized as “Museum of Contemporary Art” in 2001. It had been operated by Contemporary Art Foundation which funded by the public and private capital until 2008. After then, the operation has been taken over by Taipei cultural Foundation by utilizing both public and private resource.

Strong public-private partnership, flexible cooperation between several public sectors might be the strength of urban policy which increase it charm a lot.



Photo1, 2: Façade and 1st floor of “No.1 granary”



Photo.3: Food bank in Nanchihchang



Photo.4: Museum of Contemporary Art