

Abstract

This study deals with the provision of preservation incentives for private historic shophouses in Krung Rattanakosin as case study. As the meaning of cultural heritage today not only covers government properties likes temples, palaces, or archeological sites, but also includes commercial buildings and markets which mostly belong to private sector, the existing historic preservation measure in the form of heritage registration and restoration budget from the government may not be adequately and not effectively be applied to those private properties. The objective of this study is to seek incentives patterns to induce inhabitants in historic shophouses to help preserve the buildings. The questionnaire survey is conducted among the respondents living in 307 old shophouses in Rattanakosin.

It is found that most of the respondents have positive attitude towards shophouse preservation; that is to say, conservation support from the residents can be implemented. However, the private effort in preservation cannot materialize because the residents are lacking in sufficient knowledge concerning conservation and in need of restorations budget. The most possible form of financial incentive is matching grant for the restoration work. It can then be concluded that the provision of financial incentive from government is possible to promote private effort for conservation. Additional documents or public relations campaign for the maintenance of historic buildings for homeowners are recommended. Since this study has limited the scope of preservation incentives for private shophouse property only, it is also recommended that further study should be conducted to other types of private property in the future.