

Abstract

The objectives of this research aimed to study the process of cultural resource management through the case study of traditional long boat race of Ban Don Chai. The qualitative research methods including interviews, participatory observation, group meeting, and casual conversation were employed in this study.

The study was presented in 2 periods : 1) Management process of the traditional long boat race prior to the King Championship Cup (B.E. 2549-2525) and 2) Management process of the traditional long boat race during the King Championship Cup (B.E. 2525-present). This research study will cover the Boat Race activities before the Boat Race Festival, during the Boat Race Festival and after the Boat Race Festival.

The results of the research has shown that the traditional long boat race had been practiced for no less than 300 years which in the past the boat was a mean of transportation for religious groups of the villages in the area of Nan River participating in the "Salakabhat Blessing Festivity " or so called as "Tan Kuay Salak Custom" during the Buddhist Lent. After the religious ceremonies, the pleasant had gathered to participate in the Boat Race, and their goal of participation was to entertain and to create harmonious community member. In addition, this was the mean to build good relations among the communities and the award received from the race would be a bundle of rice, alcohol drink and later it had developed into a flag of the villages which organized the race. During B.E. 2526, the King Cup had been given by the King to the winner of the boat race during the closing ceremony of the race in Nan Province. The King Cup was considered as the symbols of integrity and rewarding to the villagers. From this event, the race had forced the villagers in Nan to initiate more modernized management process of boat race with practical planning, physical training, crew practice, hiring professional oarsman for the boat race, going for the boat race at neighboring provinces and including the summarization of the work plans for next year boat race. As you can see, the current process of the implementation for boat race is well organized, but the

religious ritual so called “Tan Kuay Salak Custom” or “SalakabhatrBlessing Festivity” has become insignificance to the villagers.

Nevertheless, the traditional long boat race and boat are still very valuable and meaningful to the villagers of Don Chai because boat is a symbol of pride and harmony of the community. Moreover, the boat race of Ban Don Chai is still the unique form of original boat race in Nan Province which is also very rare to be seen in the racing field. In addition, Don Chai villagers has a good craftsmanship descending from ancient boat making of Nan Province which helps create work study for the next generations. However, the transition of modern economy, society and culture has changed the traditional boat race, which it once had been an entertaining activity for the communities into more business like matters such as tourist business, or race for money and reputation and gamble.

Therefore, the suggestions from the study are as followed: 1) there shall be an internal learning process in the community as well as the promotion of local curriculum on traditional long boat race 2) Government sector should review the tourism’s policy by supporting the essence of real cultural tourism which will not effect the strength and social capital of the communities. And 3) the conservatory units shall be concerned on harmonious way of existed lifestyles for the people in the communities more than serving the outsiders.