

4137789 SHED/M : MAJOR : ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ; M.Ed. (ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION)

KEY WORDS : ROLES / ABBOT / ENVIRONMENTAL CULTURAL HERITAGE CONSERVATION

THONGCHAI NATESAKHAWAT : THE ROLES OF THE ABBOT ON ENVIRONMENTAL CULTURAL HERITAGE CONSERVATION. THESIS ADVISORS : TEMDUANG RATANATHUSANEE, B.Sc. M.A. MANEE CHAITEERANUWATSIRI, M.A. Ph.D. APINYA BUASUANG, B.A. M.A. 185 p. ISBN 974-663-848-3

The purpose of this research was to study the roles of the Abbot on environmental cultural heritage conservation. The methods used in collecting data were indepth interviewing and observation. The target group in this study was the thirty-seven abbots of the temples located around Ampur Muang, Nakhonpathom province.

This study on the roles of the Abbot on environmental cultural heritage conservation showed that most of the Abbots focus on the conservation of physical cultural heritage, which includes church, pagoda, cathedral, Buddha image and wall paintings by keeping them in the original condition, but their methods and procedures in the environmental cultural heritage were inappropriate and did not comply with well-established procedures. If the temples were not able to be maintained and restored by any reasons, they would be destroyed and removed. The decision is up to the Abbot in the case that the temple was not registered as a historical site. The roles of the Abbot on environmental cultural heritage conservation were to maintain, to restore and to keep the surroundings around the cultural heritage tidy and to grow trees in open spaces.

Most of the Abbots encounter financial problems due to lack of the budget to spend on the environmental cultural heritage conservation. In the present situation, the Thai economy is in a down world trend and the budget available to the environmental cultural heritage conservation is seriously constrained. In addition, one of the major causes of damage to the environmental cultural heritage was from animals such as pigeons, bugs, monkeys, and this problem had not yet been dealt with. Most of the Abbots commented that the effectiveness of environmental cultural heritage conservation relied on the Abbot in each temple. Therefore, the Abbot should be responsible for regular inspection and consistent maintenance. Especially, the surrounding must be kept in good condition.

The research suggests that the relative organizations such as the Departments of Art and Religion should arrange a survey of each temple. At the same time they should also provide the necessary know-how and correct procedures in the environmental cultural heritage conservation to the Abbots by organizing a training program. Moreover, it was recommended to have qualified officers who could give advice to the Abbots and be ready to help in solving any problems involving the environmental cultural heritage conservation. The final point to be mentioned was the source of funding. It was noticed that the environmental cultural heritage conservation in many temples was lacking in financial support from the government and provision of the concept about environmental cultural heritage conservation to people. So the relative organizations such as the government, temple and people would make the environmental cultural heritage conservation sustainable