SESSION: Community in the Planning Process

INSTRUCTOR: Sakkarin Sapu

SESSION OUTLINE

ABSTRACT

Although the meaning of community participation in planning theory has been much written about, how this theory can be effectively and practically applied requires some clarification. Much of the planning literature presents the issues related to community participation for a western cultural context. During this session we will discuss which methods of engagement are applicable and useful for an Asian cultural context, particularly for those of developing countries. We will consider some of the most commonly accepted models and understandings of community participation in planning theory including the concepts of community, neighbourhood and the image of the city. We will review their relevancy for Southeast Asia and analyze how these notions and others such as interactive planning and asset based community development have been applied to regional cases. During this session and throughout the workshop we will apply some of these models to the case of Chiang Saen to learn some of the techniques and skills useful in bridging the gap between theory and practice, “professional” and “community”, and which can ultimately help in more widely supported conservation planning.

OBJECTIVES

By the end of this session, participants should:

- Know how to define types of communities and neighbourhoods.
- Understand the difference between problem-oriented planning community planning and asset based community development.

CONTENT OUTLINE

1. Definition of Community and Neighbourhood
   - Neighbourhood
   - Alternative Notions of the Neighbourhood
   - Community
   - Community as Tradition
   - Community vs. State
   - Symbolic Community and Liminality
   - Social Capital
   - Community confronts Gentrification
2. Community Participation
- Empowerment
- Partnership
- Conciliation
- Dissimulation
- Diplomacy
- Informing
- Conspiracy
- Self-Management

3. Community Planning
   Problem-oriented planning
   - Problem-oriented planning and problem solving
   - Problem-oriented planning process

Asset Based Community Development (ABCD)
- Origins of the ABCD approach
- ABCD process
- The elements of ABCD
- Community Asset Mapping
- Asset Mapping
- Three approaches to Asset Mapping

METHODOLOGY

The session will be conducted through,
- classroom lectures
- facilitated discussions
- small group work, and
- group presentations and discussion.

During the first part of the session, the instructor will;
1. Present the theoretical approaches and case studies which explain definitions of Community and Neighbourhood, community participation ladder, community planning, and Asset Based Community Development (ABCD).
2. Facilitate discussion about participants' own experiences in community engagement.

During the second part of the session;
1. The instructor will present the concepts of ABCD and Image of city, and designate groups for a field mapping exercise.
2. Participants will map the asset and image of city of Chiang Saen through group interviews with local people. Groups will develop their interview questions prior to going into the field.
3. Participants will be divided into four groups (of approximately 4 or 5 persons) and distributed among the communities along the main street of Chiang Saen city.
SESSION OUTLINE CONT’D.

4. At the end of the session, each group will present their asset and image of city map. Presentations will be followed by brief discussions. Instructors and participants are encouraged to actively participate in discussions.

READINGS

= Essential reading material
= Available online


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