



SYNTHESIS OF THE PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION IN THE REIGN OF KING RAMA IV THROUGH PARTICIPATION PROCESS IN THE RESTORATION OF PHRA PA LELAI, SUPHANBURI PROVINCE

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Abstract

This research aims to study ancient documents related to the restoration of the Phra Pa Lelai during the reign of King Rama IV. The objective is to understand the administrative processes of the past and to synthesize them with Cohen's participatory process, as well as public policy-making processes, to apply them to local governance in the present. A mixed-methods research approach was employed, collecting data from 12 ancient documents from the reign of King Rama IV related to the restoration of the Phra Pa Lelai between 1860 -1865, and from a meeting with a group of experts. The data analysis techniques used were textual analysis and descriptive analysis. **The research findings** revealed the following: 1) King Rama IV played a significant role in making the final decision to restore the Phra Pa Lelai. He appointed project managers, planned, allocated resources, and monitored progress. The administration was systematic, with well-defined work



procedures and regular progress reports. 2) the restoration of the Phra Pa Lelai served as an example of participation from all sectors, both public and private, with a shared goal of restoring the palace as an important Buddhist site. The participation included providing labor, materials, and active involvement in the work, as well as collectively benefiting from the restoration. 3) the results of the synthesis with the public policy-making process can be applied to the management of local government organizations in the present. Particular, it is essential to emphasize public participation, effective data management, collaboration among all sectors, and continuous evaluation to improve performance and achieve sustainable goals.

Keywords: Governance; Reign of King Rama IV; Participatory process; Restoration, Phra Pa Lelai

Introduction

King Mongkut Rama IV of the Chakri Dynasty was given the royal title of “Phrasiamdeva Mahamakutvittayamaharaj” (Royal Thai Government Gazette, 2019). He was a monarch who was highly intelligent in many fields of study. He was interested in studying the sciences of Western countries and applied his knowledge to develop his country to be on par with other civilized countries, which led to infinite benefits for the country (Department of Fine Arts, 2005). He ascended to the throne on April 4, 2394 B.E. (2394 C.S. 1213). Since his ascension to the throne, he has initiated a close relationship between the monarch and his people that has adapted to the times in a new way that has never been seen before. This change was the result of his life: he was a monk for 27 years and traveled on pilgrimage to various cities, which allowed him to learn about the true living conditions of the majority of the people himself. He performed many royal duties in the areas of administration, military, literature, education, arts, architecture, finance, and religion, such as his royal duties in promoting Buddhism, establishing the Dhammayut Nikaya, and building royal monasteries, including Wat Bowonniwet, Wat Sommanas, Wat Pathummanaram, Wat Ratchapraditsathitmahasrimaram, and Wat Makutkasatriyaram. He also intended to renovate and restore many religious sites (King Mongkut's Institute of Technology Ladkrabang, 2023). As stated in an ancient document, No. 41, a draft letter to the city of Suphan assigning the number



of the Luang Kaew corps to build a temple and to overhaul Phra Pa Lelai. In summary, he assigned Phrayanikornbodin to carry out the renovation and restoration of Phra Pa Lelai because it was an ancient temple, and granted tens of changes of money to expedite the renovation and completion as soon as possible. Report the progress and needs to Bangkok, send it to the " Saratra on Thursday, April 14, 2407 (Wat Pa Lelai, 2023). From the text that appears in the ancient document, it can be seen that His Majesty was very interested in Buddhism and places great importance on religious sites. The restoration of the temple and the Pali Lai temple has clear evidence during the reign of King Rama IV. From the study of 12 ancient documents, it was found that there was a systematic administration of the country, covering all aspects, including governance, economics, and society, which is consistent with the public policy group in the field of public administration, such as planning, management of construction materials and equipment, implementation, supervision, monitoring and evaluation, and reporting results, along with suggestions for renovation and restoration, such as the renovation report from the ancient document No.165, the draft of the small seal of Chao Phrayanikornbodin to the governor and the department, can be concluded that Chao Phrayanikornbodin sent civil servants from the central government to Suphan Buri. Together with the city officials of Suphan Buri, prepare to find wooden poles and make a temporary shade. The book came on January 3, 2403 (Wat Pa Lelai, 2023). Because the ancient documents on the restoration of Phra Pa Lelai have never been published, there has been no analysis and synthesis of the text in the documents by archaeologists, historians, architects, or other academic groups. It is only a document stored as a group of manuscripts and inscriptions of the National Library, which has limitations on accessing primary data because it is a document that is hundreds of years old, and some copies may be damaged, torn, or faded. Therefore, the process of converting ancient documents is a conservation and dissemination of infinite value in Thai national history. From the importance and value of the documents mentioned above, the research team is interested in collaborating with Wat Pa Lelai Worawihan, Suphanburi Sri Suvarnabhumi Buddhist College, and the Archaeologists Club of Suphanburi to organize the project "Study of ancient documents during the reign of King Rama IV on the restoration of Wat Pa Lelai. It was established to jointly study, revise, criticize, and translate ancient documents

into modern Thai script to increase convenience in reading and studying. However, some words or sentences will be retained by the researcher, and the dictionary will be used to explain and expand the meaning. The main objective is to analyze and synthesize the administration of the country during the reign of King Rama IV through a participatory process and synthesize it with the public policy-making process to apply in the area, including preparing information for dissemination, organizing academic seminars, and publicizing it to the public for the benefit of the educational sector in a great way both at present and in the future.

Research Objectives

1. To translate the ancient documents on the restoration of Phra Pal Lelai, Suphanburi Province, during the reign of King Rama IV into the current Thai script.
2. To synthesize the administration of the country during the reign of King Rama IV through the participation process in the restoration of Phra Pa Lelai, Suphanburi Province.
3. To apply the results of the synthesis of the administration of the country during the reign of King Rama IV through the participation process in the restoration of Phra Pa Lelai to the public policy-making process at the local level of Suphanburi Province.

Literature Reviews

The researcher studied concepts, theories, documents, articles, and related research reports, which the research team will present by summarizing only the literature that has been designated as keywords. Summary of the Biography of King Rama IV: King Rama IV was a wise king who played an important role in reforming Thailand to be modern. His royal duties include: Education: His Majesty promoted modern education and set an example of self-education. He was knowledgeable and skilled in science, especially astronomy. Reform: His Majesty reformed the country's governance, economy, and society to be more modern so that Siam could compete internationally. International relations: His Majesty built good relations with other countries to maintain national security and interests. Governance and care for the people: His Majesty was concerned about the people's

well-being, alleviated their suffering, provided happiness, and promoted their careers. Buddhism: His Majesty supported and promoted Buddhism.

His strengths include being a reformer who saw the importance of change for the country's progress. He was an academic with knowledge and skill in many fields. He was a diplomat who built good relations with other countries. He was a king who loved his people and cared about their well-being. Impact on the country: The reforms in the reign of King Rama IV changed Thailand for the better, enabling Siam to maintain its independence and sovereignty. It is an important foundation for the future development of the country, King Mongkut's Institute of Technology Ladkrabang. 2023).

Summary of King Mongkut was a wise monarch who played an important role in developing Thailand to be united, stable, and progressive. Administration of the country during the reign of King Rama IV: This research article will be presented in an analytical style that emphasizes the system of governance and administration of the country during the reign of King Rama IV. The events between 1860 and 1865 were considered the beginning of serious national reform during the reign of King Rama IV, which was an important time in changing the system of governance and administration of the country to be modern. The system of governance and administration of the country during the reign of King Rama IV can be analyzed with the following important factors that drove the change.

Factors leading to the change, including:

(1) The influence of imperialism, the expansion of the influence of Western superpowers in Southeast Asia caused Siam to face challenges and adapt to maintain its independence.

(2) The intention of King Rama IV He saw the importance of reforming the country to be modern and competitive internationally. (3) His experience of being ordained for 27 years allowed him to closely experience the people's way of life and the country's various problems.

Important changes include:

(1) Administrative reform: Various ministries were established to divide the responsibilities of administration, such as the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Defense, and the Ministry of Finance.

(2) Civil service reform: Civil service reform to be more orderly, with clear responsibilities for each level of civil servants.

(3) Economic reform: promoting foreign trade, especially with Western countries.

(4) Infrastructure development: Roads, bridges, and canals were built to facilitate transportation.

Social reform, including:

(1) Promotion of education: promoting education at various levels, especially foreign language studies.

(2) Reform of laws: Laws were revised to be more modernize and fair.

(3) Military reform: The military was improved to be more modern and efficient.

Interesting key points include:

(1) Acceptance of new things: Siam, at that time, widely accepted foreign technology and knowledge.

(2) Preservation of independence National reform is an action to maintain the independence and sovereignty of the nation. (3) Laying the foundation for national development is considered to be an important foundation for the development of Thailand to progress further in the future. Summary: The period of 1860-1865 was an important period for the change of Thailand. King Mongkut played an important role in pushing for reform in many areas. These reforms not only helped Siam maintain its independence but also formed an important foundation for the development of Thailand to be modern and progressive.

Summary of Participation Theory: Cohen's Participation Theory (1966) is a concept that emphasizes public participation in the development process, which is divided into 4 aspects as follows:

1) Participation in decision-making (decision-making) People participate in identifying problems and needs that occur in their communities, such as planning and determining solutions to problems by considering needs and available

resources, and people have the right to decide on the most appropriate course of action.

2) Participation in action: People participate in implementing actions according to the plan, such as contributing effort, donating assets, supporting other areas, sharing burdens, and distributing workloads for community members to participate equally.

3) Participation in receiving benefits (Benefits) Benefits from development must be distributed to all people fairly, such as participation in resource allocation, and people participate in decisions about the allocation of resources obtained from development.

4) Participation in evaluation (Evaluation) People participate in evaluating the results of the operation to see if the project has achieved its goals and what improvements have been made, such as people learning from the experiences that have occurred and applying them to future development.

Conclusion: Cohen's concept emphasizes the importance of public participation in every step of the development process, from planning and implementation to evaluation. Public participation will help development projects be more successful. And the benefits of the development truly fall on the people.

Summary of the concept of restoration: Restoration is the process of repairing and restoring buildings or ancient objects to return them to their original condition or as close to the original as possible, taking into account the historical, artistic, and scientific values to preserve cultural heritage for the future.

Important principles of restoration

1) Preserving the original value by emphasizing the preservation of the historical, cultural, and artistic values of the buildings as much as possible.

2) Use appropriate techniques by selecting materials and repair techniques that are consistent with the original characteristics of the buildings.

3) Record data. Data must be recorded at every step of the restoration process to serve as evidence and information for future studies.

4) Participation of experts. Restoration should be carried out by experts with knowledge and skills in various fields, such as architects, engineers, and archaeologists.

Goals of restoration

- 1) Preserve cultural heritage so that future generations can study, learn, and appreciate it.
- 2) Promote tourism. Renovated buildings can attract tourists and generate income for the community.
- 3) Conserve the environment. Restoration should take into account the impact on the environment and surrounding communities.
- 4) Promote pride in national heritage. Restoration helps to build pride in national cultural heritage.

General restoration steps

- 1) Survey and analysis should study the history, current conditions, and causes of damage.
- 2) Planning should determine the scope of restoration and repair and select appropriate materials and techniques.
- 3) Implementation should carry out repairs according to the plan.
- 4) Evaluation should evaluate the results of restoration and repair to check for accuracy and efficiency.

Conclusion, restoration is an important process to preserve cultural heritage for the future. Restoration should take into account the principles and goals mentioned above to ensure that the restored buildings will have a long life and benefit society.

Research Methodology

The research design is a Mixed-Methodology Research between archival research, qualitative research, and historical research. The research is divided into 3 phases as follows:

Phase 1: Study of the translation of ancient documents, the restoration of Phra Pa Lelai Suphanburi Province during the reign of King Rama IV to be the current Thai script. There were 2 activities: 1) Meeting of the Committee for the Transliteration of Ancient Documents in the Reign of King Rama IV on the subject of the restoration of 12 copies of Phra Pa Lelai into the official Thai script according to Prasert Na Nakhon (2006). 2) Analysis of historical data from the

data of the transliteration of ancient documents during the reign of King Rama IV to proceed with the verification of primary data to create the reliability of the data.

Phase 2. Study the synthesis of the administration of the country during the reign of King Rama IV through the process of participation in the restoration of Phra Pa Lelai with the process of participation of Cohen (Cohen, S.L., 1996).

Phase 3. Apply the results of the synthesis of the administration of the country to the process of determining public policy at the local level.

Key informants were selected by purposive sampling from experts in ancient documents, skilled archaeologists, the Amateur Archaeologists Club of Suphan Buri, religion and culture, Buddhism, and evaluation, totaling 7 persons, to discuss in a focus group to jointly analyze the results of the transliteration of ancient documents.

The research tools are divided according to the research phases as follows:

Phase 1: (1) The project to study ancient documents from the reign of King Rama IV on the restoration of Wat Pa Lelai (2) Preparing the announcement of Wat Pa Lelai Worawihan on the appointment of a committee to study ancient documents from the reign of King Rama IV on the restoration of Wat Pa Lelai, totaling 18 documents.

Phase 2: (1) The meeting of the committee under the project “Studying ancient documents from the reign of King Rama IV on the restoration of Phra Pa Lelai, Suphanburi Province, totaling 12 documents, between 29 April and 27 May 2023, totaling 5 times, to jointly interpret and analyze ancient documents.

Phase 3: (1) Synthesizing the results from the expert meeting in Phase 2 with the public policy-making process for application in the research area. (2) Preparing a document to disseminate guidelines for public administration according to the public policy-making process.

Data collection Data collection is divided into 3 steps as follows:

Step 1: Organize 5 meetings of the Ancient Document Study Committee, starting from 29 April to 27 May 2023. Step 2: Synthesize data from the conversion of ancient documents into modern Thai script from the meeting in Step

1. Step 3: Present the results of the synthesis between government administration and the policy-making process for use in the area.

Data analysis: Use the method of analyzing data from the document text (textual analysis) according to the research framework, check the completeness of the data, and present the results in a descriptive analysis format.

Results

The research results according to objective 1 found that 1) there were important events as follows: (1) King Rama IV had an idea to restore Wat Phra Pa Lelai because the temple had deteriorated from being burned many times. He appointed Chao Phraya Nikornbodin and Phraya Suphan to be responsible for the restoration and made initial preparations, procuring pillars, wood, and cement for construction. (2) There was a shortage of laborers, caused by insufficient recruitment of commoners and some fleeing, causing delays in the transportation of materials, especially cement for construction, and conflicts between labor leaders, causing the work to be delayed. (3) Increased the number of laborers by recruiting additional commoners and organizing the work system to be efficient, expediting the transportation of materials by specifying routes and those responsible for transportation, changing those responsible when problems in management arose, specifying detailed work procedures, and reporting progress regularly. An auspicious time was also set for the ceremony to raise the spirit of the temple. (4) The temple and Phra Pa Lelai were restored and became stronger and more stable. 2) There were important issues, as the restoration and renovation of Phra Pa Lelai was a large-scale project that required labor, materials, and time. Project management requires carefulness and flexibility in solving problems. Cooperation from all sectors, both government and private and public sectors, is therefore important for the success of the project.

The research results according to objective 2 found that the synthesis of 12 ancient documents with different language characteristics and spelling structures from the current Thai language resulted in the synthesis of all data into the Cohen participation process framework in all 4 aspects: participation in decision-making, participation in action, participation in receiving benefits, and

participation in monitoring and evaluation. The summary of activities that occurred and some trends during the years 2403-2408 are as follows: 1) King Mongkut intended to restore and preserve Wat Phra Pa Lelai as a place for Buddhists to worship and to maintain Buddhism firmly. 2) There was a systematic restoration plan, starting from the procurement of labor, materials, and equipment and the determination of the work procedures. 3) There was the assignment of tasks to civil servants at various levels to be responsible for the related parts. 4) There was supervision and regular reporting of the progress of the work to King Mongkut. 5) There was problem-solving when problems occurred, such as a shortage of labor. The problem was solved by increasing the number of workers. 6) There was coordination between various agencies to ensure smooth and effective operations.

The research results according to objective 3 found that the restoration process of Wat Pa Lelai during the reign of King Rama IV was interestingly consistent with the principles of the current public policy process, especially in terms of public participation, government support, and careful planning. Factors that should be applied at the local level are as follows: 1) Public participation should encourage people to participate in identifying problems, determining policies, and monitoring the results of operations through various channels, such as public meetings, opinion surveys, and the use of online platforms. 2) Data use should include collecting current and reliable data for use in analyzing problems and determining policies. 3) Collaboration should be created. Collaboration should be created between government agencies, the private sector, and civil society to solve problems jointly. 4) Continuous evaluation should include regular evaluation of performance to adjust policies to be in line with changing situations. 5) Creating sustainability should include policies that focus on sustainable development, taking into account the long-term impacts on the environment and society. 6) Use of technology: In the digital age, information and communication technology play an important role in driving the public policy process. It can be used to collect data, analyze data, and disseminate data effectively.

Discussions

The research results according to objective 1 found the following important events and issues: (1) Multi Sectoral participation, such as the government sector, the public sector, and monks participating in every step of the project. (2) Systematic management, such as planning, setting goals, and continuous monitoring and evaluation. (3) Emphasis on communication, such as consistent communication and coordination between relevant agencies. (4) Effective human resource management to ensure continuous temple restoration and coordination between various agencies, such as the Suphanburi Provincial Administration and other agencies in procuring labor and materials. (5) Supervision and monitoring of work, presenting monitoring results at the highest policy level and the implementation level to continuously solve problems, such as lack of labor and lack of materials, resulting in successful restoration. Therefore, the restoration of Phra Pa Lelai is considered a great act of merit and an expression of loyalty to the King. Despite the complexity of large-scale project management at that time, especially problems with labor recruitment and quality control, it was managed well and efficiently. As for monks, they participated in the care and management of the temple. There was continuous communication and reporting of results and orders from the central office to the regions. This reflects the great kindness of King Rama IV towards Buddhism. This may be because King Rama IV had steadfast faith in Buddhism. He was a monk for 27 years and went on a pilgrimage to various provinces, allowing him to experience the true living conditions of the majority of the people firsthand. While he was ordained, he founded a new monastic sect called the "Dhammayut Nikaya" and became its leader. His practice was reflected in the form of being a patron of religion, which is in line with the 167th Proclamation of Buddhism (Part 5, 1923), which states, "...King Rama IV contemplated the need to preserve and flourish Buddhism for the future. He, therefore, issued a royal command to the Mara Phrabanthoon Surasinghanat, announcing to the monks, royal monks, academicians, abbots, forest and forest sects in the capital and outside the capital, governors, and provincial officials, both first, second, third, and fourth in the southern and northern regions, that the religious practice is that monks practice the Vinaya, uphold the four pure precepts, practice Samatha and Vipassana, and perform

Sangha duties such as Uposatha, etc. The research results according to objective 2 found that 1) King Rama IV intended to restore and preserve Wat Phra Pa Lelai as a place for Buddhists to pay homage and to maintain Buddhism firmly. 2) There was a systematic restoration plan, starting from the procurement of labor, materials, and equipment, and the determination of the work procedures. 3) There was the assignment of tasks to civil servants at various levels to be responsible for the related departments. 4) There was supervision and regular reporting of the progress of the work to King Rama IV. 5) There was problem-solving when problems arose, such as a shortage of labor. The problem was solved by increasing the number of workers. 6) There was coordination between various agencies to ensure smooth and effective operations. Although most decisions were made at the policy level, this project still achieved the aspiration of King Rama IV. This may have been because during his reign, he supported education in the Western civilization style, allowing Thailand to open the country to changes and learning about the advancement of Western governance principles, which allowed citizens to participate and submit petitions, which was the basis for preparation for the governance reform during the reign of King Rama V. This is consistent with the concept of Likhit Theeravekhin (2023), who stated that "...During the reign of King Rama IV, society entered an era of change. There was trade with the West. Imperialism was introduced, which had a significant impact on the Thai economic and social systems. During the reign of King Rama IV, there was contact with Western superpowers as an important foundation. His status was recognized by both foreigners and Thais in general. He had foresight and brought about beneficial changes to the country by changing the culture and traditions to be civilized. However, the original traditional form was preserved harmoniously. His Majesty strengthened the unity among the monks and the people within the nation by strengthening the monarchy to be the center of everyone's mind. His Majesty improved the petition submission system to be more rigorous and flexible, allowing him to know the movements of the groups of nobles and masters better. His Majesty created a closer relationship between the king and the people by having the people submit petitions, which is a good way of communication between the king and the people. His Majesty conveyed these things to King Rama V...".

Conclusions, the research results according to objective 3 found that there are important factors that should be adjusted as follows: 1) Promoting the participation of people of all ethnic groups 2) Efficient data management 3) Creating cooperation and promoting cooperation among all sectors. 4) Continuous evaluation 5) Creating sustainability by considering the impact on the environment and society in the long term. 6) Using technology to collect data, analyze data, and disseminate data effectively, consistent with the research results of Phanupong Maprasert, Suchat Adulya-butra, & Bampen Maitrisopon. (2023) researched public participation in community development in Bangkiao Subdistrict Municipality, Cha-am District, Phetchaburi Province. It was found that (1) public participation in community development is at a high level overall. (2) Factors affecting public participation in terms of benefits from participation, local ties, and community network strength are significantly related to public participation in community development at a statistical level of 0.01. In terms of leader influence, it is significantly related to public participation at a statistical level of 0.05. (3) Guidelines for promoting public participation in community development found that the municipality should have a policy that supports public participation in the preparation of community development plans and provides opportunities for public participation in evaluating the performance of various activities/projects.

New knowledges

The research on “Synthesizing the administration of the country during the reign of King Rama IV through the process of participation in the restoration of Phra Pa Lelai, Suphanburi Province” can synthesize the knowledge from the research as shown in Diagram 2 as follows:

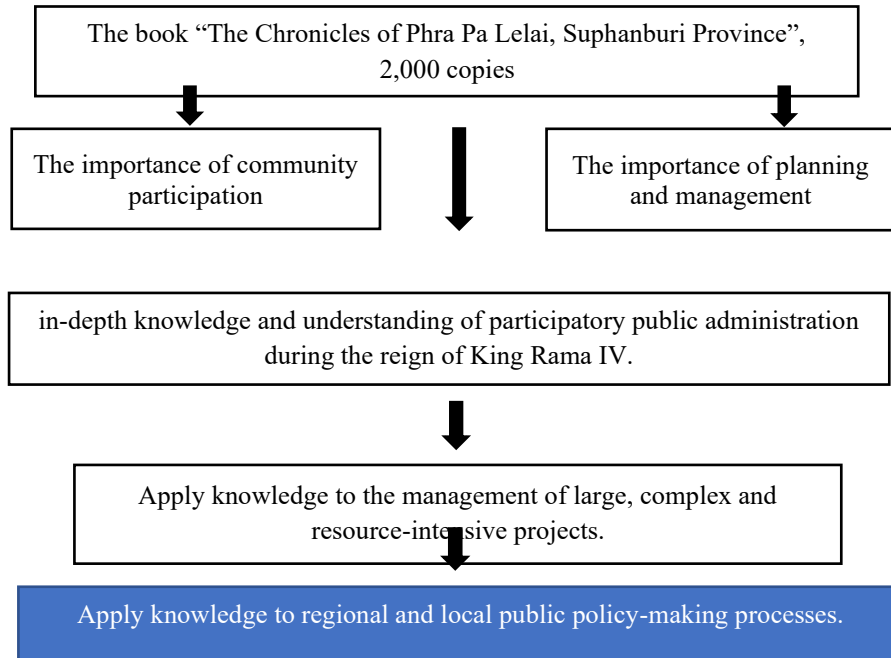


Figure 2: can be applied: The importance of community participation, the importance of planning and management, in-depth knowledge and understanding of participatory government administration during the reign of King Rama IV, and 4) the ability to apply knowledge to the “public policy-making process at the local level. Transfer and utilization.

Conclusions

King Rama IV played a significant role in making the final decision to restore the Phra Pa Lelai, appointed project managers, planned, allocated resources, and monitored progress, the administration was systematic, with well-defined work procedures and regular progress reports, the restoration of the Phra Pa Lelai served as an example of participation from all sectors, both public and private, with a shared goal of restoring the palace as an important Buddhist site, the participation included providing labor, materials, and active involvement in the work, as well as collectively benefiting from the restoration.

Suggestions and Recommendations

Policy Recommendations

Applying knowledge to the restoration of other historical sites. The results of this research can be used as guidelines for planning and managing other historical site restoration projects, especially in terms of community participation and coordination between different agencies.

Promoting community participation in cultural heritage conservation. Government agencies should have policies to encourage communities to participate in the care and conservation of historical sites by establishing community committees to oversee or organize projects related to conservation.

Developing a curriculum for learning about cultural heritage conservation. Educational institutions should develop local curricula to organize learning about cultural heritage conservation covering all levels, from primary to higher education, to instill awareness in youth and the general public about the importance of conservation.

Practical Recommendations

Creating a manual for the restoration of historical sites, the agencies responsible for ancient sites and objects should create a standardized manual for the restoration of ancient sites so that those involved can correctly implement it.

Establishment of an information and learning center on the restoration of ancient sites. An information and learning center on the restoration of ancient sites should be established to serve as a source of information and a place for exchanging knowledge.

Organizing activities to disseminate knowledge on cultural heritage conservation. Various activities, such as exhibitions, lectures, or training, should be organized to disseminate knowledge on cultural heritage conservation to the general public.

Recommendations for Future Research

Comparative studies should be conducted with other case studies related to the restoration of ancient sites to find ways to improve and develop the restoration of ancient sites in the country.

The economic and social impacts of the restoration of ancient sites should be studied to assess the long-term impacts and find ways to develop the community economy.

Information technology, such as geographic information systems (GIS) or 3D technology, should be used to help analyze data and present research results.

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