

A Study on Conservation Scheme Granted by Heritage Lottery Fund in UK
-Analysis from the Perspective of Tourism Development Based on Community-

Yu Okamura (Division of Tourism Science Faculty of Urban Environmental
Sciences Tokyo Metropolitan University, Assistant Professor)

[SYNOPSIS]

This research focuses on Townscape Heritage Initiative, which has been applied in more than 200 districts in UK since it was founded in 1998, and reveals its characteristics as conservation scheme. Heritage Lottery Fund raised through National Lottery makes grants to local common fund, which is normally organized by public private partnership project team up to 2 million pounds within 5 years. A variety of projects are carried out to conserve the integrity of historical environment including repair or restore of historical buildings, development on gap site, bringing vacant historic floor space back into use, or development of public realm. In addition the fund can be also used for staff costs and planning fees. The framework above indicates THI possesses the characteristics of regeneration program aiming at economical and social development.

This research also tackles to clarify the relationship between THI and tourism. Under the circumstance where more than 9000 conservation areas have already designated all over UK, the key to regenerate local districts does not always lie in tourism development utilizing historical townscapes. Instead most of the districts, which have experienced economical and social deprivation, expect THI to make contribution to preserving and enhancing the homes and shops.

Nonetheless, Glasgow Merchant City, Wigtown and Whitstable as case study sites have respectively found out the unique topic of their own -culture and art, Booktown, and Oyster and scenery along seaside. These districts have conserved the townscapes to create and foster the contents. In such tourism development THI has made the highest contribution among a sequence of conservation projects and can have been the catalyst to lever various projects and funds. As the result it has brought sustainable economical and social revitalization and realize tourism development based on community in consideration of the balance among local environment, economy and society.