HOT SPRING IN PAGODA: CASE OF LOCAL MANAGEMENT
AND CONSERVATION OF NATURAL SPA SITE

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ABSTRACT

The hot spring is an important natural phenomenon. The natural spa site management is an interesting issue in mine engineering. Herr, the authors present and discuss on specific management and conservation of natural hot spring by Buddhist pagoda, which is a specific case seen in Indochina.

KEYWORD: Pagoda, Hot Spring.

INTRODUCTION

The hot spring is an important natural phenomenon. The natural spa site management is an interesting issue in mine engineering. Herr, the authors present and discuss on specific management and conservation of natural hot spring by Buddhist pagoda, which is a specific case seen in Indochina.

CASE STUDY

THAILAND

There are some specific local hot springs in Thailand that locate within the Buddhist paagodas. An old well-known site is namely Wat Tapotharam, Chonburi province. However, this site is already passed away due to the construction of the local water reservoir and flooding already occurred. The left famous sites at present are the sites in Ranong province namely Wat Taopatharam (same name) and in Kanchanburi province namely Wat Wangkanai.

MYANMAR

There is an interesting site of hot spring in Myanmar that locates in the pagoda in the PatheinGyitownship, Mandalay region. This place is also the famous Buddhist pilgrimage site in Myanmar.

DISCUSSION

Management of natural site is an interesting issue. How to manage and conserve the natural site is usually an important question. Natural hot spring is specific natural site seen in some specific areas. This phenomenon is important thing in mine engineering. It is usually shown that there are radioactive materials as well as pathogens contaminated in the hot spring water. The safety of the hot spring water is the main concern in public health [1 – 3].

Nevertheless, wow to preserve the site and allow usage is the important consideration. Here, the authors show the local wisdom for management and conservation of the natural hot spring site in Indochina.

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The linkage of the site to the local religious belief is very interesting. Only some specific natural hot springs locates in Buddhist pagoda and those sites are usually well managed and cared. The local people usually visit to those sites for bathing as well as praying at the pagoda.

A. Wat Wangkanai

B. Wat Taopatharam

Figure 1. Some pictures of hot springs located in Buddhist pagoda in Indochina

The way that uses the combined hydrotherapy and religious medicine is very interesting. In additional, the protection of the site by the local pagodas is usually successful. The invasion by external persons is usually not successful if the site is located and protected within the area of the Buddhist pagoda.

As a summarization, the advantages that the hot spring site gets from the Buddhist pagoda and vice versa are presented in Table 1.
Table 1. Advantages that the hot spring site gets from the Buddhist pagoda and vice versa

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Advantages that the hot spring site gets from the Buddhist pagoda</th>
<th>Advantages that the Buddhist pagoda gets from hot spring sites</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Environmental care of the places</td>
<td>4. Attraction for tourism and pilgrimage</td>
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<td>2. Cleaning and repairing of the site</td>
<td>5. Promotion of donation to pagoda</td>
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<td>3. Development of the facilities</td>
<td></td>
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CONFLICT OF INTEREST: None

REFERENCES

[1]. Wiwanitkit V. Tourism guide for Thai spa by physician. Bangkok: Chulalongkorn University, 2017
