

臺灣古圳文化的再詮釋--農田水利文化活動推 展歷程與作為

The Reinterpretation of the Historical Irrigation Canal Culture in Taiwan: the Promotion and Revitalization of Irrigation Culture Activity

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摘 要

本研究以農田水利文化活動推展歷程與作為為主題，探討農田水利文化活化保存的時空背景、推動歷程與具體作為，如何重新詮釋臺灣古圳文化之內涵。臺灣的古圳文化源自農業社會開發、使用、管理與分配灌溉用水的過程中，在不同時代發展出與水圳密切相關的日常生活慣習、思想、制度與祭儀等，具體包含洗衫窟、戲水、捉魚、飲水思源觀念、共同巡水、做公工、輪水關、分水協議、圳頭祭、普渡等。但自 1970 年代開始，臺灣的埤圳在工業化與都市發展下逐漸式微，面臨圳路灌溉功能弱化之景況。先是水圳水質因棄置垃圾、流放家庭廢水與偷排工業廢水汙染而惡化，影響灌溉功能；再者，圳路失去灌溉功能後，會因髒污惡臭問題或土地需求而加蓋消失；最後，使用中的圳路也遭遇損壞與周邊水利地濫用的問題。在大環境變化下，大眾的日常生活逐漸遠離水圳，圍繞農業而生的古圳文化也逐漸消逝。

1990 年代後，在城鄉發展相關政策、生態觀念引進以及既有灌溉維護改善三個方向的推動下，政府與民間開始保存、活化與推廣農田水利文化，並可歸納為以下四種作為：(1)環境美化：圳路周邊環境綠美化、運用生態工法改善圳路與規劃親水環境，如最早的宜蘭農田水利會(今宜蘭管理處)首先推動充館圳綠美化，以及近年農水署的水圳綠道。(2)機能維持：加強改善農田水利設施灌溉機能，維持水利設施持續使用與擴大灌溉範圍，如修繕維護圳路、推動加強農田水利建設的中長程計畫等。(3)多元價值：透過環境改善與農水文化展覽場域設置，為圳路附加觀光、休閒與教育功能，如臺南烏山頭水庫、雲林農田水利文物陳列館等。(4)擴大接觸：透過網站建置與辦理推廣活動等，增加不同人群接觸農田水利文化的機會，如早期建置的「臺灣農田水利數位博物館」網站與近年來的智慧水圳地圖，或辦理各項展覽、影像徵件、技藝傳承、路跑與單車活動等。透過上述四種方法，臺灣既有的古圳文化有了新的詮釋，使大眾更加接觸、親近與認識農田水利文化，促進古圳在當代的保存與傳承。

關鍵詞：保存維護、古圳文化、埤圳活化

Abstract

This study focuses on promoting and revitalizing irrigation culture activities. Aiming to reinterpret the connotations of historical irrigation canal culture in Taiwan, this study explores the background of canal restoration, including the promotion process, specific revitalization measures, and the preservation of irrigation culture.

Irrigation culture originates from agricultural society's processes of developing, using, managing, and distributing irrigation water. Throughout different eras, this culture has evolved into daily practices, beliefs, systems, and rituals closely related to the historical irrigation canals. This includes activities such as washing in pools, playing in the canal, catching fish, the concept of "April showers bring May flowers," joint water patrols, dredging together, water distribution lotteries, water allocation agreements, canal worship rituals, and ancestor veneration rituals.

However, since the 1970s, irrigation canals in Taiwan have gradually declined due to industrialization and urbanization, resulting in weakened irrigation functions. Firstly, water quality has deteriorated due to pollution caused by discarded garbage, discharged household wastewater, and illegally discharged industrial wastewater. Secondly, historical canals have been covered and disappeared due to environmental deterioration or land demand after losing their irrigation function. Finally, there has been destruction of historical canals and improper use of irrigation agency land by the canals. As a result, the public's daily life is gradually moving away from irrigation canals, causing the historical irrigation canal culture, centered around agriculture, to fade away.

Since the 1990s, driven by policies on urban and rural development, ecological conservation, and improved irrigation maintenance, both the government and the public have undertaken efforts to preserve, revitalize, and promote irrigation culture. These efforts can be summarized into the following four initiatives:

1. Landscaping the Environment: Landscaping around canal routes, employing ecological engineering methods to enhance canals, and creating waterfront environments. For instance, the Yilan Management Office pioneered greening efforts along the Chun Kuan irrigation canal, and the Irrigation Agency has developed Canal Greenways in recent years.

2. Maintaining Functionality: Strengthening and improving the irrigation capabilities of agricultural water, ensuring continuous use, and expanding irrigation areas. This includes repairing and maintaining canals and promoting mid- to long-term plans to enhance irrigation infrastructure.

3. Creating Diverse Values: Enhancing environmental improvements and establishing irrigation culture exhibition venues to enhance tourism, leisure, and educational opportunities related to canals. Noteworthy examples include the Wushantou Reservoir in Tainan County and the Farming and Irrigation Artifacts Museum in Yunlin County.

4. Increasing Connectivity: Developing websites and organizing promotional events to foster greater engagement with irrigation culture among different groups. Examples include the early establishment of the "Taiwan Digital Museum for Agricultural Irrigation" website and recent initiatives such as digital canal maps, exhibitions, video submissions, skills inheritance programs, and running and cycling events.

These initiatives have reinterpreted Taiwan's historical irrigation canals, enabling the public to actively engage with, appreciate, and deepen their understanding of irrigation culture. They also promote the modern preservation and continuation of Taiwan's historical irrigation canals into contemporary times.

keywords: Revitalization, Preservation, Historical Irrigation Canal, Ponds and Canals