



A Study on regeneration cases with industrial Heritage in mining areas of Korea

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The mining areas have to face urban decline problem in population and aging after its closing. Many mines were shut down due to changes in industrial structure through 20 century. Central and local governments has been trying to solve urban decline of abandoned mine areas by enacting special acts or introducing support programs for decades. In the year of 1995, South Korean government also enacted "Special act on the assistance to the development of abandoned mine areas" to promote the economy of abandoned mine areas that is depressed following the decline of the coal industry and to help balanced regional development and to improve the living standard of the residents in such abandoned mine areas. Local authorities has been trying to revitalize the regional economy by attracting tourism industry under the financial support and deregulation by this special law. With this background, this study analysis 13 regeneration cases which are utilizing the industrial heritage of the abandoned area in S. Korea. Despite the importance of mining, negative images of abandon mine have been engraved due to environmental destruction. Most of abandoned mines were left without any action since its closing. Early stage of abandoned mine area regeneration, such as Sabuk, Munkyong, are focusing on adjacent land not on abandoned mine. Abandoned mines were restored its original state and theme park including hotels, casinos and other tourist facilities were developed on adjacent land. Eco-trails on some granite caves such as Jungsun were opened to the public as natural resources not industrial heritage. The industrial heritage was very restricted to making museums about history of mining industry. However, there has been a significant change in perception toward reusing industrial heritage for urban regeneration in recent years. From the viewpoint of urban regeneration, abandon mine areas and its facilities are receiving attention as important regional assets as industrial heritage to build vibrant cities. The recent urban regeneration projects in abandoned mine areas, such as Pocheon, Kwangmyong and Anyang, are utilizing mining facilities as industrial heritage more actively. They introduced eco-friendly restoration method and made environmental parks or experience centers on mining areas themselves. In conclusion, urban regenerations of abandoned mine areas has been changed from tourist development in neighbouring areas to eco-friendly regeneration in abandoned mine areas. However, there are still some constraints for eco-friendly regeneration. The mine operators have to restore abandoned mine areas to the original state after closing under the current law, "Mining damage prevention and restoration act". Thus lots of abandoned mine areas were left undeveloped or changed to forest. For promoting utilization of mine facilities as industrial heritage, the law have to allow reuse its infrastructure such as loads and subsidiary facilities for urban regeneration.