Analysis of Industrial Memory as a Medium of International Exchange of Industrial Heritage - Coal Mine Cultural Exchange between Taiwan and Japan in Recent Years

Sin-Heng Wang

Abstract

The coal industry has facilitated the modernization of global industries, and the legacy of coal mines can tell the modern history of local industries. The memory of the coal industry keeps the core value of local and industrial development. Many countries encourage the public and enterprises to actively invest in preservation and utilization through investigation and preservation of coal mine archives and oral history. In recent years, Taiwan and Japan also greatly stress the importance of the preservation of coal mine memory and promote coal mine cultural exchange. When Taiwan was under Japanese colonial rule, a great amount of Japanese coal mining enterprise resources and technical personnel entered Taiwan, profoundly affecting the energy revolution and industrial modernization. Therefore, the development of Taiwan’s coal mining industry during the Japanese ruling period was closely related to Japan and is an important reason for the smooth communication of the coal mine memory heritage between Taiwan and Japan.

Since 2015, the author has used the coal mine memory of Taiwan and Japan as a medium to conduct cultural exchange and cooperation between the coal mine museums of the two countries. This paper will focus the study on the coal mine cultural exchanges between Xinpingxi Taiwan Coal Mine Museum and Tagawa City Coal Mining Historical Museum, and analyze the strategy for coal culture
international exchange through coal mine memory. The participatory observation method is used to record the preservation and exchange of coal mine memory in Taiwan and Japan. With the Memory of the World Guide as the main theoretical basis, the strategies and benefits of coal mine cultural exchange between Taiwan and Japan are analyzed. The study found that the historical context of coal mines in Taiwan and Japan as the communication medium in recent years allows common discussion subjects for the coal mine cultural preservation between the two countries and facilitates the implementation of an exchange platform between coal mine museums of the two countries. The texts from the coal mine archives and the oral history from old miners have deepened the research on the coal mine histories in Taiwan and Japan. In addition, when the coal mine paintings and historical photos are used as the theme of coal mine exhibition in the discussion of coal mining technology, machinery and equipment, and the historical context of daily life, and deeper investigation and research is conducted on mining sites, the public can better understand the cultural implication of coal mines. It can be seen from international events such as museum exhibitions, education promotion, and seminars in Taiwan and Japan have facilitated academic conferences on coal mines and museum cooperation agreement between Taiwan and Japan. As a result, the international exchange of coal mine memorial heritage has deepened the study of local coal mine culture and history for the people in Taiwan and Japan, and even stimulated the investigation of the memorial heritage of local miners, and further improved the cultural and tourism exchanges between the people and the government of the two countries.

Keywords: Industrial Memory, the Memory of the World, Coal Mine Heritage, Coal Mine Museum, Xinpingxi Taiwan Coal Mine Museum, Tagawa City Coal Mining Historical Museum