

ECONOMICS OF URBAN ECONOMIC HERITAGE AREAS

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Abstract

This paper investigates the conflict of the proper safeguarding and management of cultural heritage sustainably, in the frame of urban, economic, social and management criteria. Believing in heritage and its multi-values (tangible-intangible), increasingly many arguments have occurred about valuing heritage in terms of money and how to get benefit of heritage, while economic forces¹ exist in the society (scarcity, market failure, public good,...) the matter which affects the economic base and its development for heritage areas. In addition to the fact about management system in Egypt which is represented by a "unitary system" and overlapped authorities, going through (up to down) management system, ignoring the role of localities in taking actions either making decisions by themselves towards the heritage areas. Moreover the absence of clear planning guidance to secure heritage areas and to balance, coordinate demands of the users, in the light of urban planning forms impact in transforming cities shape and their urban historic fabric. This unbalanced handling of this conflict led to a great loss of cultural heritage values, an economic stagnancy for heritage areas, the whole mechanism towards such integration can be reached by applying criteria of Management, Economy and planning, which are going to be illustrated through the paper.

Keywords: cultural heritage, Urban economics, economic forces, heritage values.

¹ Economic and Heritage conservation-meeting organized by the Getty Conservation Institute, December 1998-p.13