

ネパール・ルンビニ開発計画の歴史的変遷に関する研究
- 丹下健三によるマスタープランの策定・実施と文化遺産の管理に着目して -
A study on the chronological transition of Lumbini Development Project, Nepal:
Focus on planning and implementation process of Kenzo Tange's Master Plan and
the management of cultural heritage

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Since The UN's first 10-year development strategy in 1960s, many development assistance projects have been carried out in less developed countries with UN-based technical assistance under international cooperation. On the other hand, existing development assistance tends to emphasize only physical development and lacks respect for local identity and its international framework also has institutional issues. Lumbini, known as the birthplace of the Buddha, is one example. This study focuses on planning and implementation process of Kenzo Tange's Master Plan for the Development of Lumbini with technical assistance from the UN as well as the management of the Lumbini World Heritage site in order to clarify physical and institutional transition of the Master Plan under international cooperation and discuss future role of international cooperation particularly on the management of heritage site. The planning and implementation process of the Master Plan are clarified based on documentary research and several interviews to planners involved in the project in 1970s. Existing conditions of Lumbini Development Project are clarified based on field survey and on-site interviews carried out in December 2010 and September 2011.

1.0 Lumbini Development Project and Kenzo Tange's Master Plan

1.1 Preliminary Stage (1967-1970)

The former UN Secretary General, U Thant visited Lumbini in 1967 and proposed that it should be developed in order. Following this suggestion, the government of Nepal and the UNDP carried out several field missions for the development of Lumbini. As a result of the UN mission's recommendations, short-term projects were carried out by the United Nations Office of the Technical Co-operation. Feasibility and other studies were undertaken for the purpose to provide road access and basic pilgrim facilities at Lumbini sacred area and 1x3 mile project area was determined. Kenzo Tange's office was also engaged in field survey and fundamental framework of Lumbini Master Plan was formulated in 1969.

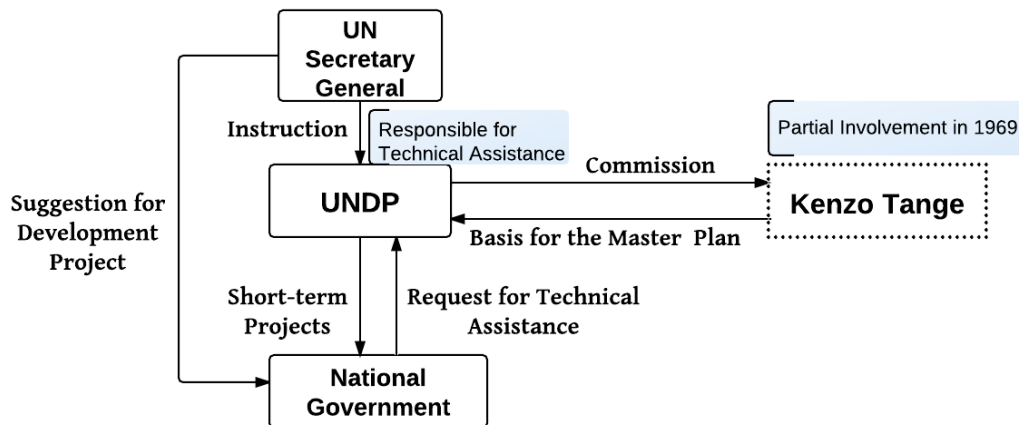


Figure 1.1: Organizational framework of Lumbini Development Project during 1967-1970

1.2 Planning Stage (1970-1985)

In 1970, an international committee for the development of Lumbini was organized in United Nations and Japanese architect Kenzo Tange was commissioned to design a master plan for the development of Lumbini. The main responsibility of the Committee was: Evaluation of Kenzo Tange's Master Plan and fund raising for the implementation of the Master Plan. Then Final Outline Design for Lumbini with zoning plan was prepared in 1972. The report proposed a 5x5 mile Master Plan area with 3x3 mile of project area. The center 1x3 mile strip is divided into three 1x1 mile areas and these areas are to be developed as Sacred Garden, the Monastic Zone and the New Lumbini Village, running from south to north respectively. (Figure 1.2)

The additional 1X3 mile strips on both sides of the central strip are to be restricted areas with the option for future integration into the project. The report also requested the government of Nepal to adopt zoning regulation for an additional 16 square mile area to act as a Buffer Zone that will assure the preservation of the agricultural environment.

Final Master Plan was completed in 1978 and mater design was prepared in 1981. According to the Final Mater Plan in 1978 (Figure 1.3), visitors are expected to start their journey from Lumbini Center, namely the secular world, to enter the Monastic Zone, which represents a sacred space. Visitors are expected to refresh their mind here by visiting monasteries. The Central Link as the main pedestrian walkway leads the visitors all the way to the final destination, the birthplace of Buddha.

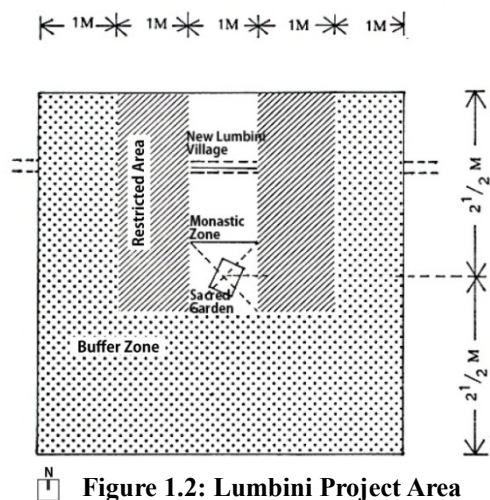


Figure 1.2: Lumbini Project Area

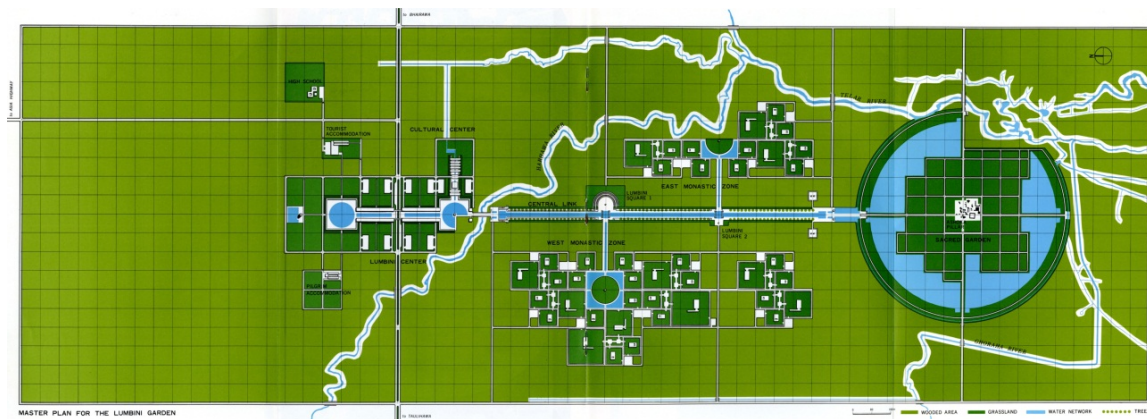


Figure 1.3: Master Plan for the Lumbini Garden

Meanwhile, implementation costs proposed in the master plan had been soaring during the decade. Compared to final implementation costs of 60 million USD, total amount of fund raised by International Committee until 1981 was only 0.7 million USD. Together with technical gap between Kenzo Tange and local design firms, the implementation was delayed. In spite of both financial and technical difficulty, the UNDP still suggested that the implementation should be started immediately with whatever resources that were available and without any revision of the Master Plan.

Reasons for these issues can be found in the transition of the institutional framework during the period. Concerning The UNDP and the Planner, all the actions related to the planning were carried out directly between the two parties. Meanwhile, the International Committee was highly dependent on the UN as a third party and evaluations of the master Plan were carried out as a formality only. Fund raising for the implementation was also ineffective (Figure 1.4). On the other hand, UNESCO was negative in the development assistance as the project was out of its scope of mandate.

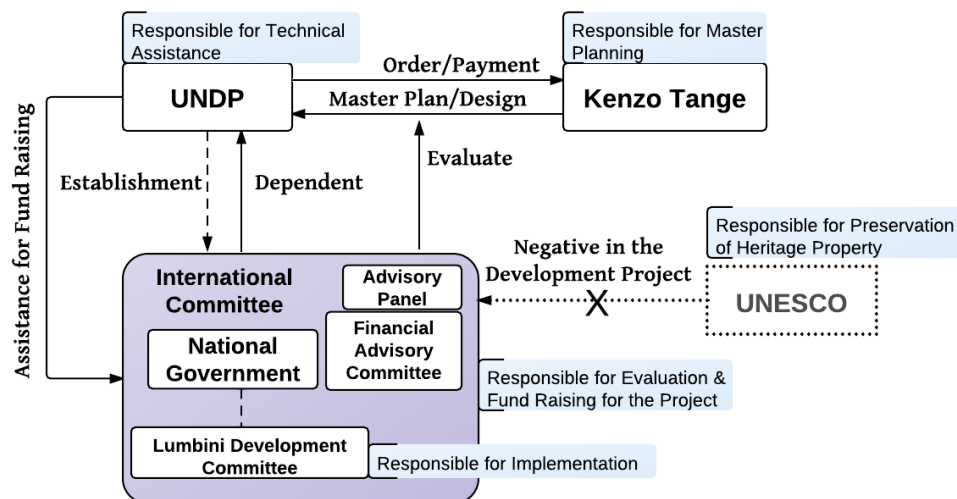


Figure 1.4: Organizational framework of Lumbini Development Project during 1970-1985

2.0 Implementation Stage (1985-1997)

2.1 Construction of the Cultural Center and the Central Link (1987-)

In 1985, Lumbini Development Trust (LDT) was setup based on the suggestion from the UNDP for a better implementation of the Master Plan. Then Construction of the Cultural Center and Central Link was started in 1987. Construction of Cultural Center was carried out by foreign constructor because of complicated structure and most materials were imported (Figure 2.1). This resulted in extremely high cost and the construction of central link was unable to be completed due to insufficient fund (Figure 2.2). This again resulted in no linkage among each component and completed facilities were underutilized.



Figure 2.1: Museum in the Cultural Center



Figure 2.2: Earth work of the Central Link

2.2 Construction of the Monastic Enclaves (1994-)

Considering the significant delay of the implementation of the Central Link and other major infrastructures due to the lack of resources, LDT shifted its priority to the construction of the Monastic Enclaves. According to the master plan, LDT was responsible for construction of Infrastructures and Buddhist groups were responsible for the construction of individual monastery. The construction of monasteries started before the completion of infrastructures as there was no fund for LDT to carry out the construction. The design rules in the master plan were flouted by many Buddhist groups in the name of assisting to the infrastructure construction (Figure 2.3). On the other hand, LDT was unable to carry out onsite construction management, which resulted in uncontrolled construction of monasteries.



Figure 2.3: Uncontrolled Construction

2.3 Transition of Institutional Framework

For The UNDP and International Committee, it was impossible to prepare time table for the implementation due to lack of fund. As a result, both the UNDP and the

International Committee withdrew from the project in 1990. For LDT, lack of supervision from the UNDP and the International Committee resulted in uncoordinated implementation process. On the other hand, LDT as an autonomous body was in fact dependent on political assignation and individual donor (Figure 2.5).

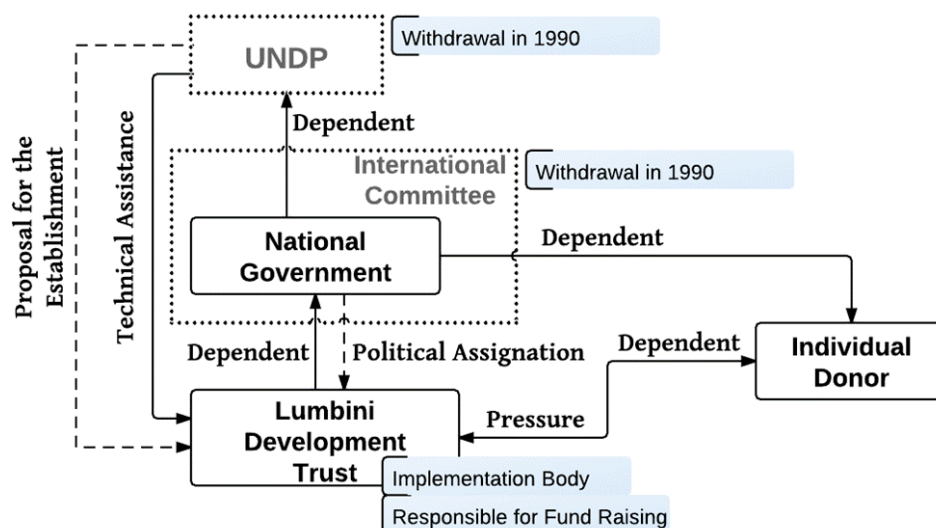


Figure 2.5: Organizational framework of Lumbini Development Project during 1985-1997

3.0 Management Stage (1997-)

Since the inscription of Lumbini on the World Heritage List in 1997, the number of tourists and pilgrims visiting the site has significantly increased and private sector development has been carried out rapidly around the Master Plan area (Figure 3.1). However, In the face of soaring development around the heritage site, land use controlled was ineffective, as the mandate of LDT was confined inside the 1x3 mile project area, which was acquired by the government and no legal authority was given to the management body over the surrounding area. This has brought about continuous threats on the heritage value (Figure 3.2).



Figure 3.1: Lumbini Heritage Site

Lack of shared understanding of heritage values has resulted conflicts among various stakeholders. At the same time, donor based implementation of the master plan was concentrated on the physical aspect while insufficient attention was given to the management of heritage site and its surrounding area (Figure 3.3).

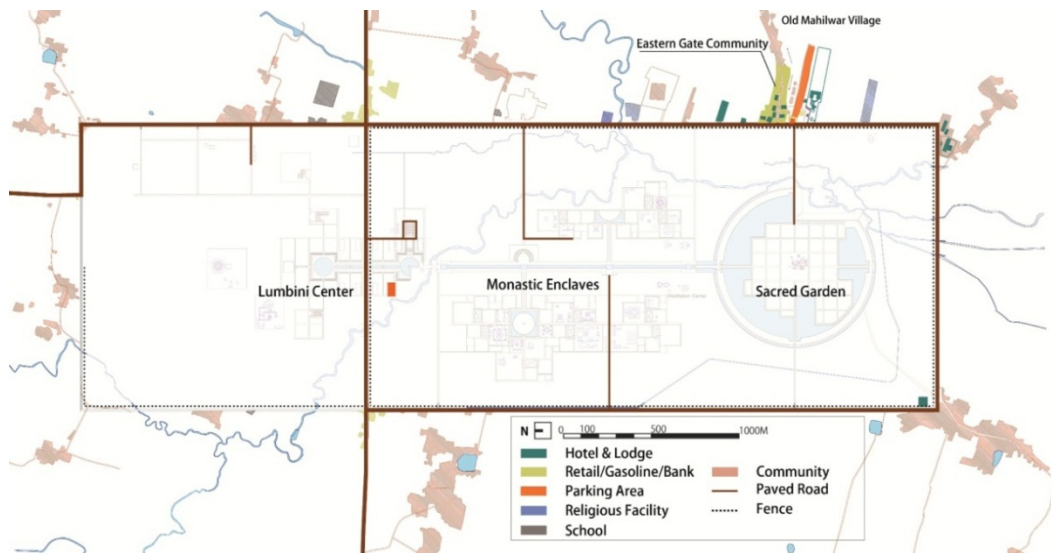


Figure 3.2: Existing Land Use of the Surrounding Area of the Master Plan

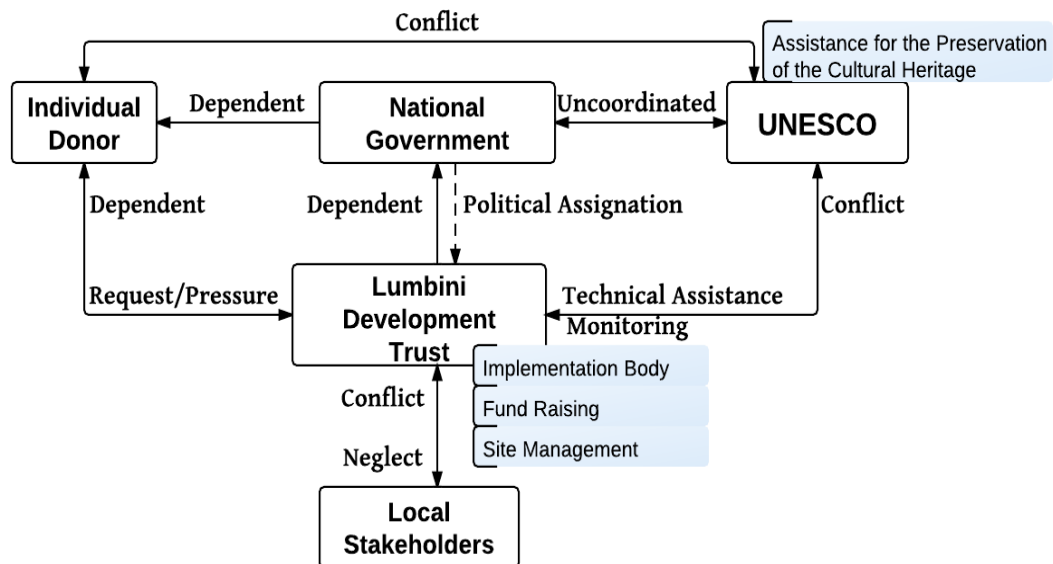


Figure 3.3: Organizational framework of Lumbini Development Project from 1997 until present

4.0 Conclusion

Entering post heritage era, development assistance should shift its emphasis from physical aspect to human aspect. International resources should be fully utilized to strengthen local capacity for autonomous management. At the same time, a third party organization as a platform is necessary to coordinate among stakeholders in order to achieve shared understanding on heritage value. While not denying the importance of international support, it is important for local stakeholders to take responsibility on themselves to find appropriate way of developing and protecting the heritage site.