

Community Empowerment–The comparison study between top-down and bottom-up
planning process in HsinChu Technopolis

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Abstract

In the last 30 years Hsin Chu Technopolis has become famous for being the cradle to a great number of Taiwanese high-tech enterprises and it is frequently cited as a miracle of strategic industrialization in the semiconductor sector that supplies the production systems of almost every important electronic industrial firm worldwide. At the same time nearly one-third of Hsin Chu's population (130,000 out of 400,000 citizens) working in the Hsin Chu Science Industrial Park (HSIP) help to boost the economy up with an annual production value of US\$ 40 billion. High quality education, income and living standard are also every day's life for its citizens.

Community planning (Machizukuri) has been implemented in Hsinchu Technopolis since year 2000 with funding available from the Construction and Planning Administration (MOI) and City and County governments have been embracing and implementing Sustainability principles in order to improve the living quality conditions and leisure environment, attract high-tech talent workers and both local and foreign direct investment.

Within this context community planners, as balancing agents, are playing a key interface role in the communication and transmission of policies and opinions between governments (top-down position delivering government's policies to the public) and citizens (bottom-up position transferring the public's opinion to the government).

This article describes the objectives and implementation process of both approaches in the Technopolis together with their benefits and offers. By applying comparison study, the top-down approach is efficient in

implementation, and the result is more consistent but lack of variety; however, the bottom-up approach is more diversity and satisfy the citizens' demand, but hard to request in a same way. A series of recommendations to increase the overall efficiency of the system is concluded.

Keyword : Sustainability, Community Planning, Top-down planning process approach, Bottom-down planning process approach, Agents, Policies, Opinions