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Agenda item 3.1

Technical Domain / Task Number …………………………

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The benefits brought by the volunteer lighthouse keeper to the sustainable development of lighthouse

1 SUMMERY

This proposal mainly introduces the benefits brought by the volunteer lighthouse keeper activity of the Beijishan Lighthouse for the sustainable development of the lighthouse, including lighthouse maintenance and management, cultural construction, heritage protection, public education, local economic development and integration into the local communities.

1.1 PURPOSE

This proposal is an information file which intended to provide some references for the sustainable development of the lighthouse.

1.2 Relevant documents

None

2 Background

Wenzhou AtoN Department has two lighthouses with lighthouse keepers. Beijishan Lighthouse is one of them. The work of lighthouse keeper is relatively dull, and it is far from the mainland, so life is sometimes inconvenient. If the weather is bad, the lighthouse keepers may not be able to go home for more than a month.

People have always held mysterious and curious ideas about lighthouses on the island. Therefore, we have been thinking about whether we can use volunteer resources in the society to let more people know about the lighthouse keepers’ work and participate in the work to promote the lighthouse culture.

3 Specific practices

Since 2014, we have issued recruitment notice through the Internet and media, and started to recruit volunteer lighthouse keepers at Beijishan Lighthouse, and screened suitable volunteers. From April to November every year, 2-3 volunteers in each period will serve for 10 days at the lighthouse. Volunteers assist in the daily maintenance of the lighthouse in the form of menu service and theme service, and encourage volunteers to carry out public service on the island, and will be issued a volunteer service certificate after the service. Since the launch of the campaign, a total of more than 4,000 volunteers have signed up, and 140 batches of 360 volunteers have been arranged to serve the lighthouse.

In the process of carrying out the activity, we found that the benefits brought to the lighthouse by the volunteers far exceeded the original idea, and the lighthouse achieved comprehensive and sustainable development.

4 Benefits

4.1 Lighthouse Management

On the one hand, the lighthouse keepers improve their management ability by participating in the management of the activity. On the other hand, volunteers help us improve lighthouse management through their ability. For example, the volunteers used their mechanical and network expertise to improve the management and maintenance capacity of diesel engines, and designed a network coverage plan for the lighthouse.

4.2Lighthouse cultural construction

Many volunteers have artistic expertise. Some have left many paintings and wall paintings related to the lighthouse inside, making the lighthouse full of artistic atmosphere. Some took many professional and beautiful photos and videos for the lighthouse, leaving many beautiful records for the lighthouse. Some provided good plans and suggestions for the interior reconstruction of the lighthouse, which made the lighthouse glow with the vitality of the Times. The lighthouse has become the most famous tourist attraction in the area.

4.3 Heritage Protection

With the help of volunteers, we planned and built a lighthouse exhibition hall to better record and display the history and development of the lighthouse.

4.4 Public Education

(1)Provide lighthouse education to volunteers and make them promoters of lighthouse education.

(2)More people know about the lighthouse from volunteers. For example, one of the volunteers is a female primary school teacher from the western mountainous area. After returning home, she had a special art class about the lighthouse, sowing the seeds of lighthouse culture and knowledge into the hearts of primary school students. There were also volunteers who wrote many beautiful articles about lighthouses and published them, and the lighthouses became more widely known.

(3)Through the lighthouse Open Day, provide the lighthouse education for visitors.

4.5 Serve local economic development

The rising popularity of the lighthouse also attracts a lot of tourists to the island. According to statistics, from January to June in 2021, the number of tourists landing on Beiji Island reached 30,000, with a year-on-year increase of more than 30%.Because of the increase of tourists year by year, the ferry bound for the island from the original two days a small one into a large one a day; There are more B&Bs and restaurants opening on the island, and the local government is willing to invest in infrastructure such as docks and roads. The income of islanders is also increasing with the arrival of more tourists.

4.6 Integrate into the local community

Volunteers use their own professional knowledge to carry out volunteer teaching, free diagnosis, lectures, online classes, group fitness and other activities for the island residents to provide services to the community. Every year on Arbor Day, volunteers return to the lighthouse to plant trees. Now there is a lush volunteer forest around the lighthouse, which contributes to the island's environmental protection. Lighthouses are increasingly connected to the community.

5 Our experience

(1) Choose a suitable lighthouse to carry out volunteer lighthouse keeper activity. The best choice is a lighthouse on an inhabited island, so that volunteers can experience the real life of lighthouse keeper.

(2) There should be excellent planning schemes to attract extensive participation of the public. For example, our recruitment slogan: Watch the stars, start your quiet journey, be the most romantic volunteer.

(3) Select appropriate volunteers to participate in the activity. We do not only attract volunteers to participate in, but also expect them to bring their knowledge and ability to the lighthouse. We will select those with professional knowledge, such as artists, teachers, engineers, doctors and administrators, and give priority to participating in the activity.

(4) Make reasonable use of volunteers as valuable assets of lighthouses. We have established the lighthouse Volunteer Association to manage and maintain the volunteers. And we organized volunteer salons to enhance the connection between us and volunteers and between volunteers. Having the service is not just a one-time work, but a real love of the lighthouse, so that they are willing to use their knowledge and skills to help the sustainable development of the lighthouse.

6 In the future

(1) Develop the app for the activity to provide services such as registration application, island weather, ferry schedule and island scenic spot introduction, so as to provide better services for volunteers and tourists.

(2) Develop lighthouse cultural and creative products to better carry out lighthouse cultural construction and education.

7 Action requested of the Commission

The Committee is invited to note the information and take action as appropriate.