

## **Rebuilding the Linkage between People and Environment -- A Google-based Participation Platform**

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Formosa (Taiwan) island is a beautiful island. However, people are not satisfied with environmental quality because of the side effect of economic booming. According to statistics, there are 19 million cars and 12.5 million motorcycles approximately by the end of 2004 in such a small island. There is almost no room for people to walk. Consequently, a project to identify a round-island walking trail was initiated by GROs, NGOs and some individuals. This project was designed to become a populace movement. The ultimate goal is to rebuild the linkage between people and environment.

A local-bottom-up strategy is adopted. Public participation geographic information system (PPGIS) methodology is employed to fulfill the objective of participation. A platform that integrates the Google Earth and the Google Map is provided for general public to identify the trail that they used to walk in their hometown and to digitize the trail on the screen. These trails are then open to public for discussion. The relevance of being included as part of the round-island walking trail is discussed by the public. It is expected that the round-island walking trail will be accomplished by connecting all segments that provided by the public. It is hope that the place-based identities will be inspired and the closer linkage between people and environment will be achieved.