

The Significance of SEGES (Social and Environmental Green Evaluation System) in Conserving Urban Biodiversity

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Urban Green Space Development Foundation runs an accreditation system to neutrally evaluate the activities of businesses that are actively working to green the city and are dedicated to improving the social environment. This system is known as the Social and Environmental Green Evaluation System (SEGES). In addition to promoting the social aspects of business land usage, the system aims to raise the social value of quality green spaces generated by businesses, realize a style of town planning that supports co-existence of humans and nature and create a sustainable society.

SEGES evaluates green spaces managed by various bodies including businesses, factories, nature study facilities and private associations. It sets out a comprehensive framework to assess from a variety of perspectives how green spaces contribute to society and the natural environment. Assessment factors comprise 3 principles and 8 general rules based on SEGES standards. The evaluators are selected specialists in environmental management and green spaces who carry out field investigations and interviews based on candidates' individual skills and capabilities. The system involves interviews with senior management to ensure that the candidates have a vision for the future that is in line with overall greenery strategy.

The outcome of the assessment is then passed on to an evaluation and accreditation board that issues certificates after taking into account the results of the assessments and the interviews. The certificates are issued as badges in 5 grades:

- Superlative Stage: qualified after continuously accredited as Excellent Stage 3
- Excellent Stage 3: Excellent contribution to the society. Graded by score.
- Excellent Stage 2: Excellent contribution to the society. Graded by score.
- Excellent Stage 1: Excellent contribution to society. Graded by score.
- Green Stage: Potential good green space.

Green spaces in factories and business establishments not only contribute to employee intellectual productivity and relaxation, but are also regarded as part of the company's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities. Green spaces contribute to society in a variety of ways, including acting as carbon sinks for global warming, modifying the heat island effect, recharging groundwater, and serving as places to connect local communities with nature. There have been many recent examples of these initiatives to conserve biodiversity being put into practice. Activities in privately owned green spaces, such as expansion of environmental education programs, conservation of the regional ecosystem in conjunction with local people, NPOs, experts and schools, are also a form of CSR activity that is easy for stakeholders to grasp.

One unique aspect of SEGES is that it evaluates both the system tailored to manage each particular green space, and the actual performance of that system. This comprehensive evaluation process employs three basic principles to assess green potential and innovativeness.

Activities by businesses to create and conserve green spaces within cities with little natural environment help to restore the connection between people and nature. Urban Green Space Development Foundation is committed to promoting SEGES, a business accreditation system designed to stimulate the efforts of various bodies to preserve biodiversity.