

# WHITRAP NEWSLETTER

World Heritage Institute of Training and Research for the Asia and the Pacific Region under the auspices of UNESCO



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The World Heritage Institute of Training and Research for the Asia and the Pacific Region under the auspices of UNESCO (WHITRAP) is a Category II institute under the auspices of UNESCO. It was the first international organization in the field of world heritage to be established in a developing country. Mandated by the States Parties of the World Heritage Convention and other States Parties of UNESCO, the institute was founded to promote the conservation and development of World Heritage in Asia and Pacific Region. WHITRAP has three branches in Beijing, Shanghai, and Suzhou.

The Shanghai Centre at Tongji University focuses on the conservation of cultural heritage, such as the sustainable development of ancient towns and villages, architectural sites, architectural complexes, and cultural landscapes.

The Beijing Centre at Peking University is in charge of natural heritage conservation, archaeological excavation, and management of the sites' cultural landscape.

The Suzhou Centre, hosted by Suzhou Municipal Government, is in charge of traditional architectural craftsmanship and restoration, conservation materials analysis, and historic garden restoration and maintenance.

The rotating secretariat is now located in Shanghai and is mainly responsible for coordinating and guiding the work of WHITRAP according to the plans and instructions determined by the Governing Board.

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# INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON URBAN HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND DESIGN FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL NETWORK FOR URBAN HERITAGE CONSERVATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS (PART I)



From 26 to 28 September 2023, Tongji University, as host, together with the College of Architecture and Urban Planning (CAUP), World Heritage Institute of Training and Research for the Asia and Pacific Region, a Category 2 Centre under the auspices of UNESCO (WHITRAP Shanghai), and Shanghai Tongji Urban Planning and Design Institute Co., LTD(TJUPDI) successfully co-organized an **International Conference on Urban Heritage Conservation and Design for Sustainable Development** and held the first meeting on the establishment of the **International Network for Urban Heritage Conservation in Higher Education Institutions**. The event was also presented as a forum during the 2023 World Design Cities Conference.

The background of the conference was acknowledging on the one hand a major **paradigm shift in our understanding of heritage**, its values and functions, and how, though still under threat, it is considered as a solution to address sustainability and resilience. And on the other hand, acknowledging the **lack of competency and capacity at all levels**. Therefore, with a particular focus on the **2011 UNESCO Historic Urban Landscape Recommendation (HUL)**, the aim of the conference and of establishing a Network, was to explore the current experiences, practices, and objectives, and identify the gaps to fill in the area of Education, Research and Action. The purpose was to discuss innovative approaches to inventing new types of research and education models, considering high-tech and low-tech, traditional knowledge, and AI to go beyond the disciplines and skills traditionally used in the domain of conservation, particularly in the area of urban and rural development.

## 1. OPENING CEREMONY

Pei Jieting  
WHITRAP Shanghai

On the opening ceremony, Prof. Peng Zhenwei, the Deputy Secretary of the Party Committee of Tongji University, Ms Dorine Dubois, Chief of the Executive Office of the Culture Sector of UNESCO, Prof. Liu Song, Chairman of the College Council, CAUP, Tongji University and Secretary of the Party Committee of TJUPDI, and Prof. Zhou Jian, Secretary-General of WHITRAP, delivered speeches to congratulate the successful convening of the conference.

Prof. Peng Zhenwei stated that the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have set higher standards for the development of various disciplines, particularly for the in-depth synergistic collaboration of multiple disciplines, and have required **universities to break down barriers between disciplines in order to create new knowledge for the future and cultivate innovative talents**. Prof. Liu Song emphasized that CAUP of Tongji University and TJUPDI have consistently viewed the creation of sustainable human settlements and living environments as their responsibility, pursued innovation relentlessly and **developed exceptional professionals serving the national strategy**, making significant contributions to the rapid development of China's cities. She hoped that by utilizing UNESCO's new competency framework for cultural heritage management, this conference would create an exchange platform for the transmission of research and teaching expertise as well as institutional cooperation within the context of higher education. Ms Dorine Dubois emphasized that urban heritage, conservation and design will be essential to tackling





Group photo of the Opening Ceremony and Keynote Speech sessions

global challenges including climate change. UNESCO has offered a wide variety of normative frameworks and tools to support countries and communities to safeguard urban heritage, and to promote sustainable development through culture. She pointed out **education has a very important role for culture as an extremely powerful tool in the broad understanding of the need for all people for all individuals and communities to preserve their heritage.** Prof. Zhou Jian proposed that in the new development period, our understanding of the value of cultural heritage has become more diverse, while realizing that heritage is not an isolated system or element in the city, but is related to the development of the entire city and the city as a whole. We must therefore understand urban heritage from both the holistic and temporal perspectives. At the same time, the diversity of heritage stems from the diversity of cultures, and thus **heritage must be preserved in accordance with local conditions.** To that end, it is necessary to **establish a shared platform for heritage research and education in collaboration with higher education institutions worldwide.**

## 2. KEYNOTE SPEECHES

### Conference working group

WHITRAP Shanghai  
CAUP Tongji University

The keynote speech session on the afternoon of 26 September was moderated by Prof. Zhou Jian, Secretary-General of WHITRAP Shanghai. Five speakers presented at the session, including Mr Hu Min, Chief of Historical Famous City Conservation Division of Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development of the People's Republic of China, Michael Turner, UNESCO Chair holder in Urban Design and Conservation Studies and professor of Bezael Academy of Arts and Design, Prof. Wu Zhiqiang, a member of the Chinese Academy of Engineering, German Academy of Science and Engineering and Royal Swedish Academy of Engineering Science, Ms Françoise Ged from the Observatoire de l'architecture de la Chine Contemporaine Cité de l'Architecture et du Patrimoine, and Ms Zhuang Qing, the Deputy Chief of the Preservation Department of Shanghai Planning and Natural Resource Bureau.

## 2-1. Chinese Famous Historical and Cultural Cities: The History and Future Prospects

Hu Min

Chief of Historical Famous City Conservation Division, Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development of the People's Republic of China;  
A professor-level senior urban planner;  
A registered urban planner;  
A certified designer for cultural heritage conservation projects.

Mr Hu Min, Chief of Historical Famous City Conservation Division of Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development of the People's Republic of China, presented a speech on the "History and Prospects of the Protection of Historical and Cultural Cities in China." Mr Hu introduced the history and achievements of the preservation of famous historical and cultural towns and cities in China. Since the State Council announced the first list of Famous Historical and Cultural Cities in 1982, the country's urban and rural historical preservation work has yielded remarkable feats. **China's President Xi Jinping has consistently highlighted the significance of safeguarding historical and cultural cities. He emphasized that such an effort should prioritize authenticity and integrity while being integrated into economic and social development. Furthermore, any measures should be executed with the utmost care and diligence, allowing for the preservation of both the city and its architectural features.** The General Offices of CCCPC and of the State Council, released an *Opinion on Strengthening the Protection and Inheritance of Historic and Cultural Heritage in the Course of Urban-Rural Development* in August 2021. The Opinion is significant in terms of establishing new benchmarks, implementing novel concepts, and constructing a new mechanism. It corresponds with the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party of China, the building of a moderately well-off society, and the move towards high-quality urbanization. In his speech that followed, Mr Hu elaborated the four principles to guide the protection of historical and cultural cities in the future: **first**, the protection should be based on a comprehensive understanding of the temporal and spatial continuity; **second**, we should respect and uphold the tradition while not limiting ourselves to the past; **third**, cities are a lively part of people's life; and **fourth**, the vitality of culture lies in innovation. Mr Hu came to the conclusion that in the new era, historical and cultural cities should serve as the catalyst for the development of the society. To achieve this, we should encourage the creative transformation and innovative development of historical culture so that the urban heritage acts as a vehicle for boosting the economy and improving the quality of life.

## 2-2. Beyond the Historic Urban Landscape in the Age of the Metropolis

Michael Turner

Professor at Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design; and UNESCO Chair holder in Urban Design & Conservation Studies.

Prof. Michael Turner delivered a speech titled "Beyond the Historic Urban Landscape in the Age of the Metropolis", exploring the evolving urban heritage in the context of sustainable development. He presented the concept of **"Heritopolis"** and noted how, in recent years, the idea of heritage had evolved from being architectural monuments to include living cities and metropolises. He **stressed the need for a wider recognition of the significance of the social, cultural and economic processes in the conservation of urban values.** He **cited the role of culture, the fourth pillar, as an enabler for sustainable development**, exemplified by the changes expressed in the 2011 UNESCO *Recommendation on Historic Urban Landscape* and the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. Furthermore, he mentioned the *New Urban Agenda*, adopted at Habitat III, and other related theories to expound on the connection between cities and culture. **The term "Heritopolis," derived from "heritage" and "metropolis", reflects the correlation between heritage and cities.** Heritage is not looking at the past, but it's in fact the creation of the future. As a result, it enhances the city's resilience and liveliness, affecting the dynamics of its communities. Towards the end of his speech, Prof. Turner emphasized the **importance of interdisciplinarity in relation to knowledge production and innovation models.** He explained the **five helices of the Quintuple Helix, which are vital for interactions and exchange of knowledge.** Social change produces cultural change, which is essential in the generation of cultural heritage and the conservation of urban heritage. **The future of urban heritage also relies on the advancement and cooperation of education, economic, political systems, the natural environment, and civil society.**



### 2-3. The Intellectual Revival of Urban Life

#### Wu Zhiqiang

Member of the Chinese Academy of Engineering;  
Member of German Academy of Science & Engineering;  
Member of Royal Swedish Academy of Engineering Science.

In his keynote speech, Academician Wu Zhiqiang shared his three insights on the intellectual revival of urban life through various case studies. First, he presented the idea that **"city is a living organism, which needs to be taken care of"**, citing examples from his prior planning and designing work in Berlin, Paris, Hamburg and a sub-center of Beijing. Second, he proposed that **"renovation should be precise and accurate by looking at the details"**, and underlined the importance of precisely identifying and distinguishing the genes and cells of each city in the process of urban planning. **The primary genes of a city that doesn't change include the overall layout of its natural landscape, local traditional wisdom regarding how to treat the environment, and the city character and urban fabric.** He then introduced the efforts his team has made to research ancient cities and their characteristics, including comparing the building heights, densities and floor area ratios between 22 typical Chinese ancient cities, accurately identifying road sections and streets requiring enhancement, and looking into the color patterns of a city. "In Chinese culture, compound medicines are always preferred over single-prescription medicines. The same principle applies to cities; **only those with compound functions can truly embody a well-developed city and the vitality of Chinese civilization.**" Academician Wu used vivid analogies to highlight that the core of urban renovation lies in a comprehensive configuration. His third point emphasized that **"renovation is beyond the physical"**. Renovation is for the benefit of people, rather than a superficial makeover. A city can be revitalized by smart renovation of its old areas. The ultimate aim is to promote the city's prosperity. He also presented the "Taizhou urban Metaverse" project his team has created and the "Shaoxing - Ancient City Innovation Competition" as examples to demonstrate the **importance of urban renovation for a more sustainable emergence of innovations.** Academician Wu concluded, **"The aim is to protect the genes and renew the cells of cities, and to revive the life. Efforts should also be made to enable digital empowerment of heritage and cultural empowerment of innovation, in order to ultimately improve the lives of people. These initiatives align with the SDG 11 of the United Nations on urban and community development".**

### 2-4. Caring for Places and People, Urban and Rural Heritage

#### Françoise Ged

Observatoire de l'architecture de la Chine Contemporaine  
Cité de l'Architecture et du Patrimoine

Françoise Ged, the head of Observatoire de l'architecture de la Chine Contemporaine Cité de l'Architecture et du Patrimoine, presented on the topic of "Caring for Places and People, Urban and Rural Heritage." Initially, she introduced the "Cité de l'Architecture et du Patrimoine", a national cultural institution under the French Ministry of Culture opened in 2007 with the objective of constructing harmonious societies, buildings, and cities. The institution **promotes exchange programs between French and Chinese architects, urban planners, and city services**, which has established a number of collaborative programs with partners such as Tongji University and WHITRAP Shanghai. Following that, she introduced the concept of "landscape" in the context of urban heritage and sustainable development, tracing its historical origins and citing the outcomes of the International Conference on "Culture 2030: Urban and Rural Development" in Meishan, Sichuan Province in 2019. She emphasized that **heritage worldwide, be it urban and vernacular, tangible and intangible, cultural and natural, are increasingly under threat. The very foundation of heritage lies in the act of passing it on. So the civil society and education have a crucial role to play to enable learning to care, to act together, and to connect past and future.** She continued to present the French experience in heritage conservation, where various education programs for preserving heritage have been carried out. These programs, taking into account heritage in all its forms, built and unbuilt, formal and informal, aim to develop the necessary knowledge and its applications and to analyze, repair and adapt monuments, built ensembles and the landscape to contemporary needs. She also presented some best practices of sustainable architecture and urban planning in China. Finally, by citing the words of Alexander von Humboldt, she urged **heritage practitioners to focus on fieldwork in order to discover a different perspective on the subjects, not to be confined to predefined categories or disciplines, and adopt new strategies to bring people and nature together.**

## 2-5. Promoting High-quality Urban Renewal through Historical Preservation and Cultural Heritage Inheritance

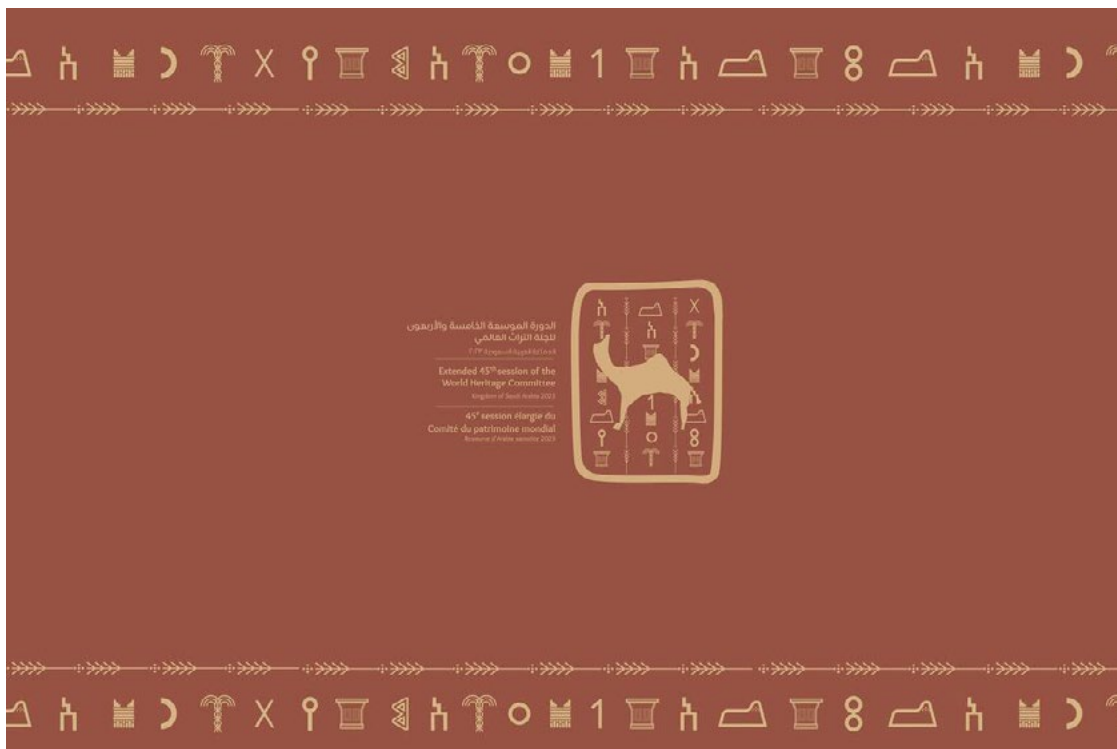
Zhuang Qing

Deputy Chief of the Preservation Department of Shanghai Planning and Natural Resource Bureau

Ms Zhuang Qing from the Shanghai Planning and Natural Resource Bureau delivered a speech titled "Promoting High-Quality Urban Renewal through Historical Preservation and Cultural Heritage Inheritance". In three sections, the presentation provided a chronological overview of Shanghai's historical preservation and cultural heritage inheritance. Since being named as a National Famous Historical and Cultural City in 1986, **Shanghai has implemented a city-wide protection system, established legislation to safeguard local heritage, developed a multi-level management system for conservation planning, and actively pursued the preservation and adaptive use of its historical heritage resources.** During the first phase, which lasted from 1986 to 2001, Shanghai focused on the preservation of individual buildings and promoted legislation, as well as establishing the critical role of famous city conservation in the city's overall development strategy. During the second phase between 2002 and 2015, Shanghai started on a comprehensive mission to formulate regulations, and a management system for the point-to-point protection of "cities, towns and villages" as well as "points, lines and areas". The aim has been to protect these areas and their attributes and features in a holistic manner. In the third phase which spans from 2016 to the present, Shanghai successively integrated historical neighborhoods within their scope of protection as part of the efforts to enhance the concept of protection as a whole in the context of urban renewal, and to explore ways of promoting protection through use. Looking back at the development of Shanghai's historical preservation, successive sessions of municipal Party committee and government have placed a high value on the protection work, **stressing the importance of coordinating development and protection, and have established a conservation mechanism for historical and cultural areas featuring comprehensive list of objects to be protected as well as measures of systematic management.** In the new era, Shanghai, as a modern city steeped in history and culture, has a unique opportunity for high-quality development, but it also faces the serious challenge to strike a balance between historical spaces and the integration of new,

contemporary functions. To achieve this, **innovation and exploration are necessary to coordinate effective conservation and urban renewal so as to establish Shanghai as an example of historical preservation in a new era.**

## REPORTS OF THE EXTENDED 45TH SESSION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE



The extended 45th session of the World Heritage Committee was held from 10 to 25 September 2023 in Riyadh, the capital of Saudi Arabia. This 45th session followed the 44th session of the World Heritage Committee held in Fuzhou, China in 2021, which was an extraordinarily long session. It had been originally scheduled to take place in Kazan, Russia in 2022 but it was postponed due to the Russian-Ukrainian conflict. So, this year's World Heritage Committee was required to deal with a two-year backlog of items and a range of working issues.

### 7B - STATE OF CONSERVATION OF PROPERTIES INSCRIBED ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST

**Li Hong, Fan Yu** (intern)  
WHITRAP Shanghai

The extended 45th session of the World Heritage Committee (45COM) examined 205 State of Conservation (SOC) reports under 7B Item, among which 20 properties have been observed under threat since the 44th COM in 2021. 54 SOC's from the Asia and the Pacific region (APA), which also mirrored the statutory matters. The most reported factors affecting the properties continue to be the following ones: inadequate management systems/management plan; housing; tourism-related activities; Impacts of transportation infrastructures; Illegal activities; legal framework; war and civil unrest; mining, oil and gas exploitation/ exploration as well as climate change-related impacts.



During the Committee Meeting, only 5 World Heritage properties of APA were openly discussed, which were: **14. The Sundarbans (Bangladesh); 19. Dong Phrayayen-Khao Yai Forest Complex (Thailand); 43. Town of Luang Prabang (Lao People's Democratic Republic); 157. Group of Monuments at Hampi (India); 162. Borobudur Temple Compounds (Indonesia).** For the lengthening of the article, this part will focus on the properties mentioned above, observe the debates, and come up with some reflections.

## Natural Properties

### 14. The Sundarbans (Bangladesh)

The Committee inscribed the Sundarbans of Bangladesh on the World Heritage List in 1997 and current conservation issues have been presented to the WHC since 2021. The Sundarbans Reserve Forest (SRF), which is one of the world's largest mangroves and is situated in Bangladesh's southwest, satisfies the WH Criteria (ix) and (x) by offering an important illustration of ongoing ecological processes and supporting an exceptionally high level of biodiversity in both the terrestrial and marine environments.

Current conservation issues of this property are mostly about the management plans, cooperation between State Parties, and funding implementation. First, finalizing the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and the Strategic Environmental Management Plan (SEMP) is the most urgent item, along with implementing several localized conservation measures and contingency plans, especially concerning the power plants. The human-wildlife relationship has been addressed in relevant management plans and calls for community involvement and participation. In addition, the cooperation project between India and Bangladesh which is the second India-Bangladesh Joint Working Group (JWG) has been postponed due to the negotiation of the upstream freshwater flow. In the meanwhile, the funding allocation for the implementation of the National Oil Spill and Chemical Contingency Plan (NOSCOP) has not been secured, causing the lagging development of a localized contingency plan.

To address these matters, the State Party submitted the SEA and SEMP several times under the WHC requests. However, on the revision of management

plans, the WHC sent a follow-up letter to the State Party, expressing third-party concerns regarding the assessment of industrial development and significant infrastructure projects, to which the State Party replied with a report that could not be reviewed for inclusion in the current SOC report. The Committee requested that the SEA specifically evaluate potential impacts concerning the OUV. It is apparent that the current SEA's conclusions and mitigation strategies are based on conjecture rather than actual data and figures, and as a result, the justifications and feasibility are questionable. The Committee and IUCN have urged the State Party to determine the potential impacts on the property's OUV in a more explicit manner regarding current conservation issues, keeping the WHC informed of any proposals for major projects that may impact the OUV in conformity. The Committee also calls for joint work between India and Bangladesh because of its significance on the water flow issue to the property. Furthermore, the WHC addresses that the funding implementation of the NOSCOP should start as soon as possible and the preparation of a localized contingency plan should be accelerated to ensure immediate and coordinated actions to mitigate impacts in case of emergency. Finally, the WHC requests the State Party to submit an updated SOC report addressing the above issues for examination at the 46th session of the World Heritage Committee.

### 19. Dong Phrayayen-Khao Yai Forest Complex (Thailand)

Dong Phrayayen-Khao Yai Forest Complex was inscribed on the World Heritage List by the Committee in 2005 and has started its current state of conservation since 2021. The property is crucial for the preservation of critically endangered and vulnerable animal, bird, and reptile species that are acknowledged to have OUV, which meets Criteria (x). The Thai Government has committed to ongoing investment including the provision of adequate staffing numbers, equipment, and annual budgetary allocation, to maintain long-term conservation of natural resources and keep ecosystems in the property intact and healthy.

Current conservation issues are directly and indirectly caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, such as the prevention of illegal logging, the depression of trade of Siamese Rosewood, the difficulties with the preservation budget, and the need for technical assistance with management plans. While the

cooperation among State Parties to address the illegal logging along the state border is continuing, the prevention and suppression of illegal activities have been hindered by the pandemic. In addition to the difficulties against crimes, the trade of Siamese Rosewood has been hindered and the budget to implement these conservation activities at the property was significantly reduced due to the impact of the pandemic. In the meantime, the State Party requested technical assistance and guidance from IUCN to undertake a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).

The State Party has closely contacted the Committee and IUCN to discuss further solutions regarding these conservation issues. The Committee noticed that despite the State Party's international cooperation with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and bilaterally with Cambodia on illegal logging, trade of Siamese Rosewood and law enforcement were increasingly paused due to the pandemic. The Committee also mentioned the importance of allocating sufficient funds for the implementation of relevant management plans such as the 2020-2022 Action Plan for the continuing protection of the OUV of the property. It is mentioned in the SOC report that the Committee highly welcomes the State Party's intention to seek guidance from IUCN. Moreover, the Committee and the State Party have also been in constant discussion of the road expansion requests and the potential exclusion of some areas to solve the unclear boundary demarcation. Close consultations with local communities are encouraged by the Committee to better monitor the effects of the legislation and regulation of the property. It is considered that unless the State Party encounters any issue or identifies any negative impact on the OUV of the property, further updates on this infrastructure are not required.

## Cultural Properties

### 43. Town of Luang Prabang (Lao People's Democratic Republic)

Located in northern Laos, Luang Prabang is an exceptional example of rich architectural and artistic heritage that reflects the fusion of Lao traditional urban architecture with that of the colonial era. Luang Prabang was added to the World Heritage List in 1995 for meeting the OUV Criteria (ii), (iv), and (v) and the current discussion of the state of conservation of the property started in 2021. The property's landscapes retain a high degree of authenticity, and as a result, any lack of conservation or outstanding construction will cause significant changes in the site.

It is mentioned by the State Party that current conservation issues are the lack of funding and the need for reconstruction. First, the State Party stated that the lack of funding for heritage impact assessments (HIA) has held them back from carrying out feasibility studies to improve infrastructure aiming at preserving the OUV of the property. Meanwhile, the property needs urgent repair. Many buildings on the site were either demolished or dilapidated due to their poor condition. Natural disasters also struck the property, leading to the erosion of the riverbanks and damage to the local buildings.

Under the WHC's guidelines, the State Party has now been conducting heritage impact assessments for different projects while the Committee and the ICOMOS recommended that the State Party must carry out more assessments and revise their previous HIA for various projects. It is noticed by the WHC, ICOMOS, and ICCROM that the physical attributes are substantively intact, but they remain fragile and at risk, and other attributes of OUV are also threatened by numerous factors and require strong measures to address potential threats. Besides HIA, a full contingency plan is needed to repair and reconstruct buildings. Ecological attributes in urban spaces that are included in OUV should be rehabilitated and maintained. It is advised by ICOMOS that the State Party should proceed with its projects with tremendous care regarding the impact on the property's attributes of OUV. The Committee recommends the State Party follow the ICOMOS advice and the World Heritage Convention's principles to maintain its unified and multidisciplinary management of the inscribed zones.

### 157. Group of Monuments at Hampi (India)

The austere, grandiose site of Hampi was the last capital of the last great Hindu Kingdom. It was inscribed in the WHS List in 1986 as a cultural site by meeting the Criteria (i), (iii), and (iv). The property is a remarkable integration of the planned and defended city of Hampi and bears exceptional testimony to the vanished Hindu civilization, revealing the historical situations of both the apogee and the destruction of the Hindu Kingdom. It had been inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger from 1999 to 2006.

The recent conservation issues of the property started in 2019 and mostly revolve around developmental activities such as road construction, site reconstruction, and tourism infrastructure. First, the development of roads is closely related to the authenticity of the property. The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) raised objections to some proposals

and gave their suggestions to others. The local government has stated that some road widening projects in the buffer and peripheral zones will not affect the authenticity of the site nor disturb any archaeological remains by using traditional materials. Second, due to the heavy rains, the core material of the Fort of the Kamala Mahal Enclosure bulged, leading a portion of the fort to collapse. The reconstruction of the site has been underway. In addition, large-scale tourism development projects are being carried out by the State Government at Kamalapura. The ASI is currently undertaking heritage impact assessments of the OUV and has requested the Hampi World Heritage Area Management Authority (HWHAMA) to undertake a study on the feasibility, suitability, and location of these amendments.

The Committee noticed the ongoing road-widening activity has already taken place despite the suggestion given by the Advisory Bodies of having HIA before construction. In addition to the unauthorized road works, the Committee and the Advisory Bodies hold opinions against the State Party's proposal of using traditional materials extracted from within the property using earth-moving equipment as such practices have led to damage to temples and could impact archaeological remains. In terms of tourism infrastructure, the Committee asked the State Party to send the WHC information about the study by HWHAMA so that the Advisory Bodies can assess it. Moreover, the State Party did not inform the Committee of the significant tourism development pressures that have caused conflicts between the Government of Karnataka and local farmers on the acquisition of land. In light of all the concerns, the Committee urged the State Party to submit relevant HIA and Integrated Management Plan (IMP) to the Advisory Bodies because of the vulnerability of the property. It is suggested that the State Party invite a World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property and submit an updated SOC report for examination at the 46th session.

The State Party submitted a report on the SOC along with other documents revolving around two major issues such as commencing work in advance without notification and seeking assistance from the WHC and the Advisory Bodies. First, the State Party mentioned that the current development contains 4 major projects and 11 programs in total. It was analysed in the updated HIA that 1 program would cause a potentially unacceptable impact on the heritage and 8 programs had already been completed at the time of preparing the HIA. Then, the State Party considered seeking advice and assistance with capacity building and inviting ICOMOS for an Advisory mission. However, the WHC has not received such requests from the State Party yet.

The Committee expressed regret at seeing these programs go ahead without notice. The Committee urged the State Party to halt all projects until the WHC and the Advisory Bodies review their overdue documents. It is requested by the Committee that the State Party provide a full HIA conducted by an independent team to get a holistic view to decide whether all the programs need to be cancelled, which had been rejected by the State Party before. The State Party's actions posed threats to the OUV of the property and jeopardized the WH status of the heritage. In terms of future development, the Committee welcomed the State Party to seek advice from the Advisory Bodies for the enrichment of the Management Plan for the property. Relevant stakeholders are advised to be involved in the future decision-making and management of the property. In light of all the above issues, it is recommended that a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission be carried out on the property to review the current SOC, assess the property's OUV, and provide mitigation measures and further assistance regarding the Management Plan for the property. Finally, the Committee requested the State Party submit revised guidelines, proposals and reports to align with the current WHC guidance.

## 162. Borobudur Temple Compounds (Indonesia)

One of the biggest Buddhist structures ever created was the Borobudur Temple Compounds, in the middle of the Indonesian island of Java, which was constructed in the eighth and ninth century AD under the reign of the Syailendra Dynasty. The property was inscribed on the WH List in 1991 with the WH Criteria (i), (ii), and (vi). The current state of conservation issues happened in 2021 with some remaining unresolved.



## SIDE EVENT - THE NEXT 50 YEARS, WORLD HERITAGE EDUCATION FOR THE FUTURE

Li Xin, translated by Wang Yuxuan (intern)  
WHITRAP Secretariat

Jiang Yeqin, Yan Huiyue  
WHITRAP Suzhou

On 17 September 2023, in Saudi Arabia, "The Next 50 Years, World Heritage Education for the Future" side event of the 45th Session of the World Heritage Committee organized by the World Heritage Institute of Training and Research for the Asia and the Pacific Region under the auspices of UNESCO (WHITRAP) was held at At-Turaif Room of Faisaliyah centre in Riyadh. The side event included the award ceremony of the 2023 "Global Awards for World Heritage Education Innovation Cases" (AWHEIC) and an international sharing forum on WH education.

The side event focused on the model innovation of WH education and made some creative exploration in form, which got high praise from attendees.





The side event was moderated by Dr Li Xin, Deputy Secretary-General of WHITRAP. Mr Yang Jin, Chinese Ambassador to UNESCO, Ms Cui Ying, Deputy Secretary General of the Chinese National Commission for UNESCO, Ambassadors of Venezuela and other countries to UNESCO, many UNESCO World Heritage Category 2 Centres, representatives of the 45th Session of the World Heritage Committee, and several prizewinners attended the side event.

Ambassador Yang Jin delivered an opening speech, pointing out that World Heritage is the commonwealth of mankind and World Heritage education is of great significance. "We wish to discuss the future direction of World Heritage Education in the next years with all of you, sharing the experiences of each other and co-promote the development of World Heritage Education in the future."

Dr Li Xin introduced the objective of AWHEIC and showed the promotional video, pointing out that the mission of AWHEIC is to jointly build an international ecological network for heritage education innovation through scientific, innovative and transboundary cooperation.

The competition for AWHEIC 2023 was more intense than ever, with a total of 30 cases selected from nearly 100 cases worldwide. Three international guests unveiled the winners of the 2023 "Global Awards for World Heritage Education Innovation Case"(AWHEIC).

To fully utilize the international influence of the 45th World Heritage Committee, WHITRAP Suzhou showcased its main accomplishments in youth World Heritage education, including forums, summer camps, cartoons, and theme exhibitions having been organized since its establishment, aiming to further contribute to the development of World Heritage education.

Then, three international guests presented awards to some representatives of the winners on site and took a group photo.

After the International Sharing of Excellent WH Education Innovative Cases, Dr Li Xin introduced the plan of the pilot project between China and Mexico supported by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation and made a summary of the side event. The side event and the 2023 Award Ceremony of AWHEIC were successful, providing strong momentum for the internalization of WHITRAP and AWHEIC.

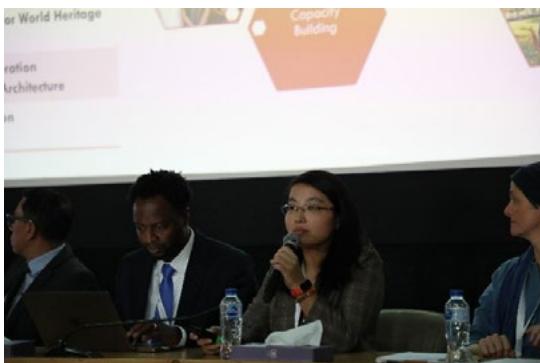
## **SIDE EVENT - EVERYTHING YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT WORLD HERITAGE CAPACITY BUILDING**

**Li Hong**  
WHITRAP Secretariat

The side event on the Everything You Wanted to Know About World Heritage Capacity Building, was held on 16th September during the Extended 45th session of the World Heritage Committee, which was co-organized by the World Heritage Centre, ICCROM and Category 2 Centres. Ms Li Hong attended the activity and made a speech on the Capacity Building at WHITRAP. About 50 people joined the side event. Participants learned the capacity-building activities and overviewed the possible collaboration across the regions and State Parties.

Eugene Jo, Manager of ICCROM WH Leadership Programme, introduced the World Heritage Resource Manuals and associated courses. Mrs Desire Hopen Standal, Senior Advisor of the Norwegian Ministry of Climate and Environment, highlighted the importance of capacity building and expressed continued support for the programme. Mr Mauro Rosi, Chief LAC unit of WHC, advocated building synergies for capacity building working among WHC, ICCROM and C2Cs, although there are regional mandates. Representatives from five C2Cs, the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage (ARC-WH), African World Heritage Fund (AWHF), Regional World Heritage Institute in Zacatecas (IRPMZ), World Heritage Institute (WHITRAP), and International Centre for the Interpretation and Presentation of World Heritage Sites (WHIPIC), introduced the capacity building activities respectively.





In line with the World Heritage Capacity Building Strategy, Ms Li Hong recalled the shifts from “training” to Capacity Building and introduced the programme-based approach to Capacity Building at WHITRAP. In that case, the activities cover all types of target audiences including practitioners, institutions as well as communities and networks. Meanwhile, capacity building can be implemented by research, training and good practice shared through HeritAP (a network of practitioners supported by WHITRAP Shanghai). 7 priority programme themes were presented following the UNESCO WHC featured activities and the urgent needs of the State Parties, which were Asia-Pacific Regional Capacity Building Strategy, Historic Urban Landscape, Impact Assessments in World Heritage Context, World Heritage and Sustainable Tourism, Management Planning for World Heritage, Conservation and Restoration Techniques of Ancient Architecture and World Heritage Education.

Some good practices of capacity building were highlighted. For example, the World Heritage and Sustainable Tourism – Chinese Pilot Studies was shared and the improvement of conservation and management of WH Wulingyuan was reviewed and recognized by IUCN through the IUCN World Heritage Outlook 3 (2020). The continued focus on Impact Assessment and other programmes at regional, national and property levels were presented and welcomed by the audience. Draft Future Plan (2024-2025) was introduced under the priority programmes and triggered more talks between representatives from the State Parties in Asia and the Pacific Region and other professional partners.

## 4th issue of the Study on Natural and Cultural Heritage in 2023

Zheng Zhaoqi (intern)  
WHITRAP Beijing



The 4th issue of the *Study on Natural and Cultural Heritage* was published in August 2023. Great importance is attached to the protection of intangible cultural heritage and the inheritance and development of handicrafts in China. Historically, traditional handicraft was organized by family unit, which was later greatly impacted by the industrial production mode and the capital market. The topic of this issue echoes the trend of attention on the conservation of intangible cultural heritage, especially traditional handicrafts, and all three papers focus on the protection and inheritance of handicrafts. Based on solid field investigation, they have expanded the research depth of handicrafts theory, technology history and production of knowledge from their respective concerns, and are committed to exploring a research paradigm on intangible cultural heritage in both conservation practice and theoretical research.

## Museums, Communities, and the Future – 2023 "Exhibition and Curatorial Studies" Programme at the Central Academy of Fine Arts

Lu He (intern)  
WHITRAP Beijing

The "Exhibition and Curatorial Studies" Programme at the Central Academy of Fine Arts was first offered in 2018, adhering to the pedagogical idea of "plastic arts for cultural heritage" and providing more possibilities for art disciplines to involving in cultural heritage conservation. The theme of the 2023 programme is "Museums, Communities, and the Future".

Wang Siyu, Director of PKU CAAGP and Assistant Professor of the School of Archaeology and Museology at Peking University, and Dr Li Kuanghan, Director Assistant of WHITRAP Beijing, gave lectures on the topics of "China's Museum Practices under the Perspective of New Museology" and "Community Museum Practices in Ethnic Villages in Southwest China" respectively.



## Experts from the International Garden Tourism Network visited Suzhou gardens

Jiang Yeqin, Yan Huiyue  
WHITRAP Suzhou

On 26 September 2023, Mr Ibo Gulson, Vice President of the International Garden Tourism Network, and his delegation visited Suzhou Gardens to explore the conservation and tourism experiences of the Humble Administrator's Garden. Mr Ibo Gulson was impressed by the artistic layout of the Humble Administrator's Garden with its landscape, flowers, trees and pavilions, and stated that the unconventional artistic style provided people with unlimited space for reverie, making it a unique existence in the world's garden system.

Zhu Haijun, Director of WHITRAP Suzhou, and staff from the Humble Administrator's Garden introduced the history, culture and overall conservation and management of Suzhou's gardens. The two sides exchanged views on the international orientation of garden tourism, annual visitor numbers, seasonal changes in tourism, visit experience and duration, and projected visitor numbers.

At the World Garden Tourism conference held in Victoria, Canada in November, Suzhou Classical Gardens received instant attention and recognition from international peers and was awarded the "2023 International Garden Tourism Award" for its tourism characteristics. In addition, with its exceptional qualities which include a profound cultural legacy and pleasurable visitor experience, Suzhou Classical Gardens have been recognized as "the most desirable gardens in the world".



## UNESCO Officials visited WHITRAP Suzhou

**Jiang Yeqin, Yan Huiyue**  
WHITRAP Suzhou

Dr Duong Bich Hanh, Director of the Department of Culture of the UNESCO Multisectoral Regional Office for East Asia (Beijing), and Ms Tong Jatana, Programme Specialist, paid a visit to WHITRAP Suzhou on 19 September 2023. The delegation visited the office area and was given an overview of the work of WHITRAP Suzhou in World Heritage training, conservation research, youth education and international exchanges and cooperation. Then, they held in-depth discussions and consultations about the cooperation between UNESCO and WHITRAP Suzhou in organizing the international forum on "Youth and Traditional Skills" next year. A field trip to the Canglang Pavilion, one of the World Heritage sites of Suzhou Classical Gardens, was also planned to study World Heritage protection and management. The reception and talks were attended by Mr Qian Yucheng, Deputy Director of Suzhou Gardening and Greening Bureau, Mr Zhu Haijun, Director of WHITRAP Suzhou, and other relevant staff.

Dr Duong Bich Hanh praised WHITRAP Suzhou's efforts and expressed hopes that cooperation in organizing international exchange activities would strengthen the interaction and exchange of heritage protection among East Asian countries, encourage young people's participation in the transmission of World Heritage skills, and cultivate youth talents for the conservation and development of World Heritage. Both parties expressed their willingness to engage in long-term exchanges and cooperation in the areas of World Cultural Heritage protection, youth heritage education, intangible cultural heritage, and strengthening the exchange of experience, academics and expertise in world heritage conservation among countries.



## Senior Project Manager of the World Monuments Fund visited WHITRAP Beijing

**Zheng Zhaoqi** (intern)  
WHITRAP Beijing



On 19 October 2023, Hung-his Chao, Senior Project Manager of the World Monuments Fund visited WHITRAP Beijing and met Prof. Zhang Jianwei, Executive Deputy Director of WHITRAP Beijing and Associate Dean of the School of Archaeology and Museology at Peking University, and Li Kuanghan, Director Assistant of WHITRAP Beijing. During the meeting, both parties introduced their strategic directions and representative projects and had an in-depth discussion on the feasibility of future cooperation. Hung-his Chao expressed expectations that both parties would form joint efforts to support heritage education and cultivate the next generation of cultural heritage conservation talents in China with theoretical and practical abilities.



## 2023 Advanced Course on Conservation and Restoration Techniques of Traditional Architecture for the Asia-Pacific Region was held in Suzhou

Jiang Yeqin, Yan Huiyue  
WHITRAP Suzhou



On 9 October 2023, the "2023 Advanced Course on Conservation and Restoration Techniques of Traditional Architecture for the Asia-Pacific Region" was held at Suzhou University of Science and Technology. This training course was jointly organized by WHITRAP Suzhou, Suzhou University of Science and Technology, and Suzhou's Leading Group Office for the Construction of the Grand Canal Cultural Belt and the Grand Canal Yangtze River National Cultural Park.

The opening ceremony was attended by Liu Chun, Deputy Minister of the Publicity Ministry of Suzhou Municipal Committee of CPC, Tang Bojian, Vice President of Suzhou University of Science and Technology, Zhu Guangya, Design Master of Jiangsu Province and Professor of Southeast University, Qian Yucheng, Deputy Director General of Suzhou Gardening and Greening Bureau, and Zhu Haijun, Director of WHITRAP Suzhou. WHITRAP Suzhou and the School of Architecture and Urban Planning of Suzhou University of Science and Technology also signed a cooperation framework agreement at the opening ceremony to strengthen research and training on cultural

heritage protection and to promote the development of the discipline of Suzhou ancient architecture and gardening.

The theme of this training course was "Awareness and Revitalization of the Cultural Heritage of the Grand Canal of China under the Comprehensive Perspective". From 9 to 14 October, experts and scholars from China, the United States, and the Netherlands delivered lectures on the topics of the training course. More than 30 trainees from China (including Macao), Thailand and Cambodia attended the training, including representatives from the Beijing, Henan, Jiangsu and Zhejiang sections of the Grand Canal of China, as well as representatives from the Silk Road, research and management unit, a linear World Heritage site, and representatives from the Dujiangyan Scenic Area Management Bureau, a water conservation World Heritage site.

The programme brought cultural heritage professionals at home and abroad together to explore the protection and inheritance of the cultural heritage of the Grand Canal, as well as the construction of the cultural

park, through in-depth theoretical discussions and practical study. It aimed to investigate solutions for cultural heritage protection in China and the Asia-Pacific region, as well as to demonstrate Suzhou's pioneering practical experience in protecting the cultural heritage of the Grand Canal and the construction of the Grand Canal National Cultural Park, to tell a good "Chinese story" of cultural heritage protection and inheritance.

## Sino-Italian World Cultural Heritage Sites Friendship Forum

Jiang Yeqin, Yan Huiyue  
WHITRAP Suzhou

The Sino-Italian World Cultural Heritage Sites Friendship Forum was held at the West Lake in Hangzhou on 24 October 2023 under the guidance of the National Cultural Heritage Administration of China and the Culture Ministry of Italy. WHITRAP Suzhou attended the forum at the invitation of the forum's organizer. Zhu Haijun, Director of WHITRAP Suzhou, delivered a speech titled "Conservation, Management and Utilization of Suzhou Classical Gardens", focusing on the Suzhou Classical Gardens' unique heritage value, experience and practice in the conservation, management and utilization of the heritage value, as well as cultural exchanges and international cooperation in recent years.

Suzhou Classical Gardens has recently strengthened cultural heritage cooperation and exchanges with Italy and other countries, yielding rich and colourful fruits of cooperation and exchanges. In the future, we will also promote the cooperation between Suzhou Classical Gardens and Venice in the domains of oriental and western garden cultures, World Heritage protection and inheritance, and jointly promote the cultural exchanges and cooperation between China and Italy.



## 5th issue of the Study on Natural and Culture Heritage in 2023

Lu He (intern)  
WHITRAP Beijing



The 5th issue of the *Study on Natural and Cultural Heritage* was published in October 2023. Known as the "Oriental Divine Leaf", tea has long been a symbol of Chinese civilization, along with silk and porcelain. On 17 September 2023, at the 45th Session of the World Heritage Committee held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, the heritage site "Cultural Landscape of Old Tea Forests of the Jingmai Mountain in Pu'er" nominated by the Chinese government was successfully inscribed on the World Heritage List. The "Old Tea Forests of the Jingmai Mountain" is a living fossil of the world's tea culture, an excellent example of the "Cultural Landscape" category of World Heritage, and a model of heritage that integrates nature and culture.

## Suzhou Gardens deepened Sino-U.S. friendly exchanges

Jiang Yeqin, Yan Huiyue  
WHITRAP Suzhou



To further develop exchanges between Suzhou Gardens in China and the United States, WHITRAP Suzhou actively strengthened its connection with the rest of the globe. Delegations from Portland, Oregon, U.S. and Lan Su Chinese Garden, the sister garden of the Master-of-Nets Garden, visited Suzhou Gardens in conjunction with the Fifth Sino-U.S. Sister City Conference held in Suzhou, and in commemoration of the 35th anniversary of the sister city relationship between Suzhou and Portland. The Master-of-Nets Garden and the Lan Su Chinese Garden signed an *MoU on Deepening Exchanges and Cooperation between Sister Gardens*, ushering in a new era of friendship, cooperation and exchanges between the two "Suzhou Classical Gardens" in China and the U.S.

The two gardens would continue regular communication and information sharing, as well as conduct in-depth cooperation and exchanges in the fields of architectural preservation, plant conservation, cultural interactions, and sustainable tourism, according to the Memorandum. At the same time, the "Gardens in the Eyes of Children" exhibition was staged to commemorate the 35th anniversary of Suzhou and Portland's sister city relationship. WHITRAP Suzhou also created and distributed souvenir cards of excellent paintings to Chinese and American teenagers, thus linking folk cultural contacts between the two countries through the art of garden painting.

## China Observance of World Cities Day 2023 - Urban Environmental Security Resilience and Humanistic Care Construction and Development Forum

Marie-Noël Tournoux  
WHITRAP Shanghai



On 29 October 2023, on the occasion of the kick-off of the China Observance of World Cities Day 2023 and the first "Global Award for Sustainable Development in Cities (Shanghai Award)", WHITRAP Shanghai took part in the "Urban Environmental Security Resilience and Humanistic Care Construction and Development Forum". Held in Shanghai, the Forum was co-organized and co-hosted by the China Academy of Urban Planning and Design (CAUPD) - YRCUS and the British Columbia Forestry Innovation Investment of Canada (FII CHINA) under the guidance of the Department of Finance Planning and Foreign Affairs of the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development. Guest organizations included UN-Habitat, UNESCO, Consulate General of Canada to China in Shanghai, Australian Consulate-General in Shanghai/UAP, Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), Singapore SCP Consultants Pte Ltd,

Development Research Center of the State Council, Fudan University, Tongji University, China Visionary Group, etc. The theme of World Cities Day 2023 was "Financing A Sustainable Urban Future for All".

Marie-Noël Tournoux, Project Director WHITRAP Shanghai, delivered a keynote speech on "Can Heritage be a Solution for Urban Resilience and Humanistic Construction and Development?" which firstly focused on the evolution of the understanding of heritage, its use and function, heritage values, its social and legal status, attributes and features, the stakeholders and custodians involved in identifying heritage, protecting and managing it, "using it". And then provided an overview of the integration of culture and heritage (cultural and natural, tangible and intangible) in the international debate on development. Finally, she discussed looking at the other side of the coin to consider heritage as a solution for better, resilient, and sustainable development focusing on people's well-being in all

遗产能否成为城市韧性和人文建设发展的



areas and sectors beyond tourism and "cultural affairs".

The Forum provided a platform to share experiences that contribute to building sustainable, inclusive, safe, and resilient cities. The 20 participants from China and abroad discussed planning for urban safety and resilience and responding to natural disaster mitigation and public health priorities. They shared theoretical approaches and case studies. They underlined the relevance of sociological and emotional approaches to planning as well as provided insight into demographic trends. They showcased strategies for seismic resilience and enhancing public art in an urban environment. They presented examples of projects focusing on relinking the city to its natural components, as well as community planning, improving children's facilities and addressing the adaptation of the built and urban environment to elderly people's needs.





## 2023 Doctoral Academic Forum "Museums in the Coming Decade: Heritage and Display"

**Jenny Lu Jie** (intern)  
WHITRAP Beijing



On 10 November 2023, the 2023 Peking University Doctoral Academic Forum on Cultural Heritage and Museums, co-sponsored by the School of Archaeology and Museology at Peking University, WHITRAP Beijing and the Chinese Association of Museums, was officially opened. With the theme of "Museums in the Coming Decade: Heritage and Display", the forum aligns with the latest academic developments and encourages young scholars to pay attention to the construction of museums in the context of World Cultural Heritage, and focus on the concept and work on collection, display and promotion of cultural heritage in museums. A total of 15 doctoral students presented on the subject, and a wide range of experts and scholars in the field of cultural heritage and museums were invited to participate in the discussion. Zhang Jianwei, Executive Deputy Director of WHITRAP Beijing and Associate Dean of the School of Archaeology and Museology at Peking University, Li Kuanghan, Director Assistant of WHITRAP Beijing, Wang Siyu, Director of PKU CAAGP and Assistant Professor of the School of Archaeology and Museology at Peking University, and Lina Park, Programme Specialist of WHITRAP Beijing, all attended the forum.

## Baiheliang International Symposium 2023

**Jenny Lu Jie** (intern)  
WHITRAP Beijing

On 22 November 2023, the Baiheliang International Symposium was held in Chongqing's Fuling District, gathering over 40 experts in the fields of hydrological heritage from countries such as China, United States, Egypt, France, the Netherlands, Australia, Mexico, and India. The conference focused on protecting hydrological heritage and the joint World Heritage nomination of Baiheliang Ancient Hydrological Inscription and Egypt's Nilometers.

In the session of "Discussion on the Feasibility and Strategy of the joint nomination of Baiheliang-Nilometers Heritage", Bai Jiujiang, Director of the Chongqing Cultural Relics and Archaeology Institute, and the project team of the School of Archaeology and Museology at Peking University made keynote speeches on the challenges, values and strategies of the joint

nomination of the "Baiheliang-Rhoda Island Hydrological Heritage" and "Characteristics and Value of China-Egypt Hydrological Heritage". The experts participated in the dialogue and exchange on the research of heritage values, and the path and strategy of the World Heritage nomination in the context of global climate change for the Chinese Baiheliang Inscription and Egyptian Nilometers.

Prof. Sun Hua, Director of the Academic Committee, WHITRAP Beijing, Prof. Zhang Jianwei, Executive Deputy Director of WHITRAP Beijing and Associate Dean of the School of Archaeology and Museology at Peking University, Li Kuanghan, Director Assistant of WHITRAP Beijing, and Zhao Yajing, PhD candidate from the School of Archaeology and Museology at Peking University, attended the forum.





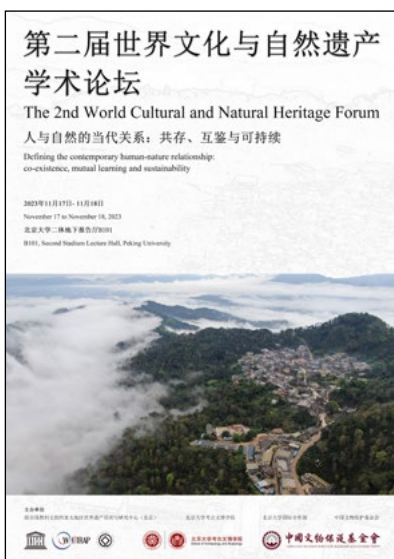
## **The 2nd World Cultural and Natural Heritage Forum: "Defining the contemporary human-nature relationship: co- existence, mutual learning and sustainability"**

**Jenny Lu Jie** (intern)  
WHITRAP Beijing

Pursuant to the initiative of UNESCO, China's appeal for Asian cultural heritage conservation action and the Global Civilization Initiative, and in order to strengthen the scientific protection and rational usage of cultural and natural heritage, to promote cross-disciplinary integration and personnel training in heritage protection, WHITRAP Beijing, School of Archaeology and Museology at Peking University, China Foundation For Cultural Heritage Conservation, and the Office of International Relations of Peking University, co-hosted the 2nd World Cultural and Natural Heritage Forum from 17 to 18 November 2023, themed "Defining the contemporary human-nature relationship: co-existence, mutual learning and sustainability".

During the two-day conference, participants from UNESCO, Pakistan, Belgium, Zambia, Colombia, United Kingdom, Peking University, Tsinghua University, Fudan University, Southeast University, Tongji University, Sun Yat-sen University, Beijing Forestry University and other universities, as well as UNESCO Category II centres and chairs, had in-depth exchanges on topics including "Trends in World Heritage", "Conservation and Management of archaeological Sites", "Coexistence between Human and the Natural Environment", "Preservation and Utilization of Rural Heritage and Cultural Landscape", "Conservation and Utilization of Historic Built Environment" and "Natural Heritage Conservation and Community Development". The Forum also held a Young Professional Forum and a

World Heritage Site Management Forum, inviting young scholars and doctoral students engaged in heritage research, as well as managers from ten Chinese World Heritage sites, including the Imperial Palaces of the Ming and Qing Dynasties in Beijing and Shenyang, Cultural Landscape of Old Tea Forests of the Jingmai Mountain in Pu'er, Jiuzhaigou Valley Scenic and Historic Interest Area, etc., to release and discuss the latest research results and share experiences in heritage protection and management.



## 1st Chinese Museum Studies Conference in Guangzhou

Zheng Zhaoqi (intern)  
WHITRAP Beijing



On 24 November 2023, the First Chinese Museum Studies Conference, guided by the National Cultural Heritage Administration and co-hosted by the Chinese Museum Association, China Cultural Relics News and the Department of Culture and Tourism of Guangdong Provincial, opened in Guangzhou. This conference is the first national conference on museum studies organized by the Chinese Museum Association in more than 40 years. Prof. Zhang Jianwei, Executive Deputy Director of WHITRAP Beijing and Associate Dean of the School of Archaeology and Museology at Peking University and Wang Siyu, Director of PKU CAAGP and Assistant Professor of the School of Archaeology and Museology at Peking University, attended the conference. The theme of the conference is "High-quality Development of Museums in the New Era", and the four parallel forums are: "Construction and Development of Museology Disciplines", "Revolutionary Cultural Relics Themed Exhibitions",

"Transformation and Dissemination of Archaeological Achievements in Museums and Construction of Heritage Museums" and "How Museums Respond to New Challenges in Public Cultural Services".

## International Symposium on "Localized Inheritance of Living Heritage" in Guizhou

**Lu He** (intern)  
WHITRAP Beijing



From 24 to 27 November 2023, the International Symposium on "Localized Inheritance of Living Heritage" was successfully held in three sites in Guizhou. The symposium focused on living heritage and the main topics included the relationship between heritage conservation and community development, the role of community members in heritage practice and their needs, the international eco-museum concepts and China's localized practice, etc.

Dr Li Kuanghan, Director Assistant of WHITRAP Beijing, gave a guided tour at Dali Dong village and moderated the first session of the symposium "Values, Theories and Perspectives", and Wang Siyu, Director of PKU CAAGP and Assistant Professor of the School of Archaeology and Museology at Peking University presented at the third session of the symposium "Field, Country and Action".





# WORLD HERITAGE IN ASIA & PACIFIC

## KAKATIYA RUDRESHWARA (RAMAPPA) TEMPLE, TELANGANA

Collected by **Chen Xiaoyan** (intern), WHITRAP Shanghai

**Country:** India  
**Category of site:** Cultural site  
**Date of inscription:** 2021  
**Criteria:** (i) (iii)

### OUV

The Great Living Rudreshwara Temple, popularly known as Ramappa Temple at Palampet, Warangal stands as a lone testimony to the highest level of creative, artistic and engineering talents evolving and involving various experimentations in expressive art forms of the Kakatiya period. This is the crest jewel of the Kakatiya art tradition, the flavour and influence of which can be gleaned even through the sculptures of Hoysala and Chalukya.

### Criterion (i)

Rudreshwara Temple is a masterpiece of the Kakatiyan style of Temple architecture with the use of engineering innovation by creating floating bricks, sand-box foundations, material selection knowledge and ingenuity in stone sculpting as a technological ensemble. The sculptural and form

modification, the evolution of temple art, sculpture and use of technology in material selection and making as displayed in Rudreshwara Temple at Plampet, Keerthi Thoranas at Warangal, Temple of Thousand Pillars at Hanumakonda are masterpieces of human creativity.

Rudreshwara Temple displays engineering innovation by creating floating bricks to create lightweight over the walls of the structure. The temple deployed indigenous geotechnical knowledge in chiselling one of the hardest rocks of the earth to give a fine finish to the sculptures that has its lustre intact even after 800 years of construction. The use of simple material like sand in the construction of the foundation of a lofty temple making it an earthquake-resistant structure is a masterpiece of the creative effort of the Kakatiyas in the field of construction and geo-technology.

### Criterion (iii)

The cultural traditions of Kakatiya (12th Century AD) evolved from the exchange and continuity of



View showing mandapa inside Ramappa temple © ASI

human values from Chalukyas (8th Century AD) and later continued to Vijayanagara (14th Century AD). Rudreshwara Temple is the best surviving example of the Kakatiyan tradition of art, architecture and technology, even after the onslaught on various other temples of the Kakatiyan era. The establishment and continuity of Kakatiyan power patronised the emergence of this architectural marvel, linking regional dance traditions as documented in the dance treatise Nritta Ratnavali by military general Jayasenapati. The effort of Kakatiyan craftsmen to interpret this regional dance customs, and Kakatiyan lifestyle and to establish textual renderings as a physical representation, in the form of Madanikas, motifs on kakshasana and carvings stand as a testimony to the outstanding universal value in popularising cultural artforms.

The temple is known for its significant sculptural art, hence named after the main sculptor of the temple- Ramappa. The sculptures on the brackets of maidens (Madanikas) are the facial handwriting of the Kakatiyan sculptors and their easy manipulation of the chisel which reached its climax of graceful fluency in modelling, designing and carving these Madanikas. The fine chisels and polish on the fine crystalline rock, have helped retain the luster of the sculpture even today.



View showing bracket figures of Ramappa temple © ASI

(Source: <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1461>)



## GETBOL, KOREAN TIDAL FLATS

Collected by **Chen Xiaoyan** (intern), WHITRAP Shanghai



Autumn in Suncheonman Bay © World Heritage Promotion Team of Korean Tidal Flat

### OUV

Situated in the eastern Yellow Sea on the southwestern and southern coast of the Republic of Korea, the site comprises four component parts: Seocheon Getbol, Gochang Getbol, Shinan Getbol and Boseong-Suncheon Getbol, encompassing a complex combination of geological, oceanographic and climatic conditions. It displays by world standards a rare and complex coastal sedimentary system with diverse tidal ecosystems. Each component has its own unique and diverse geological and biological features.

Thousands of islands are scattered across an area of over a thousand square kilometres like a fishing net spread out to sea. Fast macro-tidal currents that change direction every 6 hours run between these islands through channels that are either narrow or wide, short or long, shallow or deep, according to the state of the tide. This creates one of nature's most spectacular coastal phenomena. In addition to this geological complexity, the nominated property is also deeply affected by seasonal changes emanating from the East Asian monsoon. Together, these factors have

contributed to the overall diversity found in the property's tidal flats and habitats.

Each component represents one of four tidal flat subtypes (estuarine type, open embayed type, archipelago type and semi-enclosed type). The site hosts high levels of biodiversity, with reports of 2,150 species of flora and fauna, including 22 globally threatened or near-threatened species. It is home to 47 endemic and five endangered marine invertebrate species besides a total of 118 migratory bird species for which the site provides critical habitats. Endemic fauna includes Mud Octopuses (*Octopus minor*), and deposit feeders like Japanese Mud Crabs (*Macrophthalmus japonica*), Fiddler Crabs (*Uca lactea*), and Polychaetes (bristle worms), Stimpson's Ghost Crabs (*Ocypode stimpsoni*), Yellow Sea Sand Snails (*Umbonium thomasi*), as well as various suspension feeders like clams. The site demonstrates the link between geodiversity and biodiversity and demonstrates the dependence of cultural diversity and human activity on the natural environment.

**Country:** Republic of Korea  
**Category of site:** Natural site  
**Date of inscription:** 2021  
**Criteria:** (x)

### Criterion (x)

The nominated property plays a critical role in maintaining biodiversity and in supporting internationally endangered species of migratory birds in the Yellow Sea. It hosts one of the most jeopardized flyways among the world's three major flyways.

The property provides for migratory water birds, including 22 IUCN Red List species such as spoon-billed sandpipers (critically endangered species), with ideal grounds for feeding, breeding and resting. It thus serves as a core stopover site on the East Asian-Australasian Flyway.

This crucial habitat is supported by the highest primary production and biodiversity of benthic diatoms, marine algae and other benthic organisms among tidal flats under temperate climates worldwide. A total of 2,150 species of flora and fauna are supported in multiple stable ecosystems where the terrestrial, coastal and marine ecosystems are closely connected in the property. The property embraces 375 benthic diatoms, 118 waterbirds, 857 macrobenthos, 152 marine macroalgae, 47 endemic and 5 endangered marine invertebrate species.

(Source: <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1591/>)



Dance of Great knots, Bar-tailed godwits and Gray plovers © World Heritage Promotion Team of Korean Tidal Flat