

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 II)



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 the 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 the **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.

3. THEMATIC SESSION I: INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH -- IMPLEMENTING THE UNESCO HISTORIC URBAN LANDSCAPE APPROACH, THEORY AND PRACTICE

Conference working group
 WHITRAP Shanghai
 CAUP Tongji University

The Topic One sub-forum on the evening of 26 September was moderated by Prof. Shao Yong, Executive Director of WHITRAP Shanghai. Nine speakers from China, the United States, Portugal, Italy, Japan, Macau SAR, Spain, the Netherlands and Ecuador presented at the session on the topic of **"Interdisciplinary Research: Implementing the UNESCO Historic Urban Landscape Approach, Theory and Practice"**.

3-1. Four-Dimensional City: The Theory, Methods and Practice of the Urban Built Environment

He Yi

Professor of the School of Architecture and Urban Planning of Huazhong University of Science and Technology

Prof. He Yi from the School of Architecture and Urban Planning at Huazhong University of Science and Technology presented her research progress on the



"Four-Dimensional City: The Theory, Methods and Practice of the Urban Built Environment". She first brought attention to "minor architecture" which was not defined as monuments within the context of "built heritage". She then expounded on this concept with the "four-dimensional city". The conservation value of "implicit historical elements" is thus proposed in this work, adopting a perspective based on spatial relationships. The essential methods of historical pattern translation and architectural texture analogy have significant practical implications for the preservation and demolition of urban structures. She used a range of Chinese and international examples to emphasize the role and importance of "historical presence" in spatial and temporal development. She introduced the theoretical concept of the four-dimensional city, beginning with the spatialization and temporalization of space-time, and then delved into the topic of historical texture. The term "texture unit" was introduced and popularized in home building, serving as the foundation for applying the principle of architectural typology and allowing the conversion of an "archetypal" unit into a "type" unit. During this process, the architectural unit experiences change,

while the spatial relationships remain constant. The most significant technological challenge is to determine the "scale" of conversion using the "archetype-typology-heterotype" identification process. She has identified two distinct texture types, namely "isomorphic type-like" and "similarity type-like", from the perspectives of time and space. Additionally, a case study was conducted on the planning for the Nanhuamen Historic District, highlighting the usefulness of this research. Finally, it was emphasized that urban growth has a unique life cycle which leaves behind cultural traces that generate the "cultural layers". The "layering of history" should form the basis for the preservation and development of historic towns, exposing their internal development rationale and attaining goals linked to landscape management and control.

3-2. Getting Creative about Governance

Randall Mason

University of Pennsylvania, Weitzman School of Design

Prof. Randall Mason of the University of Pennsylvania presented a lecture on the topic of "Getting Creative with Governance". He raised a few concerns about the issues of governance that are critical in the implementation of the Historic Urban Landscape. He also emphasized the growing importance of addressing governance issues in diverse social contexts, particularly in heritage conservation education. Prof. Mason defined **governance as a collective means of managing the environment and society**. He distinguished between governance and government, and subsequently presented **three essential issues about governance**. The first pertains to the **challenge of integration**. Drawing upon the example of the streets in Philadelphia, he emphasized the need to **shift from viewing historic preservation or heritage conservation as a discipline or a field to viewing it as a larger community of practice with many shared ideas rather than a few solo ideas**. The second issue concerns property ownership, exemplified by the case of gentrification in Philadelphia's neighbourhoods, posing specific governance challenges in **balancing public and private benefits, as well as economic and cultural outcomes**. He encourages creativity in developing new senses of ownership and exploring novel tools of governance while being mindful of emerging practices in interdisciplinary practices. The third concern relates to the **issue of growth**. He believes that the emphasis on growth and design responses will probably persist in the new narrative about sustainable development. **To succeed, it must prioritize inheritance and conservation and foreground governance**. Prof. Mason ultimately pointed out that while integration could be improved in the short term, the challenges of ownership and growth are long-term and will not immediately change. Therefore, we must consider both the present and the far future. **It is crucial for professionals in the field of heritage conservation to comprehend these problems in the context of managing urbanism over a longer period of time.**



3-3. Experiences from the Past for Tomorrow's Challenges

Mariana Correia

Director of the Department of Architecture and Multi-media Gallaecia (DAMG) at Universidade Portucalense Infante D. Henrique (UPT) and the Director of the Research Centre

Prof. Correia began by outlining the plight of vernacular building practices and traditional ways of life that are gradually disappearing as a result of technological advancements, the emergence of new materials, and globalization. Afterwards, she systematically presented the four primary sections of the presentation. In the first section about vernacular architecture, she defined vernacular architecture as "buildings that are not formally planned but possess inherent cultural and intellectual value". She contended that **vernacular architecture has the potential as a solution to sustainability by taking into account social factors, energy efficiency, tradition, and the environment**. The VerSus project in Europe offers an example of acknowledging principles anchored in vernacular knowledge. A more inclusive and holistic approach is necessary to improve the sustainable development of our neighbourhoods. **The advantages of community involvement** were highlighted in the second section, emphasizing its role in **fostering social cohesion, preserving traditional ways of life, and promoting social integration**. She further emphasized the importance of community cohesion, demonstrating this through examples of collective water usage and collaborative housing construction. In the third section, it was suggested that **maintaining local sustainability requires social and cultural harmony as well as local technology connected to intangible heritage**. It has been suggested that developing strategies to preserve the distinct architectural culture of each region by identifying local technologies is essential. In the fourth section, which discussed **education and research**, the argument was made that many architects and engineers working on heritage restoration projects have opted to demolish sections of interior building spaces because they have a poor understanding and appreciation of local architectural knowledge. These parts were subsequently replaced with modern materials. **The curricula of architectural schools can have a significant impact on the understanding of traditional building systems, regional skills, and the specific qualities of vernacular architecture**. To conclude, Prof. Correia advocated **increased engagement in sustainable development through greater community involvement, valuing local technology and assuming social responsibility**.

3-4. From the *Other* to the *Self*: Interdisciplinary Insights at the Root of the Idea of Urban Heritage

Jacopo Benedetti

Postdoctoral Fellow at the College of Architecture and Urban Planning (CAUP) of Tongji University

Jacopo Benedetti, a postdoctoral fellow at CAUP of Tongji University delivered a presentation titled "From the *Other* to the *Self*: Interdisciplinary Insights at the Root of the Idea of Urban Heritage". The presentation begins by acknowledging how urban heritage was first defined, in the late 19th century, as that which was other than the contemporary processes of urbanization (i.e., the self): paraphrasing **Françoise Choay, the historic city has been conceptualized not for what it was, but rather for what it wasn't**. One of the first attempts to provide a positive definition of urban heritage can be traced back to a classic of modern city planning: **Camillo Sitte's Der Städtebau nach seinen künstlerischen Grundsätzen** - or *The Art of Building Cities* (1889). This analysis of the artistic reception of historic cities has been an unavoidable reference for 20th-century urbanism, serving as either a model or a counterexample. Often deemed by its detractors as formalist or historicist, it is often neglected how Sitte's study also embodied a groundbreaking interdisciplinarity. Through the writings of German architect Hermann Maertens, *Der Städtebau* borrowed insights and concepts from late-19th-century optical physiology – especially from Hermann von Helmholtz's seminal *Handbuch der physiologischen Optik*: the same body of research that would serve as breeding ground for the birth of experimental psychology. In other words, **in Camillo Sitte's writings, we can witness an unexpected convergence between two contemporary thought revolutions: the invention of urban heritage and the invention of the sciences of the mind**. We can follow the consequences of this convergence throughout the course of the 20th century, in authors such as August Schmarsow, Albert Erich Brinckmann, Gustavo Giovannoni, Nikolaus Pevsner, Bernhard Hoesli, Gyorgy Kepes, Kevin Lynch, and Christopher Alexander, among many others. Even today, **facing the extraordinary developments of the cognitive sciences and neurosciences, the same interdisciplinary thread of research offers novel interpretive keys and operational tools for questioning the perception, recognition, and appropriation of urban heritage, addressing some of the open challenges of the Historic Urban Landscape approach**.

3-5. Necessity of Interdisciplinary Collaborative Researchers' Response to the Needs of Local Heritage Management

Nobuko Inaba

Professor Emeritus at the University of Tsukuba; Special Advisor to the Director General of ICCROM.

Prof. Nobuko Inaba began her presentation by addressing the translation considerations of heritage conservation concepts in Japanese. She stated that, in Japan, there are **no distinct physical markers between urban and rural areas**. Each municipality in Japan today is defined solely by its population, density, and the ratio of vocations that match the demands of administrative management, even though their historical origins are distinct. It is often challenging to distinguish clearly between mid-size cities, towns, and villages in terms of heritage management viewpoints, except for major cities like Tokyo, Osaka, or Kyoto. Then, it was revealed that the **cultural heritage protection system in Japan encompasses not only classical types of cultural heritage but also natural heritage and landscapes as well as intangible heritage**. To ensure successful management of these heritage concepts, **integration and decentralization of decision-making to the local level, the closest level to the public, is necessary**. An advantage of this interdisciplinary partnership is successful heritage management. Japan's cultural heritage management is currently devoted to **implementing an integrated strategy that connects natural and cultural heritage**. The *Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties* has undergone three revisions in 2004, 2007, and 2008, and Japan completed the most recent revision in 2018. This legislation served as the legal foundation for the *Comprehensive Cultural Properties Protection and Management Local Plan* at the municipal level. This plan aims to **identify and map cultural and natural resources, conserve them, and utilize heritage**. The policy has directed the establishment of local government units within the context of sustainable development, shifting from spot conservation to integrated territorial conservation, and adhering to the policy direction on heritage resource management. This shift contributes to the sustainable development of local government's capacity. Lastly, Prof. Nobuko Inaba shared a case study on cultural resources undertaken by the Kita-Akita municipality. She stressed the **necessity of interdisciplinary collaborative researchers' response to the needs of local heritage management and capacity building**. She encouraged joint research collaboration for heritage resource management.

3-6. The Configuration Mechanism of HUL Hierarchy and the Sustainable Strategy of Contemporary Urban Landscape in Macau

Zheng Jianyi

Associate Professor, Faculty of Humanities and Arts, Macau University of Science and Technology

Prof. Zheng Jianyi, Director of the Architecture Programme at the Faculty of Humanities and Arts, Macau University of Science and Technology, delivered a presentation on "The Configuration Mechanism of HUL Hierarchy and the Sustainable Strategy of Contemporary Urban Landscape in Macao". Following an overview and the history of Macau, he analyzed the urban landscape of Macau in detail. Using Conzenian urban morphology approach, he identified **three hierarchies of townscape composition that shaped Macau's historic landscape: street block expansion, residence repletion, and breakthrough street redevelopment**. This in-depth examination demonstrates the continuity of Macau's urban development over 450 years and the characteristics of the collage urban landscape. The community cultural landscape is the contemporary component of HUL. It contributes to the conservation and continuation of the material landscape and revitalizes the historic place. Consequently, he displayed a few sustainable practices adopted by Macau in tackling current challenges. Association is a distinctive element of HUL's sustainable development, with public education and community building aiding in the understanding and participation of historic sites. For instance, the Macau Cultural Heritage Reinventing Studies Association has offered HUL lessons/workshops in Macau for high school students, as well as graduates and undergraduates in architecture and urban planning. The Macau Community Construction Promotion Association has provided professional and technical assistance to the revitalization of Pátio do Espinho, and acted as a mediator to facilitate communication between the community, relevant government agencies, and other social groups. **Digital technology** is a valuable tool for conserving historic landscapes. The research team, using key landmarks in Macau as an illustration, performed a computational analysis of view corridors to obtain accurate and overall characteristics of the area, building height limitations, and other essential indicators. This data can aid in the protection of historic urban landscapes in high-density urban settings.

3-7. A Cultural Boost in the Achievement of the SDGs: How Local and Regional Governments Are Promoting Cultural Heritage and Sustainable Cities and Territories

Jordi Pascual

Coordinator of the Committee on Culture of the World Organisation of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)

In his presentation entitled "Cultural Boost in the Achievement of the SDGs: How Local and Regional Governments Are Promoting Cultural Heritage and Sustainable Cities and Territories," Jordi Pascual provided a concise overview of the goals, topics, and methodology of UCLG, followed by some remarks on the interconnectivity between culture and the SDGs. He argues that the SDGs that deal with culture are inadequate and do not give cultural actors and communities the support to accomplish their goals. As a result, UCLG is committed to equipping local government representatives with tools to facilitate cultural policy alignment with local implementation of and achievement of the SDGs. **Cultural policies are closely linked with urban policies, urban planning, education, health and well-being, economic growth, and infrastructure in their local implementation. It is crucial that existing cultural policies consider the contribution of cultural action to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as well as the role of cultural actors**. Cultural policies must be reassessed based on their values and behaviour. Cultural policies need to be re-evaluated based on their values and behaviour. An instance of the negative impact of excessive tourism on the cultural life of residents in specific areas was cited. Additionally, women face limitations in participating in cultural activities in their communities due to the prejudice against them. Finally, Jordi emphasized **the importance of cultural progress**. While advancing culture is essential to achieving the 17 sustainable development objectives, the 2030 Agenda urgently needs to include a cultural goal. Even if it may not be possible to include additional targets in the current framework for the SDGs, cultural development remains a pressing issue that has to be addressed.



3-8. The Historic Urban Landscape Approach

Ana Pereira Roders

Professor in Heritage and Values, UNESCO Chair on Heritage and the Reshaping of Urban Conservation for Sustainability, TU Delft

Ana Pereira Roders, a professor in Heritage and Values at Delft University of Technology in the Netherlands, delivered a presentation on the HUL approach. The presentation covered the team's research plan and her experiences and comments on heritage conservation theory and policy suggestions for Historic Urban Landscapes, as well as the team's recent results. As a resource and asset that can be passed on to metropolitan areas, heritage has a variety of important values. What steps should be taken, nevertheless, if it is not listed on the protection list and the protection is not there? Her team's work involved an **attempt to comprehend a wider range of values and the traditional values associated with heritage regulations since evidence over time has proven that many properties also feature more qualities than were initially acknowledged or formally recognized.** She therefore made an effort to examine other initiatives to better comprehend and theorize the differences, not just in the tangible but also in the intangible aspects of those changes. Ana emphasized that the **Historic Urban Landscape (HUL) has been developed for all cities and is a long-term process that requires cross-sector collaboration from national to local levels, as well as interdisciplinary expertise.** It is important to comprehend the values that are given priority to make informed decisions. It is crucial to deliberate on who should make decisions, what values to be based, and how to implement swift and fair changes. Ana presented case studies from her team in cities throughout the world, to collaborate with local and national governments to improve and restructure their heritage planning. **Methodological research and policy assessments, for instance, could delve into the impact of values on interventions in the built environment.** In addition, artificial intelligence, social media, and online forums could be utilized to compare cities' universal ideals and cultural significance amidst different cities. A comparison between policy papers and literature along with social media might also give useful insights. Ana mentioned that **HUL is an ongoing effort to obtain a better understanding of how we evaluate cities and how this affects their preservation. This helps to advance the conservation cause and promote sustainable urban development.**

3-9. The HUL Recommendation in Cuenca: Risks and Challenges in the Conservation of the Heritage City

Sebastián Astudillo Cordero

Professor and Director of the Master in Conservation of Monuments and Sites, University of Cuenca

Julia Rey Pérez

Associate Professor in Architectural History, Theory and Composition Department at Higher School of Architecture, University of Seville

María Eugenia Siguencia

PhD Architect, University of Cuenca

Sebastián Astudillo Cordero, a professor and Director of the Master in Conservation of Monuments and Sites at the University of Cuenca, along with his colleagues Julia Rey Pérez and María Eugenia Siguencia presented a lecture titled "The HUL Recommendation in Cuenca: Risks and Challenges in the Conservation of the Heritage City." The trio discussed the challenges faced by Cuenca in the past, present, and future. Cuenca underwent considerable social and urban transformation at the beginning of the project, in the midst of early economic fluctuations impacting the historic districts and their surroundings. **The HUL Recommendation was made available to Cuenca as a tool for identifying the city's tangible and intangible cultural and natural assets.** This was accomplished through innovative approaches such as HUL New Perspectives and interdisciplinary collaboration along with engagement of social forces. Furthermore, a critical assessment of potential and emerging risks was conducted, while a collaborative network of stakeholders comprising community, government, and expert groups was formed, culminating in the dissemination of findings. Maria outlined the current situation in Cuenca and its challenges with the HUL conservation approach. Cuenca needs to address both recognized heritage and contemporary architecture, as well as future development needs, such as real estate and transportation, while also taking into account socio-economic challenges such as migration and tourism. It is essential to create new management plans since earlier ones are no longer applicable to current developments. In light of these challenges, scholars from the University of Cuenca propose implementing HUL recommendations. The aim is to concentrate on the correlation between governmental planning, sustainable development, early indicators, and public policies. **Integrating holistic conservation with urban planning requires a multifaceted approach that accounts for specific goals.** This involves developing a methodology that allows the implementation of the HUL Recommendation in a pilot area of the city of Cuenca; performing a thorough inventory that includes the components of the historic urban landscape in an ecosystem; defining a set of

indicators, quantitative and qualitative, to assess population's quality of life; and developing a set of public policies to ensure heritage conservation and urban planning in pursuit of the quality of life of the inhabitants. **Efforts must be made to explore the integration of conserving urban heritage with sustainable development, by incorporating cultural and natural heritage in inclusive and sustainable planning. Achieving comprehensive conservation and promoting safety and social innovation in cities should also be priorities.**

3-10. Wrap up

Michael Turner

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

Finally, Prof. Michael Turner from the Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design contributed a concise but valuable summary to round out the session. Drawing upon the presentations made during the session, He outlined **three new challenges encountered by the heritage community: climate change, the new dimensions and new scales of cities and the spatial and temporal continuity that impacts the layering of the Historic Urban Landscape.** In order to create the Quintuple Helix, which represents a more holistic and integrated strategy, we need to include an additional ecosystem dimension to the existing four types of tools -- civic engagement, knowledge and planning, regulatory systems, and finance. He concluded by emphasizing that to achieve interdisciplinarity, we must adopt an approach that goes beyond applying traditional knowledge, to improving, adapting and integrating new and existing concepts. Therefore, heritage is something pertaining to the future, not to the past.



4. THEMATIC SESSION II: INNOVATIVE PRACTICE -- URBAN CONSERVATION FOR IMPROVING LIVEABILITY

Conference working group
WHITRAP Shanghai
CAUP Tongji University

The Topic Two sub-forum on the morning of 27 September was moderated by Marie-Noël Tournoux, Project Director of WHITRAP Shanghai. Twelve speakers from China, Germany, Australia, Singapore, UK, Morocco, France and Saudi Arabia presented at the session on the topic of "**Innovative Practice: Urban Conservation for Improving Liveability**".

4-1. The Continuity of Historical Context in the Creation of Urban Waterfront

Zhang Ming

Professor and Head of Department of Landscape, CAUP, Tongji University

In his presentation titled "The Continuity of Historical Context in the Creation of Urban Waterfront", Prof. Zhang Ming illustrated **how the heritage of the Yangpu Riverside area in Shanghai can be transformed and integrated into urban public spaces, promoting a sense of well-being by giving the riverside back to all the residents.** He identified **six dimensions for developing waterfront spaces** in urban areas: creating urban public spaces, maintaining historical continuity, diversifying infrastructure, recovering ecosystems, building scene nodes, and incorporating public art. The speech focused on the second dimension of **historical continuity** which includes three essential principles: **to preserve and follow the existing historical layerings of the site; to retain and present tangible elements with poetic aesthetics; and to map the present and future out of the tracks of the past.** Taking the waterfront Ares of Yangpu Riverside in Shanghai as an example, Prof. Zhang Ming has condensed the following keywords for a contribution to the **revival of industrial sites:** the transformation and regeneration of industrial heritage; conversion from a heavily polluted production line to an eco-shared living shoreline; the restoration of waterfront ecosystems; the creation of adaptive landscapes; a responsive system to history, behaviour, and environment; and the establishment of a multi-functional, accessible, and shared waterfront area.



4-2. Using Heritage Impact Assessments as a Tool for Sustainable Development of Historic Urban Landscapes

Michael Kloos

Professor of Preservation & Sustainable Development of Cultural and Historic Urban Landscapes at Rhein-Main University of Applied Sciences, Wiesbaden, Germany

In his presentation titled "Using Heritage Impact Assessments as a Tool for Sustainable Development of Historic Urban Landscapes", Prof. Michael Kloos highlighted a conflict between conservation and development and argued that UNESCO's conservation concepts frequently remain as ineffective protection instruments due to their inability to be embedded into States Parties' legislative frameworks. Could Heritage Impact Assessments be a viable solution? He gave **three case studies** in response to this query. The **delisting of the Dresden Elbe Valley**, a World Cultural Heritage site in Germany, from the World Heritage List owing to construction activities, exemplifies the relevance of Heritage Impact Assessments in the planning and construction process. Impact Assessments can only serve its purpose if its direct

feedback to the planning process and decision-making procedures is guaranteed. In 2017, a new **Management Plan for the "Upper Middle Rhine Valley" World Heritage site** was merged into the existing Master Plan through the Cultural Landscape Compatibility Study (CLCS). The CLCS practice has established a methodological framework for conducting heritage impact assessments through the operationalization of the OUV, 3D modelling and monitoring advisory council. The **Heritage Impact Assessments (HIA) for the Master Plan for the Development of Functional Region South Dalmatia (2016-2017)** has integrated the HIA into the Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA) process to enable the assessments of impact on World Heritage properties in early planning stages and to influence decision-making by providing a more evidence-based approach for later, more detailed planning phases. He argued that **Impact Assessments are process-related tools that can only be effective for the sustainable development of historic landscapes when it is closely aligned with urban planning and legislative processes**. This integration is crucial for achieving sustainable development in these areas.

4-3. Evolving and Changing Community Values. Whose Values Are We Addressing and Whose Heritage It Is?

Ken Taylor

Honorary Professor, Centre for Heritage & Museum Studies, School of Archaeology and Anthropology, Australian National University; Emeritus Professor Landscape Architecture, University of Canberra, Australia.

Prof. Ken Taylor delivered a lecture entitled "Evolving and Changing Community Values. Whose values Are We Addressing and Whose Heritage It Is?" He outlined the **criteria for assessing the significance of heritage places**, which include: 1. Be apparent and understandable by other researchers, clients, community, & other stakeholders; 2. Applies methodological approaches that are replicable, i.e. can be applied elsewhere and modified where appropriate; and 3. Allows evaluation of proposed decisions or recommendations and is appropriate to the country and culture in which you are working. He continued to identify the **five key questions that must be addressed during the research process: What has happened? When did things happen? Where did things happen? Who was involved? And how and when did they do what they did?** Furthermore, Prof. Taylor emphasized the necessity of incorporating the documentation of the evolving values within local communities as a crucial component of heritage conservation and preservation. He also mentioned the **concept of nostalgia**, which is evident in the decisions of residents to relocate or remain in a particular place due to their sentimental attachment to the place. Therefore, conserving urban heritage encompasses safeguarding the fabric of a place. **Managing changes in a sustainable way is a pivotal aspect of ensuring that heritage endures amid transformation**. To engage local residents in the process, it is necessary to **organize additional stakeholder discussions, encourage cultural mapping and participatory mapping, and foster community engagement**. Real and active sharing, together with inclusive methods of engagement, are fundamental for obtaining an authentic understanding of the site. Prof. Taylor concluded his presentation with a **thought-provoking question for his fellow architects to ponder: How and when do spaces come into place?**

4-4. Survive with Water. Memory, Space and Life of Flood Diversion Area Settlements

Jiang Hong

Vice Dean of the School of Architecture at Southeast University (SEU-Arch)

Prof. Jiang Hong delivered a speech on "Survive with Water: Memory, Space and Life of Flood Diversion Area Settlements". The presentation started by exploring the history of the floodplain and its communities, using the Jingjiang Floodplain in Gong'an County, Hubei Province as an example. Water management emerged as a top priority for the country in its early years after its foundation, and the central government put in place extensive water control systems nationwide. Prof. Jiang also looked into the **specific attributes of the heritage**. He stated that **accurately identifying such items is essential for maintaining and passing forward the city's historical values**. The safety zones, safety platforms, immigrant homes, water shelters, immigrant roads and bridges, and other physical remnants within the flood zones, along with the collective memories and emotions of the safety zones and other intangible elements, all represent significant sources of value in addition to the water conservancy project facilities. Prof. Jiang then looked at the notable challenges that settlements in floodplains face. First off, following the completion of the Three Gorges Dam, the use of floodplains reduced substantially. Settlements began to spread beyond the embankment, creating a barrier to further expansion. The floodplain embankment causes traffic congestion, making travelling difficult. Moreover, high density and substandard housing are common features of living on the floodplain. His team examined these obstacles and **took the following actions**: 1) Extensive historical research and assessment of the floodplain's values were made. 2) A questionnaire-based survey of more than 2,000 residents was conducted. 3) Wide-range research and a thorough evaluation were carried out. 4) Ultimately, five action plans at four levels for the renewal were developed. Three planning and design strategies were implemented to enhance the city: **First, a public system built on embankments with a multi-use ring belt is created. Second, barriers were torn down to increase traffic flow, and enlarge public areas. While also enhancing traffic services. Third, former factory properties were refurbished to facilitate interconnectivity and stimulate public activity within the open space**. Prof. Jiang concluded by making three points: **first, it is important to have a comprehensive understanding of the significance of non-monumental heritage; second, heritage should not be viewed as a barrier to urban development, but rather as a solution; and third, heritage serves as a valuable resource for achieving a respectable, high-quality life and the SDGs**.

4-5. Sustainable Development Ethics and Pedagogy

Johannes Widodo

Director of Graduate Programs in Architectural Conservation and Tun Tan Cheng Lock Centre for Asian Architectural and Urban Heritage (in Melaka) of the National University of Singapore

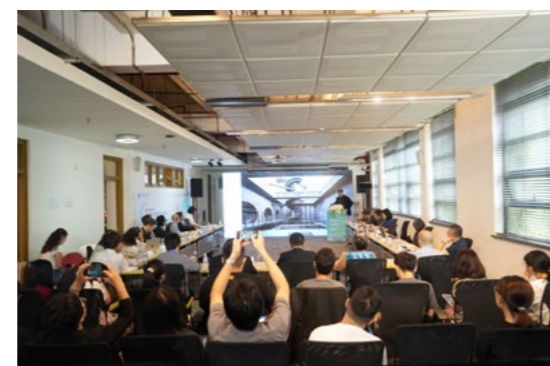
Johannes Widodo from the National University of Singapore presented on "Sustainable Development Ethics and Pedagogy". He explained how the **climate crisis is connected to human ethics and behaviour**. The first step toward conservation is to **shift from a top-down to a bottom-up strategy**. **Educating the next generation** is a critical component of changing people's mindsets and attitudes. Universities should provide extensive learning opportunities and curricula that emphasize problem-solving and forward-thinking concepts in order to **prioritize education's goal of changing attitudes and values**. Additionally, the younger generation must foster teamwork and community participation through initiatives such as cultural mapping projects, which allow students to immerse themselves in their surroundings and set a positive example. Prof. Widodo discussed improving both the campus environment and economic prosperity through sustainable ecology. He gave several examples from the lab work, including the utilization of digital twins, carbon-neutral projects, and energy-efficient campuses. The younger generation can be educated about and inspired to support this movement by these examples. He recommended ways to improve energy efficiency and promote sustainable development. **Start by establishing the notion that we are socially accountable individuals with empathy and integrity**. **Next, be authentic in accordance with local culture and traditions**. **Thirdly, strive for environmental sustainability with the goal of becoming carbon neutral, creating zero waste and emitting zero carbon**. **Fourthly, ensure cost-effectiveness for long-term economic viability**. **Lastly, in terms of architecture and technology, be adaptable**. In conclusion, as Prof. Widodo pointed out, **achieving energy efficiency involves managing change by merging the modern and considering the human aspect while building with humility and regard for the environment**. **To encourage sustainable growth, the younger generation must adopt a steadfast commitment to their promises**.

4-6. From Sustainability to Survivability

Edward Denison

Professor of Architecture and Global Modernities at the Bartlett School of Architecture, UCL

Prof. Edward Denison delivered a lecture titled "From Sustainability to Survivability" where he concentrated on the **question of the heritage in the Anthropocene**, the new geological age created by human species. He emphasized that a radical change of our mindset towards a planetary one is required to ensure survivability before any cultural heritage can hold any value in the future. Prof. Denison then presented a range of projects involving the architecture and environment of historic cities, with **a focus on environmental, racial and spatial equity**. He touched particularly on two aspects of the environmental and racial, with the equity issues in the Anthropocene. The **exponential increase** in production and population, energy use, carbon dioxide emissions and global surface temperature rise in the 20th century, have **generated liveability issues in anthropogenic environments**. Cities are continuously undergoing change, with old buildings being demolished and new ones being created. Old landmarks are being replaced by new ones. This shift is reshaping the entire globe. Prof. Denison highlighted the **topic of colonization and equality, which pertains to the European notion of modernism and modernity**. **It is worth noting that Europe possessed five times more World Cultural Heritage sites than Africa**. Finally, he referred to **The Cape Town Document on Modern Heritage**, which is the primary output of the Modern Heritage of Africa initiative in the spirit of the Nara document on authenticity. The document aims to **reframe, dissent and decolonize the Eurocentric perspective on modernity that UNESCO and its advisory bodies have traditionally held**. **Instead, it proposes a more equitable and globally representative concept of modernity in a planetary age**.



4-7. International Consensus on Heritage Conservation and the Practice in Guangzhou

Wang Shifu

Professor of Urban Planning and the Vice Dean of the School of Architecture at South China University of Technology

Prof. Wang Shifu presented on the topic of "International Consensus on Heritage Conservation and the Practice in Guangzhou". He first outlined **how an international agreement developed, moving from a singular focus on individual monuments to a more holistic perspective, from artistic values to the fulling of daily demands, and from preservation to adaptive reuse**. He further explained the practices employed in Guangzhou, emphasizing the range of processes involved, from preserving physical features to a comprehensive landscape approach, as well as from technical interventions to institutional innovations. Guangzhou, being a megacity, confronts various challenges when it comes to conserving its historical architecture, such as a large population, intense growth pressure, a lack of building maintenance, and complex property rights. He continued by presenting significant explorations conducted in Guangzhou, covering a variety of aspects. First, **the safeguarding of heritage has consistently progressed with the development of knowledge regarding their values**. In 1961, the first set of five national key cultural relics protection units and the initial batch of national historical and cultural cities were identified. Subsequently, in 1982, the protection of the historical urban layout, style and historical neighbourhoods was advocated. In 1998, Guangzhou delineated the first batch of 37 historical and cultural conservation zones, followed by the announcement of the first municipal intangible cultural heritage listings in 2005. In 2014, the boundaries of the historical urban area were defined. Guangzhou has created **a five-tiered framework to protect tangible cultural assets**. Natural settings, historical urban areas, prominent towns and villages, historical neighbourhoods, cultural artefacts and heritage structures, and traditional architecture are among the categories. Second, **Guangzhou has improved its legislation and processes for adaptable and responsive urban heritage management**. It has put in place a process to research and evaluate cultural and historical heritage, as well as protecting regulations for objects of potential significance for preservation. A system of legal professionals dedicated to cultural heritage conservation has been established to handle cases of public interest. In terms of technology, digital-based technologies have also been implemented for heritage management, facilitating virtual-real interaction and aiding in the preservation of cultural heritage. The effective implementation of organic renewal and heritage operation through micro-renovation in Yongqing Square on En'ning Road, along with

the encouragement of multiparty participation and autonomous renewal action for heritage conservation, has contributed to the development of a public consensus on heritage conservation. Guangzhou has been commended internationally for its innovative approaches to cultural conservation and education, which have made exceptional contributions. Prof. Wang concluded that **maintaining urban heritage requires a harmonious fusion of global consensus and local implementation, as well as a balance between historical memory and modern living**. **Historical preservation is the starting point, cultural heritage is the main objective, and revitalization and innovation are the essential components**.

4-8. Historic Urban Landscape of Rabat Area, Morocco

Imane Bennani

Dean of the School of Architecture at the International University of Rabat (Morocco), Chairholder of the UNESCO Chair "Historic Urban Landscape, between training and research"

Imane Bennani from the School of Architecture at the International University of Rabat (Morocco) presented on the topic of "Historic Urban Landscape of Rabat Area, Morocco". The presentation began with a description of the area's **extensive and diverse architectural and cultural heritage**, showcasing its capacity to unite the past and present. She also popularized the **neo-traditional design aesthetic**, which was inspired by historic structures and reinterpreted by applying modern architectural techniques. The goal of this design is to blend the beauty of the past with modern building materials. The management plan and action plan for the Moroccan region of Rabat were then presented. The management strategy also lays out a basis meant to encourage collaboration among various stakeholders. **A unique safeguarding scheme has also been created to protect the cultural heritage**. The program, which is carried out by a third party and certifies the authenticity of the town's fabric while advancing universal principles, promotes both endeavours. The Rabat region possesses a commendable **governance system**, run by a specialized company that **facilitates the revitalization of the heritage, highlighting its potential for financial success**. Finally, she outlined the fundamental elements for managing the heritage site of Rabat. **These include the requirement for government commitment, full coordination between the city and the Ministry of Culture, legislative safeguards for plans, and impact analyses of heritage-based approaches**.

4-9. From Slums to World Heritage - Two Case Studies of Urban Conservation and Renewal in Belgium

Wu Meiping

Distinguished Associate Professor of the School of Architecture, Tianjin University

Prof. Wu Meiping from the School of Architecture at Tianjin University delivered a speech titled "From Slums to World Heritage - Two Case Studies of Urban Conservation and Renewal in Belgium". She started off by giving a **brief review of Belgian heritage conservation**. She emphasized Belgium's favourable location, which enables it to swiftly acquire cutting-edge ideas and methods from other European countries. Additionally, she talked about the **broader context**, encompassing the Venice Charter and the founding of ICOMOS, as well as the two European Architectural Heritage Years. She proceeded to present **two examples of urban conservation and regeneration**. The first relates to the conservation and regeneration of a specific cluster of buildings located in the heart of Leuven's old city, known as the **Great Beguinage of Leuven**. This case study demonstrates the limitations of the Venice Charter in addressing the conservation of such building groups. The subsequent example examines the strategies and concepts for integrated conservation and focuses on the **preservation and revitalization of Brugges' historic city centre**. The long-term goal is to improve living standards, attract former residents to return, and enhance the tourist experience, all of which will help the city continue to grow sustainably in the future. Finally, it can be concluded that **these two cases relate to urban conservation and regeneration in the context of Belgium's post-World War II reconstruction and high-speed development marked by a transition from incremental to inventory growth. Both cases have been inscribed as World Heritage Sites, demonstrating that high-quality preservation and regeneration carried out with a long-term strategic vision not only achieves the conservation and inheritance of the heritage but also enhances its intrinsic value and the quality of living for local residents.**



4-10. Back to the Sources: Understanding the Past to Build the Future

Elsa Marguin Hamon

Director of Research and International Relations of the Ecole Nationale des Chartes, France

Elsa Marguin Hamon, the Director of Research and International Relations of the Ecole Nationale des Chartes, presented "Back to the Sources: Understanding the Past to Build the Future". She began by introducing the **methods of urban survey for understanding the beginnings of cities**. The goals of documentary heritage were subsequently outlined, emphasizing its **unique status as a type of heritage**. Managing and preserving historical documents can be of great educational value as they provide insight into the past and offer inspiration for modern architecture. **The overarching goal is to spread and enrich knowledge through the contributions of various approaches and disciplines; identify and digitize pertinent documentation; develop information systems for enriching and structuring digitized data; enable the correlation and alignment of data through semantic tools, such as ontologies and thesaurus; and share and open up knowledge in order to use it as the foundation for study, teaching, and promotion programmes.**

4-11. The Process of Definition: Urban Life and Landscape Heritage

Fu Shulan

Associate Professor of the Department of Urban Planning at Zhejiang University; Vice Director of International Centre for History, Critics of Architecture and Restoration of Historical Heritage.

Prof. Fu Shulan from the Department of Urban Planning at Zhejiang University delivered a presentation entitled "The Process of Definition: Urban Life and Landscape Heritage." She then provided detailed insights into the **process of heritagization of the West Lake**. She analyzed Hangzhou's process of urbanization, which involved the **development of the urban landscape through structural changes and expanding spaces**. Following this, she provided a more detailed explanation of how the definition of landscape has evolved from its original meaning to its current definition, being careful to highlight any potential misunderstandings. Based on this, Prof. Fu assessed variations in pictorial expressions, differences in the types of viewing objects of the West Lake panorama inscriptions, and differences in textual interpretations of the Ten Scenes of West Lake during the Southern Song Dynasty in different time periods. **The viewing**

space has undergone several changes, including a shift away from specific viewing locations or architectural features, a transition towards a human activity-centred cityscape as opposed to a natural landscape-based one, and a change in how people perceive the surrounding landscape from natural to urban settings. Furthermore, there has been a change in the group of people moving through the surroundings. Spatial limitations and behavioural constraints may hinder the natural development of cultural phenomena. Prof. Fu posed the question of **whether such limitations not only impact spatial construction in the context of heritage studies but also have implications for human activity, potentially posing challenges to its fairness and legitimacy.**

4-12. Removing the Dust: Documentation and Analysis of Traditional Built Environment of Saudi Arabia

Hisham Mortada

Professor of School of Architecture, King Abdulaziz University (Saudi Arabia)

Prof. Hisham Mortada from King Abdulaziz University delivered a speech entitled "Removing the Dust: Documentation and Analysis of Traditional Built Environment of Saudi Arabia". The presentation provided a summary of the work done to document **Saudi Arabia's traditional architecture**, including space allocation, exterior treatment, construction methods and materials, and other influencing elements. For instance, 3D laser scanning was used to restore the historic structures. Urban analysis using conventional methods, such as painting, photographic survey, thermal analysis, and investigation of the city's past, was the first step in the process. The report's conclusion included a presentation of the results.

4-13. Wrap up

Finally, Prof. Plácido González-Mártinez from CAUP of Tongji University and a Research Fellow at the University of Seville, Spain, contributed a concise summary and commented on the speeches to round out the session.

5. THEMATIC SESSION III: WORKSHOP ON HIGHER EDUCATION TOWARDS SDGS, AND THE CLOSING CEREMONY

Marie-Noël Tournoux
WHITRAP Shanghai

Over 35 participants attended the 3rd session themed "Workshop on Higher Education towards Sustainable Development Goals". It was chaired by Prof. Zhang Peng and was designed as a workshop, held online and offline on the 27th afternoon. It proposed to discuss the initiative for an International Network for Urban Heritage Conservation in Higher Education Institutions. Its aim was to address educational practices and needs for urban conservation and development by inviting universities and higher education institutions and partner Institutions to share their experience and thinking on (1) education; (2) research; and (3) action, with insight into their scope, goals, methods and outcomes as well as a focus on evolving needs and beneficiaries. To facilitate the discussions participants were invited to reflect on three preparatory questions:

Question 1: Based on the Sustainable Development Goals, what are the study areas and approaches that require rethinking in the urban heritage conservation field, at the level of education, research, and action?

Question 2: How can we combine traditional knowledge with modern technology in education, research and action for urban heritage conservation and sustainable development?

Question 3: What are the main aims, motivations, and reasons for setting up and participating in this Network at the level of education, research and action?

5-1. Introduction to Session III

Following a presentation of the aims of the session and its working method by Prof. Plácido González-Mártinez, Prof. Zhang Peng and Marie-Noël Tournoux respectively introduced heritage education at Tongji University and WHITRAP Shanghai.

In his introduction, Prof. Zhang Peng presented the history and aims of Tongji's College of Architecture and Urban Planning (CAUP) and its research-supported architectural education approach and

its key areas of new architecture, built environment and heritage. He further described the built heritage education strategy. He furthermore presented CAUP's new undergraduate, master, and PhD courses as well as the innovative cross-discipline research group integrating architecture, urban planning, landscape, civil engineering, history and survey. In the last part of his presentation, he focused on CAUP's national and international cooperation and network activities.

In her background introduction to WHITRAP, Marie-Noël Tournoux presented what are Category 2 Institute and Centres (C2C) under the auspices of UNESCO and their relation to the Organization. She continued by providing an overview of WHITRAP's history and key objectives and some of the current main activities pertaining to training and raising awareness initiatives. She further explained how C2C engage with universities and WHITRAP's special relationship with CAUP Tongji. She detailed how WHITRAP as a C2C allowed regional and international cooperation development, and served as an innovative platform and hub to implement joint and pilot activities.

5-2. Group discussion

These introductions were followed by presentations and round table discussions. Participants introduced their respective institutions, experience and approach to education, research and existing networks, and shared their reflections on the three preparatory questions. For the sake of greater efficiency, participants were distributed in three parallel small working groups, chaired by (1) Prof. Zhang Peng, (2) Prof. Plácido González-Mártinez and (3) Marie-Noël Tournoux.

There were many topics covered during the workshop and many came back in the discussions on each of the three questions. Participants stressed the need to consider traditional knowledge systems, which should come together with modern technology. Linking the two allows to expand the boundaries of disciplines and further the knowledge of heritage for conservation, management, project design, and decision-making purposes as well as for facilitating interpretation and knowledge sharing to a wider audience. Discussions highlighted the importance of observation, be it through new technologies or hand drawing, reaching out to stakeholders, such as local communities, outside the academic world, interdisciplinary approaches as well as relinking theory and practice. Pluri-disciplinary approaches were considered a priority (including social sciences, engineering, new technologies and economics) as well as transversality between institutions and different types of stakeholders. Throughout the discussions, climate

change, the wellbeing of populations, and contributing to reaching the Sustainable Development Goals also came back as key challenges to address. They furthermore stressed the importance of considering the role and function of heritage differently, looking at heritage as a solution and not only as an object and considering its "learn-from" quality to provide sustainable and resilient responses to key threats and allow to meet the Sustainable Development Goals. They insisted on the need to qualitatively value the strength of heritage and to quantitatively demonstrate its power.

The participants all underlined the need to act and think differently, insisting on the responsibility of universities and higher education institutions to develop new approaches to integrate conservation and development in Higher Education. This means not only rethinking the conceptual content of curricula but also developing new educational models and practices, including creating practitioner doctorates to allow "dirty hands" to be certified by universities. Furthermore, they encouraged reconsidering the physical setting of higher education institutions and revising the teaching-learning experience with a focus on problem-solving and practice-oriented methods and diplomas. The way forward was initiating long-term structural reforms inspired by pilot educational experiences. All underlined how theory should inform and improve methodologies used in practice. Sharing experiences and networking were addressed extensively in the discussions on the three topics.

Presentations showcased the rich and multifaceted expertise, diversity of pedagogical approaches, and attention to innovating and meeting today's contemporary requirements and needs. They also detailed the multiple forms of knowledge production systems in multiple areas of urban heritage conservation held by different universities and higher education institutions. Participants discussed how a network could contribute to filling the research gaps and contribute to competency building. Field projects were largely praised for engaging with stakeholders outside academia and as a way to address crucial issues such as governance and challenging stereotyped development models, in particular economic models in heritage and development processes. Formal cooperation between institutions allowing student and faculty exchanges, experimental pedagogy through summer schools or fieldwork, and innovative research, as well as access to sources of funding based on national and international incentives was highly supported. All in all, the participants provided very rich ideas for defining the next steps, research topics, seminars, training sessions as well as joint projects.

5-3. Wrap up

The results of the working groups were presented in the plenary followed by thoughtful reflections by Prof. Benjamin Mouton based on the participant's written contributions and his reflection. Prof. Benjamin Mouton first commented on heritage and sustainable development as two decisive concepts, which are now at the forefront of international discussions when it comes to the future of the planet. He developed 5 key points:

In his first point, he stressed that **heritage should be considered as a whole**, which varies in scale, type and time and is not solely what still stands.

He further commented on **sustainable development**, highlighting the paradox of the combination of the two terms. As one term conveys the notions of transformation of societies, implicitly of progress and opens the discussion on the legitimacy of growth. Whilst the other conveys the notion of duration, stability, and permanence. From the combination of these two contrary terms arises the notion of improving the living conditions of humankind in its environment.

His third point focused on how **few tangible heritage features have remained unchanged in time and are therefore more or less easy to understand**. Vernacular heritage, and rural and small urban settlements have kept a higher level of integrity because as they have been often neglected, they have undergone little transformation. He further underlined how vernacular heritage could provide answers to the challenges of tomorrow's society and provide solutions to the impact of climate change.

In the fourth point, he insisted on the **relevance of traditional knowledge systems as part of modernity and how crucial it was to stop opposing the present**, and the future. He warned against the illusion of substituting modern technologies for traditional knowledge, but continued, by explaining how modern technologies could provide in-depth analyses of heritage and improve conservation processes. He insisted on how the role of traditional knowledge systems was a key component of sustainable development.

In his fifth and last point, he addressed the issue of **"should we keep everything?"** And what are the acceptable transformation criteria? He stressed that the issue was less about knowledge than about methodology and analysis. It is the common denominator that should prevail at the international level, for the equitable conservation of all heritage, and not only World Heritage which is only a special case.

5-4. Closing Ceremony

Session 3 was followed by the Closing Ceremony. Marie-Noël Tournoux and Prof. Plácido González-Mártinez respectively provided a summary of sessions 1 and 2 and the main outcomes of session 3. Prof. Shao Yong, Executive Director of WHITRAP Shanghai followed by presenting the draft **Initiative on Urban Heritage Conservation and Design for Sustainable Development and Roadmap for Urban Heritage Conservation in Higher Education Institutions**. The participants reached a consensus on the common objective of the Network: to improve, through their contribution from the academic sector, the quality of the historic urban landscape. Considering the lively and high-level debates, participants agreed on the relevance of the fruitful cooperation which is being initiated for building together a bright future for heritage education. The participants were asked to provide feedback on this draft document, to develop a network structure and strategy, to be used as a reference by the members in the future.



Initiative on Urban Heritage Conservation and Design for Sustainable Development and Roadmap for Urban Heritage Conservation in Higher Education Institutions (draft)

1. On 26 to 28 September 2023, Tongji University, as host, together with the College of Architecture and Urban Planning (CAUP), the World Heritage Institute of Training and Research for the Asia and the Pacific Region, a Category 2 Centre under the auspices of UNESCO (WHITRAP Shanghai), Shanghai Tongji Urban Planning & Design Institute Co. Ltd (TJUPTI), 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.

2. The participants reflected on three main areas of interest education, research and action and in particular discussed three questions:

Question 1: Based on the SDGs, what are the study areas and approaches that require rethinking in the urban heritage conservation field, at the level of education, research, and action?

Question 2: How can we combine traditional knowledge with modern technology in education, research and action for urban heritage conservation and sustainable development?

Question 3: What are the main reasons, aims and forms for setting up and participating in this Network at the level of education, research, and action?

3. They, furthermore, discussed the setting up of an International Network for Urban Heritage Conservation in Higher Education Institutions which would aim to strengthen cooperation with and among universities and higher education institutions that have recognized urban heritage conservation as a key subject of their teaching, research, and action plans.

4. The participants highlighted universities and higher education institutions share a common goal: to improve, through their contribution from the academic sector, the quality of the historic urban landscape. Members of the Network acknowledged their commitment to sharing best practices, and developing partnerships that promote urban heritage conservation and sustainable development in their research, education and action agendas.

5. The Network would aim to:

- contribute to the international debate on the role of culture and heritage in sustainable development processes and address priority areas such as climate change, economic development and heritage, acknowledging traditional knowledge systems;
- strengthen cooperation between universities and higher education institutions that have urban heritage conservation and sustainable development as a core line in their teaching, research and action initiatives;
- stimulate and enhance initiatives led by member universities and higher education institutions to make urban heritage conservation and sustainable development an essential component of academic development, notably through partnerships among other universities and urban conservation-related stakeholders.
- develop academic exchange and innovation and broaden opportunities for teachers, researchers and students in the urban heritage conservation field;
- improve the academic quality of teaching, research and action on urban heritage conservation and sustainable development as well as the academic development of students and researchers;
- facilitate cooperation with non-academic stakeholders such as local communities, local and national governments, and traditional knowledge holders.

6. Following the conference, WHITRAP Shanghai and CAUP Tongji will develop a programme proposal and schedule pointing at possible contributions from the members. This will include the definition of practical and operational considerations and defining the formal partnerships and statutory membership frameworks.

7. Considering the lively and high-level debates, participants agreed on the relevance of the fruitful cooperation which is being initiated for building together a bright future for heritage education.

Launch of the Feasibility Study of the Joint World Heritage Nomination of China's Baiheliang Inscription and Egypt's Nilometer. Phase II

Lina Park
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 7 countries. The conference focused on protecting hydrological heritage and the joint World Heritage nomination of China's Baiheliang Inscription and Egypt's Nilometer.

In the session "Discussion on the Feasibility and Strategy of the Joint World Heritage Nomination of Baiheliang-Nilometer Heritage", the project team from PKU School of Archaeology and Museology and WHITRAP Beijing presented the "Characteristics and Value of Chinese-Egyptian Hydrological Heritage". The experts participated in the dialogue and exchanges on the heritage value research, the path and strategy of heritage application in the context of global climate change for Chinese Baiheliang Inscription and Egyptian Nilometers.

Sun Hua, Director of the Academic Committee of WHITRAP Beijing, Zhang Jianwei, Executive Deputy Director of WHITRAP Beijing and Associate Dean of PKU School of Archaeology and Museology, Li Kuanghan, Director Assistant of WHITRAP Beijing, and Zhao Yajing, PhD student of PKU School of Archaeology and Museology attended the forum.

In December 2023, Fuling District Culture and Tourism Development Commission of Chongqing commissioned WHITRAP Beijing to further the **Feasibility Study of the Joint Nomination of China's Baiheliang Inscription and Egypt's Nilometer** based on the team's previous research efforts.

Completion of the research project on the Urban Heritage of Fuzhou City

Lina Park
WHITRAP Beijing

WHITRAP Beijing completed the research project on the Urban Heritage of Fuzhou City in December 2023, entrusted by Fuzhou Cultural Heritage Bureau. The final report titled **From Tradition to Modern -- Research on the Heritage Value of Fuzhou's Three Lanes and Seven Alleys, Fuzhou Shipbuilding Institution, Yantai Mountain and Shangxia Hang Historic Districts** consists of 684 pages and 340,000 words in total.

Initiation of the Research Project on World Hydrological Heritage (Phase I)

Lina Park
WHITRAP Beijing

In December 2023, Fuling District Cultural and Tourism Development Committee of Chongqing launched the **Research Project on World Hydrological Heritage (Phase I)**, and entrusted WHITRAP Beijing to carry out the investigation and reporting on significant hydrological heritage around the world.

WHITRAP Suzhou and Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University signed their second strategic cooperation agreement

Jiang Yejin, Yan Huiyue
WHITRAP Suzhou



On 6 December 2023, WHITRAP Suzhou and Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University signed their second round of strategic cooperation agreement at the Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University Museum. The ceremony was attended by Zhu Haijun, Director of WHITRAP Suzhou, and Prof. Ma Fei, Assistant Vice President and Dean of Research and Graduate Studies of Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University. Following the ceremony, a heritage round table forum took place. During the forum, Yuan Xuesong, Deputy Director of WHITRAP Suzhou, and experts and scholars from various fields at Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University delivered keynote speeches and discussed potential areas of cooperation between the two institutions.

In this new phase of strategic cooperation, the two parties will collaborate further to conduct scientific research projects on the classical gardens of Suzhou. The projects will focus on heritage conservation capacity building, World Heritage Education and the protection and restoration of built heritage. Both sides will promote cooperative research related to cultural heritage protection and management, share the resource advantages of both sides, and strengthen cross-field cooperation in cultural heritage protection to accumulate successful experience.

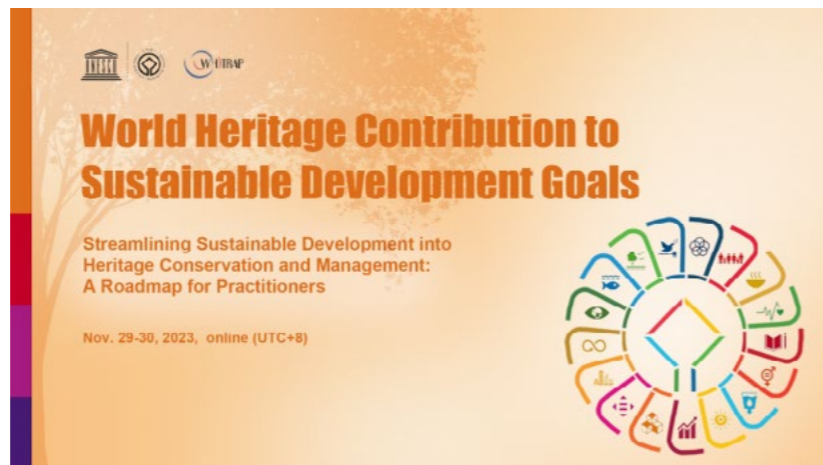
2023 HeritAP Annual Meeting on World Heritage Contribution to Sustainable Development Goals

Dong Zhaoqi (Intern)
WHITRAP Shanghai

On 29-30 November, the 2023 HeritAP Annual Meeting on "World Heritage Contribution to Sustainable Development Goals" was held online. The annual meeting was organized by WHITRAP Shanghai, College of Architecture and Urban Planning at Tongji University, Shanghai Tongji Urban Planning and Design Institute Co. Ltd.

The 2023 HeritAP annual meeting aimed at facilitating the understanding of the **2015 Policy on the Integration of a Sustainable Development Perspective into the Processes of the World Heritage Convention** (the 2015 Policy) and proposed to **streamline a roadmap for heritage practitioners through a six-year HeritAP project**. Mr Lazare Eloundou (Director of UNESCO World Heritage Centre) and Prof. Zhou Jian (Secretary-General of WHITRAP) delivered the opening addresses. Ten experts were invited to present at the annual meeting. In total of 53 people attended the Zoom meeting and about 3,863 people watched the livestream throughout the two-day meeting.

HeritAP anticipates more exemplary cases and advanced experiences in World Heritage contribution to SDGs to be shared on a broader scale. It aims to assist practitioners, institutions, communities, and networks involved in World Heritage to **harness the benefits that engagement in sustainable development can deliver to properties**.



On **29 November 2023**, representatives interpreted policies and their implementation from the global level to the national level.

Ms Mizuki Murai (Senior Programme Coordinator World Heritage of IUCN) gave an overview of how IUCN has engaged with World Heritage and presented the ongoing initiatives and recommendations for future work, including the 8 key strategic and operational recommendations for IUCN's engagement with the World Heritage Convention.

Prof. Wang Xinyuan (Deputy Director of HIST) discussed the challenges of monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals. He analyzed the challenges facing Goal 11.4, particularly target number 4, centred on cultural and natural heritage and related indicators and the need to use diversified sources of information. He also investigated the lack of methodological approaches to make the best use of big data for such a target and the correlation that needs to exist between investments and benefits. Finally, Prof. Wang made five recommendations on the use of technologies and the need to disseminate efforts and further develop proposals.

Ms Hattaya Siriphatthakum (Senior Specialist in Cultural Heritage Management, SPAFA) introduced the role of SPAFA in promoting the achievement of SDGs utilizing heritage as a driver of initiatives. She underscored the importance of capacity development, raised questions on the sustainability of the efforts themselves, as well as the results, and pointed out some aspects that could enhance sustaining results in the long term. She also provided examples of work implemented by SPAFA regarding policy planning and implementation for integrating SDGs into cultural activities.

Mr Gao Chenxiang (Project Coordinator at the China Academy of Cultural Heritage) presented the national practices in China to mainstream the discussion of sustainable development in World Heritage conservation and analyzed how World Heritage can be useful to connect not only the SDGs but also the multiple targets and the use of different data sources and indicators. He provided an overview of the 2030 Progress Report and how the retrospective review has allowed to definition of new policies with a holistic view to be integrated to improve the lives of people by harnessing the potential of heritage.



On **30 November 2023**, experts provided examples of how to illustrate the good practices at the site level focusing on *Dimension One: Environment and Resilience*.

Ms Carolina Castellanos (Senior Consultant at WHITRAP Shanghai) provided a summary of the state of the art regarding policies and frameworks that have been developed to mainstream sustainable development into heritage conservation and management to evaluate what is still needed to better assist practitioners. She presented an outline of the proposed process to streamline sustainability policy into heritage practice and the potential end-products to be developed through HeritAP's six-year initiative, mainly guidance for practitioners and a roadmap for the World Heritage sector.

Mr Rohit Jigyasu (Project Manager for Urban Heritage, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management, ICCROM) showed how the unprecedented climate-induced disasters, slow progressive factors, rapid urbanization and unplanned sprawls have exacerbated vulnerability conditions and impacts on heritage. He underscored that there is still work to be done in integrating institutions and sectors dealing with different factors

and how crucial it is to integrate efforts, particularly if considering a much-needed territorial approach. He also mentioned how ICCROM has adapted its programmes to meet these challenges better and showed the example of Nantucket in implementing the proposed approaches.

Zhang Kai (Director of the Planning and Design Studio Four, Shanghai Tongji Urban Planning & Design Institute Co. Ltd.) spoke about the sustainable management of urban heritage, with the example of Shache, which demonstrates layers of tangible and intangible values embodied in surviving fabric in a dynamic environment. Her presentation gave examples of alternatives for renewal, not only of public buildings but also private dwellings and the protection of other features, not only heritage buildings but also public spaces. Finally, she highlighted the importance of the project for creating jobs and sources of income during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Prof. Nobuko Inaba (Emeritus Professor at University of Tsukuba) discussed the conservation and management of cultural and natural resources in Japan, emphasizing how nature and culture are not divided in practice but only in the frameworks for

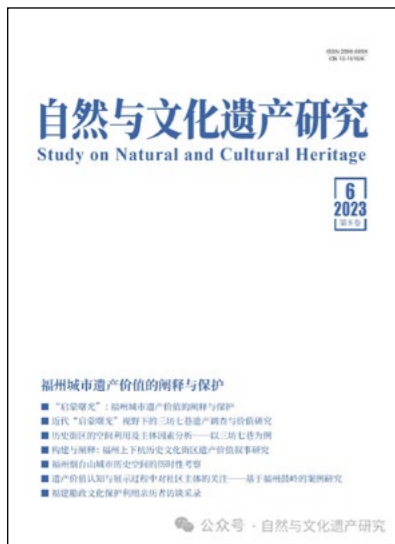
addressing challenges. She presented case studies in Japan to illustrate the actors and variety of stakeholders involved in projects, the systems for protection and how these have evolved. She also showed different processes for decision-making, where key actors and leaders vary according to the typologies of heritage, raising the importance of tailoring methodologies and approaches when dealing with various contexts and types of cultural and natural heritage.

Prof. Kou Huaiyun (Associate Professor at Tongji University) gave a presentation on the interaction between public space and community in heritage sites, showcasing two sites, Dong Villages and Xijie. She emphasized the influence of cultural practices, traditions, and values on shaping surroundings, including the natural environment. Through the Dong Villages cases, heritage's place-making processes, and their continuity, were demonstrated, highlighting the importance of creating mechanisms for the protection of the settings that allow for these practices to occur. Meanwhile, the post-earthquake reconstruction of Xijie demonstrated how meeting community needs for open spaces enhanced cultural practices, revitalized social integration and provided opportunities for renewed usage.

Finally, Ms Li Hong (Programme Specialist at WHITRAP Shanghai) further introduced the six-year project (2023-2028) of HeritAP that includes research, professional exchange meetings and field studies. She called for good practices and host sites in the integration of sustainable development in heritage conservation and management.

Publishing of the 2023 sixth issue of Study on Natural and Cultural Heritage

Lina Park
WHITRAP Beijing



In December 2023, the 6th issue of *Study on Natural and Cultural Heritage* in 2023 was published.

The special theme of this issue is the **interpretation and protection of Fuzhou's urban heritage value**, based on the results of the 2022 joint workshop on cultural heritage protection of Peking University. The articles focused on Fuzhou from ancient times to modern times, connecting the Three Lanes and Seven Alleys, Shangxiahang, Yantai Mountain, Fujian Shipbuilding Culture, Kuliang and other historical districts, and attempted to interpret the heritage value of Fuzhou at a larger spatial scale, through the lens of integrated and series heritage.

Huang Kang et al.'s investigation and value study of the Three Lanes and Seven Alleys placed the subject in the context of the city. They investigated the evolution of the Three Lanes and Seven Alleys from the perspectives of history, geography and culture. They focused on the cultural ecology of the district formed by the gathering

of the intellectual elites since the Song Dynasty. They cultivated many enlightened sages and men of noble character in modern times. Based on the field survey, Wang Xiaoxi, Wang Siyu and Xue Yali deeply discussed the impact of the main participation behaviour of the government. They managed enterprises, merchants and residents on the space utilization of the historical district. It was pointed out that in this process, one should also attach importance to the power of local merchants and residents.

Liu Zhaolong, Liu Wanhua and Li Kuanghan attempted to reconstruct the narrative of Shangxiahang Historical District, through its architecture and street facades. They pointed out that Shangxiahang has developed a more significant role in the historical succession. Xie Zhi'ang et al. analysed the generation of urban space and architecture in Yantai Mountain from a diachronic perspective, pointing out the role played by local actors in Fuzhou in the process of modernization: Yantai Mountain echoed the elites of the Three Lanes and Seven Alleys across the river, becoming the centre of dissemination of new knowledge, and generating a unique space.

Shang Chenwen placed Kuliang in the holistic context of people and society, exploring the unique connection between people and place, place and practice. There, the heart-warming lasting Chinese-foreign friendship of Kuliang was widely praised. In addition, this issue published an interview with the people who were personally involved in the protection and utilization of the Fujian Shipbuilding Culture, exploring the achievements and difficulties in the protection and inheritance of Fujian Shipbuilding Culture. It hoped to inspire the protection and inheritance of shipbuilding heritage and its spirit in the future.

Using the concept of "Dawn of Enlightenment" as an entry point, one can connect the forerunners of Fuzhou, Fujian merchants, philanthropists and patriots with the urban context,

tangible spaces, architectural heritage from the Tang and Song Dynasties to modern times, as well as the community life and spiritual emotions that continued to this day, this obtaining a more holistic expression of the urban historical narrative and value interpretation, or demonstrating the prominent and universal significance of its value in the global view.

WHITRAP Beijing participated in the Seminar of the Scenic Spots Professional Committee of the Chinese Society of Landscape Architecture

Lina Park
WHITRAP Beijing

From 21 to 23 December 2023, the 8th Special Committee and Seminar of the Landscape Professional Committee of the Chinese Society of Landscape Architecture were successfully held in Hangzhou. Prof. Chen Yaohua, Deputy Director of the Academic Committee of WHITRAP Beijing, and Prof. Song Feng, Deputy Director of WHITRAP Beijing, attended the activity. At the seminar, Prof. Chen Yaohua gave a keynote speech titled "The Process and Reflection on the Heritage Value Cognition of the Cultural Landscape of Old Tea Forests of the Jingmai Mountain in Pu'er"; Prof. Song Feng gave a keynote speech titled "Key Technologies for Detailed Planning and Compilation of Urban Scenic Spots Guided by Governance - Taking the West Lake Scenic Spot as an Example". During the meeting, Prof. Chen Yaohua was elected as the Vice Chairman of the 8th Special Committee.

WHITRAP Suzhou successfully held the Fifth Youth Boundless Forum Finale

Jiang Yeqin, Yan Huiyue
WHITRAP Suzhou

On 6 January 2024, the Fifth Youth Boundless Forum Finale's final round was held at the Wuhan International Communication Centre, hosted by WHITRAP Suzhou. The Forum's theme was "A Letter to Cultural Heritage", and 13 Chinese and foreign youth teams presented their works and discussed with seven expert judges from China and abroad.

Since the registration opened in early December 2023, the Youth Boundless Forum has attracted participants from 15 provinces and municipalities, including Beijing, Shanghai, Shenzhen, Guangzhou, Suzhou and Wuhan, as well as from other countries such as South Korea, Malaysia, Russia, Uganda, Thailand, France and India, expanding WHITRAP Suzhou's international influence. Furthermore, the Boundless Forum aims to guide contemporary youth to pay attention to the world heritage around them, linking academic expertise to daily life, and discussing the importance of cultural heritage in our lives, as well as youth's responsibility in its preservation and inheritance in an open and "boundless" format.

UNESCO WHIPIC Delegation visited WHITRAP Beijing

Lina Park
WHITRAP Beijing

On 12 December 2023, delegates from UNESCO International Centre for Interpretation and Presentation of World Heritage Sites (WHIPIC) visited WHITRAP Beijing to meet with Zhang Jianwei, Executive Deputy Director of WHITRAP Beijing and Associate Dean of PKU School of Archaeology and Museology, Li Kuanghan, Director Assistant of WHITRAP Beijing, and Wang Siyu, Director of PKU CAAGP and Assistant Professor of PKU School of Archaeology and Museology. During the meeting, both parties introduced their mission, structure and strategic plans, and had an in-depth discussion on the feasibility of future cooperation.

Review of the 2024 Research Project on Fujian Ancient Transportation System (Eastern Fujian Section)

Ma Lerong (intern)
WHITRAP Beijing

In January 2024, the Research Project on the Ancient Transportation System in Fujian Province (Eastern



Fujian Section) was officially launched. This project is commissioned by the Fujian Provincial Institute of Archaeology and organized by PKU School of Archaeology and Museology and WHITRAP Beijing. On 14 January 2024, the field investigation kicked off in Fuzhou, Fujian Province, and lasted for 18 days. The fieldwork was divided into three stages: research training, field investigation and data collation.

On 15 January 2024, the training and mobilization meeting for the project was held at the Fujian Institute of Archaeology. The professors and practitioners from the Fujian Provincial Institute of Archaeology and Peking University attended the meeting on-site. Representatives from the local cultural relics protection units also participated online.

- From 16 to 26 January 2024, the research team, with the support from Fujian Provincial Institute of Archaeology and the local cultural relics cadres, completed the field investigation of five ancient routes:
- (1) Fuzhou-Lianjiang-Luoyuan-Ningde route;
 - (2) Ningde-Xiapu route;
 - (3) Xiapu-Fuding route;
 - (4) Ningde-Fuan-Shouning-Taishun (located in Zhejiang Province) route; and
 - (5) Fuan-Zherong-Fuding route.

From 27 to 31 January 2024, the investigation entered into the data collation phase. Each group conducted data processing and computer drawing of the collected first-hand data, modifying and improving the existing pictures and text materials, and eventually finalized the report.



Research on the Li Ethnic Group in Hainan Province

Lu He (intern)
WHITRAP Beijing

To support the nomination of "Hainan Tropical Rainforest and the Traditional Settlement of Li Ethnic Group", Dr Li Kuanghan and Prof. Wang Siyu from WHITRAP Beijing led a team to carry out a systematic survey of 50 traditional settlements of the Li Ethnic Group in 7 cities and counties in Hainan Province, from 16 to 26 January 2024. The survey includes traditional settlements and architecture of the Li Ethnic Group in Hainan, as well as the situation assessments on heritage protection, display and utilization. It can provide academic support for the nomination of the traditional settlements of the Li Ethnic Group in Hainan and promote sustainable protection and utilization of the Li culture.



UNESCO Delegation led by President of the 42nd Session of the General Conference visited China

1 - Visits to Tongji University and WHITRAP Shanghai

International Exchange and Cooperation Office, Tongji University
Translated by **Tian Jiaqi** (intern), WHITRAP Shanghai

On 29 and 30 January 2024, Ms Simona-Mirela Miculescu, President of the 42nd Session of the General Conference of UNESCO, and Mr Qin Changwei, Secretary General of the National Commission of the People's Republic of China for UNESCO, along with their delegation, paid a visit to Tongji University. Mr Fang Shouen, Secretary of the University Party Committee, met with the delegation. Representatives from WHITRAP Shanghai and the University's International Exchange and Cooperation Office attended the meeting.

Secretary Fang Shouen extended a warm welcome to Ms Simona-Mirela Miculescu and expressed his gratitude for the support UNESCO has provided to the development of Tongji University. He presented

an overview of the school's history, curricula, disciplinary specializations, and internationalization initiatives. He also highlighted the achievements of WHITRAP Shanghai, which is based at Tongji. He underlined that a city's history and its cultural traditions are embodied in its urban cultural heritage. The Tongji alumni, represented by Prof. Ruan Yisan, remained steadfast in their pursuit of the research and practice of cultural heritage preservation during China's rapid urbanization phase. They have established exemplars for the protection and development of China's historical towns and cities, serving as an inspiration for many other ancient towns and cities and making a substantial contribution to the country's high-quality urbanization. In the future, the university hopes to receive further guidance and support from UNESCO, as it aspires to apply more of Tongji's wisdom to the innovative preservation and development of cultural heritage in the new era.

Ms Simona-Mirela Miculescu expressed her heartfelt admiration for and congratulations on the work Tongji University has been doing in the field of heritage preservation and the achievements it has made. She said that it is of significance to take Tongji University as the first stop of her visit to China in her capacity as President of the General Conference



of UNESCO. She deeply appreciated Tongji University's understanding and promotion of the role and value of culture and art in urban development, meanwhile firmly believed in the active part Tongji will play in supporting Shanghai's participation in the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) and UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities (GNLC). UNESCO values and looks forward to further collaborating and exploring new collaborative projects with Tongji University in the future.

Accompanied by Vice President Lou Yongqi, Ms Simona-Mirela Miculescu also visited WHITRAP Shanghai located on the campus. She was briefed on the institute's work and toured the exhibition showcasing its achievements.



2 - Visits to WHITRAP Suzhou and Suzhou Gardens

Jiang Yeqin, Yan Huiyue
WHITRAP Suzhou

On 1 February, Ms Simona-Mirela Miculescu, President of the 42nd General Conference of UNESCO, and her delegation travelled to Suzhou to visit the World Heritage Sites of the Lingering Garden, the Tiger Hill Scenic Area, and the Humble Administrator's Garden. They were presented the conservation and management situation of the World Heritage Sites and the rich achievements in the protection, inheritance, and utilization of Suzhou's cultural heritage.



President Miculescu met with Liu Feng, the Deputy Secretary-General of the Suzhou municipal government during her visit. Representatives of WHITRAP Suzhou, Suzhou Garden and Landscaping Bureau, and the Municipal Foreign Affairs Office participated in the meeting and accompanied the inspection. She was impressed by and highly praised the exquisite landscape elements and garden art of Suzhou classical gardens.

In her message to WHITRAP Suzhou, she said, "I would like to extend my warm congratulations and deep respect for the passion with which you preserve this gem of UNESCO world heritage. May these gardens always be between Heaven and Earth, due to your care!"



WHITRAP Suzhou launched winter holiday and Spring Festival social practice experience activities for minors

Jiang Yeqin, Yan Huiyue
WHITRAP Suzhou

During the winter break and Spring Festival, WHITRAP Suzhou offered social practice and experience activities for minors via online booking. On 31 January and 18 February, WHITRAP Suzhou held thematic experience events titled "Jiangnan Culture - Lantai Stone Exploration" and "Jiangnan Culture - Animal Images in Gardens", respectively. The staff gave the students an introduction to the Taihu stone, Lingbi stone, marble and book stones found in Suzhou gardens. They also discussed the animal images and their representations in Suzhou gardens, such as the gardens' resident animals, the animals featured in the landscape names, plaques and couplets, and the animal symbols found in the wood carvings, flower windows, rockeries and paved floors.

In order to provide students with a more vivid understanding of the garden and an appreciation of its unique culture, the activity included an on-site visit, an animated short film, and handcrafted creation. In order to give students a fun way to explore and learn about garden culture, WHITRAP Suzhou introduced these brand-new experiential events that blend traditional festivals with garden cultural resources.

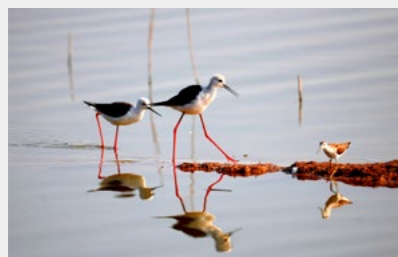
WORLD HERITAGE IN ASIA & PACIFIC

MIGRATORY BIRD SANCTUARIES ALONG THE COAST OF YELLOW SEA-BOHAI GULF OF CHINA (PHASE I)

Collected by **Yang Kaiyue** (intern), WHITRAP Shanghai

Country: People's Republic of China
Category of site: Natural site
Date of inscription: 2019
Criteria: (x)

(Source: <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1606/>)



Himantopus © Yancheng Broadcasting Television



Grus japonensis © Yancheng Broadcasting Television

OUV

The Migratory Bird Sanctuaries along the Coast of the Yellow Sea-Bohai Gulf of China (Phase I) is situated in the largest intertidal mudflat system in the world and protects globally significant biological diversity. The serial property is an irreplaceable and indispensable hub for over 400 birds species, and critical for the over 50 million migratory birds moving along the East Asian-Australasian Flyway, which spans some 22 countries across two hemispheres from the Arctic to Southeast Asia and Australasia. The global importance of the wider coastal area is further evidenced by several Ramsar sites, some of which fully or partially overlap with the property. The property is a promising beginning to identify, conserve and manage the most meaningful representations of a larger, globally significant, yet highly vulnerable, natural heritage system.

The two component parts of the property are both located on the coast of the Yellow Sea in Jiangsu Province. Jointly, the Migratory Bird Habitat in the South of Yancheng, Jiangsu and the Migratory Bird Habitat in the

North of Yancheng have a total area of 188,643 ha, along with two separate buffer zones totalling some 80,056 ha. The property's two component parts are about 30 km apart, separated by the Dafeng Port, and represent Phase I of a much larger serial site nomination.

Criterion (x)

The property supports some 680 species of vertebrates, including 415 species of birds, 26 species of mammals, 9 species of amphibians, 14 species of reptiles, 216 species of fish, as well as 165 species of zoobenthos. Large aggregations of birds depend on the coast as stop-over, moulting, staging, wintering, foraging and/or



Mudflat © Yancheng Broadcasting

breeding grounds. The property's tidal flats are of exceptional importance for the conservation of the world's migratory birds, supporting globally significant numbers, including rare and threatened species. The Phase I tidal flats offer critically important seasonal habitats for more than 10% of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway populations, including two of the world's rarest migratory birds – the Spoon-billed Sandpiper and Nordmann's Greenshank. These remaining natural habitats are vital for the very survival of these birds and a wide array of other threatened species including the Black-faced Spoonbill, Oriental Stork, Red-crowned Crane and Great Knot.



Grus japonensis, Hydropotes inermis © Yancheng Broadcasting Television

THE COSMOLOGICAL AXIS OF YOGYAKARTA AND ITS HISTORIC LANDMARKS

Collected by **Yang Kaiyue** (intern), WHITRAP Shanghai



Bird-eye-view of the Southern Axis taken from the north above Plengkung Nirbaya © Management Unit for the Cosmological Axis of Yogyakarta

(Source: <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1671>)

OUV

The Cosmological Axis of Yogyakarta and its Historic Landmarks includes the Kraton (Palace) Complex and a series of linked landmarks, monuments and spaces located along a six-kilometre-long south-north axis in central Yogyakarta. The property is an exceptional testimony to Javanese civilisation and culture, and exhibits an important interchange between diverse belief systems and values.

The orientation of the axis and the placement of the landmarks along its length were designed to manifest in physical form the Javanese philosophical thoughts on human life, especially the cycle of life (Sangkan Paraning Dumadi), ideal harmonious life (Hamemayu Hayuning Bawana), the connection between human beings and the Creator (Manunggaling Kawula Gusti), and the microcosmic and macrocosmic worlds. The landmarks are connected spatially, in their design, through rituals, and by the traditional management system of the Sultanate of Ngayogyakarta Hadiningrat known as Tata Rakiting Wewangunan. The

axis is aligned between Mount Merapi, considered the abode of Guardian Spirits, and the Indian Ocean, regarded as the home of the Queen of the Southern Sea, reflected in the shape and meaning of the northernmost and southernmost monuments that define the axis.

The location of the Kraton and the city were chosen by the Sultan Mangkubumi in 1755 to conform to Javanese cosmological beliefs, where the capital of the Kingdom is considered to be a miniature of the universe following the Hindu-Buddhist concepts of the physical, metaphysical and spiritual universes. These concepts pre-date the property itself, shaped through the history of Java since before the 1st century CE.

The attributes of the property have been identified and include both tangible and intangible aspects. The latter include cultural heritage practices relating to the cycle of life (birth, marriage and death), venerating ancestors, coronations, funerals, Islamic days, the connection of the natural, macrocosmic and microcosmic worlds, and day to day offerings.



Inner Complex, Trtatag Pagelaran © Tepas Tandha Yekti, Karaton, Ngayogyakarta Hadiningrat

Country: Republic of Indonesia
Category of site: Cultural site
Date of inscription: 2023
Criteria: (ii) (iii)

Criterion (ii)

The Cosmological Axis of Yogyakarta and its Historic Landmarks exhibits an important interchange of human values and ideas between different belief systems related to Javanese animism and ancestor worship, Hinduism and Buddhism from India, Sufi Islam from either India or the Middle East, and Western influences, which were adapted and integrated into the beliefs and culture of the Mataram Kingdoms over hundreds of years. This important and complex interchange of values is demonstrated by the tangible and intangible attributes of the cultural ensemble evident in the property's spatial planning, architecture and monuments, as well as ceremonies and festivals.

Criterion (iii)

The Cosmological Axis of Yogyakarta and its Historic Landmarks bears an exceptional testimony to Javanese civilisation and living cultural traditions after the 16th century. The Sultanate of Ngayogyakarta Hadiningrat remains the centre for Javanese civilisation and it's maintained and developed through the cultural traditions and practices including governance, customary law (paugeran), arts, literature, festivals, and ceremonies. The property is associated with Javanese rituals relating to the cycle of life, venerating ancestors, coronations and royal occasions, Islamic days, and connection with the forces of nature. The Tata Rakiting Wewangunan concept has its origins in Mataram Royal courts since the 16th century and refers to the holistic management of the tangible and intangible aspects of the Sultanate of Ngayogyakarta Hadiningrat, including the uses of space along the axis and in the Kraton Complex.