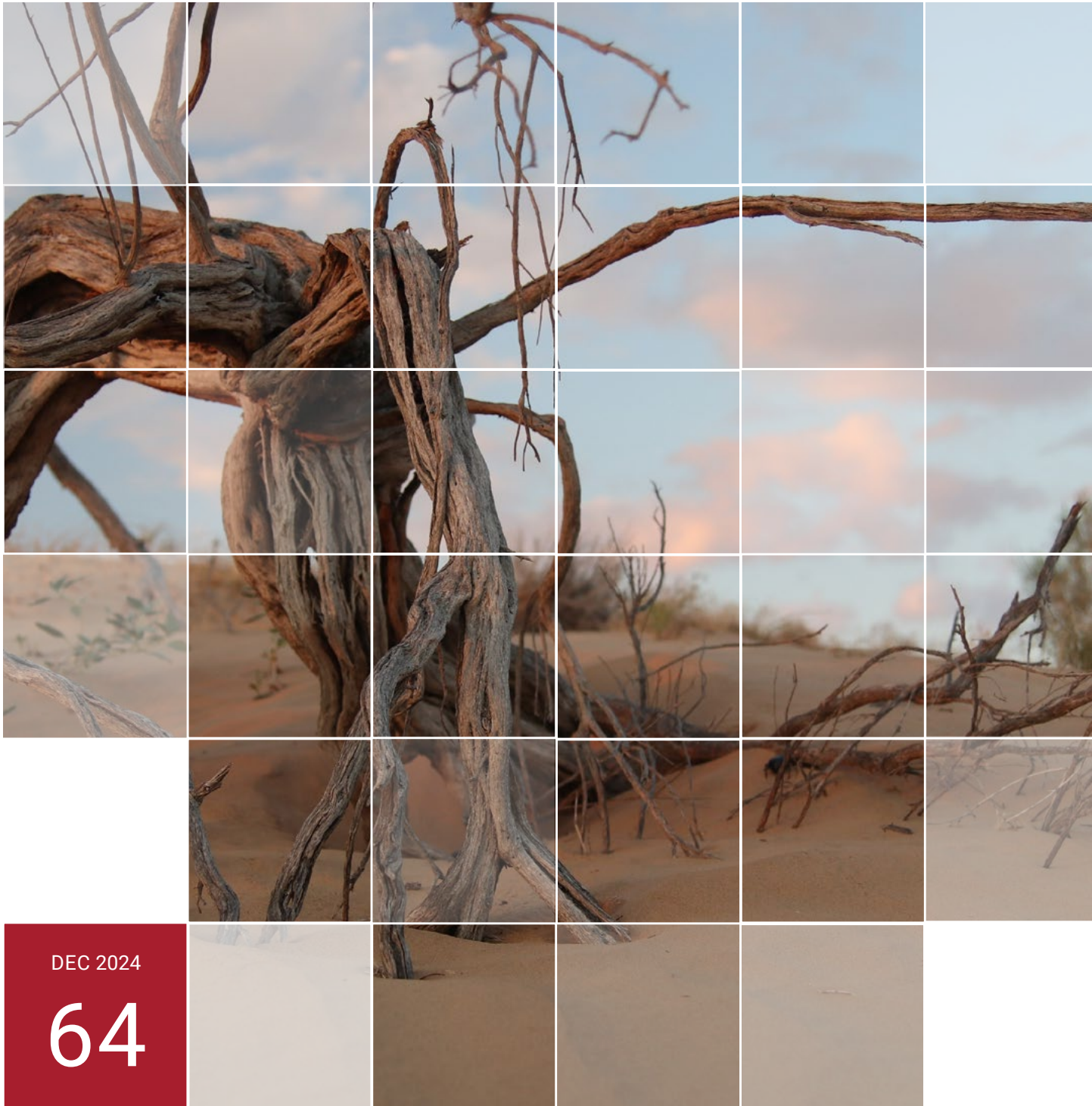


WHITRAP NEWSLETTER

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



DEC 2024

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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.

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BOOK RECOMMENDATION

- 15 《山西高平府底玉皇庙建筑考古研究》(Archaeological Study of the Architecture of Fudi Yuhuang Temple in Gaoping, Shanxi)

WORLD HERITAGE IN ASIA & PACIFIC

- 16 Gaya Tumuli
- Cold Winter Deserts of Turan

HIGHLIGHTS OF "HERITAGE BEYOND BORDERS: SINO-FRENCH SYMPOSIUM ON THE PROTECTION OF HERITAGE AND CULTURAL TOURISM FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT" (I)

Conference working group
Translated by WHITRAP Shanghai



1. OPENING CEREMONY

At the opening ceremony, representatives from both Chinese and French hosting organizations delivered speeches. Vice President Lou Yongqi of Tongji University, Mr Joan Valadou, Consul General of France in Shanghai, Professor Liu Song, Secretary of the Party Committee of Shanghai Tongji Urban Planning and Design Institute Co., Ltd., Xavier Clarke de Dromentin, Inspector of Heritage and Architecture from Ministry of Culture, Yuan Feng, Vice Dean of the College of Architecture and Urban Planning at Tongji University, Jean-Marc Zuretti, Director of the École de Chaillot, Cité de l'Architecture et du Patrimoine and Professor Zhou Jian, Secretary-General of WHITRAP, reflected on the history of cooperation between Tongji University and French partners in architecture and urban and rural heritage conservation. They also congratulated the conference on its successful convening.



On May 20, 2024, the symposium “Heritage Beyond Borders: Sino-French Symposium on the Protection of Heritage and Cultural Tourism for Sustainable Development” was successfully held at the Sino-French Center of Tongji University. The event was hosted by Tongji University and co-organized by the College of Architecture and Urban Planning of Tongji University, WHITRAP Shanghai, the Shanghai Tongji Urban Planning and Design Institute Co., Ltd., and the Cité de l'Architecture et du Patrimoine, France. It received additional support from the Shanghai Urban Planning and Design Research Institute, the National Research Centre for Historical and Cultural Cities of Tongji University, and other institutions.

The symposium was part of Tongji University's series of events celebrating the 60th anniversary of Sino-French diplomatic relations and the 2024 Sino-French Year of Cultural Tourism. More than 20 representatives from institutions such as the Cité de l'Architecture et du Patrimoine, the Association des Petites Cités de Caractère de France, and the French Académie d'Architecture, alongside Chinese experts and scholars, participated in in-depth discussions. These discussions addressed the latest theories and practices in heritage conservation and sustainable development, encompassing metropolitan areas, regional cultural and natural heritage, and rural heritage and revitalization. The symposium aimed to construct a new framework for Sino-French cooperation in heritage conservation and cultural tourism for a new era.

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2. KEYNOTE SPEECH

Review and Prospect of Historical and Cultural Preservation in China

Zhang Bing

Director of the Bureau of Territorial Spatial Planning of the Ministry of Natural Resources, and Chairman of the Historical and Cultural Cities Planning Sub-committee of Urban Planning Society of China

Zhang Bing delivered a speech titled "Review and Prospects of Historical and Cultural Heritage Protection," summarizing the breakthroughs and progress in the theory and practice of heritage protection at various stages since the early 21st century. He highlighted the new requirements set forth by the Central Committee of the Party for heritage protection and the innovative measures introduced through the reform of "unified planning" in protection planning and management. Zhang also proposed key directions for future efforts in this field.

In 2005, the State Council issued the "Notice on Strengthening the Protection of Cultural Heritage," underscoring the importance and urgency of cultural heritage protection from the perspective of safeguarding national cultural security. This broadened the concept of heritage. The "Xi'an Declaration (2005)" further enriched the understanding of the heritage "setting" by providing a more comprehensive perspective. Over the past decade, heritage protection practices have increasingly emphasized the "territorial scope" and "connectivity" of cultural heritage. The integration of natural and cultural heritage protection has emerged as a prominent development trend.

Following the 2018 reform of party and state institutions, the establishment of the national territorial spatial planning system expanded planning objectives to encompass entire regions and all elements. This holistic approach has created new opportunities for managing historical and cultural heritage protection. The "National Territorial Spatial Planning Outline (2021–2035)" further emphasizes the creation of a national heritage protection spatial system, along with the overall protection and systematic revitalization of cultural and natural heritage. It also aims to highlight the distinctive charm of national territorial spaces.

Under the guidance of the "National Territorial Spatial Planning Outline (2021–2035)," new trends in protection practices have emerged. These include exploring sustainable development pathways for heritage, enhancing the safety and resilience of heritage environments, and strengthening the

coordinated protection of historical culture and its surrounding environment. Key focus areas include promoting regional and urban-rural coordination, integrating aboveground and underground spaces, and achieving land-sea coordination. The implementation of the "one map" system for territorial spatial planning provides a new digital and intelligent framework for heritage protection at the national, provincial, and county levels.

Zhang's report also incorporated international perspectives, discussing heritage area protection and management practices in the Loire Valley, France, and the marine spatial protection of Mont-Saint-Michel, showcasing their value as "civilizational references." Additionally, the report reviewed decades of Sino-French collaboration in spatial planning, cultural heritage, and natural heritage, reaffirming a commitment to deepening and expanding these exchanges. Future initiatives include continuing the "Hundreds of Chinese Planners to France" exchange program.

Natural and Cultural Heritage Issues Related to a World Heritage Site: from Institutional to Shared Narratives

Bruno Malmioli

Director of the World Heritage Service for the Loire Valley

Bruno Malmioli delivered a report titled "Natural and Cultural Heritage Issues Related to a World Heritage Site: From Institutional to Shared Narratives."

The report began with an introduction to the natural geography, demographics, and historical evolution of the Loire Valley. It also reviewed the historical sites shaped by two emblematic periods: the Renaissance and the 18th century. The inclusion of landscapes shaped by human activity on the World Heritage List emphasized their historical value, rather than solely their aesthetic appeal. This shift in focus led to the development of the institutional narrative research model.

In recent years, however, new approaches have emerged, emphasizing a shift in narrative focus towards human skills and knowledge, local culture, and daily life. These approaches aim to foster a harmonious and balanced relationship between the living spaces of local residents and the Loire River. Malmioli emphasized that heritage is created by the local community, which continues to live in and interact with it. By gathering diverse perspectives,



particularly from younger generations, and encouraging public participation, this approach seeks to integrate both natural and cultural dimensions while recalibrating the interplay of various factors. This shift—from an institutional to a shared narrative—has become a key direction for future research.

ICOMOS China and the Exchange and Mutual Learning with Chinese World Cultural Heritage

Song Xinchao

Chairman of ICOMOS China and former Deputy Director-General of National Cultural Heritage Administration

Song Xinchao began by briefly reflecting on France's contributions to China in the fields of archaeology, legal frameworks, and historical building conservation since the early 20th century. He then provided a comprehensive review of the significant achievements of ICOMOS China as a key international hub for heritage protection over the past 30 years.

This review focused on three key aspects: the basic structure of ICOMOS China, its role in fostering international exchange and cooperation, and its contributions to the research, application, and management of world heritage. Key highlights included collaborative projects with international organizations

such as UNESCO, ICOMOS, the Getty Conservation Institute in the United States, and the Bavarian State Office for Monument Preservation in Germany. These efforts also extended to organizing the compilation and pilot promotion of the China Cultural Relics and Historical Sites Protection Guidelines; facilitating exchanges with heritage protection institutions and professionals from countries including Italy, France, Australia, and Japan; providing technical support for domestic World Heritage applications; and enhancing the management capacities of heritage sites.

Song particularly underscored that 2024 marks both the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between China and France and the 117th anniversary of Tongji University. At this significant historical juncture, ICOMOS China aims to deepen its collaboration with both Tongji University and France in the field of heritage protection.

IN FOCUS

Les Petites Cités de Caractère, a National Network and Major Players in the Revitalisation of Rural Areas

Roger Bataille

Vice-Chairman of the Association des Petites cités de caractère de France (French Association of Small Towns of Character)

Roger Bataille's report centered on three key questions: What are characteristic small towns? How should the heritage of small towns be addressed? Why establish an association for characteristic small towns?

For the first question, Roger Bataille defined the characteristic small towns as small urban units of varying scales with distinctive historical and heritage attributes. He illustrated this definition through specific examples.

Regarding the second question, he emphasized that the heritage of characteristic small towns should be understood as a holistic and integrated ecosystem comprising architecture, festivals, sports, culture, biodiversity, and more. The objective is to enhance the attractiveness of small towns through heritage while addressing the challenge of balancing historical preservation with modern functionality. This involves ensuring that historical towns serve both residents and visitors, enriching local lives without creating obstacles. Efforts are focused on three main directions: supporting municipal organizations in coordinating urban development and heritage conservation, integrating heritage into cities, architecture, and landscapes; increasing the appeal of small towns through heritage-based tourism initiatives; sharing knowledge and experiences through networks to foster collective progress.

In addressing the third question, the report noted that different historical contexts demand varied responses. An association for characteristic small towns provides a platform for sharing experiences and addressing challenges related to cultural shifts, evolving lifestyles, and changing social needs. Through collaboration among the state, the association, and local residents, each small town can develop its unique characteristics. This enriches the network and allows other small towns to learn from these examples.

The report concluded with three case studies which highlighted small towns with heritage rooted in fishing, industrialization, glass manufacturing, and artistic crafts.

Preservation of Historical Character and Urban Renewal in Shanghai

Wang Bin

Director of Landscape Department, Shanghai Planning and Natural Resource Bureau

Wang Bin elaborated on Shanghai's approach to preserve its historical character and urban renewal, addressing three main topics: "Overview of Current Conditions," "Reflection on Landmark Projects," and "Current Strategic Focus."

He began by referencing key insights from President Xi Jinping's remarks on the critical importance of preserving historical and cultural heritage. Wang provided a succinct overview of Shanghai's framework for identifying and protecting heritage sites, including its legal systems and governance mechanisms.

In reflecting on significant preservation and renewal projects—such as Shanghai Xintiandi, the Bund Origin, Sinan Mansions, Wukang Road, Tianzifang, and the Shanghai Film Park—Wang highlighted the innovative integration of modern urban development with the city's historical and cultural assets. He stressed the importance of continuously exploring ways to achieve a balance between preserving historical character and enabling urban renewal, ensuring the city's cultural identity thrives amidst rapid urbanization.

Currently, Shanghai is pioneering new models and mechanisms for sustainable urban renewal. Notable initiatives include the "Three Experts Joint Design" programme, which operates under guiding principles that prioritize protection, adopt a people-centered approach, and seek an organic integration of preservation and renewal. In 2023, pilot projects were introduced to explore strategies for revitalizing secondary façades along the Bund.

Looking ahead, Wang acknowledged the dual presence of challenges and opportunities in heritage preservation and urban renewal. He reaffirmed the commitment of the Shanghai Municipal Bureau of Planning and Natural Resources to fostering innovation and developing a "Shanghai model" that serves as a benchmark for the preservation of historical character in the modern era.

(To be continued in the next issue.)

The "Bringing Cultural Heritage to Life" Clip-Videos Collection Event successfully concluded

Jiang Yeqin

WHITRAP Suzhou

In collaboration with the UNESCO East Asia Office, WHITRAP Suzhou hosted the "Bring Cultural Heritage to Life" clip-video collection event from July to October. With the help of organizations and individuals like Zhejiang TV, the China Academy of Art, the Hangzhou Liangzhu Site Management Committee, and the Foshan Shengping Community Committee, this event gathered 147 pieces from different places, including Hong Kong and Macau. It illustrates how cultural heritage fosters community and social cohesion. WHITRAP Suzhou had the last assessment meeting for the micro-video gathering event in Beijing on 16 November. The jury was chaired by Mr Zhao Huayong, the former president of China Central Television, and the evaluation panel was composed of professionals from the film and television industries, cultural heritage protection industry, and other UNESCO institutes. The group assessed the submitted pieces according to five standards: "vitality" of the heritage, topic and concept, integrity of the narrative and material, visual appeal, and production and editing abilities. Ultimately, 30 pieces were selected: 15 as Outstanding Cases and 15 as Finalist Cases. The chosen Outstanding Cases were featured on the Asia-Pacific World Heritage website and UNESCO East Asia Office's official website.



Issues 4 and 5 of Study on Natural and Cultural Heritage published in 2024

Zhou Zijie

Translated by Yang Ying (intern)
WHITRAP Beijing



Issue 4 of Study on Natural and Cultural Heritage in 2024 was published in August, with the special topic of "Conservation and Research of Song and Yuan Mountain Sites in Sichuan and Chongqing."

Issue 5 in 2024 was published in November, with the special topic of "Conservation and Research of Industrial Heritage."

WHITRAP Suzhou organized "Youth and Traditional Building Skills Symposium" Exhibition Tour.

Jiang Yeqin

WHITRAP Suzhou

To celebrate the 10th anniversary of International Youth Skills Day, WHITRAP Suzhou, in collaboration with the Suzhou International Cultural Exchange Centre and other institutions, organized the "Youth and Traditional Building Skills Symposium" outstanding case exhibition tour. From August to December, six exhibitions were held at various locations, including Suzhou Xinghai High School, School of Overseas Education of Soochow University, School of Architecture of Soochow University, gardens listed in the Suzhou Gardens Register, and Hanshan Normal University in Chaozhou, Guangdong Province. The tour, an extension of the "Youth and Traditional Building Skills Symposium" international exchange event, showcased innovative examples of youth participation in traditional building skills. Over ten countries were represented, including China, Japan, South Korea, France, Spain, and the five Nordic countries. The exhibitions received praise from educators, students, and visitors at the host institutions. They were also featured in reports by Suzhou Daily, the official Weibo account of the Suzhou Garden Bureau, and UNESCO East Asia Office's official website.



WHITRAP Beijing organized the World Heritage on Campus Exhibition Series

Zhou Zijie
WHITRAP Beijing



In September 2024, the World Heritage on Campus Exhibition Series kicked off. The exhibition's first stop was opened on 19 September in the Huacai Exhibition Hall of Peking University Library. The event was jointly hosted by the Pu'er Municipal Party Committee, the Pu'er Municipal People's Government, the College of Urban and Environmental Sciences of Peking University, and WHITRAP Beijing.

The opening ceremony was presided over by Chen Yaohua, Deputy Secretary of the Party Committee of the College of Urban and Environmental Sciences of Peking University, Director of the World Heritage Research Centre of Peking University, and Deputy Director of the Academic Committee of WHITRAP Beijing, with Dr Li Kuanghan, Executive Director of WHITRAP Beijing, attending the opening ceremony. After the on-site explanation of the commemorative exhibition, the Heritage Lecture was held in Room

109 of the Building of the College of Urban and Environmental Sciences, in which Chen Yaohua gave a lecture on the topic of "Perception of the World Heritage Value of the Ancient Tea Forest Cultural Landscape of Jingmai Mountain in Pu'er".

In October, the exhibition was opened at Yunnan University, Southwest Forestry University and Pu'er College, and Chen Yaohua gave lectures on World Heritage and the protection of the cultural landscape of ancient tea forests in Mount Jingmai in Pu'er to the teachers and students of the three schools respectively. The whole series of activities effectively promoted the understanding of World Heritage and the awareness of protection among young students.

The Paper on Landscape Conservation of Yan Nan Yuan co-authored by WHITRAP Beijing received Nomination Award for Qian Xuesen Urban Science (Cultural Heritage) Gold Award

Zhou Zijie
Translated by Yang Ying (intern)
WHITRAP Beijing

On 9 October 2024, the paper "Community Participation Approaches in Campus Cultural Heritage Conservation: A Case Study of the Landscape Conservation Project of Yan Nan Yuan at Peking University," co-authored by Associate Professor Zhang Jianwei (Research Project Director of WHITRAP Beijing), and Assistant Professor Wang Siyu (Researcher at WHITRAP Beijing), was awarded the Nomination Award for the Qian Xuesen Urban Science (Cultural Heritage) Gold Award.

The paper takes the landscape conservation project of Yan Nan Yuan at Peking University as the research object, introducing the historical, cultural, and ecological values of Yan Nan Yuan, analyzing the characteristics of community participation entities, and elaborating on the development of community participation activities through suggestions, experiential practices, and dissemination and sharing. It emphasizes the great significance of community participation in campus heritage conservation and development by forming a multi-stakeholder conservation and utilization mechanism and implementing conservation practices and relevant suggestions on a semester basis. This award showcases the achievements and strengths of WHITRAP Beijing in related research fields and will promote more cultural heritage conservation research and practical work.

WHITRAP Beijing provided lectures for the Hainan Provincial Forestry Bureau

Zhou Zijie
Translated by Yang Ying (intern)
WHITRAP Beijing



From 15 to 18 October 2024, the Hainan Provincial Forestry Bureau (Hainan Tropical Rainforest National Park Administration) hosted a World Heritage Management Training Programme at Bawangling Area of Hainan Tropical Rainforest National Park. Over 100 participants attended the programme, including external experts in heritage nomination and key personnel from provincial agencies.

Dr Li Kuanghan, Executive Director of WHITRAP Beijing, along with Associate Professor Zhang Jianwei, Research Project Director of WHITRAP Beijing, and Assistant Professor Wang Siyu, respectively lectured on the following topics: "Rural Heritage Conservation and Community Development", "World Heritage Concepts and Criteria: A Case Study of Hainan's Tropical Rainforest and Traditional Li Settlements" and "Cultural Heritage Presentation and Strategies for Sustainable Community Development".

This training improved participants' understanding of heritage management and monitoring for Hainan's proposed nomination sites, enhancing the capacity and professional expertise of institutions and individuals responsible for Hainan's natural and cultural heritage conservation. The programme laid a strong foundation for advancing Hainan's "mixed World Heritage nomination initiative."

WHITRAP met UNESCO

Marie-Noël Tournoux
WHITRAP Shanghai

On 15 October 2024, Prof. Shao Yong, Secretary General of WHITRAP and Director of WHITRAP Shanghai, met with Lazare Eloundou Assomo, Director of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, at the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris. Jyoti Hosagrahar, Deputy Director of the World Heritage Centre, Himalchuli Gurung, Head of the Asia and the Pacific Unit, World Heritage Centre, and Marie-Noël Tournoux, Project Director of WHITRAP Shanghai, attended the meeting.

The meeting allowed them to discuss the Category 2 Centre (C2C) framework and UNESCO's strategy to strengthen ties with C2C. WHITRAP's activities were highly acknowledged by the World Heritage Centre. The Centre detailed its priorities and Prof. Shao Yong presented a summary of WHITRAP's activities since the 2020 mid-term report and the last board meeting, its focus on training and capacity building, research on urban heritage, SDGs, climate change, and building networks and linking all actors of the heritage community, including youth. Furthermore, WHITRAP reiterated its invitation to UNESCO to participate in HeritAP and UHC-HEI activities and further discuss working methods regarding these two activities in general.

The meeting was followed by a separate meeting with the Deputy Director to further discuss activities on the implementation of the Historic Urban Landscape Recommendations and conservation and development of World Heritage Cities. Prof. Shao Yong and Marie-Noël Tournoux also held side-line discussions with several members of the World Heritage Centre, such as Muhammad Juma Muhammad, Head of the Africa Unit. They ended their visit with a brief meeting with Ke Leng, Programme Coordinator, Cultural Policies and Development of the Culture Sector to further present WHITRAP and Tongji CAUP's International Network on Urban-rural Heritage Conservation in Higher Education Institutions (UHC-HEI), discuss follow-up activities to the UNESCO intergovernmental Conference on Culture and Arts Education (Abu Dhabi, February 2024) and the work of the Policy Unit, which is interested in considering culture and heritage at large encompassing the other UNESCO culture conventions. The meeting was an opportunity to present more in detail the two forthcoming UHC-HEI activities, the 2025 conference on "Reshaping Heritage Conservation in Higher Education: What, How, For Whom?" and a Study on Higher Education Systems of Urban-rural Heritage Conservation for Sustainable Development, the questionnaire of which is being finalized.



WHITRAP Beijing held a lecture on World Heritage Education for teachers and students of Beijing Shi Yi Jin Yuan Middle School

Zhou Zijie
WHITRAP Beijing

On 16 October 2024, Associate Professor Chen Yaohua, Associate Director of the Academic Committee of WHITRAP Beijing, was invited to the Beijing Shi Yi Jin Yuan Middle School to popularise the basic knowledge of World Heritage, talk about the value of the ancient tea forests in Jingmai Mountain as well as the heritage protection for the teachers and students, and to guide the middle school students to carry out the fieldwork of heritage research in Jingmai Mountain.



WHITRAP Beijing successfully organized a Capacity-Building Workshop for East Asia on Integrated Approach to Heritage Management

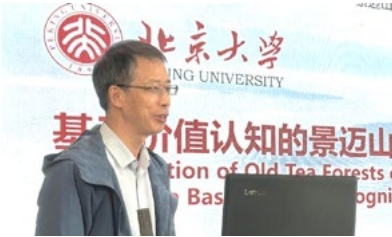
Zhou Zijie
Translated by **Yang Ying** (intern)
WHITRAP Beijing



From 21 to 23 October 2024, to achieve more inclusive heritage interpretation and more holistic heritage site management using diverse perspectives and approaches in response to the challenges faced by World Heritage conservation and management in today's complex global situation, UNESCO Regional Office for East Asia, International Centre for the Interpretation and Presentation of World Heritage Sites under the auspices of UNESCO (WHIPIC), WHITRAP and the School of Archaeology and Museology of Peking University jointly organized the "Capacity-Building Workshop for East Asia on Integrated Approach to Heritage Management." The workshop brought together 22 heritage managers from 12 World Heritage sites in China, Japan, South Korea, and Mongolia. Through lectures, group discussions, and presentations, participants shared innovative practices and challenges in heritage management and explored comprehensive methods for regional heritage conservation. The workshop successfully provided valuable opportunities for heritage management practitioners in East Asia to exchange and collaborate, promoting the application and development of integrated heritage management methods in practice.

WHITRAP Beijing participated in the 2024 Annual Academic Conference of the Landscape Architecture Professional Committee of the China Society of Landscape Architecture

Zhou Zijie
WHITRAP Beijing



From 23 to 26 October 2024, the 2024 Annual Academic Conference of the Landscape Architecture Committee of China Landscape Architecture Society was successfully held in Pu'er, Yunnan Province. The theme of this annual meeting was "Landscape Architecture and Rural Revitalisation", which included annual work report review, academic exchanges and on-site technical exchanges. More than 100 people from colleges and universities, research institutes, management agencies and enterprises in the landscape architecture industry participated in this annual meeting. The participants had a tour on the World Heritage of Jingmai Mountain and actively discussed its protection and utilisation of heritage. Associate Professor Chen Yaohua, Deputy Director of the Academic Committee of WHITRAP Beijing, made a thematic report entitled "Perception of the World Heritage Value of the Ancient Tea Forest Cultural Landscape of Mount Jingmai, Pu'er".

Ambassadors of Comoros and Grenada to UNESCO visited WHITRAP Beijing

Zhou Zijie
Translated by **Yang Ying** (intern)
WHITRAP Beijing



On 1 November 2024, Mr Mohamed-Soyir Bajrafil Kassim, Ambassador of the Union of Comoros to UNESCO, and Ms Chafica Haddad, Deputy Permanent Delegate of Grenada to UNESCO, visited WHITRAP Beijing, accompanied by Ms Guo Wei, Director of the Science and Culture Division of the Secretariat of the Chinese National Commission for UNESCO. Prof. Song Feng, Deputy Director, and Associate Professor Zhang Jianwei, Research Project Director of WHITRAP Beijing, received the guests. At the beginning of the meeting, Prof. Zhang Jianwei briefly introduced WHITRAP Beijing. Subsequently, both parties engaged in discussions on World Heritage nomination. Both ambassadors mentioned the difficulties faced by island states in the World Heritage evaluation and nomination process and expressed their willingness to collaborate with Chinese experts.

WHITRAP organized the "Workshop on Preliminary Assessment for National Focal Points of the Asia Region" in Chengdu

ICOMOS China
Li Hong / WHITRAP Shanghai
Translated by **Hu Hao** (intern)



From 21 to 22 October, the "Workshop on Preliminary Assessment for National Focal Points of the Asia Region" was held in Chengdu, hosted by the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) and the Chinese National Commission for ICOMOS (ICOMOS China), organized by the Sichuan Provincial Cultural Heritage Administration and the World Heritage Institute of Training and Research for the Asia and the Pacific Region under the auspices of UNESCO (WHITRAP). 18 representatives from 13 Asian countries, including China, Brunei, Cambodia, Iran, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, Mongolia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan, participated in the training.

In 2021, the World Heritage Committee approved a new principle of a two-phase nomination process to improve the quality of nominations and strengthen the dialogue between State Parties and the Advisory Bodies (Decision 44 COM 14). At the outset, the nomination process will start with the Preliminary Assessment (PA), "a mandatory desk-based process for all sites that may be nominated to the World Heritage List and is undertaken following a request by the relevant State(s) Party (ies) –

Operational Guidelines para. 122". This workshop is the first one held in the Asia region since the introduction of PA. The workshop aims to enhance understanding of the background, purpose, content, requirements, and process of the preliminary assessment.

The workshop employed various formats, including thematic lectures, group discussions, and open Q&A sessions, focusing on the principles and key contents of the World Heritage Convention, the structure and key points of the preliminary assessment mechanism for World Heritage nominations, the heritage value and nomination strategies, core concepts such as heritage components, attributes, and elements, as well as authenticity and integrity. Lectures were conducted by Gwenaëlle Bourdin, Director of the World Heritage Evaluation Unit of ICOMOS; Luisa De Marco, ICOMOS World Heritage Advisor; Zheng Jun, Researcher of China Academy of Cultural Heritage; and Carolina Castellanos, Special Advisor of WHITRAP Shanghai. Dr Yan Haiming, Director of the ICOMOS China Secretariat, and Li Hong, Project Director of WHITRAP Shanghai, organized and facilitated group discussions.

Participants actively shared experiences and practices related to the nomination and protection of World Cultural Heritage, further exploring opportunities to strengthen cooperation in research, nomination, and heritage protection. This contributes to enhancing the capabilities of heritage nomination and protection by pooling Asian wisdom and leading the entire Asian region's World Heritage nomination and protection work to new heights. During the training course, experts and representatives from various countries also conducted field studies on cultural heritage sites in Sichuan Province and Chengdu.

WHITRAP Shanghai met Cité de l'Architecture et du Patrimoine

Marie-Noël Tournoux
WHITRAP Shanghai



Tongji University, WHITRAP Shanghai, the French Ministry of Culture, Heritage and Architecture Department, the Cité de l'Architecture et du Patrimoine (Centre for Architecture and Heritage), including the Ecole de Chaillot (National School for Training Architects in Preservation and Restoration of Architectural, Urban and Landscape Heritage) and the Observatoire de l'Architecture de la Chine Contemporaine (Observatory of Architecture in Contemporary China), the Association des Petites Cités de Caractères - PCC (Association of Small Towns of Character), and the Association Nationale des Architectes des Bâtiments de France - ANABF (French National Association of State Architects for Heritage Protection) and the Académie d'Architecture have a long-standing partnership on urban-rural heritage conservation for territorial development.

In 2024, China and France celebrate the 60th anniversary of their diplomatic relations and the China-France Cultural Tourism Year. On 20 May, Chinese and French partners held a conference and an exhibition titled "Heritage beyond Borders: Sino-French Symposium on the Protection of Heritage and Cultural Tourism for Sustainable Development" at Tongji University in Shanghai. On 21 May, a sub-forum and the academic

exchange event "Green Mansion Talk on Famous Cities" were held at the Shanghai Urban Planning and Design Research Institute. From 22 to 25 May, a workshop took place in Dali, Yunnan Province, China. The two sides reviewed the 25-year journey of cooperation in architectural and urban-rural heritage protection and discussed the latest theories and practices in the fields of urban heritage conservation and sustainable development, regional cultural and natural heritage protection, as well as rural heritage and rural revitalization. They worked together to build a new framework for China-France cooperation in heritage protection and cultural tourism in the new era. The event held in Paris, France, is part of the 2024 series of activities celebrating the 60th anniversary of China-France diplomatic relations and the China-France Cultural Tourism Year. It also serves as the ANABF Academic Seminar Day and the opening lecture of the École de Chaillot. Chinese and French experts exchanged ideas on the theme of "Patrimoines, des fleuves à l'océan", which refers to "Heritage beyond Borders: From Rivers to Oceans," sharing new perspectives and approaches to cultural and natural heritage conservation for sustainable development.

On 21 October, during the seminar, a cordial and productive meeting took place between the Chinese and French counterparts in the office of Julien Bargeton, President of the Cité, with a view of the Eiffel Tower. The French participants included Jean-Marc Zurretti, Director of Chaillot, and Françoise Ged, Xavier Clarke de Dromantin, Inspector of architecture and heritage, Ministry of Culture, Florence Declaveillere, Vice President of the ANABF, Chief of the Unités Départementales de l'Architecture et du Patrimoine-UDAP Martinique (Departmental Unit of Architecture and Heritage of Martinique) Ministry of Culture, Roger Bataille, Vice President of the Petites Cités de caractère, Alain Marinos, Delegate of the Petites Cités de caractères, Honorary General Inspector of architecture and heritage, Ministry of Culture and former Director

of the Ecole de Chaillot. The Chinese delegation was led by Prof. Lou Yongqi (Vice President of Tongji University), Prof. Shao Yong (Secretary General of WHITRAP and Director of WHITRAP Shanghai, Professor at College of Architecture and Urban Planning of Tongji University), Prof. Zhang Peng (Vice Dean of the College of Architecture and Urban Planning of Tongji University), Qu Chen (Deputy Director of the Foreign Affairs Office of Tongji University) and Zhang Xiangrong (Programme Coordinator at the Foreign Affairs Office of Tongji University), and Marie-Noël Tournoux, Project Director of WHITRAP Shanghai.

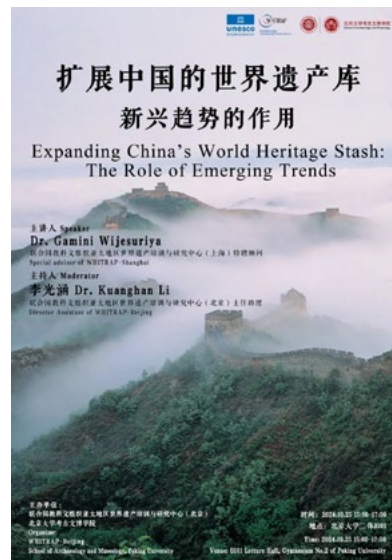
The Cité President Julien Bargeton opened the meeting by addressing a warm welcome to Vice President Lou and the Chinese delegation, expressing his strong interest in cooperation with Tongji University. They discussed priority areas of future cooperation, including sustainable development of urban and rural heritage, integrated protection of natural and cultural heritage, the role of artificial intelligence in heritage conservation, and collaboration in heritage protection education and research. They agreed to enhance the existing cooperation while introducing new topics for collaboration.

Prior to this conference, on 15 October 2024, Prof. Shao Yong met with Jean-Marc Zuretti. The meeting's purpose was to follow up on the May 2024 mission of the French Delegation to China and exchange views on the implementation of activities in the framework of the cooperation between Tongji University, WHITRAP Shanghai, Chaillot, and the Cité.



WHITRAP Beijing invited Dr Gamini Wijesuriya for a special lecture

Zhou Zijie
Translated by Yang Ying (intern)
WHITRAP Beijing



On 25 October 2024, WHITRAP Beijing and the School of Archaeology and Museology of Peking University jointly hosted a lecture titled "Expanding China's World Heritage Stash: The Role of Emerging Trends," delivered by Dr Gamini Wijesuriya, Special Advisor of WHITRAP Shanghai.

Dr Wijesuriya, an architect and archaeologist with over 40 years of experience in World Heritage, is renowned for his ground-breaking contributions to the field of living heritage and his promotion of people-centred approaches in heritage management. A recipient of the ICCROM Award in 2021 for his outstanding global contributions, Dr Wijesuriya has held several key positions, including Director of Conservation for the Government of Sri Lanka, and Special Advisor to the Director-General of ICCROM. Currently, he serves as Special Advisor of WHITRAP Shanghai, and as a



member of the Scientific Committee of the Alliance for Cultural Heritage in Asia (ACHA), established by China. He is also a UNESCO facilitator for the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) Convention.

Building on discussions initiated at the recent "Capacity-Building Workshop for East Asia on Integrated Approach to Heritage Management", Dr Wijesuriya explored new developments in China's heritage field. The lecture highlighted innovative strategies and emerging trends used in the growth of China's heritage list and suggested future directions for expansion. Beyond the mere increase in the number of heritage sites, the lecture emphasized improving the quality of conservation efforts, thereby setting new benchmarks for the global recognition of Asia's rich cultural and historical heritage.

WHITRAP Beijing participated in the World Heritage Nomination of Guizhou Triassic Fossil Group

Zhou Zijie
Translated by Yang Ying (intern)
WHITRAP Beijing

In June 2024, Guizhou Province officially launched the World Natural Heritage nomination process for the "Guizhou Triassic Fossil Group". Prof. Xiao Shizhen's team from Guizhou Normal University and the team of Prof. Jiang Dayong and Prof. Li Jianghai, Deputy Directors of WHITRAP Beijing, jointly conducted resource surveys and report writing. From 10 to 21 July 2024, supplementary field research was carried out. On 20 August 2024, the nomination dossier passed the expert review process organized by the Guizhou Forestry and Grassland Bureau. In early September 2024, it passed the expert review process organized by the National Forestry and Grassland Administration. On 30 September, it was submitted to UNESCO for preliminary review through the National Commission. On 20 November 2024, feedback on the formal review from the UNESCO World Heritage Centre was received. The dossier is currently being revised.

WHITRAP Shanghai and CNR-ISPC bilateral meeting

Marie-Noël Tournoux
WHITRAP Shanghai



On 25 October, WHITRAP Shanghai and the Institute of Heritage Science of the National Research Council of Italy (CNR-ISPC) held a bilateral meeting at the CNR Headquarters in Rome. Prof. Shao Yong, Secretary General of WHITRAP and Director of WHITRAP Shanghai discussed with Elena Gigliarelli, Senior Researcher at the CNR-ISPC, on the cooperation between the two institutions.

The meeting was also attended by Letizia Martinelli, Stefano Cursi, Elena Verticchio, Anna-Pola Pola from CNR-ISPC and Lu Wei, Executive Deputy Director of WHITRAP Shanghai, Marie-Noël Tournoux, Project Director of WHITRAP Shanghai, Lin Lin, Executive Deputy Director of Heritage Conservation and Culture Revitalization Institute of Shanghai Tongji Urban Planning & Design Institute Co. Ltd (TJUPDI), Hu Lijun, Chief Engineer of Heritage Conservation and Culture Revitalization Institute.

The meeting allowed for lively and interesting presentations on recent work from Tongji University, WHITRAP and CNR-ISPC, particularly on rural-urban heritage studies and digital solutions for heritage conservation and urban studies.

The meeting started with the signature of the Tripartite Agreement of Understanding (MoU) between the School of Architecture and Civil Engineering of Xiamen University (XMU-SACE), CNR-ISPC and WHITRAP Shanghai regarding the "Cultural Heritage Conservation and Enhancement of Urban and Rural Settlements and World Heritage Sites in Fujian Province, China".

More on the CNR and ISPC

The Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche (CNR) is the largest research council in Italy. It was founded in 1923 and its headquarters are in Rome. As a public organisation, it aims to support scientific and technological research and carry out, through its organs, advanced basic and applied research in a variety of fields.

The Institute of Heritage Science (ISPC) was founded in 2019. As the CNR hub for research, innovation, training, and technology transfer within the strategically crucial field of Cultural Heritage, ISPC actively seeks collaboration within national and international networks of expertise. It's an interdisciplinary institution committed to advancing scientific excellence and fostering innovation in understanding, conserving, and enhancing cultural heritage. Its mission involves collaborative research that engages the humanities, experimental sciences, and technological applications.

WHITRAP Beijing provided lectures for the 2024 World Heritage Conservation, Inheritance, and Utilization Training

Zhou Zijie
Translated by Yang Ying (intern)
WHITRAP Beijing



From 16 to 19 November 2024, the World Heritage Conservation, Inheritance, and Utilization Training, hosted by the Management School of the National Forestry and Grassland Administration, was held in Mount Emei. Associate Professor Song Feng, Deputy Director of WHITRAP Beijing, and Associate Professor Zhang Jianwei, Research Project Director, delivered lectures on "Development Trends in World Natural Heritage" and "Public Participation in World Heritage", respectively. During the six-day training, renowned experts lectured on World Heritage management and organized on-site teaching and experience-sharing events. Participants included relevant government officials from 65 World Heritage sites as well as sites applying for World Heritage status across the country. The training effectively enhanced the professional and comprehensive competence of heritage managers and promoted new explorations in World Heritage conservation.

World Monuments Fund Team visited WHITRAP Beijing

Zhou Zijie
Translated by Yang Ying (intern)
WHITRAP Beijing

On 20 November 2024, Jonathan S. Bell, Vice President, and Hung-his Chao, Regional Director for East Asia of World Monuments Fund, visited WHITRAP Beijing. Dr Li Kuanghan, Executive Director, and Associate Professor Zhang Jianwei, Research Project Director of WHITRAP Beijing, received the guests. During the meeting, both parties introduced their strategic directions and representative projects and had in-depth discussions on the feasibility of future cooperation between WHITRAP Beijing and the World Monuments Fund's newly established office in China. The World Monuments Fund team expressed their expectation for pilot cooperation projects in Shanxi.

WHITRAP Beijing participated in the International Symposium on Living Heritage and Sustainable Development

Zhou Zijie
Translated by Yang Ying (intern)
WHITRAP Beijing



From 22 to 25 November 2024, the International Symposium on Living Heritage and Sustainable Development was held in the Hani Rice Terraces Heritage Site in Yuanyang County, Honghe Hani and Yi Autonomous Prefecture, Yunnan Province. It was hosted by the Government of Yuanyang County, Fudan University and Kunming University of Science and Technology, and organized by the UNESCO World Heritage Hani Rice Terraces Yuanyang Management Committee, the UNESCO Chair on Living Heritage and Community Development and others.



Associate Professor Zhang Jianwei, Research Project Director of WHITRAP Beijing, delivered a speech titled "Survey and Conservation of Traditional Li Villages in Hainan". Dr Li Kuanghan, Executive Director, and Assistant Professor Wang Siyu, Researcher, chaired the first session on "Heritage Resilience and Sustainable Development of Cultural Landscapes" and the second session on "International Experiences and Chinese Practices in Conservation and Development of Living Heritage", respectively, and participated in the roundtable discussion. Associate Professor Chen Yaohua also participated in the roundtable discussion.

Participants of the symposium included over a hundred domestic and international experts, scholars, and local representatives from China, France, Japan, the Philippines, New Zealand, and other countries. The symposium had in-depth discussions on conservation and sustainable development models of living heritage, shared the latest research findings and practical experiences in related fields at home and abroad, and contributed wisdom and strength to promoting the creative transformation and development of living heritage.

The "2024 Advanced Course on Conservation and Restoration Techniques of Traditional Architecture for the Asia-Pacific Region" was held at WHITRAP Suzhou with great success.

Jiang Yeqin
WHITRAP Suzhou
Zhou Zijie, Yang Ying (intern)
WHITRAP Beijing



The "2024 Advanced Course on Conservation and Restoration Techniques of Traditional Architecture for the Asia-Pacific Region" took place in Chaozhou, Guangdong, from 24 to 30 November 2024. The Gold Mantis School of Architecture at Soochow University participated in and co-organized the workshop, which was organized by the UNESCO East Asia Office, the Suzhou Municipal Committee's Publicity Department, the Suzhou Municipal Administration of Gardens and Greening, WHITRAP Suzhou, and the Chaozhou Municipal Culture, Radio, Television, Tourism, and Sports Bureau. More than 40 professionals, academics, and young practitioners in the field of conserving and restoring traditional buildings from the Asia-Pacific area came together for the workshop. It promoted in-depth exchanges and collaboration between Suzhou and Chaozhou in the preservation and utilization of ancient cities, cultural heritage inheritance, and traditional construction skills. It also covered new ideas and technologies in ancient architectural conservation through a comprehensive curriculum and hands-on sessions. The workshop's successful completion

not only showed how well-equipped Suzhou and Chaozhou are to preserve historic buildings, but it also established a crucial forum for the two cities' traditional craft exchange. In the Asia-Pacific area and beyond, they are dedicated to advancing the preservation and utilization of historic cities and cultural treasures on a regional and international scale.

Prof. Sun Hua, Academic Committee Director of WHITRAP Beijing, delivered a special lecture. The seven-day training focused on the historical evolution, modern conservation techniques, and adaptive reuse strategies of traditional architectural craftsmanship, with expert lectures, on-site teaching, and case studies as the main formats. Forty participants from renowned universities, research institutes, and heritage site management units both at home and abroad gathered in Chaozhou for field study, further enhancing their skills in the conservation and restoration of traditional architecture.



Suzhou's Garden Conservation recognized internationally with Prestigious Award

Jiang Yeqin
WHITRAP Suzhou

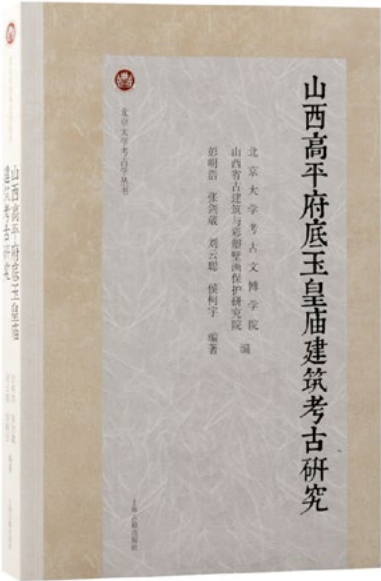
Suzhou's achievements in garden conservation and maintenance continue to gain global recognition. The International Federation of Landscape Architects (IFLA) Asia-Africa-Middle East (AAPME) Awards for 2024 recently honoured the Tiger Hill Cultural Landscape Conservation project with an award in the Culture and Tradition category. The project, managed by the Suzhou Municipal Administration of Gardens and Greening in partnership with WHITRAP Suzhou and the Tiger Hill Management Office, employs three key strategies: site restoration, blue-green infrastructure (BGI), and cultural revitalization. This water-focused initiative not only preserves cultural assets but also enhances the local biological environment. The project actively explores the conservation and sustainable use of the surrounding heritage regions. Efforts include reviving local cultural traditions, enriching public cultural life, providing habitats for traditional plants and animals, and supporting the production and transmission of traditional crafts. This marks the third time WHITRAP Suzhou's projects have been recognized by the IFLA jury, following awards for the Suzhou Huqiu Wetland Park project in 2020 and the Shihu Ecological Park project in 2022. These successes highlight Suzhou's excellence in landscape management, biodiversity enhancement, and cultural heritage preservation.



BOOK RECOMMENDATION

ARCHAEOLOGICAL STUDY OF THE ARCHITECTURE OF FUDI YUHUANG TEMPLE IN GAOPING, SHANXI

ZHOU Zijie
WHITRAP Beijing



Name of the book:
《山西高平府底玉皇庙建筑考古研究》(Archaeological Study of the Architecture of Fudi Yuhuang Temple in Gaoping, Shanxi)

Authors:
Edited by **Shanxi Ancient Architecture and Painted Mural Protection Research Institute**
Edited & written by **Peng Minghao, Zhang Jianwei, Liu Yuncong, Hou Keyu**

Publisher:
Shanghai Chinese Classics Publishing House (上海古籍出版社)

Publishing year:

2024

ISBN:

9787573212863

In September 2024, *Archaeological Study of the Architecture of Fudi Yuhuang Temple in Gaoping, Shanxi*, co-edited by Associate Professor Zhang Jianwei, Research Project Director of WHITRAP Beijing, was successfully published. The book conducted a comprehensive study and documentation of Fudi Yuhuang Temple in Gaoping, Shanxi, and reached two preliminary understandings:

From a macro perspective, Fudi Yuhuang Temple was founded in the Jin and Yuan periods, built on a high ridge near the village, and served as the central temple for surrounding rural areas.

While from a micro perspective, the temple's main gate and hall contain early architectural remains, with their bracket sets and beam-frame

structures reflecting the characteristics of the late Jin to the Mongolian rule period.

The above research work can serve as an important reference for the subsequent conservation, restoration, and value enhancement of the architecture.

WORLD HERITAGE IN ASIA & PACIFIC

GAYA TUMULI

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

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



Gyo-dong and Songhyeon-dong Tumuli
© World Heritage Nomination Office for the Gaya Tumuli



Okjeon Tumuli © World Heritage Nomination Office for the Gaya Tumuli

OUV

The Gaya Tumuli are a serial property consisting of seven cemeteries created by members of the Gaya Confederacy, an ancient collection of several polities that persisted from the 1st through the mid-6th centuries CE in the southern section of the Korean Peninsula. The seven cemeteries are the Daeseong-dong Tumuli, Marisan Tumuli, Okjeon Tumuli, Jisan-dong Tumuli, Songhak-dong Tumuli, Yugok-ri and Durak-ri Tumuli, and Gyo-dong and Songhyeon-dong Tumuli.

Through its geographical distribution, locational characteristics, types of burials, and contents of grave goods, the property attests to the distinctive Gaya political system in which affiliated polities were allowed to exist as autonomous political equals while sharing cultural commonalities.

The seven cemeteries are the burial grounds for the top leaders of seven Gaya polities that developed independently at different sites across the southern portion of the Korean Peninsula. The cemeteries are all located on elevated terrain at the centre of a polity and are home to densely clustered tombs constructed

over a long period. This dispersed distribution of equally monumental and elaborate tomb clusters manifesting shared practices for locating and building high-status tombs testifies to the existence of multiple equally powerful and autonomous polities living under the influence of the same culture.

The cemeteries all feature a particular kind of stone-lined burial chamber and have produced a distinctive form of pottery, respectively known as the Gaya-type stone-lined chamber burial and Gaya-style pottery. These commonalities contribute to identifying the territorial bounds of the Gaya Confederacy. Other grave goods, such as iron weapons reflecting similar levels of military power and trade goods imported into and exchanged within the Gaya Confederacy, demonstrate how the seven polities existed as political equals and maintained a level of internal parity.

Criterion (iii)

The Gaya Tumuli bear exceptional testimony to Gaya, a unique ancient East Asian civilisation that coexisted

with its more strongly centralised neighbours but maintained a distinct confederated political system. The property is important evidence of the diversity found among ancient East Asian civilisations.

(Source: <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1666/>)



Bird's eye view of the Yugok-ri and Durak-ri Tumuli
© World Heritage Nomination Office for the Gaya Tumuli

COLD WINTER DESERTS OF TURAN

Collected by **Tian Jiaqi** (intern), WHITRAP Shanghai

(Source: <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1693/>)



Rhinopetalum karelinii © A. Pavlenko

OUV

This transnational property comprises fourteen component parts found across arid areas of Central Asia's temperate zone between the Caspian Sea and the Turanian high mountains. The area is subject to extreme climatic conditions with very cold winters and hot summers, and boasts an exceptionally diverse flora and fauna that has adapted to the harsh conditions. The property also represents a considerable diversity of desert ecosystems, spanning a distance of more than 1,500 kilometres from East to West. Each of the component parts complements the others in terms of biodiversity, desert types, and ongoing ecological processes.

Criterion (ix)

The proposed serial property represents the cold winter deserts as an outstanding example of the evolution and adaptation of terrestrial ecosystems to extreme climate conditions and the development of survival strategies of plants and animals as ongoing ecological and biological processes. The selected series includes diverse



Solonchak © O. Kugaev



Ancient river Unguz in Bereketli-Garagum, pink colour from high salt concentration
© A. Pavlenko

geomorphological desert types, which are reflected by different ecosystems, such as saxaul woodland, sagebrush, saltwort, psammophytic and solonchak deserts. Taxonomic diversification and morphological convergence of plants are significant ongoing biological processes. Primary successions on virgin land of previous sea bottom are ongoing ecological processes of colonizing hostile land areas. Saxaul woodland demonstrates the ability of desert ecosystems for ongoing carbon sequestration and storage. Morphological, physiological and behavioural adaptations ensure the survival of animal life, and seasonal migrations of large mammals are a fundamental ongoing process within the cold winter deserts of Turan.

Criterion (x)

The cold winter deserts of Turan include diversity hotspots of Chenopodiaceae and plant genera of different families like *Artemisia*, *Calligonum*, *Salsola*, *Zygophyllum* or *Limonium* including a high share of endemic species. The serial hosts very specific flora and fauna. The cold winter deserts of Turan are the habitat of a few globally threatened mammals like kulan (*Equus hemionus kulan*), goitered gazelle (*Gazella subgutturosa*), saiga antelope (*Saiga tatarica*) and urial (*Ovis vignei arkal*). They host numerous breeding birds and contain important resting places for migrating bird species. The herpetofauna and insect fauna of the cold winter deserts are characterized by very specific representatives.



Northern Ustyurt plateau, eastern chink © M. Gritsina