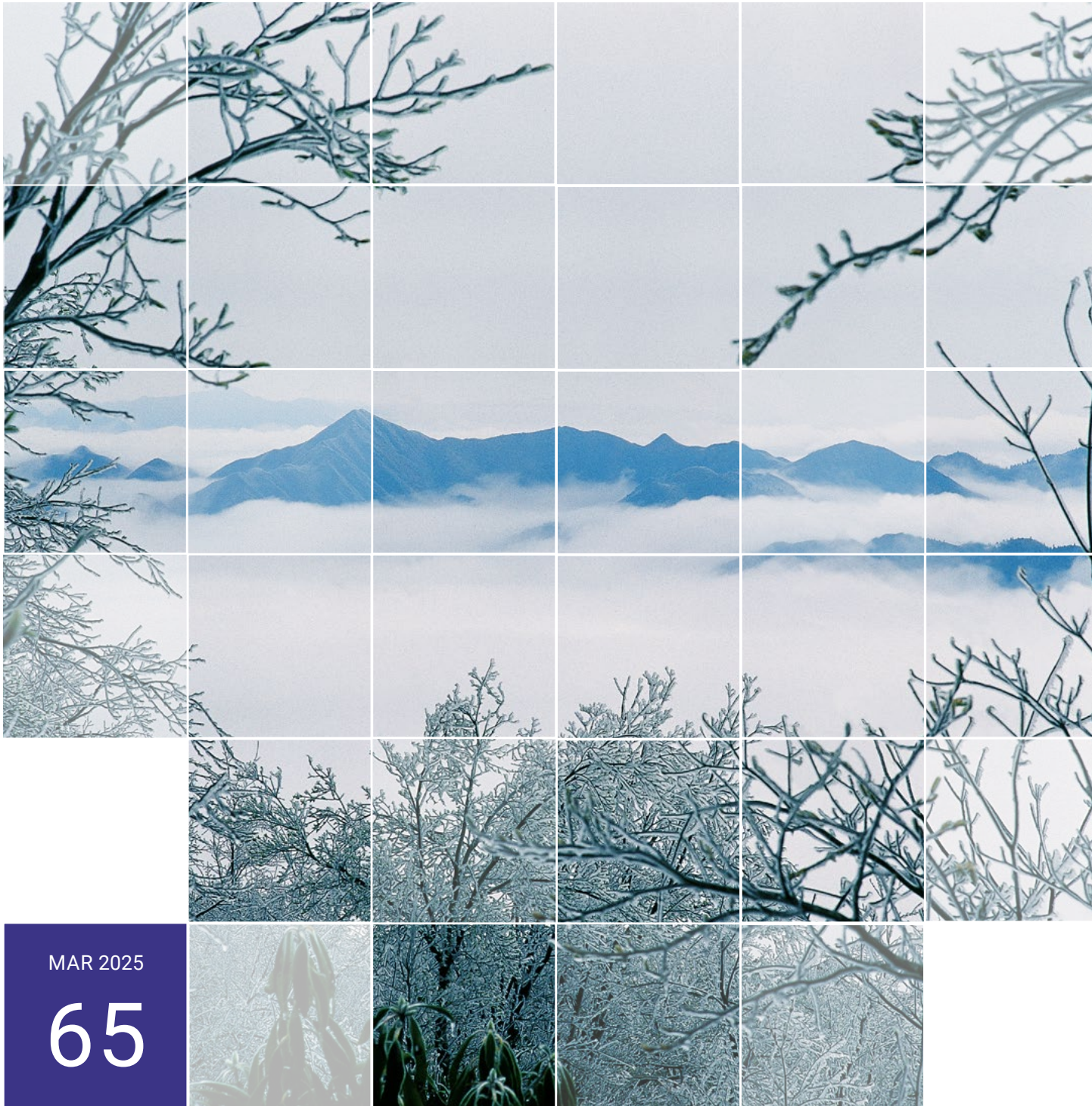


# WHITR-AP NEWSLETTER

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 (WHITR-AP) 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. WHITR-AP has three branches in Beijing, Shanghai, and Suzhou.

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# SPECIAL FEATURES

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

Conference working group  
Translated by WHITR-AP Shanghai



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 Centre of Tongji University. The event was hosted by Tongji University and co-organized by the College of Architecture and Urban Planning of Tongji University, WHITR-AP 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.

## TOPIC ONE: HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND URBAN RENEWAL IN METROPOLISES

### Natural and Cultural Heritage in the Paris/Ile-de-France 2040 Master Plan

**Eric Huybrechts**  
Architect and urban planner,  
Head of the International Department, Institut Paris Région

Eric Huybrechts presented recent approaches and key characteristics of urban regeneration and heritage preservation in the Paris metropolitan area, focusing on the theme "Natural and Cultural Heritage in the Paris/Ile-de-France 2040 Masterplan." He outlined specific measures from the Ile-de-France 2030 Regional Plan, designed to address a range of environmental, ecological, social, and economic challenges, with the overarching goal of improving the quality of life for residents. These measures included enhancing public transportation accessibility, constructing green corridors, preserving agricultural spaces, and increasing the city's resilience to future challenges.

Huybrechts illustrated these initiatives with case studies, such as the development of the double-ring line of the Paris metro, the restructuring of northeastern Paris, the mixed-use redevelopment of the industrial zone in Boulogne-sur-Seine, the renewal of the La Défense Central Business District, the creation of public spaces in Saint-Denis, and the transformation of waterfront public spaces in Paris. He highlighted how these projects translate the objectives of regional planning into tangible, on-the-ground implementations, effectively demonstrating the alignment of strategic planning with practical outcomes.

In conclusion, Huybrechts emphasized the strong collaborative relationship between the Institute of the Paris Region and Chinese research institutions. He expressed optimism that both sides could further leverage their respective strengths to enhance cooperation and address future challenges together.

### Holistic Protection and Renewal Practices of the Old City of Beijing

**Ju Dedong**  
Dean of the Institute of Historical and Cultural City Protection and Development, China Academy of Urban Planning and Design,  
Professor-Level Senior Urban Planner

Ju Dedong shared insights into the holistic protection and renewal practices of the old city of Beijing, using the renewal efforts in Dongcheng District and the construction and implementation projects of Chongyong Street as case studies.

He began by outlining Beijing's recent initiatives in overall protection, which include: establishing a comprehensive spatial hierarchy encompassing the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region, the municipality, the central city, and the old city; highlighting three regional cultural protection zones: the Grand Canal, the Great Wall, and the Western Hills Cultural Belt; strengthening two key focus areas: the old city and the "Three Hills and Five Gardens"; continuously improving the management system for heritage protection and urban renewal.

Ju also detailed the main work conducted by the China Academy of Urban Planning and Design in recent years, including: value-led renewal of historical areas: exemplified by the Research on the Inheritance and Cultural Revival of the South Central Axis Area; thematic research: such as the Optimization of the Value Context and Protection Pattern of Industrial Heritage in Beijing's Central City; Key area implementation projects: including the Beijing Chongyong Street District Renewal (2018–2021), the Comprehensive Management of the Area Near the Bell and Drum Towers, Drum Tower East Street, and Yu River (2020–2023), and the Public Space Improvement Project of Beixinqiao (2022–2024). Finally, he emphasized the comprehensive protection and renewal efforts in the Beijing Chongyong Street District. He explored the development of a multi-level technical system and methods for urban renewal at the strategic design level. At the planning and implementation stages, he focused on integrating heritage with the environment, urban settings, and communities. He stressed the importance of people-centered approaches and methods throughout the entire process, achieving significant social benefits and contributing to the harmonious development of the city.



From Brest to Shanghai and Beyond: towards New Heritage Planning Methods

**Soazic Le Goff**  
French national architect,  
Head of the Department of Architecture and Heritage of  
the Department of Finistère

**Alain Marinos**  
Architect and urban planner,  
Honorary inspector general of architecture and heritage at  
the Ministry of Culture,  
National delegate for France's Petites cités de caractère

Using Brest as a representative city, Alain Marinos and Soazique Le Goff Dussauto explored the effectiveness of planning tools in the context of intergenerational heritage preservation, framed by Sino-French exchanges.

By comparing and analyzing the seaside cities of Brest and Shanghai, Alain Marinos introduced a comparative perspective on the development of heritage planning in China and France. He reviewed the historical academic exchanges between Tongji University and France in heritage conservation, highlighting key planning tools and outcomes, such as ZPPAUP (Zones de Protection du Patrimoine Architectural, Urbain et Paysager), which emerged from these collaborative efforts. Building on this foundation, Soazique Le Goff Dussauto presented the “Co-build the Project in Partnership: The Heritage”

initiative, using the specific case of Brest to illustrate its application. She focused on the “Co-build” program, which integrates heritage preservation into local development through participatory planning tools. Key elements of this initiative include:

- 1) The Heritage House: Co-build the project in partnership;
- 2) The Guide: Co-building within City Public Services;
- 3) the Tank: Co-build with building professionals;
- 4) Monitoring Committees: Co-build with residents in a participatory approach.

Le Goff explained the methodological context and practical applications of these tools in detail, emphasizing the “Co-build” program's innovative and inclusive nature. This initiative aims to harness heritage conservation as a driver for local development, demonstrating its potential to foster economic, social, and cultural growth.

The presentation provided the audience with a comprehensive understanding of Brest's experience in leveraging heritage conservation as a catalyst for sustainable urban development.

Methods for the Renewal of Shanghai's Historical Urban Area Based on Protection

**Zhou Jian**  
Professor, College of Architecture and Urban Planning,  
Tongji University;  
Former Secretary-General of WHITR-AP

Zhou Jian, addressing the topic of “Methods for the Renewal of Shanghai's Historical Urban Area Based on Protection,” explored approaches to safeguarding and revitalizing Shanghai's historical urban fabric while ensuring its holistic protection.

He highlighted efforts to define comprehensive principles and methodologies for identifying Shanghai's historical urban area, using the built-up urban area of 1949 as a baseline. These efforts aim to address discontinuities in the city's protection spatial patterns. The result has been an expanded and more coherent framework for safeguarding Shanghai's historical spaces, buildings, and characteristic alleys, ensuring the continuity of its urban heritage.

Zhou outlined the classification-based approach to protecting historical neighborhoods in Shanghai, emphasizing tailored strategies for various urban typologies. Using Shanghai's old city area as an example, Zhou elaborated on specific methods for integrating protection and renewal:

- 1) Preserving street scales: ensuring the continuity of spatial patterns while incorporating new alleys and public spaces to enhance urban vitality;
- 2) Maintaining spatial scale and continuity: respecting the proportionality of urban spaces to sustain a sense of place;
- 3) Preserving plot textures: retaining distinctive street interfaces and land-use characteristics;
- 4) Integrating architectural textures: balancing the preservation of traditional architectural elements with the introduction of complementary modern designs.

TOPIC TWO: HOLISTIC CONSERVATION OF CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE IN A REGIONAL PERSPECTIVE

The Organisation of Research on Tangible and Intangible Cultural Heritage: From the Loire Valley to Europe

**Xavier Rodier**  
Director of the Maison des Sciences de l'Homme Val-de-Loire

Xavier Rodier presented the advancements in digital technology within French heritage conservation, focusing on the theme “Organization of Tangible and Intangible Cultural Heritage Research: From the Loire Valley to Europe.” He introduced the institution's foundational work and objectives, emphasizing its multidisciplinary approach to heritage research. The projects span several domains, including: urban history, impacts of climate change, inclusive education for immigrant populations, glass and perfume economies.

Rodier showcased several cutting-edge initiatives reflecting the intersection of technology and heritage conservation:

- 1) REVISMARTIN: An immersive VR game-film providing a virtual exploration of heritage narratives;
- 2) Cepatlas: A historical atlas of French grape varieties;
- 3) PARTOURS: A project under CESR, CeTHiS, and MSH, focusing on mapping historical and cultural trajectories;
- 4) ChArtRes: A 3D rendering project of artistic choirs, highlighting advanced visualization methods for cultural artifacts.

Rodier discussed this collaborative platform designed to facilitate data sharing among heritage professionals and researchers across Europe. ECHOES aims to enhance the accessibility and usability of cultural heritage data, fostering cross-border collaboration.

Rodier concluded by expressing ambitions to position Maison des Sciences de l'Homme Val de Loire as a critical interface within European research networks. The institution seeks to collaborate with regional ecosystem stakeholders to develop projects, create public resources, and contribute to a unified European heritage research infrastructure.



**Holistic Heritage Conservation and Synergistic Development in Regional Perspective**

**Shao Yong**

Professor, College of Architecture and Urban Planning, Tongji University, Secretary-General of WHITR-AP and Director of WHITR-AP Shanghai, Director of Heritage Conservation and Culture Revitalization Institute, Shanghai Tongji Urban Planning and Design Institute Co., Ltd (HCCRI-TJUPDI)

Shao Yong delivered a speech titled "Holistic Heritage Conservation and Synergistic Development in Regional Perspective," in which she argued that, in the context of planning reform, it is necessary to adopt a more macro perspective to protect both natural and cultural heritage holistically. Natural and cultural heritages are inherently interconnected, particularly through the continuous interaction between people and space, forming a dynamic relationship between humans and the environment. This necessitates a comprehensive re-evaluation of heritage from a regional perspective.

Subsequently, Prof. Shao Yong presented several cases, such as the conservation planning of historical and cultural resources in the Southern Anhui region, the Henan Province Territorial Spatial Planning (2020-2035) for the protection of historical and cultural heritage, and the overall protection of regional historical and cultural resources in the Danqin Ancient Irrigation Area. She proposed a shift from a simple superposition of local point, line, and surface heritage types to a systematic, overall protection approach.

Finally, Prof. Shao Yong emphasized that planning reform and the construction of a protection and inheritance system provide systemic and holistic conservation with a solid institutional foundation. In turn, heritage conservation offers an important cultural perspective for territorial spatial planning, and both need to form a positive "two-way relationship."

**In the Heart of the Loire Valley: A Harbour for Building Chambord**

**Sophie Métadier**

President of PCC Val de Loire, Mayor of Beaulieu-les-Loches (Val-de-Loire), part of the Petites cités de caractère de France network

Sophie Métadier shared the history and present of the Chambord port under the theme "The Core of the Loire Valley: A Port Built for Chambord." She began

by introducing the small city of Saint-Dié, highlighting its characteristics as a prosperous, fortified riverside city. Subsequently, she presented Chambord as part of the Loire Valley castles and detailed the construction process of this castle, which was one of the most significant projects of the Renaissance period, built by the most experienced master masons.

She also mentioned that with the construction of Chambord, there was a significant influx of people, a multiplication of inns to accommodate workers, sailors, and artists, and the gradual development of the small town of Saint-Dié into a distinctive, small-scale city.

Finally, she discussed the current development of Chambord port and the city, including the maintenance of dock life, the establishment of guiding documents, the creation of walking tour routes, and the development of engaging and diverse cycling routes.

**Conservation and Development of the Coastal Areas of One River and One Creek**

**Xi Dongfan**

Chief Planner of Landscape Protection and Urban Renewal, Shanghai Urban Planning and Design Institute, Deputy Director of Famous Cities Research Centre, Senior Engineer

Xi Dongfan spoke on the topic of "Conservation and Development of the 'One River, One Creek' Coastal Areas," beginning with the historical changes in the basins of the Huangpu River and Suzhou Creek to elucidate the importance of "One River, One Creek" as a grand cultural corridor that connects rivers and lakes and carries a thousand years of history. From the starting point of modern Shanghai's development to its emergence as a world-class waterfront area with global influence, the development of the "One River, One Creek" riverfront areas is based on the overall planning of elements, time, space, and implementation.

The speech focused on introducing four major strategies to achieve the protection and development of the "One River, One Creek" riverfront areas:

First, by conducting surveys and expanding the scope of protection to maximize the discovery and preservation of various cultural heritages in the waterfront areas, reflecting historical accumulation and humanistic atmosphere.

Second, opening up the enclosed waterfront areas to make public waterfront spaces continuous and accessible, providing active venues for promoting the perception and experience of heritage and culture.

Third, relying on historical buildings and spaces to narrate and preserve the history and culture carried by "One River, One Creek," while promoting innovation in new developments.

Finally, he emphasized the need to grasp the central position of "One River, One Creek" in urban functions and space, to support the core functions of a global city, highlight the leadership of culture and innovation, and empower urban development.

**TOPIC THREE: VERNACULAR HERITAGE AND RURAL REVITALISATION**

**The Island of Martinique, Leveraging Its Heritage to Develop the Saint-Esprit Community**

**Florence Declaveillère**

French National Architect, Historic Monuments Conservation Officer in charge of Martinique's Cultural Affairs Directorate, Vice-President of the French National Association of Architects (ANAF)

Florence Declaveillère focused on the topic "Martinique, Leveraging Its Heritage to Develop the Saint-Esprit Community," sharing the experience of how the Saint-Esprit community in Martinique uses heritage to promote local development.

She introduced the transportation hub of Martinique and the process of protecting and developing traditional timber-framed buildings in the Saint-Esprit community, which included establishing a comprehensive heritage inventory, developing a revival plan, and creating coordinating mechanisms.

Subsequently, she introduced some specific measures taken by the community, including:

- (1) conducting a problem diagnosis for 18 developed plots and 20 undeveloped plots;
- (2) using green plants to improve the landscape and connect with local culture and residents' lives;
- (3) introducing new laws and policies to streamline real estate inheritance, enabling the government to reclaim a certain number of houses, increase public services, and preserve traditional color schemes, thus enhancing residents' sense of belonging;
- (4) reconstructing the linear structure of the city's entrance buildings;
- (5) uniting various forces through individual projects, using leverage to stimulate other housing renovations;
- (6) attracting residents to actively participate in building restoration, among others.

**From Vernacular Heritage Protection to Sustainable Rural Life**

**Huang Yinwu**

Associate Professor of Shanghai Jiao Tong University, Director of Architecture Department of Shanghai Jiao Tong University School of Design, Chairman of Shaxiyuan Rural Cooperative Centre in Jianchuan County

Prof. Huang Yinwu, in his talk “From Vernacular Heritage Protection to Sustainable Rural Life,” began by discussing Shaxi and its vernacular heritage, sharing his insights on the protection of vernacular heritage and the promotion of sustainable rural life. He introduced the geographical environment, cultural customs, and distinctive features of Shaxi’s vernacular heritage, as well as the Shaxi Revival Project.

Prof. Huang emphasized that the Shaxi Revival Project focuses on the protection of cultural heritage, with the improvement of living conditions as a prerequisite and regional coordinated development as its ultimate goal. This project highlights the value of Shaxi’s vernacular heritage in its entirety and reshapes the cultural confidence of the local villagers.

Subsequently, Prof. Huang shared the design case of the Pioneer Shaxi Bai Ethnic Bookstore, which preserves original architectural and environmental elements to retain the memories of the villagers.

In conclusion, he asserted that vernacular heritage is not only a form of cultural heritage but also an integral part of rural life. He emphasized the importance of moving beyond dogmatic definitions of vernacular heritage, recognizing and respecting its value and the context in which it was formed. He stressed the need to continue and reconstruct the vernacular social system, ensuring the full presentation and ongoing reinforcement of the value of vernacular heritage through sustainable rural life.

**Art in the City: Artists’ Travelling Residencies in Characteristic Small Towns**

**Patrick Toularastel**

National Representative of the French Association of Small Towns of Character

Patrick Toularastel, representing the French Association of Characteristic Small Towns, delivered a speech titled “Art in the City: Artists’ Itinerant Residencies in Characteristic Small Towns.”

He introduced the initiative, explaining that since 2005, the Brittany Association of Characteristic Small Towns has invited foreign artists for residencies every two to three years. These residencies allow artists to observe the towns from unique perspectives over several months, interact with residents, officials, and merchants, and create art inspired by the natural and cultural heritage of the small towns. The resulting artworks are exhibited in a tour across various characteristic small towns, and a catalog is produced to document them, sharing the artists’ distinct vision of Brittany with the public.

Toularastel primarily showcased the diverse creations of artists from countries such as China, the Czech Republic, Japan, Belgium, and others, and introduced the sponsors of the tour—the Brittany Mutual Trust Bank and other private donors—who provide logistical and material support for each event, significantly contributing to the success of the activities.

**Artistic Heritage - the Synergy of Heritage Preservation and Contemporary Art**

**Ding Feng**

Secretary-General of Shanghai Ruan Yisan Urban Heritage Conservation Foundation

Ding Feng spoke on the topic “Articulating Heritage: The Synergy of Heritage Conservation and Contemporary Art,” introducing projects that have combined art and heritage at various stages since the foundation’s establishment, leading to reflections on the relationship between art and heritage conservation.

Since 2015, the Sino-French Heritage Volunteer Workshop has invited artists to participate in residency activities. Inspired by the concept of “artistic rural construction” both domestically and internationally, it became evident that artists have a unique ability to integrate into local communities, promote local governments’ engagement with public affairs, and attract public interest in heritage conservation.

From 2018 to 2020, a three-year art festival was held in villages in the mountainous areas of northern Fujian. This initiative eventually evolved into the Articulating Heritage project, which, in 2023, hosted the Dian Lake Wind and Soil Art Season in Kunming. In this project, heritage conservation served as the foundation for value recognition, with large-scale public activities aimed at revitalizing heritage sites through art, breathing new vitality and direction into them.

Finally, Ding Feng summarized four key reflections on artistic heritage:

- 1) Artistic heritage as a form of collective action, mobilizing different groups of people;
- 2) The establishment of public awareness of heritage conservation and its impact on social life;
- 3) Deepening the understanding of local areas;
- 4) Exploring the possibilities and methods of bottom-up heritage conservation.

conference and exhibition revisit the 25-year history of Sino-French collaboration in the protection of architectural and urban and rural heritage.

At this pivotal moment, amid challenges posed by global climate change and rapid urbanization, it is hoped that we can further recognize the need for sustainable heritage development and cultural tourism to transcend traditional boundaries, integrate diverse perspectives, and explore innovative paths forward.

In April 1998, the International Conference of Mayors of Historic Towns of China and the European Union, co-organized by the Chinese Ministry of Construction and UNESCO in Suzhou, adopted the Suzhou Declaration on International Cooperation for the Protection and Development of Historic Cities.

Following a proposal by Wang Jinghui, former Deputy Director of the Ministry of Construction, and Yves Dauge, then-Mayor of Chinon, France, Tongji University and its French counterparts initiated a collaboration in urban and rural heritage protection that has now spanned 25 years.

Since 2007, Tongji University and the World Heritage Institute of Training and Research for the Asia-Pacific Region (Shanghai) have entered into multi-party agreements with the French Ministry of Culture and Communication’s Heritage Directorate, the City of Architecture and Heritage in France, the French Association of Characteristic Small Towns, and the French Academy of Architecture.

These agreements marked a new phase in Sino-French cooperation across cultural heritage, architectural innovation, urban planning, regional development, and rural revitalization.

Today, as architecture and urban and rural heritage face new challenges, including sustainable development concerns, this cross-cultural, interdisciplinary, and interregional network plays an increasingly significant role by leveraging its pool of experts, resources, and information.

As part of the events celebrating the 60th anniversary of Sino-French diplomatic relations and the Sino-French Cultural and Tourism Year in 2024, this



# IN FOCUS UNESCO Priority Initiatives

## WHITR-AP Shanghai organized the WH+ST Workshop held in Yancheng

### WH+ST Workshop Team

On 11 December 2024, the second phase of the UNESCO "World Heritage and Sustainable Tourism Programme - Chinese Pilot Study Workshop for the Migratory Bird Sanctuaries along the Coast of Yellow Sea-Bohai Gulf of China" (hereinafter referred to as the "Workshop") was successfully held in Dafeng District and Caomiao Town, Yancheng City, Jiangsu Province.

"World Heritage and Sustainable Tourism" (WH+ST) is a project established by UNESCO in 2012, aiming to improve the awareness and capacity of stakeholders in heritage sites for heritage protection, take World Heritage tourism as a starting point, encourage equal participation, develop partnerships, and promote the sustainable development of heritage sites.

The Migratory Bird Sanctuaries along the Coast of the Yellow Sea-Bohai Gulf of China in China were selected for the second phase of the WH+ST Chinese Pilot Study Project in 2024. The overall goals of the second phase of the project include the following three points:

1. promote and disseminate the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the World Natural Heritage of The Migratory Bird Sanctuaries along the Coast of Yellow Sea-Bohai Gulf of China, and raise public awareness.
2. Strengthen the construction of partnerships with various stakeholders, and encourage the coordination of heritage protection and social development.
3. Develop high-quality tourism products that focus on the protection, interpretation, display and experience of world heritage values, achieve sustainable tourism of World Heritage, and build World Heritage tourism destinations.

This Workshop was hosted by WHITR-AP Shanghai and Tongji University, co-organized by the Yancheng Wetland and World Natural Heritage Protection Management Centre, the People's Government of Caomiao Town, and the Yancheng Doulonggang Ecological Tourism Holiday Group Co., Ltd., supported by "Eurynorhynchus pygmeus in China", the Yancheng Dafeng District Media Centre, and the Cultural Landscape Committee of the China Society of Landscape Architecture.

Representatives from 35 different stakeholder groups, including heritage practitioners and managers

from the People's Government of Caomiao Town, the Yancheng Wetland and World Natural Heritage Protection Management Centre, the China Milu Park, and the Dongtai Tiaozi Ni Scenic Area; villagers and tourism practitioners from the Yancheng Birdwatching Association, Chuanshu Village, Weidong Village, Dongzao Village, and Chuandong Community; and tourism operators from the Yelu Dang Scenic Area; as well as 16 members of the World Heritage and Sustainable Tourism project team led by Prof. Han Feng from Tongji University participated in the Workshop.

The Workshop focused on the above three goals and included opening remarks, special lectures, on-site study and collective discussions to explore the collaboration for sustainable tourism of the World Heritage site in Yancheng, promote multi-party exchanges, empower heritage site communities, and help the coordinated development of heritage protection and social economy.



### Opening Remarks

The opening ceremony was chaired by Han Feng, Professor at the Landscape Architecture Department of the School of Architecture and Urban Planning of Tongji University, and Project Leader of the UNESCO WH+ST Project in China. Li Hong, Project Director of WHITR-AP Shanghai, and Zhang Ya'nan, deputy director of the Science and Monitoring Department of the Yancheng Wetland and World Natural Heritage Protection Management Centre, delivered the address respectively.

Li Hong reviewed the path and effectiveness of the first phase of the China Pilot Project and placed high expectations on this workshop, hoping to build a win-win platform for stakeholders through the tools and methods of UNESCO World Heritage and Sustainable Tourism and design high-quality tourism products to improve people's well-being.

Zhang Ya'nan gave high praise to the work of the second phase of the China Pilot Project and hoped

to form an innovative collaborative model that takes into account the protection of bird biodiversity and its habitat, as well as the development of agriculture, fisheries and tourism in the demonstration area.

### Special Lectures

On the morning of the workshop, Prof. Han Feng, Ms Li Jing, Operations Director of "Eurynorhynchus pygmeus in China", and Associate Prof. Guo Guangpu of the School of Life Sciences and Technology of Tongji University gave lectures and training to the workshop participants.

Prof. Han introduced the background, goals and significance of the UNESCO WH+ST Chinese Pilot Study, analysed the OUV of World Natural Heritage the Migratory Bird Sanctuaries along the Coast of Yellow Sea-Bohai Gulf of China, shared the work methods and achievements of the first phase of the WH+ST Chinese Pilot Study, and the sustainable tourism development strategies and ideas of the second phase of the WH+ST Chinese Pilot Study carried out in Yancheng. He guided everyone to carry out "Joint Responsibility and Shared Value" sustainable tourism in World Heritage sites, fully develop sustainable tourism centred on the protection, interpretation, display, experience and dissemination of OUV, establish partnerships in heritage sites, and achieve coordinated development of heritage protection and social economy.

Ms Li Jing introduced the case of sustainable management of tidal flats and migratory bird habitat protection in Rudong, Jiangsu Province, and proposed that traditional artificial capture and tidal flat rotation can protect tidal flat habitats and provide food sources for migratory birds through ecological methods such as mud snail and clam farming. She shared the experience of cooperating with village collectives, scientific research institutions, public welfare partners, and grass-roots management departments to promote scientific research, nature education, and sustainable fisheries development.

Associate Prof. Guo Guangpu introduced the close relationship between the nesting, foraging and breeding activities of birds in different habitats of World Natural Heritage sites and rural agriculture and fisheries, as well as the scientific knowledge and protection measures of different birds, emphasizing the "coexistence of people and birds" in heritage sites. Prof. Guo adopted a group interaction method to guide workshop participants to autonomously discuss and write down the unique ecologically

friendly agricultural products of the heritage site, the biodiversity that can be shown to tourists, agricultural activities and agricultural seasons, intangible cultural heritage and characteristic diets based on local experience, fully mobilizing everyone's enthusiasm for discovering local resources and participating in tourism.



### On-site study and collective discussions of the four pilot projects

On the afternoon of the Workshop, 35 stakeholders from different units, communities and organizations in the heritage site and the Tongji University team visited Chuanshu Village, Yelu Dang Scenic Area, Weidong Village and Dongzao Village in Caomiao Town for on-site work. The four selected sites each have their characteristics and fully consider the livelihood types of fishing, tourism, agriculture and processing in the heritage site. First, campers from different rural communities introduced the characteristics of the village resources and the difficulties of participating in tourism, and then the collective members of the workshop brainstormed and proposed solutions. The on-site work was broadcast live online throughout the process, which facilitated more stakeholders to watch and participate in the discussion online.

**Fishing and Sustainable Tourism of World Heritage Site:** Chuanshu Village is a traditional fishing village in the heritage site, facing restricted fish pond aquaculture, ageing residents, lack of tourism participation opportunities, and human-milieu conflicts. After listening to the rich and vivid

introduction of the fishing experience of the fishermen in Chuanshu Village, the workshop members proposed strategies such as "linking scenic spot tour routes and integrating fishing culture display", "developing fresh products in sea tasting experiences for different seasons", "carrying out tidal flat shell collection, tidal fishing knowledge and other nature education", and "younger docents learn from old fishermen".

**Interpretation of World Heritage Value and Nature Education:** Yelu Dang is an ecological tourism scenic area, and there are problems such as insufficient interpretation of World Heritage value, single recreation experience and excessive reproduction of deer. Workshop participants have proposed strategies for the current situation, such as "upgrading and repairing existing tourism facilities, especially bird watching houses and interpretation signs", "enriching the types of vegetation in the scenic area and choosing fruit trees preferred by birds", "adding tourism routes to integrate surrounding rural landscapes and agricultural product resources", "providing scenic area connecting buses", and "consulting with the management department of the protected area to restrict the excessive reproduction of the deer population through reasonable and legal methods".

**Agriculture and Sustainable Tourism of World Heritage Site:** Weidong Village is a rural village in the heritage site that operates pear orchards and farms, facing problems such as the lack of World Heritage added value in agricultural activities and agricultural products, lack of tourism participation opportunities, and how to deal with the relationship between birds and pear trees. Workshop participants have proposed strategies such as "opening up some pear trees to provide food for birds", "applying for eco-friendly agricultural product certification for pear orchard products", "optimizing the packaging design of agricultural products and integrating ecological value interpretation", "displaying agricultural technology and plant growth process through pear orchard slow live broadcast", and "strengthening the integration of pear orchards and traditional cultural activities".

**Community Processing and Sustainable Tourism of World Heritage Sites:** Dongzao Village is a community in the heritage site that operates processing, and there are problems such as single processing products and lack of tourism participation opportunities. Workshop participants have proposed strategies such as "transformation from manual economy to handicraft product production", "sewing simple cotton cloth embroidery and coaster", "learning and producing embroidery and other processing products", and "providing cultural and creative products for heritage site scenic spots".



After participating in the workshop, the villagers said that they had learned about the World Natural Heritage value and bird knowledge, realized the close connection between traditional fishing and agriculture and world heritage, and inspired their enthusiasm for telling the story of heritage well. Scenic area tourism operators say that community fishing and agricultural culture provide resources and opportunities to enrich recreation experiences. Heritage protection workers and Tongji University teachers and students also provide suggestions for community livelihoods and sustainable tourism. Everyone reached a consensus on the view that "scenic spots and communities should closely cooperate and develop together" and deepened its implementation.

This Workshop has enhanced the protection, interpretation, display, experience and dissemination of the OUV of the World Natural Heritage of the Migratory Bird Sanctuaries along the Coast of Yellow Sea-Bohai Gulf of China, promoted the "coexistence of people and birds" in the heritage site, promoted the construction of partnerships and cooperation networks among various stakeholders, and promoted the coordinated development of world natural heritage protection and social economy sustainable development, effectively implementing the goals of the second phase of the WH+ST China Pilot Study.

## Featured Programmes of three sub-centres IN FOCUS

### WHITR-AP concluded 2024 Governing Board Meeting

Pei Jieting, Li Xin  
WHITR-AP Secretariat

On 16 January 2025, WHITR-AP (the Institute) convened its 2024 Governing Board Meeting online, bringing together representatives and experts to reflect on achievements from 2020–2024 and set a strategic direction for the future. The meeting marked a significant milestone in the Institute's efforts to advance World Heritage conservation in the Asia-Pacific region.

#### Opening Remarks

The meeting was chaired by Zhang Xinsheng, Chair of the Governing Board, and attended by Lazare Eloundou Assomo, Director of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre; Qin Changwei, Secretary-General of the Chinese National Commission for UNESCO; and representatives from key Chinese authorities, including the National Cultural Heritage Administration, the National Forestry and Grassland Administration, and three hosting institutions including Peking University, Tongji University and Suzhou Municipal government. Observers from the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM) also participated, contributing global perspectives to the discussions.

In his opening remarks, Chair Zhang reviewed the Institute's achievements over the past five years, emphasizing its contributions to implementing the Convention through capacity building, research, and international partnerships. He highlighted the institute's preparations for the upcoming external evaluation on WHITR-AP in 2025, signalling its commitment to ongoing excellence. Chair Zhang also highlighted the strong and healthy collaboration within WHITR-AP and the unity among the three sub-centres.

Dr Lazare Eloundou Assomo commended WHITR-AP for its capacity-building initiatives and leadership in fostering international cooperation, reaffirming UNESCO's strong support for its future endeavours.

Prof. Shao Yong, Secretary-General of WHITR-AP, presented a detailed report on the institute's accomplishments from 2020 to 2024, while directors

of the Beijing and Suzhou sub-centres provided updates on their respective programmes and future plans. Participants engaged in productive discussions on the Institute's strategic plans, resulting in several key resolutions including: enhancing preparations for the external evaluation; strengthening collaborations with UNESCO, member states, and international partners; and expanding research and capacity-building efforts to address evolving heritage conservation challenges.

#### Key Outcomes

WHITR-AP's work and future initiatives were recognized by the participants.

Qin Changwei made several key suggestions: 1) Complete a thorough work review and prepare for the upcoming evaluation; 2) Adjust the institute's work model to meet evolving demands; 3) Strengthen cooperation with UNESCO, professional evaluators, member countries, and relevant domestic departments; 4) Enhance research capabilities by leveraging the strengths of Peking University, Tongji University, and Suzhou to conduct collaborative research; and 5) Improve the operational mechanism for collaboration among the three sub-centres, ensuring coordinated action in response to new challenges.

The meeting concluded with a renewed commitment to advancing World Heritage conservation in the Asia-Pacific region. The Institute aims to drive sustainable development and innovation in cultural and natural heritage preservation by fostering deeper collaboration with global and regional partners.

The 2024 Governing Board Meeting set a strong foundation for WHITR-AP's continued contribution to global heritage conservation, reinforcing its role as a vital platform for capacity building, research, and international exchange.





## WHITR-AP held the 2024 WH Creative X Innovator Forum & Award Ceremony of AWHEIC

**Li Xin**  
WHITR-AP Secretariat

On 7-8 November, the World Heritage Creative & Innovators Forum and the Global Awards for World Heritage Education Innovative Cases (AWHEIC) Awards Ceremony were held at the Wenlan Pavilion of the Zhejiang Provincial Museum and the Xiling Seal Engravers' Society, both located on West Lake in Hangzhou. The event was jointly organised by WHITR-AP, the Hangzhou International Urbanology Research Centre and the Zhejiang Provincial Association for the Protection and Utilisation of Cultural Relics. Distinguished guests included Ms Dima Al-Khatib, Director of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, Mr Du Yue, Secretary-General of the World Federation of UNESCO Clubs, Centres and Associations, Mr Wu Zhiliang, Member of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, Vice-Chairman of the Culture, History and Education Committee and Chairman of the Administrative Committee of the Macau Foundation, and Prof. Shahbaz Khan, Director of the UNESCO Beijing Office (via video). The conference was attended by around 200 participants, including award winners and representatives of the 2024 Global Awards for World Heritage Education Innovative Cases (AWHEIC).

Building on the innovative model of "Brainstorming + Immersive Art + Heritage Scenes" from the inaugural 2023 Guangzhou Conference (click for details), the 2024 event was further enhanced. By incorporating a more systematic, full-scenario and full-process integrated design, the essence of the award-winning cases was organically blended with the unique heritage environment of the Wenlan Pavilion. The exhibition, marketplace, performances and forums were seamlessly integrated through spatial and temporal interactions. This created a powerful resonance between the innovative collaborative network of the Global Awards for World Heritage Education Innovative Cases (AWHEIC) and the historical and cultural heritage of Gu Mountain, innovatively establishing a new model for heritage forums characterised by multi-scenarios, immersive experiences and full interactivity.

The Forum was hosted by Dr Li Xin, Deputy Secretary General of WHITR-AP and Chief Curator of the Awards for World Heritage Education Innovative Cases (AWHEIC). The event featured an exciting array of activities, including the opening ceremony, joint report

launches, strategic cooperation announcements, interactive forums, and concurrent exhibitions and marketplaces. The aim was to create a platform for innovative resource cooperation focusing on heritage use models, and to foster an interactive atmosphere conducive to in-depth communication and cross-disciplinary collaboration among global world heritage creators and innovators.

The opening ceremony took place in the courtyard in front of the Wenlan Pavilion. In her speech, Ms Dima Al-Khatib, Director of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, emphasised that heritage is not only about paying tribute to the past, but also about shaping our future. She highlighted that Hangzhou is a unique example of a world where natural landscapes and cultural heritage are seamlessly integrated.

Ms Dima Al-Khatib, Mr Li Lin from UN-Habitat Beijing Office's Human Settlement Magazine and Dr Li Xin jointly launched the report entitled "Heritage Conservation in Chinese Cities: Good Practices and Experiences in the Context of South-South Cooperation". This report brings together 12 innovative heritage conservation practices from China, 9 of which are 2022 Global Case Award winners, including the West Lake Cultural Ambassador project. The report helps to promote the valuable experience of Chinese cities in heritage education and protection innovation to the world.



were held simultaneously in the Huo Pu Jing Lu of the Xiling Seal Engravers' Society and the Luohan Hall of the Zhejiang Provincial Museum. The sessions were moderated by Ms Zhang Xiaobin, Director of the Huotang Project, Mr Du Hongxin, Deputy Director of the Hangzhou International Urbanology Research Centre, and Mr Luo Kai, Executive Director of Yijie (Beijing) Technology and Education Company.

Several representatives from domestic and international sites made presentations at the sub-

forums, sharing and exchanging innovative models from their respective cases. In addition, Ms Chen Tingting, the overseas project manager of the Oriental Nishang case, recorded a special video to participate in the forum, which greatly enriched the forum experience.

Building on the case sharing, the roundtable session invited various guests to engage in interactive discussions on four main topics: Creative Inspiration, Youth and the Future, Frontiers of Science and Innovation, and Diffusion of Innovations. These discussions further explored the importance and trends of innovation in heritage education. After the Forum, guests gathered in the Luohan Hall for a closing summary.



### Acknowledgements

This conference benefited greatly from the support of many partners, in particular the Hangzhou International Urbanology Research Centre and the Zhejiang Provincial Association for the Protection and Utilisation of Cultural Relics, who co-hosted the event, as well as the strong support of the Hangzhou West Lake Scenic Area Management Committee, the Xiling Seal Engravers' Society, the Zhejiang Provincial Museum and Zhejiang TV's "Chinese Heart". In addition, the teams of Dian Shui Nan Yue, Nong Yi Xin Sheng and West Lake Cultural Ambassadors have worked tirelessly to contribute to the success of the event.

## WHITR-AP Shanghai held the 2024 HeritAP Annual Meeting in Hangzhou

**Li Hong, Hu Hao** (Intern)  
WHITR-AP Shanghai

From 27 to 28 November 2024, the World Heritage Institute of Training and Research for the Asia and the Pacific Region under the auspices of UNESCO (WHITR-AP), hosted the 2nd Annual Meeting of HeritAP on World Heritage Contribution to Sustainable Development Goals in Hangzhou, China. The meeting was co-organized by WHITR-AP Shanghai and the Management Committee of Hangzhou West Lake Scenic Area, in cooperation with the Cultural Relics Protection and Utilization Association of Zhejiang Province, College of Architecture and Urban Planning at Tongji University and the Shanghai Tongji Urban Planning and Design Institute Co., Ltd. The Annual Meeting took place in Hangzhou, home to the West Lake Cultural Landscape, inscribed on the World Heritage list in 2011. It brought together a total of around 140 heritage practitioners from China, India, Japan, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam, as well as experts from UNESCO, ICOMOS, ICCROM, HIST, and other institutions such as the China Academy of Cultural Heritage, the Longmen Grottoes Academy, the University of Tsukuba, Tongji University and Shandong University.

The annual meeting consists of four parts: the opening ceremony, keynote speeches, the Award Ceremony and presentations for the 2024 Good Practices on "Environment & Resilience," and the Call for Good Practices on "Prosperity & Livelihood."



### Opening Ceremony

The annual meeting began with the opening ceremony, hosted by Li Hong, Project Director of



WHITR-AP Shanghai. During the ceremony, several distinguished figures gave their addresses, including Lazare Eloundou Assomo, Director of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre; He Lei, Deputy Director of the Management Committee of Hangzhou West Lake Scenic Area; Yang Jianwu, President of the Cultural Relics Protection and Utilization Association of Zhejiang Province; and Prof. Shao Yong, Secretary-General of WHITR-AP.



**“Good Practices in Environment & Resilience” Award**

Following the speeches, the “Good Practices in Environment & Resilience” award ceremony took place, recognizing excellent cases including “Historical Inheritance and Sustainable Development—Exploration on the Protection and Management Model at West Lake Cultural Landscape of Hangzhou”, “Walled City of Lahore at Fort and Shalamar Gardens in Lahore, Pakistan”, “Symbiosis and Co-prosperity of Heritage and Community at Cultural Landscape Old Tea Forests of the Jingmai Mountain in Pu’er, P. R. China”, “UNESCO World Heritage and Sustainable Tourism as a Development Engine for People in Nature: Pilot Project of Wulingyuan at Wulingyuan Scenic and Historic Interest Area, P. R. China”, “Longmen Grottoes Protection and Restoration at Longmen Grottoes, P.R. China” and “Hometown at the Foot at the Great Wall, P. R. China” among others. These cases highlighted successful models in heritage conservation and sustainable development, with project representatives sharing their practical experiences, underscoring the role of World Heritage in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and offering valuable insights for heritage conservationists worldwide.

**Keynote Speech**

The keynote speech sessions featured a series of insightful presentations from experts, including Song Xinchao, President of ICOMOS China; Gabriel Caballero, Focal Point for SDGs at ICOMOS; Zhao Yun, Director of the World Cultural Heritage Centre of China; Shao Yong, Secretary-General of WHITR-AP; Rohit Jigyasu, Project Manager at ICCROM; and Wang Xinyuan, Deputy Director of HIST. The sessions were moderated by Gamini Wijesuriya, Special Advisor at WHITR-AP Shanghai, and Duong Bich Hanh, Director of the Culture Section of the UNESCO Regional Office for East Asia.

**Call for Good Practices in Prosperity & Livelihood**

In the “Call for Good Practices in Prosperity & Livelihood” session, Li Hong introduced the 2025 call for cases, followed by Prof. Nobuko Inaba and Duong Bich Hanh, who explained the requirements for the collection of cases through projects conducted at heritage sites in Japan and China. The session was moderated by Hatthaya Siriphatthanakun, Senior Specialist in Cultural Heritage Conservation at SEAMEO SPAFA, with a summary provided by Carolina Castellanos, Special Advisor at WHITR-AP. The discussions highlighted the importance of aligning heritage conservation with sustainable livelihoods and community development, providing valuable insights for future practices in heritage management.

This annual meeting facilitated communication among heritage site managers on implementing sustainable development in heritage conservation and management, recognized the contributions of heritage practitioners, and shared experiences and lessons learned from excellent cases that promote sustainable development through World Heritage. Additionally, WHITR-AP Shanghai, in collaboration with an expert panel, will analyze the case studies presented in each yearly session and submit a regional report to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, highlighting the unique significance and contributions of World Heritage in sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific region.

**Shao Yong, Director of WHITR-AP Shanghai, and Wang Siyu, Research Fellow of WHITR-AP Beijing, were awarded the 2024 National Social Science Fund Special Project for the Protection and Inheritance of Cultural Heritage**

Zhou Zijie, WHITR-AP Beijing  
Shao Yong, WHITR-AP Shanghai

On 23 December 2024, the National Office for Philosophy and Social Sciences announced the awarded project list for the 2024 National Social Sciences Research Fund for the Protection and Inheritance of Cultural Heritage. After expert review and public announcement, the research “Public Participation Mechanisms and Pathways in Cultural Heritage Protection” by Dr Wang Siyu, Assistant Professor at the School of Archaeology & Museology, Peking University, and Research Fellow of WHITR-AP Beijing, and the research “Study on the Experience of Cultural Heritage Protection and Inheritance in the World’s Major Cultural Countries” by Prof. Shao Yong were successfully selected.

**WHITR-AP Beijing held the 2024 Editorial Board Meeting of Study on Natural and Cultural Heritage**

The editorial office of *Study on Natural and Cultural Heritage*  
Translated by Yang Ying (Intern), WHITR-AP Beijing



On 4 December 2024, the 2024 Editorial Board Meeting of *Study on Natural and Cultural Heritage*, jointly planned and published by the School of Archaeology and Museology, Peking University, WHITR-AP Beijing, and Beijing Prominion Publishing Co., Ltd., was successfully held at Peking University. Nearly 50 guests from prominent domestic

universities, academic research institutions, and organizations attended the meeting both in person and online. The meeting was a platform for the editorial team to exchange views and discuss the future development of the journal.



**WHITR-AP Beijing held the release event of the results of the Cultural Mapping of the Grand Canal (Beijing)**

Lu He (Intern), translated by Yang Ying (Intern)  
WHITR-AP Beijing

Cultural Mapping of the Grand Canal (Beijing) is a cultural heritage map co-creation activity jointly initiated by WHITR-AP Beijing, the Peking University Centre for Public Archaeology and Art Research, and Beijing Weiming Cultural Heritage Technology Co., Ltd. Based on the annual monitoring work of the Grand Canal (Beijing), this project recruited and organized volunteers to conduct surveys in the 7 administrative districts through which the Grand Canal flows in Beijing, summarized the research results, and drew cultural maps.

The project was launched in August 2023. A total of 115 volunteers and 11 trainers participated in the cultural resource survey and cultural map crowdsourcing. They collected 402 pieces of cultural resource data, produced and released 24 short cultural videos of the Grand Canal, drew 5 regional cultural maps of the Grand Canal and 1 Grand Canal cultural scroll of Beijing.

On 15 December 2024, the release event of the results of Grand Canal Cultural Mapping (Beijing) was successfully held in the first floor lecture hall of the School of Architecture and Landscape Design of Peking University. The event was attended by 85 guests, media representatives and volunteers.



**WHITR-AP Beijing has completed the field investigation phase of the Research on the Ancient Transportation System in Fujian Province (Western Fujian Section)**

**Zhou Zijie**  
WHITR-AP Beijing

In January 2025, the Research and Investigation on the Ancient Transportation System in Fujian Province (Western Fujian Section) was officially launched. This project is commissioned by the Fujian Provincial Institute of Archaeology and organized by Peking University School of Archaeology and Museology and WHITR-AP Beijing. On 4 January 2025, the field survey started in Fujian Province and lasted for 12 days. The fieldwork was divided into two phases: field survey and data collection.

From 4 to 13 January 2025, the research team, with the support of the Fujian Provincial Institute of Archaeology and the local grassroots cultural relics cadres, completed the field survey of three sections (Yongan - Zhangping route, Shanghang - Longyan route, Longyan - Zhangzhou route) in groups.

From 13 to 15 January 2025, the investigation entered into the data collection phase. Each group conducted data processing and computer drawing of the collected first-hand data, modified and improved the visual and textual material, and produced a final phased research report.



**Issue 6 of Study on Natural and Cultural Heritage published in 2024**

**Li Kuanghan, Zhou Zijie**  
WHITR-AP Beijing

*Study on Natural and Cultural Heritage* Issue 6 (2024) was published in December 2024. The special theme of this issue is on the diverse values of the Diaoyucheng site in Chongqing, curated by Dr Li Kuanghan, Executive Director of WHITR-AP Beijing, and Dr Wang Siyu, Research Fellow of WHITR-AP Beijing. Aiming to explore the diversity of heritage values at Diaoyucheng, WHITR-AP Beijing organized the 2023 Peking University Cultural Heritage Protection Joint Workshop. Eighteen senior undergraduate and graduate students from various disciplines, both domestic and international, were divided into groups to conduct 10 days of field research and documentation from four different perspectives: spatial, archaeological, community, and tourism management. Despite the rainy season in Chongqing, they carried out intensive surveys, interviews, discussions, and reflections, recording the past and present of Diaoyucheng and contributing to basic research, evaluation, and preliminary design for its protection and presentation. The articles in this special issue are based on some of the results of the workshop. The Diaoyucheng site, a significant historical monument in China and worldwide, serves as a representative of mountain cities in Sichuan and Chongqing and is in the process of being nominated for World Heritage status.

The publication of this special theme aims to provide a more diverse interpretation beyond the official narrative, enriching the understanding and significance of the Diaoyucheng site, with the hope of providing insights into its future protection, management, and development.



**WHITR-AP Suzhou hosted "World Heritage Youth Talks" Series**

**Jiang Yeqin**  
WHITR-AP Suzhou

From 10 to 20 January, WHITR-AP Suzhou organized three interactive workshops at Yuzhai Pavilion in Suzhou Park, including "Mingwa (Traditional Translucent Tile) Installation Workshop," "Rockery Stacking Workshop," and "Garden Stained Glass Window Crafting Workshop." Under the expert guidance of professional instructors, participants developed a profound understanding of the intricate design and unique aesthetics of Suzhou's classical gardens while engaging in hands-on creation of their own artistic pieces. Using modern materials and following exquisite design templates, they crafted their works, experiencing firsthand the evolution of traditional garden culture in a contemporary context.



These workshops are part of the "World Heritage Youth Dialogue" series, an educational initiative launched by WHITR-AP Suzhou (Suzhou Garden Archives) to promote World Cultural Heritage awareness. The center will continue to introduce

immersive learning experiences, offering young people a platform to deepen their engagement with Suzhou's garden culture and craftsmanship. By fostering a stronger connection between youth and cultural heritage, the initiative aims to strengthen and expand heritage education, ensuring that the values of garden culture and conservation resonate more deeply with future generations.

**WHITR-AP Suzhou unveiled the First "City of a Hundred Gardens" Conservation Cases in Suzhou**

**Jiang Yeqin**  
WHITR-AP Suzhou

Since the release of the Suzhou Classical Garden Register, Suzhou has made remarkable achievements in collective garden conservation and innovative transmission of Cultural Heritage, thanks to the concerted efforts of the Suzhou Municipal Bureau of Garden and Landscaping, district garden authorities, garden management institutions, and various societal stakeholders.

Recently, WHITR-AP Suzhou, in collaboration with Suzhou's garden management authorities, identified and unveiled a selection of outstanding conservation cases under the "City of a Hundred Gardens" initiative. These cases represent diverse categories, each showcasing distinctive approaches to heritage conservation. Evaluated across the three pillars of "Conservation, Transmission, and Innovation," these cases highlight the exceptional achievements of garden management institutions listed in the Suzhou Garden Register. As living examples of the principle "Preserving Through Conservation, Innovating Through Transmission," these featured cases serve as a new milestone in Suzhou's efforts to sustain and evolve its renowned garden heritage, further reinforcing the city's reputation as the "City of a Hundred Gardens."







the *Suzhou Declaration on World Heritage Youth Education*, underscoring their commitment to heritage preservation.

Suzhou Classical Gardens and the Old Town of Lijiang were both inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List on 4 December 1997. The two cultural heritage sites have maintained close cooperation in heritage conservation, education, management, and monitoring, continually exploring best practices in cultural heritage conservation. With the official establishment of the Youth Education Base for World Heritage, it will play a key role in raising awareness and fostering a deeper understanding of World Heritage conservation among local youth. By nurturing future guardians of cultural heritage, the initiative aims to contribute meaningfully to the sustainable development of World Heritage.



**WHITR-AP Suzhou recognized the Old Town of Lijiang as a "World Heritage Youth Education Base"**

**Jiang Yeqin**  
WHITR-AP Suzhou

WHITR-AP Suzhou is dedicated to advancing the World Heritage Youth Education across the Asia-Pacific region. Since its establishment, it has collaborated closely with heritage sites, schools, museums, and other institutions nationwide to develop a network of World Heritage Youth Education Bases. To date, 53 such bases have been established across China.

On December 4, 2024, the "World Heritage City Sustainable Development" thematic event was held in the Old Town of Lijiang. During the ceremony, WHITR-AP Suzhou formally recognized the Old Town of Lijiang as a World Heritage Youth Education Base and presented a commemorative bronze plaque. Local primary school students solemnly recited



**WHITR-AP Beijing was invited to attend the 2024 Symposium on Resilient Human Habitat**

**Zhou Zijie**, translated by **Yang Ying** (Intern)  
WHITR-AP Beijing

On 30 November 2024, the 2024 Symposium on Resilient Human Habitat, hosted by the School of Design of Shanghai Jiao Tong University, was held at the School of Design of Shanghai Jiao Tong University. The organizer invited more than 20 relevant experts and scholars to jointly discuss how to strengthen the inclusiveness and anti-interference of future human habitat in spatial design, heritage conservation and reuse, environmental technology, etc., and utilize cutting-edge technology and cultural research to improve the resilience of human habitat. Dr Li Kuanghan, Executive Director of WHITR-AP Beijing, was invited to participate and delivered a keynote speech titled *Cultural and Social Resilience Dimensions in Human Habitat: from the Perspective of Cultural Heritage*.



# WORLD HERITAGE IN ASIA & PACIFIC

## FANJINGSHAN

**Country:** China  
**Category of site:** Natural site  
**Date of inscription:** 2018  
**Criteria:** (x)



Primula fangingensis © School of Karst Science, Guizhou Normal University



Buddha's light © Office of the Leading Group for World Heritage Application of Tongren City



The sanctuaries and paradise for many animals © Administration of Guizhou Fanjingshan National Nature Reserve



Waterfall-like clouds © School of Karst Science, Guizhou Normal University

### OUV

The Fanjingshan World Heritage property is located in South-West China, covering a total area of 40,275 ha, fully enclosed by a buffer zone of 37,239 ha. Fanjingshan is located in a monsoonal climatic context and is an important source of water for the surrounding landscapes and beyond, with some 20 rivers and streams feeding the Wujiang and Yuanjiang River systems, both of which ultimately drain into the Yangtze River.

The property consists of two parts, namely the Jian Nan subtropical evergreen forests ecoregion (64%) and the Guizhou Plateau broadleaf and mixed forests ecoregion (36%). The highest peak, Mt Fenghuangshan, has an elevation of 2,570 m above sea level (masl) and the property covers an altitudinal range of more than 2,000 m. The resulting vertical stratification of vegetation falls within three major altitudinal vegetation zones: evergreen broadleaf forest (<1,300 masl), mixed evergreen and deciduous broadleaf forest (1,300-2,200 masl) and mixed deciduous broadleaf and conifer and scrub forest (>2,200 masl).

Fanjingshan is an island of metamorphic rock in a sea of karst and is home to many ancient and relict plant and animal species which originated in the Tertiary period, between 65 million and 2 million years ago. The property's geologic and climatic characteristics have shaped its flora which behaves as if it were on an island. This has led to a high degree of endemism, with a total of 46 locally endemic plant species, 4 endemic vertebrate species and 245

endemic invertebrate species. The most prominent endemic species are Fanjingshan Fir (*Abies fanjingshanensis* - EN) and Guizhou Snub-nosed Monkey (*Rhinopithecus brelichi* - EN), both of which are entirely restricted to the property. Three species of *Fagus* (*F. longipetiolata*, *F. lucida*, and *F. engleriana*) are the dominant species of what is understood to be the largest primary beech forest in the subtropical region.

A total of 3,724 plant species have been recorded in the property, an impressive 13% of China's total flora. The property is characterized by an exceptionally high richness in bryophytes as well as one of the distribution centres for gymnosperms in China. The diversity of invertebrates is also very high with 2,317 species. A total of 450 vertebrate species are found inside the property. Fanjingshan being the only habitat in the world for Fanjingshan Fir and Guizhou Snub-nosed Monkey, as well as 64 plant and 38 animal species that are listed as globally threatened, including the tree *Bretschneidera sinensis* (EN), Chinese Giant Salamander (*Andrias davidianus* - CR), Forest Musk Deer (*Moschus berezovskii* - EN), Reeves's Pheasant (*Syrmaticus reevesii* - VU), and Asiatic Black Bear (*Ursus thibetanus* - VU).

### Criterion (x)

Fanjingshan is characterized by an exceptional richness in bryophytes, with 791 species, of which 74 are endemic

to China. The property also has one of the richest concentrations of gymnosperms in the world, with 36 species. A significant number of endemic species are distributed inside the property, including 46 local endemic and 1,010 Chinese endemic plant species, as well as 4 locally endemic vertebrate species. The most notable of these is the endangered Guizhou Snub-nosed Monkey, which is found only in Fanjingshan and nowhere else in the world. Another prominent endemic species is Fanjingshan Fir, which is also restricted to this property.

The property contains 64 plant and 38 animal species that are listed as Vulnerable (VU), Endangered (EN) or Critically Endangered (CR) on the IUCN Red List, most notably Guizhou Snub-nosed Monkey, Chinese Giant Salamander, Forest Musk Deer, Reeves's Pheasant, Asiatic Black Bear, and *Bretschneidera sinensis*.

**Source:**  
<https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1559/>  
Collected by **Luo Xi**, WHITR-AP Shanghai



The sanctuaries and paradise for many animals © Administration of Guizhou Fanjingshan National Nature Reserve