REVISITING
KATHMANDU
Safeguarding Living Urban Heritage

International Symposium
Kathmandu Valley

25 - 29 November 2013

UNESCO
Kathmandu Office

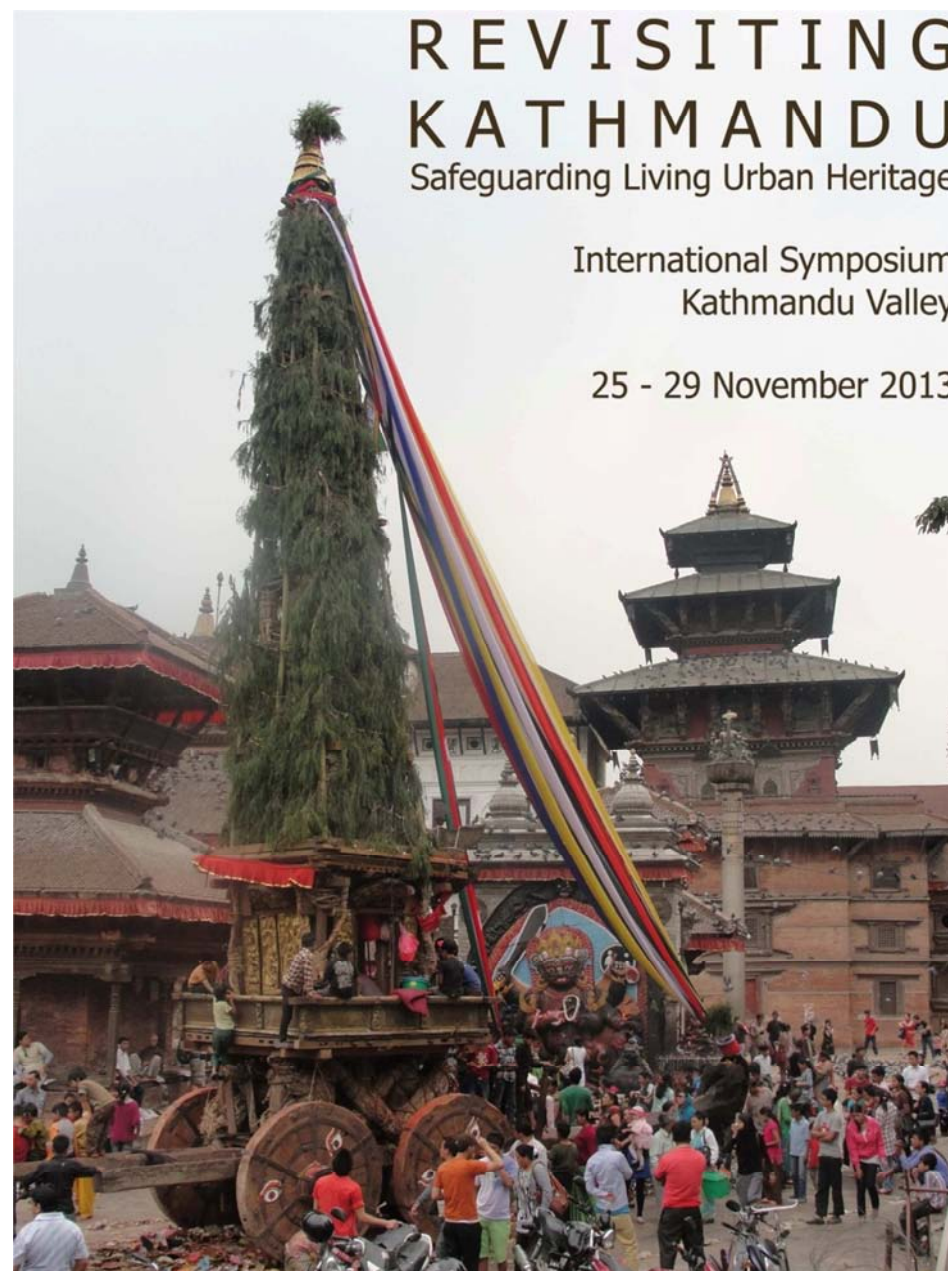United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

ICOMOS Nepal

INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON RISK PREPAREDNESS
ICORP

"Revisiting Kathmandu" is an international symposium on the conservation of living urban heritage. It takes place in the context of a rapidly changing understanding of heritage as a concept that does not only include monuments any more, but complex urban spaces, where people live, work, worship and celebrate festivals. As values and aspirations of society change, urban settlements must adapt and respond to this change.

The symposium will discuss on how to maintain the delicate balance between conserving what represents the intrinsic character and value of the historic city, while, at the same time, allowing for the change that is required for the city to continue to live.

Each day of the symposium, which will be opened in the evening of 25 November 2013, will discuss these issues around one specific theme: authenticity, community, management and disaster risk reduction. Each day's programme will include a keynote speech, presentations of case studies, group work and discussions. Additionally, there will be various supporting activities and posters presented in the evenings.

The Kathmandu Valley is a highly relevant venue to discuss the four themes of the symposium for a variety of reasons. The Nara Document on Authenticity adopted in 1994 has its origins in the controversy that arose from the restoration methods employed on the *I Baha Bahi* courtyard monastery in the Kathmandu Valley and the discussions at the World Heritage Committee in 1992. The same controversy also led to a decade long discussion and to the inscription of Kathmandu Valley on the list of World Heritage in Danger in 2003. It was removed from the list in 2007 when the Integrated Management Plan was adopted by the Government of Nepal. The Plan is being reviewed with discussions on community involvement. At the same time, disaster risk management is being given high priority in the document, as the return-period for a large earthquake in the Valley is looming.

Organized by:
ICOMOS Nepal - International Council on Monuments and Sites
UNESCO Office in Kathmandu
Department of Archaeology, Government of Nepal
ICOMOS / ICORP - International Scientific Committee for Risk Preparedness

In Cooperation with:
Ministry of Urban Development
Kathmandu Metropolitan City
Lalitpur Sub-Metropolitan City
Bhaktapur Municipality
Pashupati Area Development Trust

Supported by:
World Heritage Institute for Training and Research for Asia and Pacific (WHITR-AP), Shanghai
ICOMOS Japan
… Korea

Contact and Enquires:
Email: revisiting.kathmandu@unesco.org
http://www.unesco.org/new/en/kathmandu/culture/revisiting-kathmandu/

Venue:
The Monument Zones of the
Kathmandu Valley World Heritage property

Dates:
o Inauguration   **25 November 2013**
o Working sessions   **26 – 29 November 2013**
Note: the ICOMOS/ICORP Meeting will be held on the morning of 25 November 2013

Revisiting Kathmandu: Safeguarding Living Urban Heritage

"Revisiting Kathmandu" is a four day event providing a platform for debate on critical themes focusing mainly on living urban heritage. The Kathmandu Valley, which was inscribed on the list of World Heritage in 1979, is a fascinating example of urbanization. In 1992, the ICOMOS Wood Committee met in Kathmandu and critical comments were made on the restoration work being carried out on the *I Baha Bahi*. This was the beginning of a dialogue that led to the preparation of the "Nara Document on Authenticity" in 1994.This also let to the complex heritage site being placed on the list of World Heritage in Danger in 2003 due to uncontrolled urbanization and loss of historic fabric.

In this historical context, the themes of authenticity, community, management and disaster risk reduction remain of great relevance.

Authenticity: It has been 20 years since the discussions on authenticity began in Kathmandu. We are still struggling with understanding this concept, especially when applying this to practical implementation. We shall be revisiting *I Baha Bahi* to review what has been going on with the discussions on authenticity over the past two decades and to develop the concept to keep up with the changing understanding and scope of cultural heritage. These discussions would also establish the tone and scope for further deliberations that could take place in Nara in 2014 for the 20th anniversary of the Nara Document.

Management: Between 2005 and 2007, an Integrated Management Plan for the Kathmandu Valley was prepared under the guidance of late Prof. Herb Stovel. Entitled "Integrated Management Framework for the Kathmandu Valley World Heritage property" the document was adopted by the Cabinet of the Government of Nepal in 2007 which led to the property being removed from the danger list. The document itself requires the State Party to review the Integrated Management Plan along with the management processes after five years. This review of the Integrated Management Plan is presently being carried out and should present an interesting basis of the debate on management of

heritage, particularly living urban heritage. There is a growing trend for demanding Management Plans of World Heritage properties as well as a trend for Management Plans to be written by consultants. These trends need to be understood, assessed and a better understanding needs to be established concerning management requirements for World Heritage properties.

Community: As the understanding of heritage changes and the scope widens to include living heritage, the involvement of communities in heritage conservation and management becomes critical. The unique example of community based restoration and maintenance of historic buildings through the Guthi system in the Kathmandu Valley would be studied. The discussions could lead to determining whether such traditional systems could become models or whether they remain obsolete appendages of the past. Such discussions would link up to the outcome of the Buyeo Meeting held in Buyeo, Republic of Korea, in September 2012.

Disaster risk reduction: The great Bihar-Nepal Earthquake of 1934 of magnitude 8.4 caused a huge amount of destruction in the Kathmandu Valley. Kathmandu Valley is rather more susceptible to disasters of such kind due to its soil consistency, leading to liquefaction (settlement). History tells us that the return period for these great earthquakes is between 80 to 100 years. It is clearly necessary to prepare for such an event. Even though great efforts have been undertaken in general risk preparedness and response, very little has been done in respect to the historic urban areas of the Kathmandu Valley. Here the agencies dealing with disaster risk management need to coordinate with those dealing with management of heritage. The overall disaster risk management programme must include a heritage component. The introduction of heritage components into activities carried out by agencies responsible for disaster risk preparedness, response, consolidation and reconstruction could become a model.

The four day event will be preceded by the ICOMOS–ICORP meeting

OVERVIEW OF SCHEDULE (DRAFT)

	Monday 25 Nov	Tuesday 26 Nov	Wednesday 27 Nov	Thursday 28 Nov	Friday 29 Nov	Saturday 30 Nov
Location		**Patan**	**Pashupati**	**Bhaktapur**	**Kathmandu**	
Theme	**ICORP**	**Authenticity**	**Management**	**Community**	**Disaster Risk**	**TOUR**
Coordinator		**(x)**	**(x)**	**(x)**	**(x)**	
Rapporteur		**(x)**	**(x)**	**(x)**	**(x)**	
	Bus to venue	Bus to venue	Bus to venue	Bus to venue	Bus to venue	
08:30 – 09:00	Registration	Registration	Registration	Registration	Registration	
09:00 – 09:30	**ICORP Meeting**	Inauguration	Inauguration	Inauguration	Inauguration	
09:30 – 10:15		Key Note 1 **(x)**	Key Note 2 **(x)**	Key Note 3 **(x)**	Key Note 4 **(x)**	
10:15 – 10:30	Tea break	Tea break	Tea break	Tea break	Tea break	
10:30 – 11:00	**ICORP Meeting**	Paper 1.1 **(x)**	Paper 2.1 **(x)**	Paper 3.1 **(x)**	Paper 4.1 **(x)**	
11:00 – 11:30		Paper 1.2 **(x)**	Paper 2.2 **(x)**	Paper 3.2 **(x)**	Paper 4.2 **(x)**	
11:30 – 12:00		Paper 1.3 **(x)**	Paper 2.3 **(x)**	Paper 3.3 **(x)**	Paper 4.3 **(x)**	
12:00 – 12:30		Paper 1.4 **(x)**	Paper 2.4 **(x)**	Paper 3.4 **(x)**	Paper 4.4 **(x)**	
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	
13:30 – 15:00		*visiting relevant sites in the vicinity*	*visiting relevant sites in the vicinity*	*visiting relevant sites in the vicinity*	*visiting relevant sites in the vicinity*	
15:00 – 15:30		Tea break	Tea break	Tea break	Tea break	
15:30 – 17:00		*Thematic group discussions* **(x)**	*Thematic group discussions* **(x)**	*Thematic group discussions* **(x)**	*Thematic group discussions* **(x)**	
17:00 – 18:00	**Inauguration**	*Presentations and consolidation*	*Presentations and consolidation*	*Presentations and consolidation*	*Presentations and consolidation*	
		Bus to hotel or evening programme	Bus to hotel or evening programme	Bus to hotel or evening programme	Bus to hotel or evening programme	
		Evening programme	Evening programme	Evening programme	Evening programme	

REVISITING KATHMANDU, 25 – 29 November 2013

Dates for Presenters:
o Submission of abstracts: **26 August 2013**
o Notification of abstract acceptance: **9 September 2013**
o Submission of full papers & posters: **14 October 2013**
o Notification of paper/poster acceptance: **21 October 2013**
   The committee reviewing the abstracts and presentations will be made up of members from the organizers

The abstracts for papers and poster presentations would need to be submitted under one of the following categories.
   1. **Authenticity**
   2. **Management**
   3. **Community Involvement**
   4. **Disaster Risk Reduction**

The topic can be dealt with either in a theoretical manner or through case studies. The review committee would be looking for contributions to the discussion on the topic and possible new perspectives, approaches of dealing with or better understanding the issues. Only original papers, resulting from original research work, will be considered. Authors are responsible for co-authorship statement (if and when necessary) and for the originality of submitted articles.

The abstract should be submitted by 26 August 2013 to revisiting.kathmandu@unesco.org:
   • Abstracts are limited to 250 words, and should be written in English.
   • Name, full postal address (including telephone and e-mail) of the author (in case of more than one author, the abstract must be submitted by first author)
   • The title of the paper / poster, and indicating under which of the 4 themes the paper / poster falls.
   • Short bio-data of the author (not exceeding 150 words)

If accepted, the full paper or poster would need to be submitted by 18 October 2013 to revisiting.kathmandu@unesco.org
   • Papers must be submitted in Word format, Arial, font size 11 with 1.5 spacing on A4 paper size with Margins: top and bottom 3.0 cm; left and right 2.5 cm.
   • Maximum length: 12 pages in the indicated format (including end notes and bibliography)
   • Images in JPG (minimum 300 dpi) and their captions to be provided in a separate file; however please indicate image reference in text
   • Title page to contain: Title of paper, Subtitle indicating theme, Name of author(s) and email, short bio-data of author(s) not exceeding 150 words, abstract not exceeding 250 words.

Registration Dates:

o **Presenters Confirmation**:   **16 September 2013**
(It is expected that the person submitting the abstract must present their own paper)
o **Attendees Registration**:   **18 November 2013**
   (Registration at the event will depend on availability of space)

Registration Fee:

   NRs 5000.- / 55 dollars
➢ *Payment to be made in cash on 25 November evening*
➢ *Each registered participant will be placed in a specific group for all group activities: (A) Authenticity, (B) Management, (C) Community, (D) Disaster Risk Management*
➢ *All travel, visa and hotel expenses will be arranged by the participants, though the organizers can provide options for various standards of hotels.*
➢ *Post Symposium Tours will be organized at reasonable prices*

Theme A: Authenticity

The discussion on authenticity of historic buildings already arose in the late nineteenth century. The Society for the Protection of Ancient Building's Manifesto of 1877 consisted principally of a plea to "*put protection in place of restoration*". This arose from the notion of romantic ruins which persisted throughout much of the twentieth century. The Athens Charter of 1931 for the Restoration of Historic Monuments had a more pragmatic approach towards allowing interventions to monuments. The preamble of Venice Charter of 1965 however states that "*it is our duty to hand them [the ancient monuments] on [to future generations] in the full richness of their authenticity*".

Even though the World Heritage Convention does not mention authenticity, the Operational Guidelines requires nominated cultural properties to meet the conditions of authenticity. As per Article 82: "*Depending on the type of cultural heritage, and its cultural context, properties may be understood to meet the conditions of authenticity if their cultural values (as recognized in the nomination criteria proposed) are truthfully and credibly expressed through a variety of attributes including: form and design; materials and substance; use and function; traditions, techniques and management systems; location and setting; language, and other forms of intangible heritage; spirit and feeling; and other internal and external factors.*" The Operational Guidelines explains the practical basis for examining the authenticity in articles 79 to 86, which is however a summary of the Nara Document on Authenticity.

The dialogues that led to the preparation of the Nara Document on Authenticity in 1994 began two years earlier in Kathmandu. In 1992 the Wood Committee of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) met in Kathmandu and critical comments were made on the restoration work being carried out on the I Baha Bahi. The issue was raised at the World Heritage Committee session in 1993. This led to the demand mainly of Asian State Parties to review the concept of authenticity. It also led to a decade long discussion which placed Kathmandu Valley on the list of World Heritage in Danger in 2003 due to uncontrolled urbanization and loss of historic fabric.

Considering that the Nara Document on Authenticity will have been twenty years old next year, and the discussions that led to this document initially began in Kathmandu, we intend on revisiting this discussion at the symposium. Over the past twenty years, the definition of heritage has expanded to include for example cultural landscapes and industrial heritage; however the application of authenticity on such heritage remains unclear. This is especially the case when considering the complexities of living urban heritage.

The discussion on authenticity is closely linked to the parallel themes of the symposium: management of heritage, community involvement and disaster risk.

❖ The system of management of heritage must have the main objective of safeguarding the attributes that express the values of the site. Authenticity refers to the way the values are expressed by the attributes: whether they are truthful and credible. Therefore the system of management must provide a means of ensuring the authenticity of these attributes.

❖ The creation of these attributes and the understanding of these values are closely linked to the relevant community. In most cases these communities still exist and therefore must continue to have a role to play in the discussion on understanding and retaining authenticity.

❖ Disaster risks directly impact authenticity. When a disaster occurs, heritage responds through its adaptation over centuries. There are however through time certain casualties. Materials deteriorate while entire structures are affected and in certain extreme cases the entire context and related intangible heritage are destroyed.

Theme B: Management of heritage

The primary object of a management system of any heritage site is to protect the attributes and elements that express the significance of the site. To achieve this, there first needs to be a clear understanding of the significance or value of the site. Effective management processes for decision making, implementing and monitoring are required, functioning within parameters provided by appropriate institutional, legal and economic frameworks. The management system must however also take into account the local context, existing governance structures and related sectors such as local development, tourism and disaster risk management. The new "UNESCO Recommendations on the Historic Urban Landscape" (http://whc.unesco.org/en/activities/638) has been adopted as "*an additional tool to integrate policies and practices of conservation of the built environment into the wider goals of urban development in respect to the inherited values and traditions of different cultural contexts*".

The Operational Guidelines for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention requires all World Heritage properties to "*have adequate long-term legislative, regulatory, institutional and/or traditional protection and management to ensure their safeguarding*". The required conditions for protection and management are provided in articles 96 to 98 and for management systems in articles 108 to 119. The efficiency and effectiveness of the management systems are often made questionable by the magnitude of the factors affecting the heritage property. In many cases traditional management systems have become dysfunctional but have not been revived or replaced by an alternative system. There are cases where management systems have been created for the heritage properties, but have not been fully adopted or integrated into the overall governance system. One can observe a tendency to prepare "Management Plan" documents, which explain what all needs to be done but are never implemented and might consist of recommendations that are not practical.

When Kathmandu Valley was placed on the List of World Heritage in Danger, the World Heritage Committee requested the state party to prepare an Integrated Management Plan (IMP). The IMP was prepared under the guidance of late Professor Herb Stovel and

adopted by the State Party in 2007. The WHC/ICOMOS Mission Report of June 2006 states that the IMP of the Kathmandu Valley could be seen as a model process that *"has gone through a thorough process of site-based information gathering and commitment by the concerned site-management authorities, and […] has incorporated the viewpoints and realistic possibilities of the complex management structure."* As per the IMP, the entire management system needs to be reviewed every five years, an endeavour which is now in progress. The outcome of the review and the lessons learnt will be publicized.

The discussion on management systems is closely linked to the parallel themes of the symposium: authenticity, community involvement and disaster risk.

❖ The management system must ensure the safeguarding of the attributes that express the significance of the heritage. This is clearly linked to the understanding of how the attributes express these values – whether it is truthful and credible or not. This understanding of authenticity becomes the basis for establishing an approach to conservation of the management system.

❖ The management system must take the community into account. In many cases it is up to the community to manage the heritage. Where traditional management systems still exist, these are maintained by the community. Where these have been lost, the new management systems must ensure that the communities participating in the management processes.

❖ The management system must include disaster risk management. Disaster risk is one of the major treats to the significance of the heritage property and must therefore be addressed by the management system.

Theme C: Community involvement

The association between cultural heritage and community is being given increasing importance. This has been encouraged by the changing definition of cultural heritage, which has begun to focus more on the context as well as the related living cultural heritage. The involvement of community becomes even more relevant in the recent discussions on culture playing a key role in sustainable development.

Article 5 of the World Heritage Convention states that each State Party shall endeavour "*to adopt a general policy which aims to give the cultural and natural heritage a function in the life of the community […]*". The Operational Guidelines mentions in Article 119 under Sustainable Use that "*World Heritage properties may support a variety of ongoing and proposed uses that are ecologically and culturally sustainable and which may contribute to the quality of life of communities concerned*". The article also states that it is necessary to "*promote and encourage the active participation of the communities and stakeholders concerned with the property as necessary conditions to its sustainable protection, conservation, management and presentation*".

In celebrating the 40th anniversary of the World Heritage Convention, an international symposium was organized in 2012 in Buyeo, Republic of Korea, by the Cultural Heritage Administration and ICOMOS-Korea entitled "World Heritage involving Communities: Concepts and actions in the Asian context". The outcome document of the Buyeo Meeting states that "*The aim was to explore the issue of community involvement within the Asian context. This is characterised by major trends that have a considerable impact on the way community issues are perceived and dealt with. […] However participants recognize that there is a paradigm shift in the field of heritage conservation which is to engage communities within the state sector run heritage activities.*" The document compiled relevant points under the following headings: (1) Who are "communities"?; (2) The concept of outstanding universal value, sustainable development and other values impacting world and heritage properties and its communities; (3) Boundaries; (4) Harnessing commitment to World Heritage for conservation and Sustainable Development; (5) Reconciling local

traditions with the governance system; (6) Capacity Building. This initial contribution to this theme needs further elaboration which could be carried out in Kathmandu focusing on the community's vital role in the context of urban heritage.

The discussion on community is closely linked to the parallel themes of the symposium: authenticity, management of heritage and disaster risk.

❖ The Nara Document on Authenticity points out the importance of the community. Article 8 states "*Responsibility for cultural heritage and the management of it belongs, in the first place, to the cultural community that has generated it, and subsequently to that which cares for it.*" This means that the understanding of heritage and the way the values are expressed depends on interpretation of the community that created the heritage.

❖ Heritage is created by a community and ideally they will remain the caretakers. This means that traditional management systems need to be prioritized and where possibly even revived. It is only when the original community linked to the heritage is lost or has transformed to a irreversible level that new protective measures need to be introduced. The close association between management and community is vital.

❖ Disaster risk management of heritage is primarily dependant on community participation and cooperation. Even though the first few days after a disaster the main focus would be on emergency response to save lives, the recovery of cultural assets that are of value to the community becomes an important part of rehabilitation. The identification of the most significant heritage, the disaster risk reduction and preparedness and the early response all depends on the close collaboration between the authorities and the community

Theme D: Disaster Risk Management

Over the past few years, the world has become much more aware of disasters and the need for risk preparedness. The media coverage of the Tsunami of December 2004 was a success story in respect to both collecting billions of dollars for rehabilitation and reconstruction after the disaster as well as awareness building throughout the world. However, just 10 months later a fatigue had already crept in when funds were being raised for the victims of the Kashmir Earthquake. The success of responding to a disaster though lies in preparedness. The authorities and the communities need to be prepared in respect to reduction of risk as well as immediate response to a disaster. The safeguarding of lives is the main concern, which makes preparedness even more essential for areas that are given less priority, such as the protection of heritage.

As per Article 118 of the Operational Guidelines of the World Heritage Convention: "*The Committee recommends that States Parties include risk preparedness as an element in their World Heritage site management plans and training strategies*". Most often, risk management and heritage conservation are seen as opposing actions. It is therefore critical that two issues are taken into consideration at an early stage of planning; how to integrate risk management into a conservation management plan and how to integrate heritage conservation into the planning for disaster preparedness.

The cultural heritage of the Kathmandu Valley has developed with a close association to earthquakes by adapting and regenerating in a process of cyclical renewal. The lingering awareness of the destruction by the Bihar–Nepal Earthquake of 1934 with a magnitude of 8.4 allows us to envision the need to be prepared. In case of an earthquake, the soil conditions in the valley magnify the intensity and due to liquefaction major damage to structures can be anticipated. There are lessons to be learnt from traditional buildings that have introduced measures to make structures more earthquake resistant. From history we understand that the return period of such destructive earthquakes is between 80 and 100 years and we are commemorating the 80th year of the Bihar Nepal Earthquake next year.

The discussion on disaster risk is closely linked to the parallel themes of the symposium: authenticity, management of heritage and community.

❖ Authenticity is greatly threatened by disaster risks. Cultural heritage is damaged or destroyed. There is often the tendency to restore or even reconstruct the most important structures in an effort to erase the traumatic events from ones memory and provide hope and motivation to the community. Under such circumstances the understanding of authenticity and the discussion on its application is critical.

❖ Disaster risk management must be part of the overall management system of any heritage site. After a major disaster, many historical buildings are lost during the response and recovery phase. More historical and vernacular structures are lost during the reconstruction phase. Bulldozers and heavy equipment come in to clear the area. New engineered shelters are set up for the homeless. Reconstruction begins as fast as possible with little understanding of the context and needs of the people. Many of these buildings are replaced by horrendously inappropriate structures in the name of earthquake safety. In Kathmandu state of the historic monuments and fabric in the aftermath of the 1934 earthquake give some idea on the scale of the destruction and the lack of resources and preparedness to carry out restoration works.

❖ Disaster risk management is dependent on community participation. A resilient community will ensure preparedness for disasters and will safeguard the heritage which is important to them. This does not mean that only safety is prioritized which would only lead to a community living behind defensive walls in fear and anticipation of the next disaster. As Goto-san a storyteller from the Minami Sanriku in the Tsunami devastated area of Japan explained: "*Nature will reclaim what we snatch from it. We cannot fight it. We must learn to live with nature.*"

Selected reference documents:

- Nara Document on Authenticity (1994)
  http://www.icomos.org/charters/nara-e.pdf
- UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (2012)
  http://whc.unesco.org/en/activities/638
- Outcome of the BUYEO Meeting: World Heritage involving Communities: Concepts and actions in the Asian context (2012)
  http://whc.unesco.org/uploads/events/documents/event-949-1.pdf

- Managing Disaster Risks for World Heritage (2010)
  http://whc.unesco.org/uploads/activities/documents/activity-630-1.pdf
- Integrated Management Framework Document for Kathmandu Valley World Heritage property (2007)
  http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0022/002211/221192E.pdf
- Understanding Heritage in Asia and the Pacific – The Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting 2010-2012 (World Heritage papers #35) (2013)
  http://whc.unesco.org/en/series/35/