

Announcement for WHITRAP's Domestic Training Course on Historic Urban Landscapes (HUL), 4 – 8 November 2013

Introduction to the Training Course

On 10 November 2011 UNESCO's General Conference adopted the UNESCO *Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape*, which was the culmination of a 6-year scientific and policy process to elaborate a new international instrument for the conservation of historic cities. This new instrument addresses the need to better frame heritage conservation strategies within the larger goals of urban sustainable development, in order to support public and private actions aimed at preserving and enhancing the quality of the built environment.

The Historic Urban Landscape (HUL) approach is a way of seeing and interpreting the city as a continuum in time and space (instead of cutting it up into separate conservation areas, which thereby become ghettos of historic preservation that are unsustainable), where many population groups have left their marks, and continue to do so today. This recognition and understanding needs to guide the city's management, including the conservation of its historic structures and spaces, which should be integrated into processes of urban and spatial planning and socio-economic development.

The Structure of the Training Course

On 12 and 13 October 2012 an international Expert Meeting was organized by WHITRAP in Shanghai to discuss the implementation of the new UNESCO *Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape* (HUL) and subsequent application of the HUL approach in China. Key issues that guided the discussion included the proper interpretation of Historic Urban Landscape in Chinese; the main objectives of the HUL approach; and the required toolkit for application of the HUL approach at the local level.

All these aspects, embedded in a general history and overview of urban conservation in China and Europe, and related to the implementation of the 1972 UNESCO World Heritage Convention (where the origins of Historic Urban Landscapes come from), have been included in a new Training Course to be conducted by WHITRAP in Shanghai from Monday 4 to Friday 8 November 2013. The Domestic Training Course on Historic Urban Landscapes consists of 6 different modules, one Special Case presentation on Shanghai followed by an extensive study tour in or around Shanghai, and a closing public debate about the development of a 'Road Map' (specific guidelines) for the application of HUL in China.

The Training Course participants will be expected to attend all lectures and engage in the discussion sessions, as well as the closing public debate. It will be expected that participants come prepared by assembling a brief file on a World Heritage site or case study of their choice, preferably where they work or study. Further details will be provided. The Training modules will be taught by distinguished Professors of Tongji University's College of Architecture and Urban Planning and international Experts in urban conservation.

The Modules of the Training Course

Training Course Modules – 5 full days (09:30 – 12:00 & 13:30 – 16:00)		
Modules	Short Description	
	Theory (in-class lectures)	Praxis (discussion)
1. Brief Overview of Urban Conservation in China	Elaboration of the history of State Notifications, Regulations and Standards for historic cities and associated debates on urban conservation in China	Introduction and discussion of the participants' sites
2. Brief Overview of Urban Conservation in Europe	Elaboration of the development of urban conservation standards and guidelines in Europe, their origins and key results (mainly in Italy, France & UK)	Comparison of European practices with Chinese context
3. Historic Urban Landscape (HUL): Concept + Approach	Explanation of different heritage categories, the relationship between Cultural Landscapes and HUL, and issues of identification of CLs and HUL	Discussion of Chinese legal & institutional framework for HUL
4. The World Heritage Convention and Origins of HUL	Introduction to the WH Convention, its theoretical and methodological framework, with in-depth discussion of WH Committee debates around urban sites	Discussion of participants' site conservation issues
5. HUL Action Plan: Essential Steps and Toolkit Design	Elaboration of Action Plan's 6 essential steps, links with Sustainable Development and Tools for HUL management	Discussion of participants' site management issues
6. CASE: Planning & Conservation of Shanghai	Strategy of Shanghai's Administration Bureau of Urban Planning on the conservation of historic areas and buildings in Shanghai	Comparison of participants' cases with Shanghai
7. Presentations	Presentations by participants on the concept of HUL related to their site or case	Discussion of policies and actions
8. Roundtable	Closing discussion on HUL Road Map for China based on participants' cases & issues	Public debate on HUL in China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each Module Lecture is 90 min. followed by 60 min. discussion – morning & afternoon sessions on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday (6 lectures in total) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thursday: site visit in or around Shanghai (full day visit incl. lunch) • Friday morning PPT presentation by Participants and on Friday afternoon a Roundtable Discussion with Lecturers and Participants together • Lecturers: Professors from the College of Architecture and Urban Planning of Tongji University and International Experts in Urban Conservation 		

More information please refers to the official website: www.whitr-ap.org, or directly contact us (Ms. LIU Zhen, Tel: +86-21-65987687 ext. 8003, E-mail: whitr.train@gmail.com).