

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON WORLD HERITAGE CONSERVATION

TONGJI UNIVERSITY SHANGHAI

China Heritage Day, 10 June 2006

RESOLUTION

Representatives from UNESCO, ICCROM, ICOMOS, IUCN, the State Administration of Cultural Heritage, the Ministry of Construction of China, numerous universities and participants from many regions in China, from Japan, Korea, Mongolia, France, Vietnam, Australia, Norway, Germany, Laos and Canada met in Shanghai 8-10 June 2006 to discuss World Heritage conservation, management and sustainability.

The participants and speakers of the conference congratulated Tongji University, the Historic Cities of China Planning Society and the National Research Centre for Historic Cities and thanked the organizers for a stimulating international symposium.

The demonstration of political commitment to heritage conservation by China's local Government officials and planners participating in the symposium was particularly impressive, as was the input of so many Universities and academic institutions.

Amongst the lectures, visits and exchanges by participants, it was concluded that the need for the inclusion of culture (and heritage resources) in defining and managing sustainability- particularly in places with rapidly expanding economies and urban areas, such as China- was an issue that demands urgent attention. The need to develop indicators for assessing the sustainability of heritage resources is a particular challenge to be met.

Participants noted that the identification and management of world heritage places influences conservation practice for national and local heritage resources. In their presentations, many participants noted a parallel shift from the identification of individual historic monuments to the protection of more complex sites or groups of places, and now towards an holistic approach to heritage place identification and management- cultural landscapes. The need to be alert to the often neglected values of Twentieth Century heritage places was highlighted.

Case studies presented at the symposium covered cultural landscapes as diverse as the Wudong Mountains, a living cultural landscape; the adaptive re-use of the 20th Century industrial heritage of Shanghai and the Defence lands of Sydney harbour; the community concept of neighbourhoods in Patan and the conservation of urban heritage in cities as different as Lille in France and Tomo in Japan. In each case, managing development in the vicinity of heritage places was an increasingly important planning issue on which there was a range of techniques and perspectives, but too little time for discussion .

Participants noted the Xian Declaration of ICOMOS, 2005 which outlines principles for the management of the setting of heritage places. Ongoing discussion of how the Xian Declaration might be practically used is needed. This is a debate to which many institutions and nations can co-operatively contribute.

Participants in the Shanghai conference at Tongji resolved to meet again to pursue discussions about heritage and sustainability; Twentieth Century heritage; the implementation of the Xian Declaration and to share mutual experiences about current conservation issues, including the management of settings of cultural heritage places.

Sheridan Burke , rapporteur.