

Memorandum of Understanding

between

**Nordic World Heritage Foundation
(NWHF)**

and

**The World Heritage Institute of Training and Research
for the Asia and the Pacific Region
(WHITRAP)**

Preamble

Recalling the 1972 *World Heritage Convention* which envisages a standard-setting role for the General Assembly of States Parties, while management and monitoring of the World Heritage properties remain the responsibility of the States Parties.

Further recalling the responsibility of the States Parties under Article 5 (e) of the *Convention* to “*foster the establishment or development of national/regional centres for training in the protection, conservation and presentation of the cultural and natural heritage and to encourage scientific research in this field*”,

Recalling the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and their relevance for cultural and natural heritage conservation and management,

Recalling that Strategic Programme Objective 9 of UNESCO’s Medium-Term Strategy 2008 – 2013 (document 34 C/4) seeks to strengthen the contribution of culture to sustainable development, which entails also a strengthening of institutions and a fostering of partnerships in the realm of world heritage;

Whereas the Nordic World Heritage Foundation (hereinafter referred to as NWHF) and the World Heritage Institute of Training and Research for the Asia and the Pacific Region (hereinafter referred to as WHITRAP), as independent entities under the auspices of UNESCO (as UNESCO Category 2 centres) have the capacity and competence to respond and contribute to new challenges related to World Heritage issues, thus adding value to the work of UNESCO in this field and spearheading innovative efforts in support of the 1972 Convention,

Hence, NWHF and WHITRAP agree to cooperate in the areas set out below in the present Memorandum of Understanding:

Article I

1. NWHF, established by the Norwegian Government and granted UNESCO Category 2 centre status by UNESCO's General Conference at its 32nd session in 2003 and the WHITRAP, established by the Government of the People's Republic of China, and granted UNESCO Category 2 centre status by the UNESCO's General Conference at its 34th session in 2007, agree on the following overall objectives:
 - a. To support UNESCO in the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention* and the World Heritage Committee's Global Strategy for a credible, balanced and representative World Heritage List (1994); and,
 - b. To contribute to the medium-term strategy of UNESCO, in particular the implementation of standard-setting instruments, hereunder, the use of the *World Heritage Convention* as a tool to strengthen conservation, management and the overall impact and effectiveness of the Convention as well as the role of culture in development.

Article II

2. An increasing number of Category 2 centres working under the auspices of UNESCO are being established with the objective of initiating cooperation and rendering assistance in the areas of UNESCO's competence through capacity-building and training, research, networking, financing and exchange of information in their respective sphere of programmatic competence and specialisation.

NWHF and WHITRAP:

- a. Take into account the draft comprehensive strategy for institutes and centres under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2), approved by the Executive Board of UNESCO at its 181st session (181 EX/decision 18), which is now applied on a provisional basis until the final approval by the General Conference of UNESCO at its 35th session
- b. Welcome new centres and initiatives that may strengthen the global support to UNESCO's mission;
- c. Agree that opportunities for synergies and strategic cooperation between the centres are explored and promoted through extensive collaboration.

Article III

3. NWHF and the WHITRAP are committed to work in close cooperation and to regularly consult each other on matters of common interest, such as:
 - a. Supporting better management and protection of the properties on the World Heritage List, and identifying and disseminating “best practices” for World Heritage management and conservation with a special focus on maintaining the Outstanding Universal Value while promoting socially, economically and environmentally responsible and sustainable methodologies;
 - b. Assisting the States Parties to the World Heritage Convention in response to the obligation to provide training and other capacity building services in order to better conserve, manage and present cultural and natural World Heritage properties;
 - c. Raising awareness on the World Heritage Convention and its implementation;
 - d. Sharing relevant information and documents, and regularly identifying core thematic issues for collaboration between the two parties. A list of such core thematic issues should be an indispensable part of this MOU, and should be periodically updated by both parties (Annex 1).

Article IV

4. Potential joint projects within this framework and their detailed responsibilities with respect to designing, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the projects and activities that may be jointly carried out, shall be framed in a project document and formalised through the exchange of letters under the umbrella of this Memorandum.
5. It is understood that the cooperation under this Memorandum shall be carried out on a non-exclusive basis, and shall take into account the mandates and decisions of the respective Governing Bodies and the rules and operating conditions of each party.
6. The present Memorandum of Understanding shall come into force upon signature by both parties.

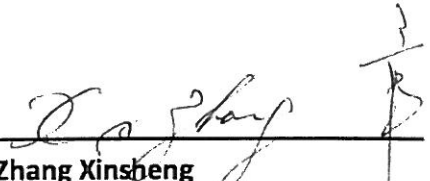
IN WITNESS THEREOF the undersigned, duly authorized respectively by NWHF and the WHITRAP, have signed this Memorandum of Understanding.

For Nordic World Heritage Foundation

For the World Heritage Institute of
Training and Research for the Asia
and the Pacific Region



Kristen Grieg Bjerke
Chair of NWHF



Zhang Xinsheng
Chair of Governing Board, WHITRAP

Place: Oslo

Place: Beijing, China

Date: 17.09.09.

Date: sept. 30, 2009

Annex 1

List of Core Thematic Issues for Collaboration under the Framework of the MOU between NWHF and the WHITRAP

Thematic areas identified by the NWHF and the WHITRAP for collaboration under the MOU as of June 2009:

- 1) World Heritage and sustainable tourism;
- 2) Methodological development for periodic reporting;
- 3) Initiatives concerning natural and cultural World Heritage and climate change.

