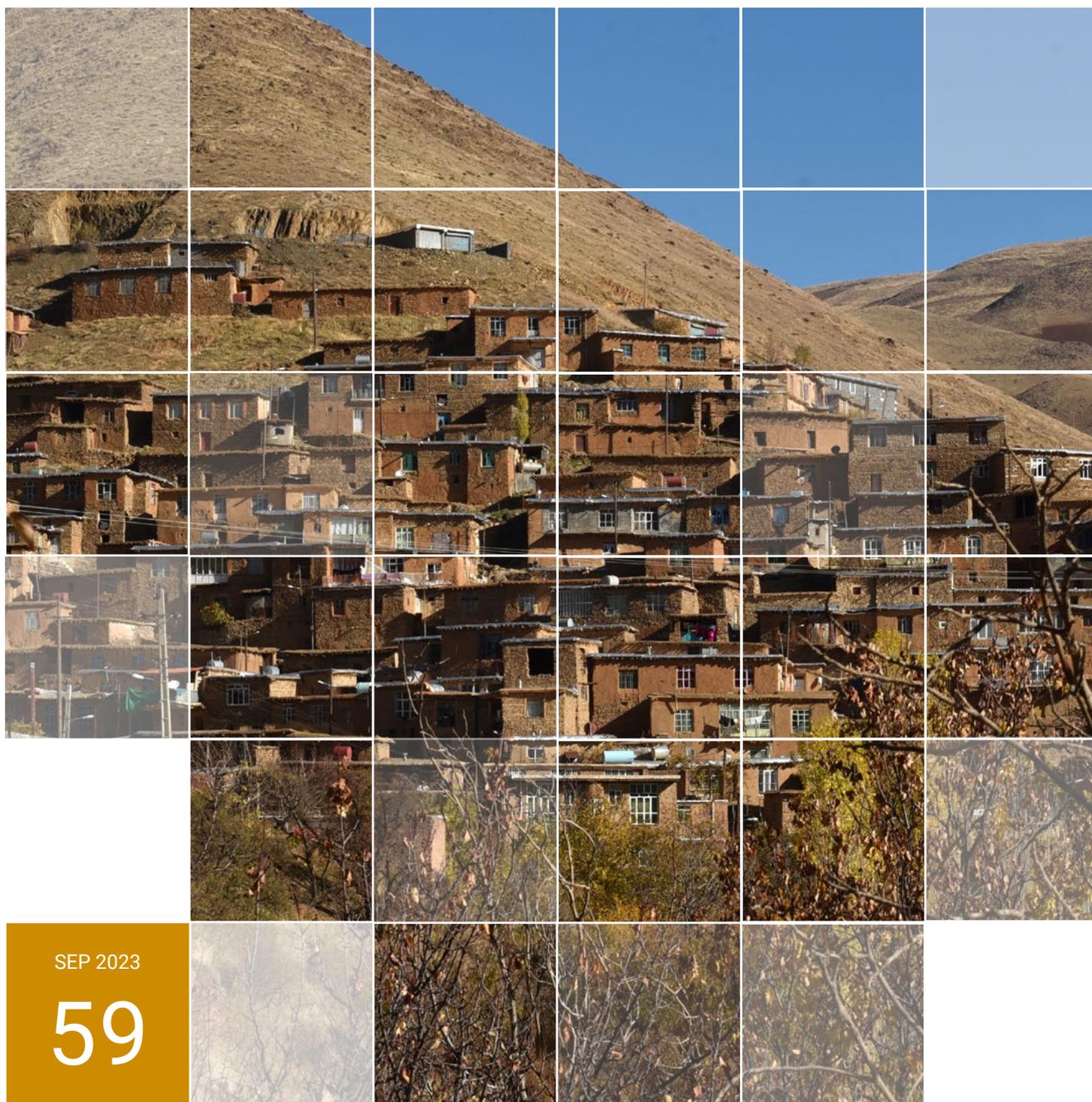


# WHITRAP NEWSLETTER

World Heritage Institute of Training and Research for the Asia and the Pacific Region under the auspices of UNESCO



SEP 2023

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The World Heritage Institute of Training and Research for the Asia and the Pacific Region under the auspices of UNESCO (WHITRAP) 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. WHITRAP has three branches in Beijing, Shanghai, and Suzhou.

The Shanghai Centre at Tongji University focuses on the conservation of cultural heritage, such as the sustainable development of ancient towns and villages, architectural sites, architectural complexes, and cultural landscapes.

The Beijing Centre at Peking University is in charge of natural heritage conservation, archaeological excavation, and management of the sites' cultural landscape.

The Suzhou Centre, hosted by Suzhou Municipal Government, is in charge of traditional architectural craftsmanship and restoration, conservation materials analysis, and historic garden restoration and maintenance.

The rotating secretariat is now located in Shanghai and is mainly responsible for coordinating and guiding the work of WHITRAP according to the plans and instructions determined by the Governing Board.

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## 2023 WORLD HERITAGE DIALOGUE SESSION 2: PUBLIC COMMUNICATION AND EDUCATION OF THE LIVING HERITAGE

Wang Ziming (Intern), Zhang Mingmin (Intern), WHITRAP Shanghai  
Cui Jiaying, Xiong Xiangying, Zhang Xiaoyan, College of Architecture and Urban Planning, Tongji University  
Chen Yiwei, Wang Jiaqi, Gao Yang, Fu Ning, Shanxi University  
Translated by Zheng Shizhe (Intern), Wang Ziming (Intern), WHITRAP Shanghai

### 01. Welcome Speeches

At the beginning of the event, Liu Zhen, Programme Specialist at WHITRAP Shanghai, introduced the event and speakers. Prof. Shao Yong from CAUP and the Executive Director of WHITRAP Shanghai, and Wang Yan, a Member of the Standing Committee of the Pingyao Party Committee and Minister of Communication of Pingyao County Government, respectively delivered welcome speeches on behalf of the dialogue's organizers.

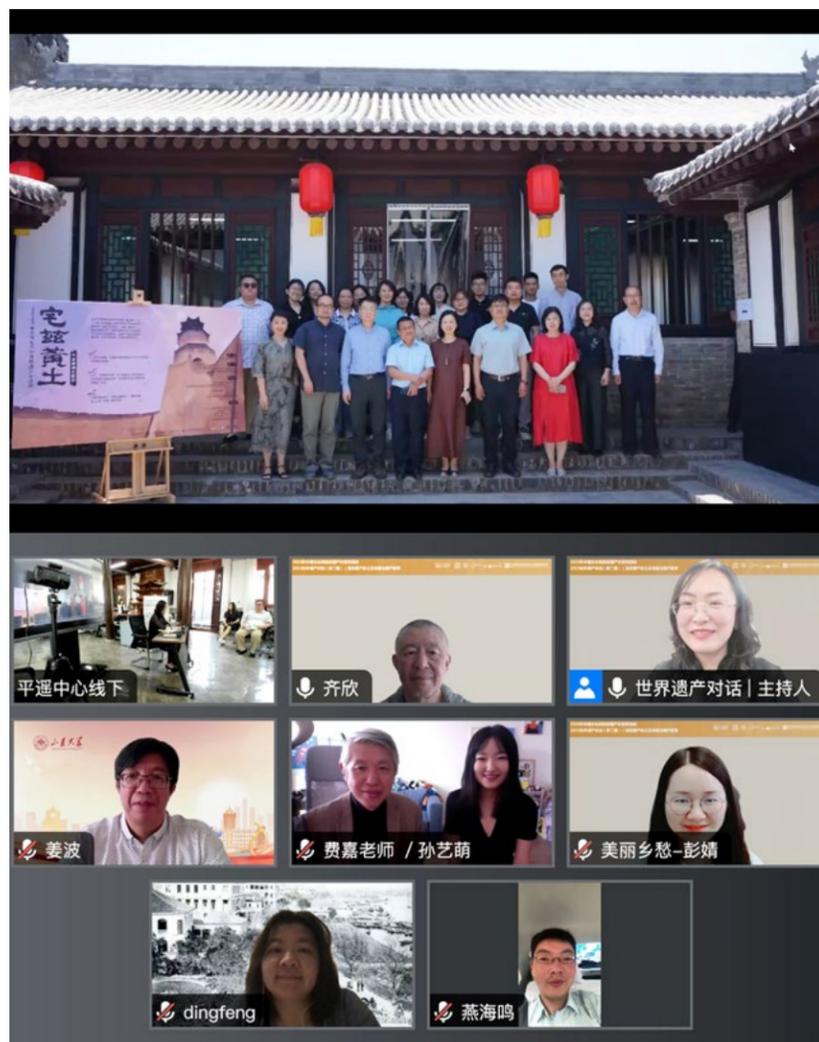
Prof. Shao Yong introduced the activities of the World Heritage Dialogue series, which were jointly initiated by CAUP and WHITRAP Shanghai in celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the World Heritage Convention in 2022. She also introduced "Imagining Heritage – I Grew Up in Pingyao", a heritage promotion project that was initiated in 2019 through the joint efforts of Tongji University, Pingyao County Government and a group of young artists. The project features the creation of a series of pictorial books for children. She noted that as the public nature of cultural heritage and the public's interest in heritage conservation are gradually becoming a common consensus. Tongji University has been actively exploring mechanisms and pathways for the public to participate in heritage conservation over the past decade, in addition to promoting international cooperation and exchanges mainly involving experts. These efforts have given impetus to the creative transformation and innovative development of China's traditional culture and contributed to the continuous revitalisation of cultural heritage.

Wang Yan gave a brief introduction to the Ruan Yisan Cultural Heritage Conservation and Inheritance Research Centre (Pingyao). She noted that the centre was jointly established by the Pingyao Party Committee and the County Government and Tongji University in 2021 as Pingyao's proactive measure to explore ways to preserve cultural heritage based on its World Heritage City status, as well as a meaningful attempt to promote traditional culture and strengthen cultural confidence. Wang then reviewed the long history of cooperation between Pingyao County and Tongji University, which can be traced back to the 1980s, when Prof. Ruan Yisan led the students in creating Pingyao's master plan. She pointed out that as a pioneer of urban conservation in China, the evolution of Pingyao Ancient City's conservation philosophy has reflected the development of conservation methodology in China's historic and cultural cities and paralleled the forefront of international conservation theories. Today, Pingyao's urban conservation practice needs to put more emphasis on the public and living nature of cultural heritage, and better connect the living heritage with



June 10 is China's Cultural and Natural Heritage Day. On this day, the second session of the 2023 World Heritage Dialogue series – "Public Communication and Education of the Living Heritage" – was held in Pingyao, China. This session was co-hosted by the College of Architecture and Urban Planning (CAUP) of Tongji University, WHITRAP Shanghai, ICOMOS China, and Pingyao County Party Committee & Government, and co-organised by Ruan Yisan Cultural Heritage Conservation and Inheritance Research Centre (Pingyao) and Shanghai Tongji Urban Planning & Design Institute Co. Ltd (TJUPDI).

This event invited experts and senior practitioners from various fields, including heritage conservation, heritage education, heritage communication, and the children's book industry, to engage in an interdisciplinary dialogue focusing on the public communication and education of living heritage, as it relates to the philosophy, methods and pathways to promote public participation, especially the participation of teenagers and children, in heritage conservation. The event lasted three hours, integrating both the virtual platform (Tencent Meeting) and the offline Pingyao venue. The live stream was offered on WeChat and Bilibili, attracting more than 4,600 real-time viewers.



Group photo for online and offline participants

the intangible heritage. In addition, today's practice should focus on preserving the authentic use and lifestyle of heritage sites, finding more diverse groups of participants and ways of participation. Only in this way can we truly inherit the spiritual values of the ancient city, unfold its unique charm, and make local memories and living heritage visible, known, felt, and inherited by the public and future generations.

### 02. Keynote speeches

Jiang Bo, Vice President of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), Deputy Director of ICOMOS China, and Professor at Shandong University, delivered a keynote speech titled "Historic Cities and Living Heritage". He made the following observations in his presentation:

Urban heritage is the crystallisation of human civilisation. Many historic cities are featured representatives of World Heritage Sites. China's World Heritage cities and towns have collectively reflected various forms of the oriental historic urban landscape. For example, the Ancient City of Pingyao represents

the inland urban form of northern China; the Classical Gardens of Suzhou reflect the elegant and scholarly spirit of the Jiangnan region; the Lijiang Ancient Town is an important example of commercial town near the national border, where multiple ethnic groups coexist; Quanzhou Ancient City is a testament to China's ancient maritime tradition; while the Central Axis of Beijing, which is under the nomination process for World Heritage List, is the most typical representation of the urban paradigm under Confucianism.

Functional continuity is the best way to protect living heritage. World Heritage sites cannot all become "museum exhibits", and the continuation of their historic function is an important prerequisite for their continued vitality. For example, the Odeon of Herodes Atticus in Athens still serves as a concert hall today; the Liusheng Tower, which was historically used as a navigational beacon, requires the protection of the visual corridor between it and the sea. Conversely, Liverpool – a Maritime Mercantile City – was removed from the World Heritage List due to the development of large-scale sports facilities in the port; the historic railway station in Jinan, which was designed by a German architect in 1911, was demolished to make way for the new Jinan railway station.

Archives reflect the soul of a heritage site. Archives such as unearthed documents, historical images, and archaeological excavations often successfully reveal the historical development of World Heritage sites. For example, the oracle bones found at the Yin Ruins enabled the account of Shang Dynasty to become reliable and truthful; the 1869 photograph of the Parthenon served as an important reference for its conservation and the conservation of the Acropolis. The Getty Museum in the United States is a reconstruction of the Villa of Papyri in Herculaneum based on archaeological drawings and therefore has certain heritage values. The interpretation of heritage sites that have been separated from their original spatial and historical contexts (such as the Colosseum of Rome) relies particularly on historical archives.

Intangible heritage is often an integral part of heritage sites. Today's heritage community continues to emphasize the integration of natural and cultural heritage, as well as tangible and intangible heritage. For example, the Temple of Heavenly Queen in Quanzhou, as a place of worship for the Goddess Mazu, carries historical beliefs and worship rituals that are highly valued by the local community; the "Tea Soul Stage" in Jingmai Mountain in Yunnan has witnessed worship rituals for ancestral tea farmers that continue to this day.

Historic towns and cities are of paramount importance in preserving living heritage. For example, the Pingyao Ancient City is a living heritage place with a vibrant

local life that both belongs to the local people and conveys outstanding universal values to the world. For Lijiang Ancient City, it's necessary to maintain its commercial prosperity in a way that respects the local historical significance. In Quanzhou's World Cultural Heritage application process, the West Kaiyun Temple Street – as a unique street reflecting the character of the ancient city – was not extensively intervened due to the demand of experts, scholars and local residents, allowing it to become a historical urban space with profound cultural significance.

### 03. Pecha-Kucha

After the keynote speech, six experts and professional practitioners shared their practices and observations in short talks. They are: Mr Qi Xin, Editor-in-Chief of "World Heritage Weekly" of *The People's Daily (Overseas Edition)*; Mr Fei Jia, Senior Editor at Juvenile & Children's Publishing House and renowned picture book expert; Mr Tian Xiaogeng, founder of Yishao Culture and Executive Director of Helin Community Art Promotion Society; Ms Ding Feng, Secretary General of Shanghai Ruan Yisan Urban Heritage Conservation Foundation; Ms Peng Jing, founder of the Beautiful Nostalgia Charity Team; and Ms Sun Yimeng, an illustrator based in France.

#### · Three Trends in Heritage Communication / Qi Xin

Qi Xin believes that heritage communication is not only about "reporting" and "promotion" as it is traditionally understood, but has become a constructive tool for social relations and sustainable development. Heritage communication in today's context requires common ground between localisation and globalisation. Based on this observation, Qi Xin identified three important trends in heritage communication in the time frame of the next 50 years: the promotion of understanding and respect on a global scale through mutual learning among civilisations; World Heritage as an innovative force that shapes and integrates our social life; and the deep integration of the cultural and natural heritage fields.

Qi Xin used Qinghai Lake National Nature Reserve as an example to discuss a variety of issues including the impact of climate change on the natural environment, public education in an era when the general public plays an important role in heritage communication, the ways to experience and promote national parks, public tourism routes, and the description and interpretation of the breath-taking values of natural heritage.

Qi Xin also introduced specific heritage communication cases such as Route 219, God's Peak in Nonggang Nature Reserve, and the South China Sea, and showed methods of combining heritage communication strategies with cultural and natural heritage resources. He then introduced cases where young people in Asian countries have made efforts to protect their respective national heritage, emphasizing the importance of the participation of the younger generation.

Finally, Qi Xin suggested three changes that might occur in the narrative of the values of China's World Heritage sites. First, the media for heritage communication will increasingly intersect, integrate and overlap. Second, the heritage communication ability of individuals, groups and organizations will increase iteratively. Third, the ability to interpret and describe the beauty of China's cultural and natural heritage will be enhanced with the cooperation of more fields.

#### · The Promotion of Cultural Heritage Oriented by Children's Perspective / Fei Jia

From the perspective of a publisher and educator working with children, Fei emphasizes that heritage communication should aim to intrigue children's interest in knowing about and protecting cultural heritage. He shares his observations with three keywords: "simplified representation", "incremental influence" and "learning by analogy".

"Simplified Representation" refers to the idea that World Heritage sites can be represented by simple geometric shapes to accommodate the reading abilities of very young children. By pairing pyramids with triangles, courtyard residences (Siheyuan) with squares, and Fujian Tulou with circles, young children can learn to recognize shapes while becoming familiar with various cultural heritage sites around the world.

"Incremental Influence" involves delving into the details of cultural heritage sites once children have shown interest. For example, the forms of Chinese vernacular dwellings, their construction techniques, functions, and relevance to daily life can be introduced in more detail, promoting children's deeper understanding of cultural heritage while they read for fun.

"Learning by Analogy" means that picture book illustrators should actively learn from each other and discover different ways of presenting cultural heritage. For example, a picture book on the history of local batik in Guangxi featured a batik craftsman as the author and employed authentic wax-dyeing techniques in the production of the book. On the other hand, the *I Grew Up in Pingyao* series integrated cultural

and historical contexts, and successfully attracted children's interest by presenting both tangible heritage and underlying cultural traditions.

#### · Micro-Innovation of Local Cultural Heritage / Tian Xiaogeng

Tian Xiaogeng gave a brief presentation on the Pingyao Picture Book Project, a children-oriented art and heritage education project developed by Helin Art Society and Yishao Culture.

The Pingyao Picture Book Project consists of two components. First of all, the project gathered cultural experts to assess and interpret the values of local cultural heritage and engaged a group of artists to depict such values through the creation of a series of picture books that connect to the perspectives of children, which will be published after rounds of expert review and evaluation. Second, based on the stories told in these picture books, heritage education courses and extended public events will be organized to empower heritage education practitioners from Pingyao and a broader geographic background.

The Pingyao picture books aim to integrate tangible and intangible cultural heritage, connect the spirit of the ancient city with everyday stories, and reach out to schools in both the city and adjacent rural areas. Tian Xiaogeng hopes that through the project and its programmes, children will not only gain a perception and understanding of local cultural heritage but also strengthen cultural confidence and cultivate aesthetic and creative abilities.

#### · To Repair Old Houses, Instead of Traveling - Some Thoughts on Heritage Conservation Volunteer Camps / Ding Feng

Ding Feng introduced the Architectural Heritage Conservation and Restoration Workcamps jointly launched by Shanghai Ruan Yisan Urban Heritage Conservation Foundation and the REMPART Association of France. As the first public-oriented heritage volunteer workcamp in China, the programme was launched in Pingyao in 2011. So far, more than 32 workcamps have been held across China, involving more than 600 volunteers from China and other parts of the world.

The Heritage Volunteer Workcamp programme mainly targets the general public rather than heritage professionals. No relevant technical or professional background is required for volunteers, and participants from the local community are particularly welcome.

The workcamps are always held in communities with historic buildings (especially those with heritage designation) in urgent need of repair and restoration. Over a period of 14 days, volunteers would donate their labour to the repair and restoration of heritage buildings under the guidance and instruction of local craftspeople. The workcamps also include visits to heritage sites, where volunteers can exchange culture and knowledge from their own countries or hometowns.

The hands-on conservation work during the workcamps has provided volunteers with a "tactile" experience of cultural heritage through actions such as touching, repairing, moving and constructing. Such experience deepens participants' memory of heritage sites and opens a new way for public communication of heritage conservation. The heritage volunteer workcamp has proven to be a popular and well-received heritage communication programme with a strong response from the public, as more and more people actively participate in volunteer work that enables them to better understand and conserve cultural heritage.

#### · Exploration of Youth Participation Mechanisms in Local Culture Heritage Conservation / Peng Jing

Peng Jing shared how the *Beautiful Nostalgia* Charity Team guides and empowers young people to participate in local cultural heritage conservation. As a university-based charity team, the *Beautiful Nostalgia* team is dedicated to the education and public communication of local cultural heritage and aims to cultivate the heritage of their hometown culture among youth and teenagers. They recognize that young people are also an important force in the conservation and communication of cultural heritage, but they lack empowerment and opportunities for action. In response, the *Beautiful Nostalgia* team proposed a full-cycle action plan of "local cultural research – local cultural education empowerment – local culture fostering and communication".

On the front of local cultural research, the *Beautiful Nostalgia* team and WHITRAP Shanghai jointly launched the "Ripple Action: Hometown Chronicles" scheme, which has supported more than 2,000 volunteers from 420 universities across China to research the culture of their hometowns, resulting in the creation of a large number of "Hometown Chronicles" and various cultural products, drawing public attention to local cultural heritage observed from the perspective of young people. On the front of educational empowerment, they launched the "Ancient Village Heritage Inheritor Training Programme", in which young volunteers lead local cultural heritage

camps and events for children, stimulating community vitality. On the culture fostering and communication front, they launched the "Culture Lighting Up Villages" Plan, which encourages young people with professional skills to solve real problems in heritage communities and help revitalise the countryside and rural areas.

Through the full-cycle empowerment plan, the provision of toolkits, the development of resource networks, and the creation of various forms of participation, *Beautiful Nostalgia* has opened up a multi-layered participation scenario and established a path for the cultivating youth's leadership in public charity and social work. The programmes have also continuously encouraged and supported the action and growth of the young generation, and cultivated talents for the cause of heritage conservation.

#### · Archiving and Promoting Century-Old Shops – The Daily Practice of an Illustrator Residing in France / Sun Yimeng

From the perspective of a freelance illustrator living in France, Sun Yimeng shared her observations on the communication of French cultural heritage and her own experience in creating heritage-themed picture books. During her time in France, Sun Yimeng realised that in addition to museums and famous landmarks, historic markets with unique characters are also significant heritage sites with important cultural values. She started to depict the lifestyle, cultural traditions and social changes of the local people by recording their daily life and various places of historical significance, which turned into the book *Chaque Jour à Paris*.

Later, she turned her attention to the century-old shops of Paris and created the picture book *Boutiques Centenaires à Paris*. While she was initially attracted to the exquisite storefronts of these shops, as she gradually learned about the stories and people behind each one, she discovered that these shops are actually gems of Paris, demonstrating French culture and craftsmanship.

Finally, as an illustrator, she found that recording these small shops in her daily practice and presenting historical culture through illustration served as part of her professional and personal growth in the cultural environment in which she lives. Posting illustrations and stories of century-old shops on social media and publishing picture books have facilitated the public's understanding of the cultural heritage behind these shops, and serve as a way for illustration art to contribute to the communication of urban culture.

#### 04. Roundtable Discussion

In the roundtable discussion section, Prof. Shao Yong – as the moderator – raised the keywords “heritage” and “communication”, and proposed “the biggest difficulty in public communication of cultural heritage” as the key issue for discussion. Speakers and experts who participated in the dialogue responded based on their professional perspectives and practical experiences.

Yan Haiming, Deputy Director and Researcher at the China World Cultural Heritage Research Centre, China Academy of Cultural Heritage, and Director of the Secretariat of ICOMOS China, believes that the biggest difficulty in the public communication of cultural heritage is that it's hard to find patterns of successful practice. Communicators of cultural heritage already know that they should tell stories from the public's perspective and that they should try different ways to tell good stories. However, public reception and the impact of communication are often unpredictable, making it difficult to synthesize patterns of successful and unsuccessful practices. Therefore, communicators of cultural heritage need to strengthen learning and knowledge sharing with communication professionals and build synergy for heritage communication.

Prof. Jiang Bo believes that in the face of World Heritage and cultural heritage, the most difficult issue is to determine one's attitude. He has been an advocate of “respect for heritage”. He pointed out that many heritage promotion events aimed at youth and teenagers simply broadcast simplified narratives originally intended for adults, which is not the appropriate approach. He emphasized that we should interpret World Heritage from children's perspective, and their understanding of images and symbols.

Qi Xin feels that the biggest challenge is that he wonders “who he is” as many industries do not currently have the position of professional communicator, and it is sometimes hard for him to know where his position is or how to move forward. He feels that he is romantic but lonely in the field of cultural heritage communication, and he urges more people to think about how Chinese people can gain respect in the world from the perspective of cultural heritage and to imagine how cultural heritage can continue to thrive.

Ding Feng believes that the difficulty of heritage conservation and public communication lies in persistence. Heritage conservation is a small field, whether in China or the world. Therefore, passion and romance are necessary. She believes that she is not alone in this journey as she is persistent in her efforts and that because everyone loves their

hometown and culture, the public is very willing to participate in heritage conservation once there's the right opportunity – there may simply be too few opportunities for them to get involved before. She believes that by creating the right opportunities for more groups of people, including children and the elderly, public participation in heritage conservation would be strengthened.

Peng Jing noted that the biggest difficulty is to secure enough support and advocacy at every step of the youth's efforts in heritage communication. She hopes that more young people will join the cause of heritage communication, that they'll be able to find suitable tutors and advisors from different backgrounds, that there will be more partners to support their practice, experience and growth, and that there will be a larger network that allows young heritage communicators and their efforts to be seen so that they can be encouraged to persevere in the heritage communication endeavour. Building a broader network and obtaining more resources and support have always been key difficulties in the field.

Fei Jia believes that heritage conservation is a multifaceted cause, and the difficulty and key issue lies in developing a cultural heritage education system that starts with children. He believes that children should be encouraged to visit museums, art galleries and various heritage sites, not only to receive lessons, but also to experience cultural heritage as an integral part of their daily lives, and to gradually form a comprehensive cognition and perception of cultural heritage.

Sun Yimeng faced challenges when exploring and identifying the significant cultural values and underlying stories behind heritage sites. Such ability is a new requirement for her as an illustrator and something she needs to learn in the future. She notes that her practice is not just about illustrating physical places, but more about exploring the people behind those places with their lives, memories and emotions.

Tian Xiaogeng doesn't think there are any major difficulties. Instead, he sees many opportunities. He believes that there are a large number of respectable frontline educators working in both cities and the countryside. They may be ordinary, but they are all concerned about heritage education and art education. It has always been the priority of the Helin Art Society to bring these people together so that they don't feel alone and can get more support and energy.

Prof. Shao made insightful remarks in response to each speaker's comments.

The final part of the dialogue features interaction with the online and in-person audiences. In response to the online audience's question about the motivations of Ripple Action volunteers, Peng Jing noted that everyone has a connection to their hometown and that through Ripple Action programmes, participants have strengthened their cultural identity and promoted cultural self-confidence. On the other hand, the stimulation and maintenance of participants' passion is also related to the project itself, which is designed to make participants feel supported and grow, as well as provide feasible ways for participation.

The second question from the audience is “How to identify core communities in the conservation of Pingyao's living heritage”. Yan Haiming believes that first and foremost, it is important to facilitate a paradigm shift that focuses on the role of people in heritage conservation, which refers to the people-oriented concept that has long been established in China's heritage conservation practice. From a practical point of view, there is still a huge gap between the theory and practice of living heritage conservation, especially concerning the conservation of historic cities, towns and villages and their connection with the daily lives of local people. Therefore, plans, strategies and policies should be developed based on a thorough understanding of the local community's real perceptions of cultural heritage, as this is the only way we can coordinate the interests of different stakeholders. As an expert with a background in sociology, he believes that heritage conservation practice should insist on engaging as many stakeholders as possible, and strive to promote mutual understanding and find common ground among these stakeholders.

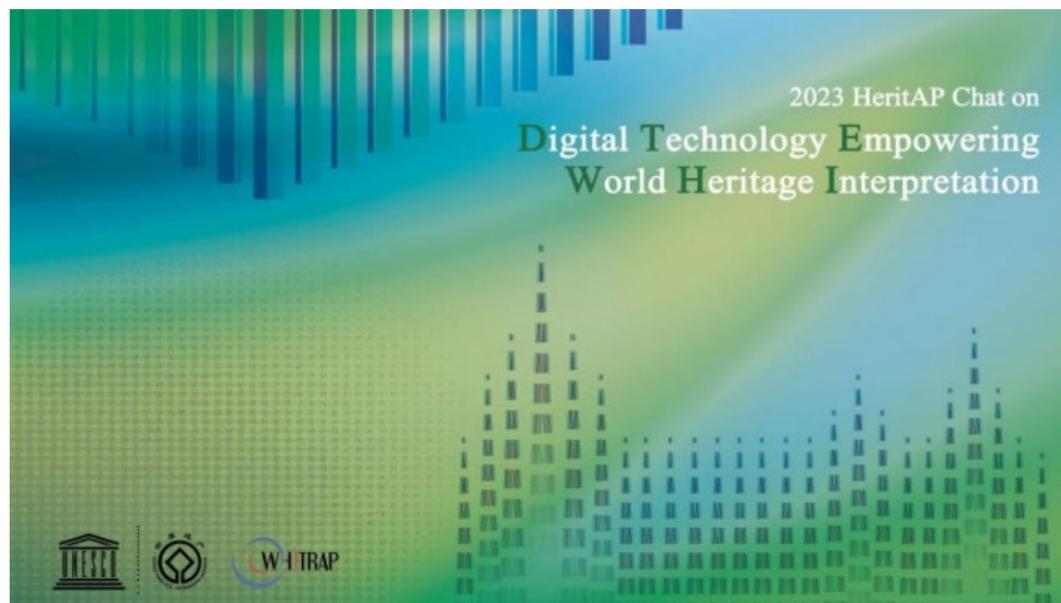
Prof. Jiang Bo pointed out that an important factor considered in the evaluation process for World Heritage nominations is the attitude of the local community towards the potential World Heritage status, which should not have a negative impact on the local lifestyle and ecology. The continuation of heritage functions is particularly important, as heritage sites should not be turned into lifeless exhibits; instead, the livelihoods and lifestyles of local people should be respected.

Prof. Shao Yong commented that the “core community” includes two types of community members: one is “rights holders”, namely those who exercise direct legal rights over the heritage site, such as property owners; the other is “stakeholders”, including tenants, merchants, heritage managers and experts. A successful conservation scheme should be able to engage both rights holders and stakeholders at the same time. She noted that she is developing a deeper understanding of the public nature of heritage places as she continues to work on the conservation

of Pingyao Ancient City. As a living heritage site, Pingyao still accommodates a large number of residents. Therefore, the convenience of their lives has to be balanced with the authenticity and integrity of the heritage city. More consensus needs to be reached on how to meet the requirements of heritage protection and how to make contemporary residents enjoy living and working in the Ancient City.

## 2023 HERITAP CHAT ON DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY EMPOWERING WORLD HERITAGE INTERPRETATION

Guan Yi (Intern), Zheng Shizhe (Intern), Li Hong  
WHITRAP Shanghai



On 27 July 2023, WHITRAP Shanghai organized the 4th Heritage Asia and the Pacific (HeritAP) Chat on "Digital Technology Empowering World Heritage Interpretation".

Seven experts were invited to attend the activity, including Mr Yang Chen (Associate Professor, College of Architecture and Urban Planning, Tongji University), Mr Gamini Wijesuriya (Special Advisor, WHITRAP Shanghai), Ms Li Hong (Programme Specialist, WHITRAP Shanghai), Ms Nayeon Lee (Senior Programme Specialist, Strategy and Planning Office, UNESCO WHIPIC), Ms Shi Yang (Associate Professor, College of Design and Innovation, Tongji University), Ms Aziliz Vandesande (Guest Professor, Faculty of Engineering Science, University of Leuven), and Mr Pankaj Manchanda (Expert Member, ICOMOS International Cultural Tourism Committee). The activity was conducted through two sessions - case presentations and free chats. Ms Li Hong and Prof. Yang Chen were the moderators of these two sessions respectively. In total 26 audiences attended the ZOOM Meeting and about 1,400 watched the live stream.

### 01. Introduction to the topic

In the beginning, Li Hong introduced HeritAP and the topic of the 4th HeritAP Chat. As to the theme of HeritAP Chat, World Heritage belongs to everyone, which requires interpretation to different audiences and then passing down from generation to generation.

Digital technology plays a key role in the fourth industrial revolution and greatly contributes to World Heritage practice. The 4th HeritAP Chat focused on World Heritage Interpretation by using digital technology and its effectiveness.

### 02. Case presentations

During the first part of the case presentation, four expert speakers introduced their cases of digital technology empowering World Heritage Interpretation from different perspectives and in different local contexts.

Nayeon Lee focused on using digital technologies to enhance heritage interpretation. She introduced the involvement of technology in the interpretation and presentation of heritage and pointed out that the number of times exposed to heritage is crucial for the public to build their awareness and turn them from mere visitors to heritage advocates. Digital technologies provide an accessible platform for the public and connect past and present values. In the case of the Baekje Historic Area, the heritage site created a digital audio guide on mobile phones to improve visitors' understanding of the heritage and recognition of the heritage values. After six months of construction, design and data collection, the application was released and provided numerous visual contents and interactive communication, combined with edutainment and gamification

materials. The application was effective in connecting heritage and people, but could be improved in terms of interactive communication, where a comment section could be added to better reflect the current values of the heritage site.

Prof. Shi Yang introduced the project of Data-driven Storytelling of Vernacular Dwellings along the Silk Road. This project targeted at correlating and visualizing climate adaptation strategies used by vernacular dwellings along the Silk Road through a series of data analyses and narrative visualization. She defined narrative visualization as presenting arguments or narratives supported by data while also including storytelling through methods such as infographics, interactive data stories and data videos. The design process involved building an analysis framework, climatic data collection and analysis, visualization design through charts, architectural drawing based on 2D and 3D models, and data-driven storytelling. Five cases (the courtyard shading of Chang'an, the flat top ceiling of Hexi Corridor, the wind tower of Persia, the high ceilings of Ancient Egypt and the rain-collecting courts of Rome) were introduced. The project utilized infographic designs including colour schemes, layouts, and information flow for a better reading experience and presented the unique values of architectural heritage from different regions along the Silk Road.

Aziliz Vandesande shared three cases of digital documentation as an important step in a heritage project. In the first case, the team worked together with local government, park managers and tribes to further develop Robert Waller's cultural property risk analysis model and adjusted it specifically for the sites of Petra Archaeological Park for risk mapping, assessment and management. In the second case called ILUCIDARE, they focused on capacity building and knowledge exchange through early training of GIS technology and co-construction of inventory with local talented people, and further put these KULLAS buildings as a type on the transnational World Heritage nomination. In the last case, they used digital technologies including drones, total stations and static scanners to document a castle, developed a basic application and a 3D print model of the castle with different sensible textures for people with physical disabilities to visit and feel every part of the castle.

Pankaj Manchanda's presentation was divided into two sections to show the digital evolution of interpretation and destination development at the archaeological World Heritage sites. In the first section, he introduced the AUGTRAVELER, a start-up project that adopts new-age immersive technologies of augmented reality, virtual reality, geolocation and analytics. While designing and evolving the solution and platform for immersive travel experience,

the vision of this project takes the attributes of happiness and well-being of local stakeholders into consideration, which are aligned with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals of 4, 8, 10, 11. In the second section, he shared another project called THENZAWL Calling, where they collaborated with Mizoram to create a sustainable and win-win cultural and natural heritage tourism for visitors and locals. The project could make the destination more discoverable to visitors by geotagging its tangible and intangible heritage, as well as help the local travel businesses build their digital presence and online curated marketplace.

### 03. Free chats

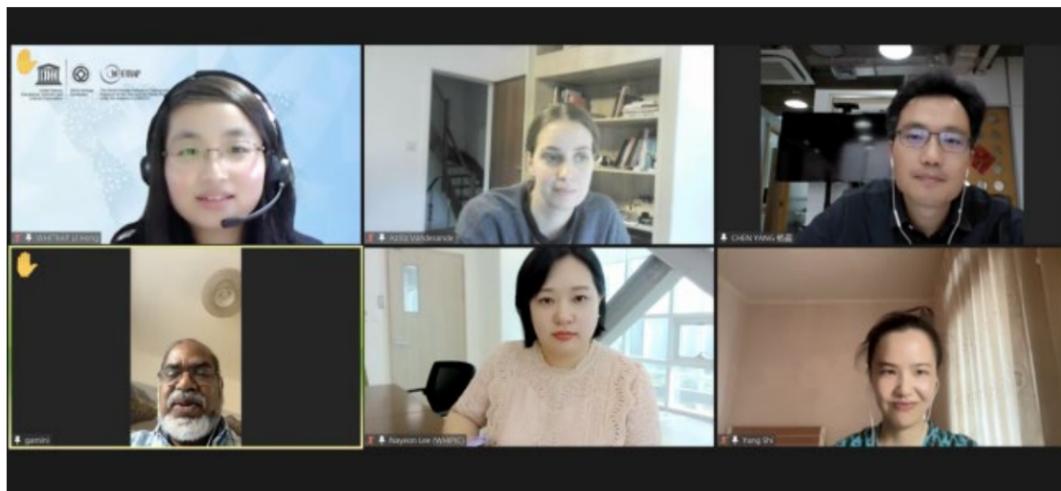
In the second part, the free chats between six expert speakers focused on substantive discussions on how to empower World Heritage Interpretation through digital technology. The keywords include whole life-cycle, appropriate funds, data management, effectiveness of products, creative experience and talents.

The chats began with a short speech from Prof. Yang and Gamini Wijesuriya. As the moderator of this session, Prof. Yang summarized the former presentations to draw the conclusion that digital technology provides novel platforms that break the restrictions of space and time and excellent digital twins of World Heritage. It also converts the interpretation from object-oriented to user-oriented and provides diverse narratives in the interpretation process.

Gamini Wijesuriya highlighted three principles to follow in heritage interpretation. Firstly, we need to consider interpretation as an integral part of heritage management. Secondly, interpretation has to be guided by a comprehensive understanding of heritage sites. Thirdly, it should deliver comprehensive resources, not only for one particular community or one society. He appreciated that all the presentations had these principles embedded.

Regarding the funds and sustainable operation of digital technology in World Heritage Interpretation, Li Hong raised two questions about the Baekje Digital Audio Guide Project introduced by Dr Lee: Who invests in the project and how is the project sustained in a proper way?

Dr Lee explained that this project was a combination of work with eight serial heritage sites so there is a large amount of funds provided by the Korean government. Baekje History Area has an integral centre to collaborate with the management and conservation



of eight sites and update the application. She pointed out that during the three-year improvement of the application, the basic system was already done in the first year, then the following work was to keep improving the method to showcase the value of the sites and update different activities that visitors can do on the sites with the application.

Prof. Vandesande agreed that funding was important and also shifted to another important reflection on the ownership, copyright and management of the data. She insisted that it's essential to make a data management plan before data collection according to different circumstances. Sufficient funds are required in big projects, while free and open-source software is necessary when working on projects with local communities because local people can be taught to use the inventory and add new information to achieve capacity building. Meanwhile, she warned that the copyright of the data should be protected to prevent arbitrary use by private websites and illegal commercial activities for profit. In this case, Prof. Yang pointed out that's why UNESCO puts lots of attention on the conservation of digital heritage. He also added that heritage sites of different sizes have archives of different dimensions, some in 3D documentation while others in 2D. It's important to make a whole life-cycle plan, such as training, workshops and local capacity-building programmes in terms of digital documentation, data storage and management.

In terms of the creative experience and products of World Heritage Interpretation empowered by digital technology, Prof. Yang and Prof. Shi had a discussion with examples.

Prof. Yang was very concerned about the effectiveness of the input and output of digital technology, and he thought it depended on what kind of experience, connections or interpretations we want our users to get from the application. For some projects, we can choose very simple technology just as QR code and voice guide while for others there may be more complicated technology like AR, VR or XR.

Prof. Shi introduced that narrative visualization has great potential to help review unique insights and stories inherent in heritage sites, such as artefacts, architecture, history and culture. She emphasized that digital interpretation should provide different, creative and novel visions and experiences for visitors who cannot really see from the physical sites, and enhance rather than override traditional exhibits. For example, interactive maps and timelines can contextualize events and track changes, data visualization of archaeological findings or architectural details can highlight key characteristics, and interactive data stories can create individual connections between audiences and the stories.

When it comes to the extensive level of interpretation, connection and experience and the selection of appropriate technologies, Dr Lee reviewed that the concept of heritage interpretation was initially from the academia, and now it could be the very first step in the evaluation of the heritage. She emphasized that the most important digital technology for interpretation was documentation skill, because the more information we get, the more effectively we can interpret the heritage. In that case, she thought archiving and inventory would be the best option that relative experts could use for digital technology.

Prof. Vandesande remained sceptical towards the genuine interest of a broader audience who visit digital heritage sites except for experts. Taking a pilot project in South America for example, she pointed out the obstacle that the team carried out valuable and great work with local people to restore the entire village in Adobe architecture and local laboratory, but got few likes on social media. Therefore, she called for more research or practice on to what extent people are actually interpreting or taking information from the digital application of heritage sites.

#### 04. Wrap up

Last but not least, Li Hong on behalf of WHITRAP Shanghai and HeritAP, appreciated the presentation and discussion of all experts and the participation of all the audiences. During this heritage chat, a lot of new issues were raised and discussed, such as the whole life-cycle and different circumstances of digital heritage projects, the ownership and management of data, the creative experience, products and credible audiences of World Heritage Interpretation empowered by digital technology. By sharing professionals' experiences and conducting free chats, heritage practitioners could better respond to the management and conservation of the sites in the digital age.

# IN FOCUS

## “The Next 50” Symposium on Water Heritage for City’s Sustainable Development was held in Hangzhou

**Zheng Zhaoqi** (intern)  
WHITRAP Beijing



On 9 June 2023, within the framework of “The Next 50” global celebration of the UNESCO 1972 Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage and in collaboration with Hangzhou Municipal Government, UNESCO Multisectoral Regional Office for East Asia successfully organized the Symposium on Water Heritage for Cities’ Sustainable Development. Dr Li Kuanghan, Assistant Director of WHITRAP Beijing from the School of Archaeology and Museology at Peking University, moderated the first session on Water and Cultural Landscape and gave a keynote speech.

## International Youth Forum on Creativity and Heritage along the Silk Roads

**Jenny Lu Jie** (intern)  
WHITRAP Beijing

From 26 to 30 June 2023, the International Youth Forum on Creativity and Heritage along the Silk Roads was held in Changsha and Nanjing.

Dr Li Kuanghan, Assistant Director of WHITRAP Beijing, attended the opening ceremony. Dr Li said, “By protecting living heritage, we can also promote the goal of sustainable development of society. Young people have a lot of innovative understanding of the traditions and they come from different fields with different cultural backgrounds, which may have greater effect. I am very happy to share my ideas and experiences with the youth from different countries in such an activity.”



## 1st Conference on Digital Culture Tourism Practitioners

**Li Chaoying** (intern)  
WHITRAP Beijing

On 27 June 2023, the 1st Digital Culture Tourism Practitioner Conference was launched in Wujiang, Suzhou.

During the lecture, nearly 10 experts and scholars from the School of Archaeology and Museology at Peking University, the Institute of Internet Industry of Tsinghua University and Tencent explored the digitalization of cultural heritage, the new needs of urban cultural tourism in digital space and the digital future of the Z era. They explored the preservation of cultural heritage in a better and more complete way under the background of digital transformation.

Zhang Jianwei, Executive Deputy Director of WHITRAP Beijing and Deputy Dean of the School of Archaeology and Museology at Peking University, delivered a speech “Breaking the Dimensional Wall: The Road to the Digitization of Cultural Heritage”.



## 4th Huangshan Dialogue on UNESCO-designated Sites and Sustainable Development

**Jenny Lu Jie** (intern)  
WHITRAP Beijing

On the morning of 29 June 2023, the 4th Huangshan Dialogue on UNESCO-designated Sites and Sustainable Development was successfully opened.

Zhang Jianwei, Executive Deputy Director of WHITRAP Beijing and Deputy Dean of the School of Archaeology and Museology at Peking University, and Song Feng, Deputy Director of WHITRAP Beijing and Associate Professor of the College of Urban and Environmental Sciences at Peking University, attended the meeting.

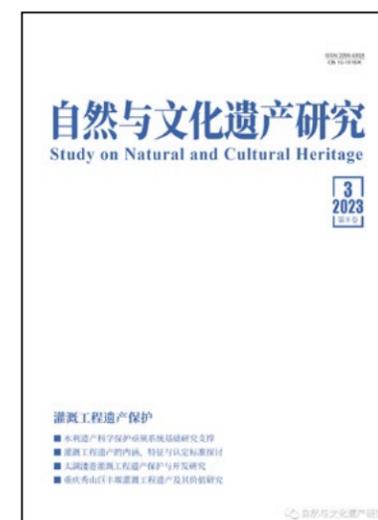
With the theme of “Digital Technologies Enabling the Sustainable Development of Listed Heritage”, the dialogue aims to explore the application of space technology in the conservation and management of World Heritage sites, World Biosphere Reserves and global geoparks.



## 3rd issue of the Study on Natural and Cultural Heritage in 2023

**Zheng Zhaoqi** (intern)  
WHITRAP Beijing

In July 2023, the 3rd issue of the Study on Natural and Cultural Heritage in 2023 was published. World Heritage Irrigation Structures has greatly promoted the public attention and understanding of water history, water heritage and water culture in the water conservancy industry. Driven and influenced by it, Ministry of Water Resources of the People’s Republic of China officially launched the designation of National Water Heritage in 2021. This issue focuses on the cognition and protection of irrigation heritage, starting from the cases of Lougang Heritage Irrigation Structure along Lake Tai and Jufeng Weir Heritage Irrigation Structure in Xiushan County of Chongqing City, to carry out theoretical discussion and case analysis on heritage recognition, value assessment, protection and utilization.



## New progress achieved in database construction for heritage elements of Suzhou Classical Gardens

**Jiang Yeqin, Yan Huiyue**  
WHITRAP Suzhou

Since 2023, WHITRAP Suzhou has carried out 3D scanning and digital modelling for the brick-carving gatehouse in gardens, paving the way for “digital garden” construction by focusing on the establishment and improvement of a digital database of the heritage elements of Suzhou Classical Gardens.

This project includes all of the gardens that have been digitized in the Suzhou Garden List. To ensure comprehensive, detailed and accurate digitization of brick-carved gatehouses, we selected the ones with significant value from all researched brick-carved gatehouses of the gardens early on. We used technologies of the Trimble X7 colour 3D scanner to collect 3D point cloud data on-site and complete their 1:1 digital modelling. The first phase intends to finish data collection and modelling for 20 gatehouses. So far, we have completed the on-site scanning of 15 gatehouses, and the next step will be to complete the on-site scanning and modelling of the remaining 5 brick-carved gatehouses and wall gates, with the goal of presenting a complete and realistic digital image of the Suzhou classical gardens’ brick-carved gatehouses and wall gates.

**Workshop on the Buddhist Archaeology and Grottoes Research (Session III) was held in Longmen Grottoes**

**Zheng Zhaoqi** (intern)  
WHITRAP Beijing



On the morning of 2 July 2023, under the guidance of the National Cultural Heritage Administration and Henan Provincial Administration of Cultural Heritage, the Workshop on the Buddhist Archaeology and Grottoes Research (Session III), jointly organized by the School of Archaeology and Museology at Peking University, PKU Institute of Religious Archaeology and Longmen Grottoes, was held in Luoyang. Zhang Jianwei, Executive Deputy Director of WHITRAP Beijing, expressed his hope in the opening speech. He wished that through this workshop, the archaeological research of local grotto temples would be truly promoted, contributing to the cultivation of professionals in Buddhist Archaeology and the Archaeology of grotto temples.

**The lecture on "Tracing the Origins of Chinese Civilization and Passing It on to Future Generations" was successfully held in Chaoyang, Liaoning**

**Li Chaoying** (intern)  
WHITRAP Beijing

On 13 July 2023, the lecture on "Tracing the Origins of Chinese Civilization and Passing It on to Future Generations", organized by China's National Cultural Heritage Administration, China Daily and the Propaganda Department of the Liaoning Provincial Party Committee, was successfully held in Chaoyang, Liaoning. Zhang Jianwei, Executive Deputy Director of WHITRAP Beijing and Deputy Dean of the School of Archaeology and Museology at Peking University, delivered a speech on the topic of the digitalization of cultural heritage conservation, sharing his experiences of applying virtual reality and database technology to enhance teaching and museum presentation.



**Peking University Archaeology Summer School for Excellent Senior High Students was successfully held in Anxi, Fujian**

**Zheng Zhaoqi** (intern)  
WHITRAP Beijing

Peking University Archaeology Summer School for Excellent Senior High Students aims to build a platform for senior high school students interested in archaeology to get in touch with archaeological activities, which has been held for 13 sessions so far. From 16 to 22 July 2023, Peking University Archaeology Summer School for Excellent Senior High Students was held in Anxi, Fujian. This course is organized by the School of Archaeology and Museology at Peking University, WHITRAP Beijing, Teaching and Research Base of the School of Archaeology and Museology at Peking University in Anxi, and co-organized by Anxi Museum and the Center for Cultural Heritage Protection Research of Peking University. The leader of this course was Prof. Shen Ruiwen, Dean of the School of Archaeology and Museology at Peking University. Nearly 30 teachers and students of the school and more than 100 senior high school students from all over the country participated in this activity.

There were seven lectures in the summer course. Prof. Shen Ruiwen gave a lecture about "Archaeology of Peking University: A Microcosm of Chinese Archaeology", which started from the establishment of the subject of archaeology at Peking University, narrating the development history of the subject in China and the prospect of its future. Zhang Chi, Wu Xiaohong and Zhang Jianwei gave three lectures to the students, which were "First Sight of Archaeology", "Interpretation of Ancient Social History by Science and Technology" and "Breaking the Dimensional Wall: The Road to the Digitization of Cultural Heritage", bringing the students a deeper understanding on the theories of archaeology, science & technology of archaeological research and Chinese traditional architecture. Chen Fuyou



**Greenpeace 2023 "Temperature of Civilization" Cultural Salon was held in Beijing**

**Jenny Lu Jie** (intern)  
WHITRAP Beijing

On 17 July 2023, the international environmental organization Greenpeace organized a cultural salon in Beijing, entitled "The Temperature of Civilization: Assessing the Systemic Impact of Climate Change on Ecology, Industry and Cultural Heritage in Northwest China."

Li Kuanghan, Assistant Director of WHITRAP Beijing, made a speech on the topic of "Cultural Heritage Protection and Climate Action from a Global Perspective", mentioning that the physical destruction of buildings or settlements will change the interaction between people and heritage sites, bringing impacts on their life, work, religion and social activities, which will lead to changes in the maintenance and utilization of heritage.



brought the students a lively and interesting lecture on "Wilderness Survival Required Course - making tools of Paleolithic". Lin Han delivered a lecture about "World Cultural Heritage Sites in Quanzhou and their Universal Value", which paid attention to various heritage sites to introduce the significance of cultural heritage in Quanzhou. The students also visited the Quanzhou Maritime Museum and five sites of the World Heritage "Quanzhou: Emporium of the World in Song-Yuan China", including Jiuri Mountain Wind-Praying Inscriptions, Kaiyuan Temple, Confucius Temple and School, Islamic Tombs and Luoyang Bridge.

The one-week summer course spread the seeds of archaeology to a wider world. During the investigation and visit, the students enjoyed the bustling foreign trade of Quanzhou in the Song and Yuan Dynasties and also experienced the charm of the theories and practices of archaeology.



**Development of the Digitalized Cultural Tourism Forum was held during the 2023 China Internet Civilization Conference in Xiamen, Fujian**

**Jenny Lu Jie** (intern)  
WHITRAP Beijing

On 19 July, the Development of the Digitalized Cultural Tourism Forum was held during the 2023 China Internet Civilization Conference in Xiamen, Fujian. This forum aimed at gathering wisdom and strength for China's development of digitalization on cultural tourism and enhancing China's internet civilization in the new era. Zhang Jianwei, Executive Deputy Director of WHITRAP Beijing and Deputy Dean of the School of Archaeology and Museology at Peking University, made a presentation and was engaged in a dialogue on the topic of "Developing Cultural Tourism based on the Internet".



**Africa Ambassadors to UNESCO visited Suzhou Gardens**

**Jiang Yeqin, Yan Huiyue**  
WHITRAP Suzhou

The ambassadors to UNESCO from Angola, Gabon, Mali, Cape Verde, Mozambique and Ethiopia paid a visit to Suzhou Classical Gardens on 31 July 2023, at the invitation of the Chinese National Commission for UNESCO, accompanied by Yang Jin, Chinese Ambassador to UNESCO, Han Libo, Deputy Director of Suzhou Administrative Bureau of Garden and Landscaping, and Zhu Haijun, Director of WHITRAP Suzhou.

The African ambassador delegation met with the garden management offices to discuss the conservation of Suzhou Classical Gardens, as well as the inheritance and development of World Cultural Heritage. Following that, they went to the World Heritage sites of the Humble Administration Garden, the Lion Forest Garden and the Tiger Hill Scenic Spot, where they were able to experience the poetic beauty of Suzhou Gardens and traditional Suzhou culture. The ambassador's visit to Suzhou Gardens has strengthened international exchanges and cooperation of Suzhou Gardens, promoted friendly exchanges between China and Africa, and showcased the unique story of Chinese gardens.



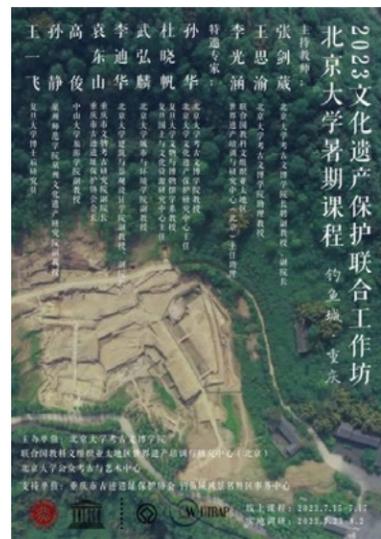
**The 2023 Joint Workshop on Cultural Heritage Protection was wrapped up successfully**

**Li Chaoying** (intern)  
WHITRAP Beijing

On 2 August 2023, the Joint Workshop on Cultural Heritage Protection was successfully wrapped up in Chongqing. This workshop was cohosted by the School of Archaeology and Museology at Peking University, WHITRAP Beijing, and PKU Centre of Archaeology and Art for the General Public. Through field research, this workshop aimed at improving understanding of the current status of heritage, landscape and community in and around the Diaoyu Fortress, as well as forming basic research, situation evaluation and preliminary design for its conservation and exhibition.

The 2023 Workshop consisted of sessions both online and offline. From 15 to 17 July, the supervisors and scholars from relevant fields gave online courses on the perspective of interdisciplinary thinking on heritage conservation, ecology and geology, heritage tourism and value perception, and the history of the mountain cities in the Chuanyu area. From 24 July to 2 August, students did a field trip in the Hechuan District, Chongqing. During the field trip, the supervisors delivered five lectures on the Diaoyu Fortress and its value interpretation.

On 2 August, the ending ceremony of the 2023 Joint Workshop on Cultural Heritage Protection was held in the Chengtou Building in Hechuan and was hosted by Zhang Jianwei, Executive Deputy Director of WHITRAP



Beijing and Deputy Dean of the School of Archaeology and Museology at Peking University. Representatives from four research groups reported their research results on geology, archaeology, community and tourism management, while the supervisors made their comments on their reports and gave them suggestions for future research accordingly. Besides, the students also reported the outcomes of their field study in the Jiukouguo Area. Finally, Sun Hua, Professor at the School of Archaeology and Museology at Peking University, and Yuan Dongshan, Associate Dean of Chongqing Municipal Institute of Cultural Relics and Archaeology and President of Chongqing Society for the Protection of Monument and Sites, made the closing speeches, praising the fruitful results of the research and expressing their high expectations for the future.

**The First Garden Lecture on "Learning in the Garden" successfully held**

**Jiang Yeqin, Yan Huiyue**  
WHITRAP Suzhou

On 6 August 2023, WHITRAP Suzhou successfully held the first lecture on "Learning in the Garden" series in the Suzhou Weaving Department Garden, a Qing Dynasty garden included in the Suzhou Garden List. Under the guidance of Shen Liang, a senior expert on Suzhou Garden, over 20 children accompanied by their parents enjoyed an exploratory tour of the former Suzhou Weaving Department site.

At the start of the activity, the teacher gave a brief overview of the history of the old Weaving Department and the concept of World Heritage Youth Defenders initiative. Following that, he explained the idea of stone appreciation and knowledge of gardening, which sparked the children's keen interest in garden culture.

The lecture on "Learning in the Garden" is part of the summer programme for World Heritage Youth Education by WHITRAP Suzhou. Its objective is to direct the attention of the contemporary youth towards World Heritage sites around them and to enable them to appreciate the allure of Suzhou Gardens. Furthermore, the programme seeks to introduce traditional Chinese culture into the daily lives of young people, strengthen their cultural confidence, and bring the new out of the garden culture.



**The Grand Canal (Beijing Section) Participatory Cultural Mapping Project was launched successfully**

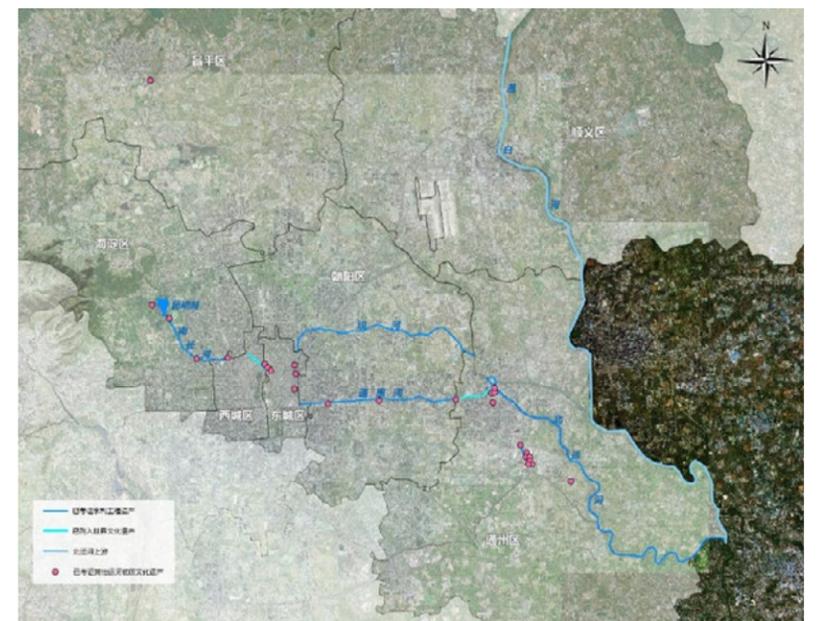
**Li Chaoying** (intern)  
WHITRAP Beijing



To promote public understanding of the Grand Canal (Beijing Section) and the cultural resources along its route, WHITRAP Beijing, PKU Centre of Archaeology and Art for the General Public (PKU CAAGP) and Beijing WM Cultural and TEC jointly launched the Grand Canal (Beijing Section) Participatory Cultural Mapping Project. The project received over 100

applications, amongst whom 104 volunteers and 11 supervisors were finally accepted.

On 10 August 2023, the launching ceremony of the Grand Canal (Beijing Section) Participatory Cultural Mapping Project was held successfully online. Zhang Jianwei, Executive Deputy Director of WHITRAP Beijing, Li Kuanghan, Director Assistant of WHITRAP Beijing, Wang Siyu, Director of PKU CAAGP, and Zhang Jianshuo, Director of the Planning and Consulting Department of WM Cultural and TEC, delivered welcome speeches. Meanwhile, the supervisors and volunteers from different work groups exchanged views on the future work and their expectations for this project. The participatory project will be focused on cultural heritage along the Grand Canal (Beijing Section), based on the method of cultural mapping, to collect, record, analyze and summarize relevant information, to support the heritage values assessment, conservation planning and management policy-making.



**Suzhou Garden Classification and Management Measures approved by the Suzhou Municipal Government**

**Jiang Yeqin, Yan Huiyue**  
WHITRAP Suzhou



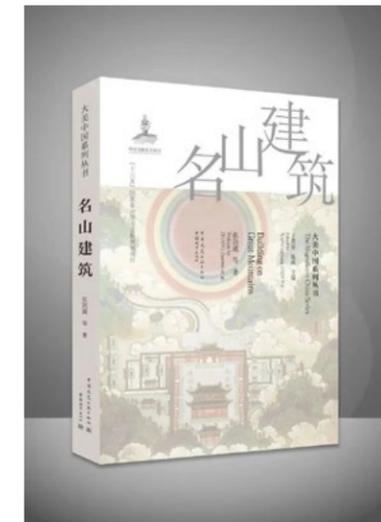
On 22 August 2023, the 44th executive meeting of the Suzhou Municipal Government reviewed and adopted the *Suzhou Garden Classification and Management Measures*, to improve the legal and regulatory system for refining and strengthening the group protection and management of Suzhou gardens, and will enhance the protection and management of various types of Suzhou gardens.

Recently, the city has compiled and published four batches of Suzhou Gardens List (108 gardens), established a comprehensive Suzhou Gardens List system covering the entire city, completed the protection and restoration of 12 famous classical gardens such as the Keyuan Garden, and realized that 91 Suzhou gardens have been opened to the public in various forms. The *Suzhou Garden Classification and Management Measures* is an initiative developed in response to the coordination between diverse types of gardens, the variety of management departments involved, and the uneven nature of protection and management. It will provide a valuable addition to enforcing the *Regulations on the Protection and Management of Suzhou Gardens* by enhancing monitoring of Suzhou Gardens.

# BOOK RECOMMENDATION

## BUILDING ON GREAT MOUNTAINS

**Jenny Lu Jie** (Intern)  
WHITRAP Beijing



*Building on Great Mountains* by Zhang Jianwei (et al.), Executive Deputy Director of WHITRAP Beijing and Deputy Dean of the School of Archaeology and Museology at Peking University, is one of the volumes of *The Magnificent China Series*.

The author of this book has enjoyed visiting famous mountains and buildings in recent years. When we see a set of mountain settlements, a temple on a ridge, and a golden temple in a multitude of peaks, we know that this is a place chosen and dedicated by the ancestors.

Mountains are formed by the power of nature, and this book will classify three groups of Chinese mountains, including the Five Mountains, Taoist mountains and Buddhist mountains, which are closely related to ideas in Chinese history.

Architecture is the trace of human intervention in nature. People have left traces of buildings or landscapes built in various places of mountains, including the front and foot of mountains. We can constantly appreciate the ancient people's understanding of the relationship between architecture and mountains.

This book is helpful for people to understand the aesthetic concept of traditional Chinese architectural culture, and to understand the image of ancient Chinese architecture.

Name of the book:  
**Building on Great Mountains**  
Authors:  
**Zhang Jianwei et al.**  
Publisher:  
**China Architecture & Building Press**  
Publishing year:  
**2023**  
ISBN:  
**9787507435221**

# BOOK RECOMMENDATION

## GENERATION OF HERITAGE AND CONTINUATION OF TRADITION: INVESTIGATION AND RESEARCH OF ZHIBO VILLAGE IN SICHUAN PROVINCE

Zheng Zhaoqi (Intern)  
WHITRAP Beijing

*Generation of Heritage and Continuation of Tradition: Investigation and Research of Zhibo Village in Sichuan Province*, written by Wang Siyu, Director of PKU Centre of Archaeology and Art for the General Public and Assistant Professor of the School of Archaeology and Museology at Peking University, is one of the *Protection and Development of Ethnic Minority Villages in Southwest China* series. This series of books is the outcome of the project funded by the National Publication Foundation and National Social Science Foundation - Study on the Protection and Utilization of Traditional Ethnic Minority Villages in Southwest China. The series consists of three series: "Summary of the Content", "Results of the Survey" and "Research on the Conservation", including the basic investigation of the ethnic minority villages in Southwest China, monographic and comprehensive studies, and the research on local conservation and development plans as well as their implementation.

This book is based on the information that the author collected during his research in Zhibo Village, Sichuan Province, during his post-doctoral period in 2019 and 2020. In this book, the author takes villages as a case study and uses the local differences in heritage value cognition and conservation ideas as an entry point to analyze the local stakeholders, the relationship between different stakeholders, local communities, as well as the whole village. He expounds

his ideas on conservation practices and critical thinking in conservation theories.

The book has seven chapters, which are: The Rise of the Term "Traditional Villages"; Current Situation and Research Basis; General Introduction to Zhibo Village; From Cultural Construction to Heritage Conservation; Memories of the Local History; Common Sense on the Local Traditional Architecture and Intangible Cultural Heritage; Living in the Village; and Conclusion.



Name of the book:

**Generation of Heritage and Continuation of Tradition: Investigation and Research of Zhibo Village in Sichuan Province**

Authors:

**Wang Siyu**

Publisher:

**Ba Shu Shu She (巴蜀书社)**

Publishing year:

**2021**

ISBN:

**9787553116358**

Name of the book:

**The Vitality of Tradition: Changes in Heritage Values of a Dong Village in Qiandongnan**

Authors:

**Li Kuanghan**

Publisher:

**Ba Shu Shu She (巴蜀书社)**

Publishing year:

**2021**

ISBN:

**9787553116402**

# BOOK RECOMMENDATION

## THE VITALITY OF TRADITION: CHANGES IN HERITAGE VALUES OF A DONG VILLAGE IN QIANDONGNAN

Li Chaoying (Intern)  
WHITRAP Beijing



*The Vitality of Tradition: Changes in Heritage Values of a Dong Village in Qiandongnan* is a new book by Li Kuanghan, Director Assistant of WHITRAP Beijing. As a member of the survey project led by the PKU Centre for Cultural Heritage Protection and Research on ethnic minority villages in southwest China, the author started her research on Qiandongnan in 2013 and conducted long-term field research in Dali Village, Rongjiang County. Moreover, as Director of Projects at the Global Heritage Fund and, she has been deeply involved in the conservation and development of the village until now. During these years, she found that although this

ethnic village was unique, it was caught in the common dilemma faced by most traditional Chinese villages. By sorting and documenting the history, current situation and future possibilities of Dali Village, this book aims to discuss the impacts of conservation and development actions on the values of on-site heritage and local communities in the new phase of China's modernization and the context of urban-rural linkage. It also analyzes how to establish a public cognition on local-community-oriented conservation and revitalization.

# WORLD HERITAGE IN ASIA & PACIFIC

## KAENG KRACHAN FOREST COMPLEX

Collected by **Chen Xiaoyan** (intern), WHITRAP Shanghai

**Country:** Thailand  
**Category of site:** Natural site  
**Date of inscription:** 2021  
**Criteria:** (x)

### OUV

The site is located along the Thailand side of the Tenasserim mountain range, part of a north-south granite and limestone mountain ridge running down the Malay Peninsula. Located at the cross-roads between the Himalayan, Indochina, and Sumatran faunal and floral realms, the property is home to rich biodiversity. It is dominated by semi-evergreen/dry evergreen and moist evergreen forest with some mixed deciduous forest, montane forest, and deciduous dipterocarp forest. A number of endemic and globally endangered plant and wildlife species have been reported in the property, which overlaps with two Important Bird Areas (IBAs) and is noted for its rich diversity of birdlife, including eight globally endangered fauna species. The property is home to the critically endangered Siamese Crocodile (*Crocodylus siamensis*), the endangered Asiatic Wild Dog (*Cuon alpinus*), Banteng (*Bos javanicus*), Asian Elephant

(*Elephas maximus*), Yellow/Elongated Tortoise (*Indotestudo elongata*), and the endangered Asian Giant Tortoise (*Manouria emys*), as well as several other vulnerable species of birds and mammals. Remarkably, it is also home to eight cat species: the endangered tiger (*Panthera tigris*) and Fishing Cat (*Prionailurus viverrinus*), the near-threatened Leopard (*Panthera pardus*) and Asian Golden Cat (*Catopuma temminckii*), the vulnerable Clouded Leopard (*Neofelis nebulosi*) and Marbled Cat (*Pardofelis marmorata*), and the least concerned Jungle Cat (*Felis chaus*) and Leopard Cat (*Prionailurus bengalensis*).

### Criterion (x)

The site contains the most important and significant natural habitats for in-situ conservation of biological diversity, including those containing threatened species of Outstanding Universal Value from the point of view of science or conservation.

As a zone of mixing between different zoogeographical realms and floristic provinces, it is the northernmost point for many species from the south and the southernmost point for species from the north. This macro-diversity



Kaeng Krachan Forest Complex  
 © Sune Sakseau

is complemented by a highly variable topography that creates many different habitats per unit.

Symptomatic of the high biodiversity in the area is the presence of at least 720 known wild animal species and the presence of endemic plant species such as *Magnolia mediocris* and *M. gustavii*, their only location in Thailand. *Trichosanthes phonsenae* is another plant species and the complex represents its only known location in the world today. In addition, the complex maintains important populations of globally endangered species. Of special note is the presence of the critically endangered, Siamese crocodile (*Crocodylus siamensis*) in Kaeng Krachan National Park, one of few locations in only three countries worldwide where it still exists in the wild. In addition, there are also important populations of other endangered species such as banteng (*Bos javanicus*), Asian elephant (*Elephas maximus*), tiger (*Panthera tigris*), Asiatic wild dog (*Cuon alpinus*), Asian giant tortoise (*Manouria emys*); and vulnerable species such as Asian black bear (*Ursus thibetanus*), Asian tapir (*Tapirus indicus*), southern serow (*Capricornis sumatraensis*) and stump-tailed macaque (*Macaca arctoides*). A complete suite of top carnivores has been identified in the area including eight species of wild cats.

(Source: <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1461>)



Kaeng Krachan Forest Complex © Department of National Parks, Thailand

## CULTURAL LANDSCAPE OF HAWRAMAN/URAMANAT

Collected by **Chen Xiaoyan** (intern), WHITRAP Shanghai



Livestock in Hawraman/Uramanat © BabaK Sedighi

### OUV

The Cultural Landscape of Hawraman/Uramanat is located at the heart of the Zagros Mountains in the provinces of Kurdistan and Kermanshah along the western border of Iran. It is comprised of two component parts: the Central-Eastern Valley (Zhaverud and Takht, in Kurdistan Province); and the Western Valley (Lahun, in Kermanshah Province). The mode of human habitation in these areas has been adapted over millennia to the rough mountainous environment.

Archaeological findings dating back about 40,000 years, caves and rock shelters, ancient paths and ways along the valleys, motifs and inscriptions, cemeteries, mounds, castles, settlements, and other historical evidence attest to the continuity of life in the Hawraman/Uramanat region from the Paleolithic to the present time and to the endurance of the semi-nomadic lifestyle and agropastoral practices of the area's inhabitants.

The Cultural Landscape of Hawraman/Uramanat is an exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition of the semi-nomadic agropastoral way of life of the Hawrami people, a Kurdish tribe that has resided in the Zagros Mountains

for millennia. This outstanding cultural tradition is manifested in the ancestral practices of transhumance, the mode of seasonal living in Havars, steep-slope terraced agriculture, soil and water management, traditional knowledge for planning and constructing steeply terraced villages, and a rich diversity of intangible heritage, all reflecting a harmonious co-existence with nature.

### Criterion (iii)

The Cultural Landscape of Hawraman/Uramanat bears exceptional testimony to the evolution over millennia of the traditional semi-nomadic agropastoral way of life of the Hawrami people. This cultural tradition is expressed in tangible and intangible elements of the landscape that have persisted up to the present day and continue to be the foundation of the local socio-economic system, including steep-slope terraced villages and gardens, transhumance routes, seasonal dwellings, and the traditional knowledge and practices associated with them. The property provides outstanding living testimony to various traditions that bear witness to a well-organized social, rural, semi-nomadic realm.

**Country:** Iran (Islamic Republic of)  
**Category of site:** Cultural site  
**Date of inscription:** 2021  
**Criteria:** (iii)(v)

### Criterion (v)

The Cultural Landscape of Hawraman/Uramanat constitutes an outstanding example of human interaction with, and adaptation to, the surrounding environment. In the high Zagros Mountains, a challenging setting where there is little fertile soil, the Hawrami people, through a skillful application of agricultural technology and an enlightened ecological world view, have developed an extraordinary semi-nomadic agropastoral way of life. They have successfully created an efficient, harmonious, and sustainable socio-economic system.

(Source: <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1647/>)



General View of Valley  
 © Saeed Hassan Rashedi



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