

WHITRAP NEWSLETTER

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



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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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NETWORK FOR URBAN HERITAGE CONSERVATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS (UHC-HEI)

Marie-Noël Tournoux, WHITRAP Shanghai

1. Background

Urban Heritage Conservation and Education

In the area of heritage conservation, the lack of adequate competency and capacity at all levels is constantly highlighted on a daily basis by professionals or people active in the field as well as by UN Organisations, at international summits and committees such as the World Heritage Committee, or the World Urban Forums, to name a few, and more recently at the UNESCO World Conference on Culture and Arts Education (Abu Dhabi 2024) as priority challenges to be urgently addressed.

This lack of competency is not only true in the area of heritage conservation but also in the area of urban-rural development design and regeneration approaches, where the dichotomy between conservation and development still prevails. Even though the understanding of the crucial role of culture and heritage in managing change has increased in the past decades, there is still a long way to go in actually integrating heritage in development processes, not only in doing no harm to it but to leapfrog to another stage, by understanding heritage as a solution, by understanding the intrinsic qualities of heritage, its resilience, the relevance of historic, ingenious systems as functional contemporary references for conceiving alternative heritage-led development approaches and long-term strategies. The overarching principle is the well-being of people, and improving the quality of life, which is at the core of the UN Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Educational systems

Urban heritage conservation is interlinked with the conservation of tangible, intangible, cultural and natural heritage and relates to a multitude of stakeholders, areas, disciplines, skills, technologies, socio-economic environments, and legal frameworks. There is an existing substantial diversity of education traditions, systems and values in the different regions of the world and a wealth of approaches within them for urban-rural heritage conservation or which are relevant for urban-rural heritage conservation and qualitative heritage values led urban-rural development. Some educational systems are provided by higher education institutions, in a diversity of disciplines, whilst some are provided outside higher education institutions through traditional knowledge systems. Some mainly target students, others target professionals in lifelong learning processes. What, for

whom, how, where and when is education delivered, is however not sufficiently well known, mapped out systematically or studied as a topic per se.

Network for Urban Heritage Conservation in Higher Education Institutions (UHC-HEI)

The UHC-HEI Network was set up to address these issues. Its overall agenda is setting new directions in the area of Education, Research and Action focusing on How we teach, What we teach, With and for whom, and eventually Where. It aims to bring together and strengthen cooperation with and among universities, higher education institutions and relevant stakeholders who share a strategic interest in education, research, action and internationalisation in the field of urban heritage conservation and sustainable development.

It is designed as a loose network, a voluntary membership, an international platform and was established in Shanghai, China, on 27 September 2023 at the **International Conference on Urban Heritage Conservation and Design for Sustainable Development and International Network for Urban Heritage Conservation in Higher Education Institutions (UHC-HEI)** initiated by the World Heritage Institute of Training and Research for the Asia and the Pacific Region, Shanghai Centre (WHITRAP Shanghai) and the College of Architecture and Urban Planning (CAUP), Tongji University. Its principles were set forth in the **Shanghai Initiative on Urban Heritage Conservation and Design for Sustainable Development and Roadmap for Urban Heritage Conservation in Higher Education Institutions** adopted by the participants who agreed on the relevance of setting up an international network.

International Policy Dialogue on the Role of Culture

In the past two decades, UNESCO has endeavoured to promote the importance of Culture in the Development Agenda at the UN level, in its Programme and through a set of normative instruments, Recommendations, Conventions, or strategic frameworks and global policies.

After consolidating a corpus of Cultural Conventions in the past 25 to 50 years, in 2022, with the UNESCO World Conference on Cultural Policies and Sustainable Development – MONDIACULT 2022, the Organization reinvested itself in the global policy dialogue in the field of culture, building on its mandate and expertise to strengthen and foster multilateral cooperation

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and action as well as ensuring stronger cooperation between its Culture and Education Sectors.

UNESCO comprehends Arts fields and Culture in a very broad way and reflects on their role as levers for fostering sustainable development, where Arts Education, as stated in the background document to the 2006 Lisbon "World Conference on Arts Education", can be understood as a possible means to "enhance learning in other subjects. Whereas the possible relevance of teaching Art is "for the body of knowledge, skills and values to be derived from it".

The more recent policy documents, roadmaps and frameworks include heritage conservation in the discussion, referring, as mentioned previously, to several standard-setting UNESCO documents, Conventions and Recommendations, including the corpus of cultural Conventions and the 2011 *Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape* (HUL) amongst others as well as the *New Urban Agenda* adopted at Habitat III Quito, 2016 and of course the *UN 2030 Agenda*. They also all address the use of new technologies as a means to achieve the targeted goals.

In terms of stakeholders, the acknowledgement of Indigenous communities, the promotion of underrepresented heritage, and the relevance of traditional knowledge systems and beliefs have definitively become part of priority concerns, particularly in the past decades through the implementation of the World Heritage Convention, the Intangible Heritage Convention, the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of Cultural Expression to stick to the area of heritage.

The paradigm shift applies equally to the understanding of heritage in general and of urban heritage, in particular, to break the divide between conservation and development and consider heritage as a solution.

Monitoring access to education

A recurring concern, and particularly coming from the field of Education is monitoring the diversity of educational models, whether formal or informal, access to education or its effectiveness amongst many other areas and to achieve this is the challenge of accessing data.

2. UNESCO World Conference on Culture and Arts Education (WCCAE2024), 13-15 February 2024

From 13 to 15 February 2024, UNESCO organized an intergovernmental conference at the Ministry level "World Conference on Culture and Arts Education (WCCAE 2024)", hosted by the Government of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Ministry of Culture and the Department of Tourism and Culture of Abu Dhabi.

UNESCO WCCAE 2024's purpose was to adopt the UNESCO Framework for Culture and Arts Education which provides a new roadmap to address the fast-evolving changes of the past decades and further broadens the understanding of culture and its role – from heritage to the cultural and creative industries to digital transformation and needs for a "new contract for education".

The WCCAE 2024 referred mainly to the principles and frameworks developed by UNESCO in the two world conferences mentioned before related to Culture Arts Education in Lisbon 2006 and Seoul 2010 and the outcomes of the Cultural Policies and Sustainable Development – MONDIACULT 2022 Document adopted in Mexico.

The intergovernmental conference, convened nearly 1000 participants from 125 countries, including 90 Ministers and Vice Ministers of Culture and Education as well as numerous observers from civil society from all over the world, the academic world, including UNESCO Chairs, artists, teachers, learners, youth, heads of cultural and educational institutions, the private sectors and organizations such as UNESCO Category 2 Centres or ICOMOS, who discussed how to integrate culture and arts into education.

WCCAE was organized into 7 Thematic Sessions:

- 1) Equitable access to culture and arts education
- 2) Quality and relevant lifelong and life-wide learning in, through and with cultural diversity
- 3) Skills to shape resilient, just and sustainable futures
- 4) Institutionalization and valorization of culture and arts education ecosystems
- 5) Culture and arts education through digital technologies and artificial intelligence (AI)
- 6) Partnerships and financing in support of culture and arts education
- 7) Monitoring, research and data

Both hosts co-chaired the conference and its rapporteur was the President of the Korea Arts and Culture Education Service Category 2 Centre. 12 Vice Chairs from the UNESCO Regional Member States Electoral Groups were elected. Representatives from Columbia, Cuba, the Democratic Republic of Congo, France, Indonesia, Iraq, Portugal, Kuwait, Latvia, the Republic of Korea, Romania, and Sierra Leone formed the Bureau, which took stock of the progress of the Conference.

On the first day's plenary session, the two UNESCO Assistant General for Culture and Education presented the UNESCO Framework, the process of its development, its objectives and vision.

The last day was dedicated to summarizing the past-day thematic sessions and side events discussing and adopting the Framework, which was adopted by acclamation on Thursday 15 February 2024.

The Rapporteur to the Conference in her summary, referred to the words of one of the Ministers attending the conference to illustrate the importance of culture:

"Why are we trying to justify the need for Culture and Arts Education, we don't do that for physics mathematics or geography, indeed the possible impact of Culture and Arts Education is well known and documented today".

In the closing ceremony of the WCCAE, Audrey Azoulay, Director General of UNESCO announced the following steps to implement the Framework.

The new initiative relies on three main pillars. It will provide grants to those that implement exceptional practices for arts education in each region. It will engage teachers – in particular those in the more than 12,000 UNESCO Associated Schools. Educators who design and deliver effective pedagogies for arts education will be allocated international mobility grants. In addition, the programme will support African States through experts' visits, knowledge sharing and Technical and Vocation Education and Training (TVET).

As the Conference was a formal intergovernmental UNESCO conference, interpretation in the 6 official UNESCO languages, French, English, Spanish, Chinese, Arabic and Russian was provided. The working documents were in French and English. The Framework is available in all the above-mentioned languages.

UNESCO will prepare and distribute a formal summary report of the UNESCO WCCAE 2024 in the coming months.



The entire Conference was live-streamed and webcasted, the videos are available online at

<https://unescoconferenceabudhabi2024.com/event>

Contributions of WHITRAP Shanghai and the College of Architecture and Urban Planning (CAUP) of Tongji University to the WCCAE

WHITRAP Shanghai, as a Category 2 Centre, was formally invited by UNESCO. Following the 26-28 September 2023 "International Conference on Urban Heritage Conservation and Design for Sustainable Development and International Network for Urban Heritage Conservation in Higher Education Institutions" organized by WHITRAP Shanghai and the College of Architecture and Urban Planning (CAUP) of Tongji University, UNESCO encouraged WHITRAP Shanghai and CAUP to submit a proposal to organize a side event and attend in person the Conference.

Prior to the Conference, WHITRAP Shanghai as a Category 2 Centre was invited by UNESCO to participate in the Framework for Arts and Education preparatory consultation process and attend the WCCAE.

Marie-Noël Tournoux, Project Director of WHITRAP Shanghai, Prof. Plácido González Martínez, Professor at CAUP of Tongji University, Distinguished Researcher at University of Seville and WHITRAP Project Advisor, both attended the WCCAE 2024.



Intervention in the Thematic Sessions of WCCA 2024

The WCCA provided a platform to present the WHITRAP Shanghai and CAUP UHC-HEI Network in the Observers allotted time in two of the 7 Thematic Sessions of the WCCA, in **Session 3 on "Skills to Shape Resilient, Just and Sustainable Futures"** and in **Session 6 on "Partnerships and Financing in Support of Culture and Arts Education"**, with a common aim to contribute to the new UNESCO Framework for Culture and Arts Education.

In his intervention, Prof. Plácido González Martínez presented the UHC-HEI Network and provided background to its setting up. He stressed the need for international cooperation and exchange in higher education, in order to face global challenges in the field of urban and rural heritage conservation. He recalled that these challenges, as expressed by the UNESCO *Recommendation on Historic Urban Landscapes*, can be identified at multiple levels and include tourism, speed of development and climate change. He continued by referring to higher education institutions and universities working to address these problems all over the world. Yet, he noted, the intrinsic challenge that the sector finds is the possibility that future professionals currently learning in the classrooms lack the theoretical fundamentals and the practical skills to provide long-term, sustainable responses. He further underlined how this added to a notorious gap in knowledge about educational experiences put into practice in different countries by institutions that may

face similar problems. For this reason, he highlighted the **importance of developing platforms to exchange experiences on training, as well as learn from each other beyond the geographical, cultural and social constraints of each situation.**

In his final comments, he underlined how the exchange that WHITRAP and Tongji University started through an inaugural conference in September 2023 confirmed the need to know from other experiences. In particular, the idea of incorporating traditional knowledge and knowledge holders into the higher education systems. He recalled how in this first dialogue, all parts highlighted the importance of learning about methods, study plans, and initiatives in the fields of research, teaching and action, allowing the transfer of knowledge from experienced partners to novel ones and vice versa, from South to North and East to West, in a platform that can contribute to the global forward-looking reflection on culture and arts education.

Marie-Noël Tournoux's core message was on "Keeping Stones and Keeping Souls". She underlined the **importance of inventing new educational research and action approaches for a new development culture based on integrating culture and heritage as solutions for reaching sustainability.** She recalled how the past decades had witnessed a major paradigm shift in our understanding of the important role of culture and heritage, cultural and natural, intangible and tangible, immovable and immovable heritage as crucial components in the wide world discussion on sustainable development.

She continued by highlighting how too often still, heritage and culture are encircled by boundaries. Protective zoning creates isolated islands in urban, rural or natural environments. Sectorial zoning in terms of heritage and culture is restricted to "cultural affairs". Economic zoning in terms of limiting heritage to the tourism economy and its commodification. Symbolic zoning in terms of transforming cultural diversity into publicity. Considering traditional knowledge systems as valuable but not enough to be integrated with the "real life" economic chain. She insisted furthermore on how heritage and culture are not integrated enough in education systems, training, competency building, and empowering traditional knowledge holders. She then continued by presenting the UHC-HEI Network to the audience of the session and how WHITRAP Shanghai and CAUP endeavour to address the theory and practice of both urban-rural conservation and development and educational practices through the setting up of the Network.

Side event on "Re-shaping Education for and through Cultural Heritage: Setting Global Networks and Disseminating Good Practices for Urban Sustainable Development" 14 February 2024

WHITRAP Shanghai and CAUP jointly co-organized with ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on Education and Training (ICOMOS-CIF) and the Ibero-American Network of UNESCO Chairs, a side event on "Re-shaping Education for and through Cultural Heritage: Setting global networks and disseminating good practices for urban sustainable development" held on 14 February from 13h30-15h30.

There were 18 offline and 17 online events. At the invitation of UNESCO, this side event federated WHITRAP Shanghai and CAUP, with ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on Education and Training (ICOMOS-CIF) and the Ibero-American Network of UNESCO Chairs as all partners addressed heritage.

In the form of a panel discussion, the side event focused on education for the protection and conservation of cultural heritage in particular urban-rural heritage and its influence in sustainable development. It presented the activities, guidelines, and research of the organizers as well as education principles and urban heritage conservation projects in Asia, the Gulf, and South America. It was followed by a lively discussion with an international audience.

The discussion followed the topics discussed at the initial presentations. The main outcome was the agreement that built heritage, historic sites and cultural landscapes are ideal settings and subjects

for culture and arts education, with the aim to achieve lifelong learning accessible to all. It stated how important it was to start in the early years of education and enable collaboration between schools, universities and other institutions and individuals, in order to achieve a full integration of traditional knowledge and methods with new technologies and new knowledge. The need for more agile exchanges between academia and professionals was also identified as a way to inform and improve current education and training methods and contents, for example, allowing for a better consideration of the diversity of urban heritage, integrating its tangible, intangible, cultural, natural and social values in planning and development strategies, and centred on benefitting people. The important role of local communities in decision-making processes as well as rethinking heritage's contribution to local economies was also highlighted, together with the need to identify who the community is, on a case-by-case basis. Although the opportunity to present the work of the four organizations federated in this event was more limited, the collaboration was certainly beneficial and will be followed up by continuing global collaboration as well as acting locally to face shared challenges.

The key highlights of the side events put forward by the participants as their contribution to WCCA and shared in the WCCA wrap session were the following:

- 1) Supporting research, including, but not limited to, traditional knowledge and modern materials to inform education and training for the conservation of tangible and intangible heritage and its environment.
- 2) Facilitating closer and more agile exchanges and collaboration between academia and professionals.
- 3) Integrating heritage values, tangible and intangible, cultural and natural, outstanding and ordinary heritage in planning and development strategies centred on benefitting people.
- 4) Broadening the focus on long-term youth education
- 5) Shifting towards more community-centric approaches, which involves rethinking the role of local communities in decision-making processes, encouraging participatory planning, and fostering a sense of ownership and pride in the heritage.
- 6) Rethinking conservation should involve a more inclusive approach that considers the cultural diversity of urban heritage. This includes recognizing and preserving intangible cultural heritage, such as traditions, rituals, and oral histories.
- 7) Evaluating the economic aspects of heritage conservation is crucial. Rethinking how heritage contributes to local economies, cultural creative industries, and job creation can help build a stronger case for investing in conservation efforts.



AGENDA

Moderator: Prof. Plácido González Martínez, Professor at CAUP Tongji University and WHITRAP Project Advisor (offline)

“Urban Heritage and Sustainable Urban Development in Higher Education: Re-shaping Education, Research and Action through Culture”. *Speaker:* Marie-Noël Tournoux, Project Director of WHITRAP Shanghai (offline)

“Educating for the Protection and Conservation of Cultural Heritage: ICOMOS CIF Guidelines and Experiences”. *Speaker:* Prof. Cristina González-Longo, President of ICOMOS CIF (online)

“Cultural Heritage as a development tool: Cultural heritage and Education”. *Speaker:* Prof. Paulina Kaplan, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Valparaíso (video)

Round Table:

- Prof. Shao Yong, Executive Director of WHITRAP Shanghai, Professor at CAUP, Tongji University (online)
- Amel Chabbi, Department of Culture & Tourism, Abu Dhabi, Representative of ICOMOS CIF, former ICOMOS Board Member (offline)
- Prof. Mar Loren, University of Seville, Representative of the Network of Ibero-American UNESCO Chairs

Wrap-up. Prof. Plácido González Martínez

8) Rethinking educational approaches in the field of heritage conservation involves incorporating interdisciplinary training, fostering a deeper understanding of cultural significance, and promoting the development of practical skills needed for effective conservation.

The side event is accessible online:

https://pan.baidu.com/s/1GKZPsrxJBhSCoVzh6MB_3w?pwd=6598

Relevance of WCCAE to UHC-HEI

The UNESCO Framework for Culture and Arts Education refers in its Preamble and Introduction and onwards, to Culture as per the definition of MONDIACULT, which refers to heritage but mostly to buildings or heritage sites when referring to places or stakeholders.

Introduction, paragraph 5 states the following: For the purpose of this Framework, culture is defined as the “set of distinctive spiritual, material, intellectual and emotional features that characterize a society or social group, [which] includes not only arts and letters, but also modes of life, the fundamental rights of the human being, value systems, traditions and beliefs” as adopted in the UNESCO MONDIACULT Declarations of 1982 and 2022 and “that culture can be transmitted, expressed and experienced across time and space through words (literature, oral traditions, and language), sound (music, radio, media), images (visual arts, media), movement (dance, theatre), monuments and objects (architecture, design, crafts), digital media of all types, and traditional knowledge (local and Indigenous knowledge systems, living cultural heritage and expressions), among others”.

Urban heritage, territorial approaches, and the Historic Urban Landscape approach are not included per se in the MONDIACULT definition, however, the Framework, in its Preamble, paragraph 7, footnote 1, refers to a body of UNESCO statutory documents such as the World Heritage Convention, the Convention on Intangible Heritage or the HUL Recommendation.

The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the HUL Recommendation both advocate the importance of culture and heritage as key components to foster new approaches for more sustainable and qualitative development. Goal 11.4 focuses on Cities and Heritage Goal 4.3 focuses on access to Higher Education for all and 4.7 on “appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture’s overall contribution to a

just society and healthy planet”. Whereas the HUL Recommendation, in its Section V on “Capacity-building, research, information”, paragraph 26 advocates “Research should target the complex layering of urban settlements, in order to identify values, understand their meaning for the communities, and present them to visitors in a comprehensive manner. Academic and university institutions and other centres of research should be encouraged to develop scientific research on aspects of the Historic Urban Landscape approach and cooperate at the local, national, regional and international levels. It is essential to document the state of urban areas and their evolution, to facilitate the evaluation of proposals for change, and to improve protective and managerial skills and procedures”.

Urban heritage, cultural landscapes, heritage places, heritage values based spatial planning, and intangible and natural heritage values, fit in the broader understanding of culture. This means that the work WHITRAP and CAUP focus on and the UHC-HEI initiative is fully relevant to the reflection on Culture and Arts Education and contribute to supporting the principles of the Framework and implement its roadmap as well as the Lisbon 2006 and Seoul 2010 Roadmaps as described previously.

More information available at

<http://www.whitr-ap.org/?classid=1461&newsid=3627&t=show>

<http://www.whitr-ap.org/?classid=1461&newsid=3490&t=show>

<https://www.unesco.org/en/wccae2024>

3. Cultural Heritage Actions to Refine Training, Education and Roles (CHARTER) Paris Conference, 19 March 2024

Prof. Plácido González Martínez took part on 19 March in the CHARTER Paris Conference, at the Institut National du Patrimoine (INP) - French Heritage National Institute - Paris, France, to know firsthand about the CHARTER project, learn more about CHARTER and promote the UHC-HEI Network. This event was a collaborative effort with ICOMOS, Labex Industries Culturelles & Création Artistique (Université Sorbonne Paris Nord, Paris France) and the INP.

The 4-year project on Cultural Heritage Actions to Refine Training, Education and Roles (CHARTER) started in January 2021 with the aim to detect what were the needs in the cultural heritage sector, to provide advice for the development of ad hoc education curricula and specific policy recommendations for Europe to professionalize the cultural heritage sector.

The objective of the Paris Conference was for the main stakeholders to discuss and gather feedback on the analysis that was undertaken to examine functions, occupational profiles, professional competencies, and education and training schemes in the heritage sector to contribute to the final document.

CHARTER has been very ambitious, and they have a clear usefulness that can serve as inspiration for the study of education on urban heritage at a global level. It can serve as a very inspiring reference for initiatives that the UHC-HEI Network can develop, such as an Observatory.

Attending in person was a very good opportunity to connect with potential partners for UHC-HEI from different institutions and countries as well as with individual experts working in similar research and education initiatives.

<https://charter-alliance.eu/about-us/what/>

4. Urban Heritage Conservation in Higher Education Institutions Network (UHC-HEI) Network Technical online Meeting, 18 March 2024

To follow up on the setting up of the Urban Heritage Conservation in Higher Education Institutions Network (UHC-HEI) launched in September 2023, on 18 March 2024, WHITRAP Shanghai and CAUP, Tongji University, organized a 2-hour online technical meeting to follow up on the establishment of the Network, discuss its aims, objectives, framework, activities and determine a timeline to move forward. Under 40 participants, including scholars from 27 universities and representatives from UNESCO and ICOMOS CIF were invited to discuss collegially.

The meeting allowed us to provide an update on the UHC-HEI Network's progress since it was launched, with more than 20 universities or higher education institutions having expressed their formal interest in joining and above 80 contacts with potential members throughout the world. As well as informing the participants of WHITRAP Shanghai and CAUP's participation in the UNESCO WCCAE in February 2024, which attracted additional interest from universities and institutions. The technical meeting allowed us to focus on the background of the UNESCO policies, including insights on the UNESCO Abu Dhabi Conference and a summary of the side event organized by WHITRAP Shanghai and CAUP. After that, the outline of the key concepts and implementation of the UNESCO Cultural policies were explained.

The March meeting allowed us to further discuss the UHC-HEI Framework and the future activities of the Network, including firstly the organization of the 2nd Workshop, planned as a follow-up to the September 2023 conference and workshop, secondly the UHC-HEI Symposium proposal and finally the prospects of developing a study or observatory on Higher Education based on UNESCO's Framework for Culture and Arts Education.

The 2-hour meeting allowed for rich and lively discussions, reflecting as well on the relevance of international networks as well as engaging in a discussion on key concepts and the future of urban conservation.

The key points that came out of the discussion were the following:



1) Regarding urban heritage conservation in higher education there is a clear need to focus on three questions: Why, How, and For Whom. It is imperative to reconsider the gaps between academic professional and practitioner's environment. What type of education is delivered and should be delivered not only in higher education institutions but also by other stakeholders, and whether there is a need to create a new discipline?

2) Conduct a survey to assess what is the state of the art that involves teachers and students, students who have graduated, professionals and non-professionals, as well as technicians and managers involved in the field of heritage protection and conservation and so on. It will consider geographic nuances and specificities, different objects to better determine the role and function of this international Network.

3) Establishing connections with additional resources and networks, including the ICOMOS University Forum, UNESCO Chairs, Heritopolis Network and others to fill in gaps and strengthen ties instead of duplicating networks. We can aim to organize joint activities, such as workshops.

4) Continue to bolster research in heritage education institutions across the Asia-Pacific region and Africa. Contact details of resource persons are welcomed.

5) Regarding the draft Network framework, the principle of a loose network was welcomed. The importance of developing a 3-year plan as well as a longer-term plan to allow members of the Network to clearly identify how and to what they wish to contribute was highlighted.

6) WHITRAP Shanghai and CAUP confirmed that Tongji University offered to support a Secretariat. Establishing a Scientific Committee was discussed which would be composed of one representative from each institution or organization. Each university or institution was invited to designate one representative and communicate their selection to the Secretariat via e-mail.

7) Next step is to schedule a second technical meeting in June to report on the latest progress and prepare the second workshop in September. This workshop would be the follow-up to last year's September Conference's Session 3 Network kick-off meeting and will also serve as the first meeting of the Scientific Committee.

IN FOCUS

Experts from the National Cultural Heritage Administration came to Suzhou to assess the status of World Cultural Heritage conservation

Jiang Yeqin, Yan Huiyue
WHITRAP Suzhou

From 20 to 21 March 2024, the National Cultural Heritage Administration appointed Yan Haiming, Deputy Director of the China World Cultural Heritage Centre, along with four other experts and Yang Lixia, Deputy Director of the Cultural Preservation Department of the Jiangsu Provincial Cultural Heritage Bureau, to Suzhou to conduct special research on the protection of the Classical Gardens in Suzhou. The field trip was accompanied by the directors of the Heritage Supervision Department of Suzhou Garden and Landscaping Bureau, as well as WHITRAP Suzhou, and members of the Municipal Cultural Heritage Bureau.

Gu Wenhua, Director of the WHITRAP Suzhou, presented a report on the coordination mechanism of Suzhou Classical Gardens management institutions, the cross-departmental collaborative management mechanism, and the development and implementation of monitoring information systems. The participants engaged in a discussion of the most pressing matters about the conservation and renovation projects, the foundation for the demarcation of heritage areas, the implementation of public monitoring, key conservation efforts and major challenges.

The experts also conducted field research on the restoration and maintenance of heritage elements, water environment governance, active utilization and the surrounding construction environment of the Humble Administrator's Garden, Lion Forest Garden, the Garden of Couple's Retreat, the Retreat and Reflection Garden. This research highlighted the importance of the management offices paying special attention to the impact that rail transit construction and

operation may have on the heritage gardens. The specialists praised the overall protection and management of Suzhou Classical Gardens and offered professional advice on future garden protection initiatives.



The 2nd Gansu Dialogue - Sustainable Tourism along the Silk Road was successfully held in Lanzhou, Gansu Province

Lu He (intern)
WHITRAP Beijing



The 2nd Gansu Dialogue - Sustainable Tourism along the Silk Road was successfully held in

Lanzhou, Gansu Province, from 25 to 28 March 2024. Co-organized by the UNESCO Multisectoral Regional Office for East Asia, the World Bank and the Gansu Provincial Department of Culture and Tourism, the conference was themed around topics of "Sustainable Tourism" and the potential for tourism transformation and development in Gansu and other regions. Dr Li Kuanghan, Assistant Director of WHITRAP Beijing, delivered a keynote speech and moderated a panel discussion on the topic of "Cultural Heritage Protection and Tourism Development". The theme aimed to examine the role of tourism in protecting cultural heritage, promoting cultural diversity and enhancing cross-cultural understanding and appreciation.

Zhi-Xing China Global Young Leaders visited WHITRAP Beijing

Ma Lerong (intern)
WHITRAP Beijing



On the morning of 16 April 2024, 9 delegates from the Zhi-Xing China Global Young Leaders Fellowships Programme visited WHITRAP Beijing and discussed "World Heritage and Heritage Protection in China" with Dr Li Kuanghan, Assistant Director of WHITRAP Beijing. At the meeting, Dr Li Kuanghan first introduced the organizational structure and working philosophy of WHITRAP Beijing, and detailed various training, public participation and research projects of WHITRAP Beijing, fully demonstrating

the rich achievements of the Centre in heritage conservation, publicity and education. After the presentation, Dr Li Kuanghan and the delegates had a discussion on heritage conservation, community participation and other related issues.

Delegation of WHITRAP Suzhou visited WHITRAP Beijing

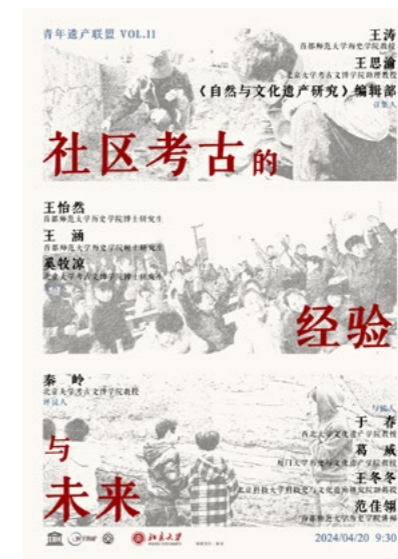
Zhu Xichen (intern)
WHITRAP Beijing

On 17 April 2024, a delegation from WHITRAP Suzhou, including Zhu Haijun, Director of the Heritage Supervision Department of the Suzhou Municipal Garden and Landscape Administration Bureau, Gu Wenhua, Director of WHITRAP Suzhou, Ni Lexian, Deputy Director of WHITRAP Suzhou, and Jiang Yeqin, Office Manager of WHITRAP Suzhou, visited WHITRAP Beijing. Zhang Jianwei, Executive Deputy Director of WHITRAP Beijing and Associate Dean of PKU School of Archaeology and Museology, Li Dihua, Deputy Director of WHITRAP Beijing and Associate Dean of the PKU College of Architecture and Landscape, Li Kuanghan, Assistant Director of WHITRAP Beijing, and Lina Park, Programme Specialist of WHITRAP Beijing, attended the meeting.

During the meeting, delegates from WHITRAP Suzhou presented their current status, organizational structure, and work plans. Both parties acknowledged the high degree of public participation in heritage conservation in Suzhou. The Beijing representatives emphasised the importance of nurturing talent in the conservation of Suzhou Classical Gardens, stressing the need for technical expertise, interdisciplinary insight and international exposure. The meeting stimulated lively discussions on how to strengthen future cooperation, resulting in a consensus on further collaboration.

The Youth Heritage Alliance Salon vol.11 "The Experiences and Future of Community Archaeology"

Li Ziyi (intern)
WHITRAP Beijing



On 20 April 2024, the Youth Heritage Alliance Salon vol.11, hosted by WHITRAP Beijing, was successfully held. The event was themed "Experiences and Future of Community Archaeology" and was convened by Wang Siyu, Director of PKU CAAGP and Assistant Professor of PKU School of Archaeology and Museology, Wang Tao, Professor at the School of History of Capital Normal University, and the editorial office of *Study on Natural and Cultural Heritage*. Building upon practical experiences in community archaeology, the salon discussed the latest developments in the field both domestically and internationally, the development of community archaeology, and the potential for future growth. The salon featured presentations by three doctoral and master's students from Chinese cultural heritage institutions and was also involved with experts, scholars, and university students in archaeology, cultural heritage and museology.

Salon on Urban Heritage Conservation and Public Participation

Zhu Xichen (intern)
WHITRAP Beijing



On 20 April 2024, the Salon on Urban Heritage Conservation and Public Participation was held at the October Literature Academy in Dongcheng District, Beijing. The Beijing Municipal Cultural Heritage Bureau and WHITRAP Beijing hosted the salon. Li Kuanghan, Assistant Director of WHITRAP Beijing, moderated the salon. Song Feng, Associate Professor of the PKU College of Urban and Environmental Sciences and Deputy Director of WHITRAP Beijing, began the discussion by sharing how to interpret urban and rural heritage using morphological approaches. Dr Shikha Jain, Vice Chairman of the International Scientific Committees of ICOMOS, presented the conservation of the World Heritage Site Jaipur City in India. Zhang Jianwei, Executive Deputy Director of WHITRAP Beijing and Associate Dean of the PKU School of Archaeology and Museology, gave a talk on "Pathways of Public Engagement in Heritage Monitoring", providing an in-depth review of the volunteer public monitoring activities on the Beijing section of the Grand Canal organized by WHITRAP Beijing.

SEAMEO SPAFA-WHITRAP Training Workshop on Heritage Impact Assessments was held in Melaka

Li Hong, Yu Huanglei (intern)
WHITRAP Shanghai



The Training Workshop on Heritage Impact Assessment: Principles, Methodology and Mitigation Measures was successfully held in Melaka Malaysia, from 22-26 April 2024. The workshop was organized by SEAMEO Regional Centre for Archaeology and Fine Arts (SEAMEO SPAFA) and Department of National Heritage, Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture, Malaysia (DNH), co-organized by WHITRAP Shanghai, National University of Singapore, DNLF Heritage Studies Centre of KMITL. 32 participants from 11 countries (Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam) and 12 resource persons joined the workshop. Ms Li Hong, Project Director of WHITRAP Shanghai, was invited as a resource person. Prof. Shao Yong, Executive Director of WHITRAP Shanghai made a closing address.

The overall objectives, principles, methodology, evaluation, and mitigation measures of Heritage Impact Assessments (HIA) were elaborated step by step by the resource people in the first four days. Three hypothetical projects of Melaka World Heritage were used to undertake the Heritage Impact Assessments on the ground. In addition, the context of implementing HIA in World Heritage,

Malaysia, Singapore, Hong Kong China, Thailand, Indonesia, and Pakistan, was shared through vivid cases. The practice of HIA in Southeast Asia countries is imbalanced. However, the consensus that Heritage Impact Assessments are tools and processes to manage change to sustainable development, is reached. More good practices, pilots of different types of heritage, templates, and Guidelines of policy documents to facilitate HIA of implementation from heritage authorities to professionals are strongly requested.

SEAMEO SPAFA is an intergovernmental Southeast Asia sub-regional organization and WHITRAP Shanghai will continue the collaboration on the theme of Heritage Impact Assessments, urban heritage, and other World Heritage matters.



The First Suzhou Youth Garden Model Creative Competition was successfully held

Jiang Yeqin, Yan Huiyue
WHITRAP Suzhou

On 18 May 2024, "The First Suzhou Youth Garden Model Creative Competition" was successfully held at Suzhou Labor Road Experimental Primary School. The Suzhou Garden and Landscaping Bureau, the Suzhou Education Bureau, the Suzhou Science and Technology Association co-sponsored the event, which was hosted by WHITRAP Suzhou. The competition, themed "Strive to be the guardian of ancient architecture, Jiangnan is a picture scroll", lasted two days and consisted of 10 competition categories such as individual, team, and creative competitions. A total of 4118 students from Suzhou's 215 elementary and high schools registered for the contest under the guidance of 571 teachers.

The competition was designed to cultivate an innovative mindset and practical abilities among the young people, facilitate a comprehensive understanding of the wisdom and essence of Suzhou traditional garden design, and expand their professional knowledge of the form, structure and construction of ancient traditional gardens from the perspective of modern technology and application scenarios. Furthermore, the competition aimed to raise young people's awareness of heritage protection and foster a sense of appreciation and respect for Suzhou's ancient buildings, thereby producing the next generation of Suzhou gardeners and cultural heritage guardians.



Tai Kwun Conversation

Ma Lerong (intern)
WHITRAP Beijing



On 20 May 2024, Dr Li Kuanghan, Assistant Director of WHITRAP Beijing, gave a thematic lecture at Tai Kwun and conducted a dialogue with Dr Richard Engelhardt, former UNESCO Regional Advisor for Culture for Asia and the Pacific. Dr Li's presentation, entitled "Reviving the Past: Interpretation and Uses of Heritage in Urban and Rural China", used case studies to explore how, in an era of increasing urbanisation, widening urban-rural disparities and deepening integration of culture and tourism, we can integrate urban and rural heritage into broader sustainable development goals through the interpretation and use of cultural resources.

The Youth Heritage Alliance Salon vol. 12 "Heritage and Innovation at the Junction of Urban and Rural Areas"

Li Ziyi (intern)
WHITRAP Beijing

On 25 May 2024, the 12th Youth Heritage Alliance Salon, organized by WHITRAP Beijing and co-organized by the PKU Centre for Anthropology and Folklore Studies, was successfully held. The salon was themed "Heritage and Innovation at the Junction of Urban and Rural Areas" and convened by Dr Li Kuanghan, Assistant Director

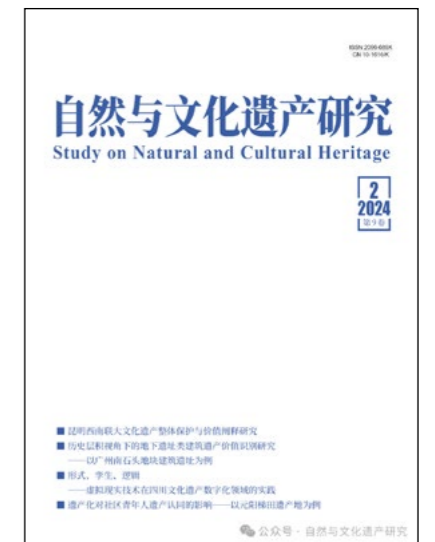
of WHITRAP Beijing, and Zhang Lisheng, Assistant Professor at the PKU Department of Sociology. Eight scholars and doctoral students from domestic and international higher institutions in cultural heritage, archaeology and anthropology, attended the salon. Based on a multidisciplinary approach and within the framework of urban-rural relations, the presentations explored the latest developments in heritage conservation in China's ever-changing urban and rural landscape. The discussions encompassed various case studies, including industrial heritage, rural customs, community development, urban renewal and folk museums.

The salon was also attended by Wang Siyu, Director of PKU CAAGP and Assistant Professor at PKU School of Archaeology and Museology, and Lina Park, Programme Specialist of WHITRAP Beijing.



Publishing of the 2024 second issue of Study on Natural and Cultural Heritage

Lu He (intern)
WHITRAP Beijing

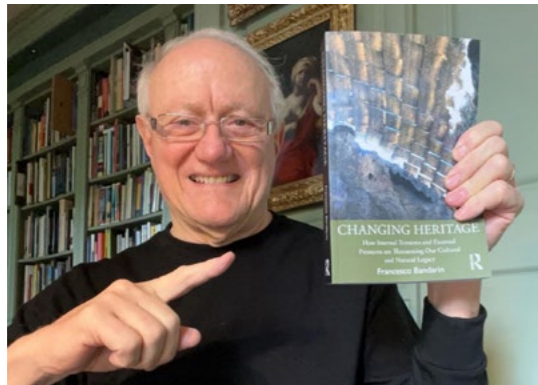


The 2024 second issue of *Study on Natural and Cultural Heritage* was published in May 2024. This multi-thematic issue includes topics such as historical preservation and value interpretation of cultural heritage, historical layering, digitization of cultural heritage, heritage identity of young people, heritagization strategy, and the balance between the protection and development of historic conservation areas. It also includes analyses of the conservation and re-use of post-war modernist architectural heritage and the protection and management of Huizeyuan, a higher education building in Kunming. The results of these analyses would facilitate relevant research.

BOOK RECOMMENDATION

CHANGING HERITAGE: HOW INTERNAL TENSIONS AND EXTERNAL PRESSURES ARE THREATENING OUR CULTURAL AND NATURAL LEGACY

Collected by **Luo Xi**
WHITRAP Shanghai



Changing Heritage presents the most comprehensive analysis of heritage issues available today. Critically analysing the complexity of the current and forthcoming issues faced by heritage, it presents insightful directions for the future.

Drawing on the author's many years of experience working in senior positions at UNESCO, the book presents discussions of heritage sites all around the world. Today, our cultural and natural legacies face significant threats due to social and economic developments, political pressures, and unresolved historical issues. This book delves into these threats from two distinct perspectives: internal tensions and external pressures. The internal tensions include the disregard for human rights and gender equality; the increasing exploitation of heritage for political purposes; the development of postcolonial perspectives; and the necessity to reassess the established notion of "universal value." External pressures stem from global processes, unsustainable tourism, political conflicts, ethnic clashes, and religious strife that are causing destruction in numerous parts of the world. Examining the dynamics between heritage and these internal tensions

and external pressures, Bandarin offers insights into the challenges faced and emphasises the imperative role of civil society in safeguarding the value of heritage for present and future generations.

Changing Heritage explores a wide range of issues surrounding the crisis in heritage management on an international level. It will be essential reading for heritage scholars, students, and professionals.

Francesco Bandarin (Venice, Italy, 1950) is an Architect and Planner specialised in urban conservation. From 2000 to 2010 he was Director of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre and from 2010 to 2018 he served as Assistant Director-General of UNESCO for Culture. He is Special Advisor to ICCROM, Member of the Advisory Committee of the Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage, and Founding Member of OurWorldHeritage. He teaches at SciencesPo in Paris and advises governments and heritage conservation projects internationally.

Name of the book:
**CHANGING HERITAGE:
How Internal Tensions and
External Pressures are
Threatening our Cultural
and Natural Legacy**

Authors:
Francesco Bandarin

Publisher:
Routledge

Publishing year:
2024

ISBN:
978-1-032-73253-4 (hbk)
978-1-032-71393-9 (pbk)
978-1-003-46330-6 (ebk)

Name of the book:
《中国当代可持续建筑》

Authors:
**Françoise Ged & Héloïse Le
Carrer**, translated by **Peng
Liang**

Publisher:
**China Architecture &
Building Press**

Publishing year:
2023

ISBN:
9787112280155

BOOK RECOMMENDATION

ARCHITECTURES EN CHINE AUJOURD'HUI, DÉMARCHES ÉCO RESPONSABLES (CHINESE VERSION)

Marie-Noel Tournoux
WHITRAP Shanghai



It presents 42 fully illustrated small-scale and large-scale projects implemented between 2001 and 2018, in rural areas as well as in major large Chinese metropolis. They range from community-focused initiatives, reconstruction and heritage-focused projects, urban regeneration as well as incentives to rehabilitate traditional building techniques in contemporary design.

The book not only highlights qualitative designs but also the philosophy driving the implementation of each project focusing on people and places. The last chapter provides a series of interviews of key players.

《中国当代可持续建筑》, the Chinese version of **Architectures en Chine aujourd'hui, démarches éco responsables** (Sustainable Architecture in China Today) was released in June 2023.

Written by architects Françoise Ged and Héloïse Le Carrer, this book summarizes what the authors have observed over the years about urban planning and sustainable construction in China. It was translated by Peng Liang and published by China Architecture and Building Press with the support of the Chan Cheung Mun Chung Charitable Fund, Hong Kong.

Designed for an international and Chinese audience, this book showcases highly innovative projects and approaches in China by key Chinese architects and planners, which break away from one-size-fits-all practices. It aims to present to professionals and the general public alike, an initiative striving to preserve natural resources, to bridge the nature-culture divide, to enhance traditional know-how, and to improve quality of life through eco-friendly architecture and creative design.

Françoise Ged, sinologist and architect, is Head of the Observatoire de l'architecture de la Chine contemporaine, Cité de l'Architecture et du Patrimoine, France (Observatory of contemporary architecture in China, Centre for Heritage and Architecture, France) has long-standing partnerships with practitioners, teachers and researchers in China.

Héloïse Le Carrer, architecte at dRMM architects office, London, UK, has studied and conducted research in China in the past few years.

Peng Liang is Associate Professor at the School of Architecture, Tianjin University. She holds a PhD in Geographical Development from the University of Paris. Her study area is Cultural Landscape. She lived in France for 7 years.

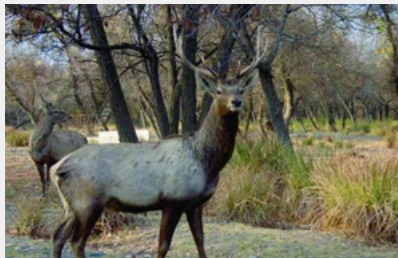
WORLD HERITAGE IN ASIA & PACIFIC

TUGAY FORESTS OF THE TIGROVAYA BALKA NATURE RESERVE

Collected by **Yang Kaiyue** (intern), WHITRAP Shanghai

Country: Tajikistan
Category of site: Natural site
Date of inscription: 2023
Criteria: (ix)

(Source: <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1685/>)



Bactrian deer (*Cervus elaphus bactrianus*)
 © N. Marmazinskya



Wetlands near the Brick Lake cordon © F. Rakhimov

OUV

The Tugay Forests of the Tigrovaya Balka Nature Reserve is located in the interfluvium of the Vakhsh and Panj rivers in southwestern Tajikistan at the border of Afghanistan. The confluence continues as the Amu Darya, the largest river in Central Asia, running to the Aral Sea. The Reserve includes extensive riparian tugay ecosystems, the sandy Kashka-Kum desert, the Buritau peak, as well as the low (1,000-1,200 m a.s.l.) mountains of the southern spurs of the Aruktau range – the Hodja-Kaziyon mountains. The area of the Tigrovaya Balka Nature Reserve is 49,786 hectares and its buffer zone is 17,672 hectares. The property is composed of a series of floodplain terraces covered by alluvial soils, comprising tugay riverine forests with very specific biodiversity in the valley. Significantly, the property preserves a natural Asiatic poplar tugay vegetation complex.

Criterion (ix)

The natural complex of Tigrovaya Balka is an outstanding example of continuous ecological and biological processes taking place in the evolution and development of desert-tugay biocenoses and their characteristic plant and animal communities. The reserve hosts various ecological units, not only tugay lowland forests, but also steppe and semi-desert areas and their various ecotones where many stenoeceous species of flora are found. The reserve's forests, sandy and saline semi-deserts, piedmont semi-savannas, and various wetlands



Canyon-shaped valley of the temporary stream flowing into the Vakhsh River
 © A. Butorin

are dynamically adapting to changes in the hydrological regime of the territory. There are several habitats in the reserve: tugay riverine forests, freshwater bodies and marshes, semi-deserts, takirs and solonchaks.

The complex features water-resistant and thermophilic, salt-tolerant trees and shrubs such as the Asiatic Poplar or Blue Poplar, the Dzhida or Oleaster, the Multiramose Tamarix. Wildlife includes Bactrian Deer, whose population in the reserve exceeds 300; Goitered Gazelle, Striped Hyena, Gray Monitor, Tajik Black-and-gold Pheasant, and many waterfowl, completing the largely intact tugay ecosystem. The 24,100 hectares of tugay forests in the reserve represent the largest and most intact tugay forest of this type in Central Asia, and this is the only place in the world where the Asiatic poplar tugay ecosystem has been preserved in its original state over an area of this size.

TRANS-IRANIAN RAILWAY

Collected by **Yang Kaiyue** (intern), WHITRAP Shanghai

OUV

The Trans-Iranian Railway connects the Caspian Sea in the northeast with the Persian Gulf in the southwest crossing two mountain ranges as well as rivers, highlands, forests and plains, and four different climatic areas. Started in 1927 and completed in 1938, the 1,394-kilometre-long railway was designed and executed in a successful collaboration between the Iranian government and 43 construction contractors from many countries. The railway is notable for its scale and the engineering work it required to overcome steep routes and other difficulties. Its construction involved extensive mountain cutting in some areas, while the rugged terrain in others dictated the construction of 174 large bridges, 186 small bridges and 224 tunnels, including 11 spiral tunnels. Unlike most early railway projects, the construction of the Trans-Iranian Railway was funded by national taxes to avoid foreign investment and control.

Criterion (ii)

The Trans-Iranian Railway is the living manifestation of the multi-faceted interchange of human values, represented by the application of railway skills and experience in railway construction, leading to the emergence of a mixed Iranian-Western architectural style. The Trans-Iranian Railway boosted the economy and trade by speeding up transportation, which led to the revival of cultural-historical routes such as the Silk Road and the Spice Route at a specific period in contemporary history in Central and West Asia during the early 20th century. This practice was later expanded to European countries. The Trans-Iranian Railway also served to connect the Persian Gulf to the Caspian Sea.

In addition, at the time it was built, the Trans-Iranian Railway promoted exemplary project management, which was achieved as a result of the successful working relations established between the Iranian Government, the project managers and the 40 Iranian or international



South line, Lorestan, Bisheh-Dorud route, Freight Train (GM Locomotive) © Hossein Javadi

companies established in 43 construction zones en route with a deployed workforce of over 65,000 engineers, office staff members and labourers.

Located in a mountainous landscape, the Trans-Iranian Railway proved an outstanding tool for solving unexpected problems, an achievement owing to the international breadth of experience that was applied in its construction, enabling the Trans-Iranian Railway project, overall, to stay on time and on budget.

Criterion (iv)

The Trans-Iranian Railway is a fine example of a technological and architectural ensemble representing



South line, Lorestan, Chamsangar Region, Commuter Passenger Train (GM Locomotive) © Hossein Javadi

Country: Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Category of site: Cultural site
Date of inscription: 2021
Criteria: (ii) (iv)

major stages of long-term development of human, technical and economic activities as early as the 20th century, in Western Asia. It played a unique role in the modernization of Iran. This role was firstly maintained through the function of the Trans-Iranian Railway in importing and domesticating Western technologies, secondly through national financing, enabling and also managing construction activities and their implementation, and finally through its unique impact on the country's social, economic, and cultural spheres. It has also caused a huge increase in trade, and cultural and economic relations between different regions within Iran and between Iran and other countries of the region. Thus, it has marked a significant and decisive stage in the process of the historical development of Iran and other countries of the region. This altogether paved the way for later communication and transportation activities with many parts of the world. The Trans-Iranian Railway is the embodiment of the creative usage of various technologies aimed at gaining access to plains, highlands, forests and coastal regions at both ends of the country and linking the northern and southern shores of Iran.

(Source: <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1585/>)

Cover page: North line, Zarrindasht-Mahabad route, Commuter Passenger Train (GM Locomotive) © Hossein Javadi