AAHM is a network of institutions throughout the Asia-Pacific region that offers professional training in the field of cultural heritage management. The mission of the AAHM is to strengthen professional capacity to sustainably manage heritage resources by providing a regional platform for institutional cooperation in education, training, and research. Under the guidance of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Heritage (ICCROM), AAHM promotes integrated, holistic and multi-disciplinary management of heritage resources, including both tangible and intangible expressions of culture.

Message from the Secretariat

Welcome to this year’s first edition of the Asian Academy for Heritage Management Newsletter. We would like to thank those who submitted news and articles for their contributions. Please print and post this newsletter to allow all staff and students to read it. The secretariat is now accepting articles, news, research announcements and events for our next issue. Please submit all items to us at asian-academy@unescobkk.org.

AAHM News

AAHM Research Conference Proceedings

The proceedings from the first AAHM Research Conference that was held in Bangkok on 3 and 4 October 2006 has now been published.

The conference was held under the theme of "Asian Approaches to Conservation". A total of 24 research papers categorized under the sub-themes of (i) application of legal policy frameworks for conservation, (ii) innovative technologies in conservation, and (iii) linking indigenous knowledge and heritage management, as well as the contact details are included in the proceedings. If you wish to purchase a copy, please contact Dr Pinraj Khanjanusthiti at Kpinraj@chula.ac.th.

International Conference on “Evolution and Rehabilitation of the Asian Shophouse”

Hong Kong SAR, China, 10–12 May 2007

Given the urgent need to face the challenges of development and conservation of the shophouse in the Asia-Pacific region and in order to foster interdisciplinary academic exchange among experts and professionals in this field, the Antiquities and Monuments Office (AMO) of the Hong Kong SAR, China, in collaboration with the UNESCO-ICCROM Asian Academy for Heritage Management (AAHM) with sponsorship from the Lord Wilson Heritage Trust held an international conference under the theme of “Evolution and Rehabilitation of the Asian Shophouse”, from 10 to 12 May 2007 in Hong Kong SAR, China.

Under the overall theme of “Evolution and Rehabilitation of the Asian Shophouse” the conference addressed three areas (i) the origin of the shophouse and its influence on and from other cultures, (ii) social, economic, political and administrative factors affecting the development and conservation of shophouse in Asia, (iii) case studies on the conservation of shophouse in the context of urban renewal or urban redevelopment.

For more information, please visit our website at http://www.unescobkk.org/index.php?id=5589 or contact Mr Joseph Chow, AMO, at clchow@lcsd.gov.hk.

Field School on “Cultural Impact Assessment & Maritime Archaeology”

Galle, Sri Lanka, 1–9 April 2007

©UNESCO Bangkok

Organizers: Postgraduate Institute of Archaeology of the University of Kelaniya (Sri Lanka), Central Cultural Fund (Sri Lanka), Flinders University (Australia)
The Field School offered 18 staff and advanced students from AAHM member institutions from eight countries the opportunity to study heritage conservation with the guidance of leading experts in this field. The maritime site of Galle, inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1988 for its outstanding architectural value showcasing interaction between European architectural styles and South Asian traditions, provided a real-life context for the training. The curriculum of the 9-day Field School consisted of lectures on topics ranging from conservation legislation to underwater archaeology, group work, field trips to heritage sites in Galle as well as diving sessions at several underwater heritage sites in the bay of Galle.

Within the framework of integrated conservation management and with particular regard to the development plan for the expansion of the Galle port, the participants of the Field School conducted a cultural impact assessment of the site that, besides built heritage, included living and underwater cultural heritage. The results of the Field School were presented to Sri Lankan and international representatives from national archaeological organizations and national agencies responsible for the protection of coastline and marine resources at the opening of the Regional Experts Meeting on the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage in Galle. AAHM would like to express its thanks to the Nautical Archaeology Society (NAS) for their generous support of the 2007 Field School.

Please see our website for more information: http://www.unescobkk.org/index?id=4944

AAHM Members News

International Seminar on Indian Ocean Maritime Heritage

New Delhi, India, 23-24 August 2007

The Archaeological Survey of India is organizing the International seminar on maritime archaeology jointly with the Indian Navy. The conference aims to bring together scholars and professionals to discuss a variety of topics related to maritime archaeology in general and Indian Ocean maritime heritage in particular. Topics relevant to modern development and protection of underwater cultural heritage will also be addressed.

Participation is free. Scholars presenting papers will be provided free accommodation and hospitality during the period of the seminar. Observers will have to make their own arrangements for accommodation.

Papers are invited on the topics outlined above and others falling within the scope of the seminar. Abstracts of no more than 300 words should be submitted as soon as possible. Abstracts should clearly state the purpose, results and conclusions of the work to be described in the final paper. Acceptance will be based on the full-length paper submitted before 30 June 2007 which, if accepted, must be presented at the conference.

For more information, please contact:

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Flinders University Maritime Archaeology Monograph Series (MAMS)

The new Flinders University Maritime Archaeology Monograph Series (MAMS) is now available. These publications are edited versions of theses and reports produced by staff and students in Maritime Archaeology at Flinders University over recent years.

Previously, the Department of Archaeology published the Maritime Archaeology Monographs and Reports Series (MAMARS) as a way to offer research conducted by students and staff to a broader audience and provide students with an opportunity to publish their work. This is still the MAMS goal. MAMS will reprint MAMARS issues 1 to 7 in a new format with a higher level of editing, and these will be available for sale early 2007.

For further information on the MAMS/MAMARS series, contact:
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or please visit: http://ehlt.flinders.edu.au/archaeology/research/publications/MAMARS/index.php

ICCCR0M News

UNESCO-ICCR0M course on 'Introduction to Preventive Conservation with Focus on Textile Collections' in Ulaan Baatar, Mongolia

A total of 22 professionals from 16 Mongolian museums and other national heritage institutions, joined by one delegate from the History Museum of Buryatia, Russian Federation, participated in a three-week course on "Introduction to Preventive Conservation with Focus on Textile Collections" hosted by the Zanabazar Museum of Fine Arts in Ulaan Baatar, Mongolia, from 19 March - 6 April 2007.

The purpose of the course was to build capacity in the participating professionals for prioritizing, planning, and developing sustainable preventive conservation solutions for collections in storage and in exhibition, with emphasis on textiles.

The course offered an opportunity for participants to discuss and exchange their expertise on different aspects of Mongolian and Buryat cultural heritage, to recognize the wealth of knowledge and experience amongst themselves, to learn from each other and to build new knowledge together.


UNESCO Asia-Pacific News

The Plain of Jars Archaeological Landscape: Lao PDR's third World Heritage Site?

In 1998, UNESCO and the Government of Lao PDR initiated a multi-year phased programme to safeguard and develop the Plain of Jars, Xiang Khouang province.
The Lao-UNESCO initiative arose following the Laotian government’s expressed commitment to protect and develop this vast historical and archaeological landscape and nominate the site for World Heritage inscription.

It aims to put mechanisms in place that ensure ongoing protection of the heritage resources linked to bringing socio-economic benefits for the local communities.

In order to achieve this, the following objectives were identified:

- map the entire plateau;
- undertake in-field surveys to locate all jar sites;
- compile a detailed cultural heritage inventory of all archaeological sites and their component features;
- develop a series of community based methodologies to address the issues such as site management, site preservation, UXO clearance, monitor threats and impacts.

On 12 February 2007, the programme officially entered its fourth phase: "Fighting Poverty at the Plain of Jars: UXO Clearance, Pro-Poor Tourism and Sustainable Resource Management in Xieng Khouang, Lao PDR".

The Plain of Jars Archaeological Landscape would be the fourth World Heritage site for Lao PDR after the Town of Luang Prabang inscribed in 1995 and the Vat Phou and Associated Ancient Settlements within the Champasak Cultural Landscape inscribed in 2001.

For more information, please visit: http://www.unescobkk.org/index.php?id=2945

Korean National Commission for UNESCO (KNCU) 2007: Camp Programme

The principal objective of UNESCO’s strategy of action with and for youth is to champion the empowerment of young people to ensure and enhance their full participation as equal and valuable partners. KNCU intends to conduct several national/international projects in connection with international voluntary service, as well as global seminars and information services related to the culture of peace, youth participation and cultural diversity. This year, 13 programmes have already been scheduled. The minimum age for all 2007 projects is 18 and the camp language is English.

For more information, please visit http://youth.unesco.or.kr/main/e_main.asp or contact Mr Kang Jong-Ahn at jkang@unesco.or.kr, Ms Kim Bo-Young at kby@unesco.or.kr

Asia-Pacific Heritage News in the Press

Preservation of Cultural Heritage in Vietnam

"The Cultural Heritage Laws, in effect since 1 January 2002, have arguably facilitated the preservation of cultural sites, according to the Ministry of Culture and Information. At a meeting to review the implementation of the Cultural Heritage Laws held recently in Hanoi, the Ministry of Culture and Information reported that such laws have been effective in preserving tangible and intangible cultural heritages, minimising the number of cultural sites illegally encroached upon."

VietNamNet Bridge – 8 December 2006
http://english.vietnamnet.vn/travel/2006/12/642155/

China publishes dictionary of intangible cultural heritage

"The Encyclopedia of China’s Intangible Cultural Heritage was published Friday, introducing many national intangible masterpieces including the Spring Festival, Peking Opera, acupuncture and Shaolin Kungfu, using more than 3,000 pictures and 600,000 Chinese characters. ‘The book provides very rare data for protection and study of intangible cultural heritage, and will significantly raise awareness of the need to protect China’s heritage,’ said vice cultural minister Zhou Heping on Friday."

Xinhua News Agency – 13 April 2007
http://www.chinaview.cn

ACCU award for shadow puppet troupe

"A grand shadow puppet play troupe has won a prestigious international cultural award. Ratchaburi’s Wat Khanon troupe won the Contest for Better Practices in Communities’ Intangible Cultural Heritage Revitalisation awarded by the Asia-Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO."

The troupe was one of six winners. "We recorded and submitted the troupe’s grand shadow puppet play (known as nang yai) featuring an episode from the Ramakien,” Ofﬁce of National Culture Commission secretary-general Prissana Pongsart said yesterday.

She described the shadow play as a valuable cultural heritage combining several art forms. The play uses elaborately carved leather puppets that perform to music and narration. There are just three grand shadow puppet play troupes still performing in Thailand. ‘The grand shadow puppet play is rare’, Prissana said. The Wat Khanon troupe will be asked to stage a performance in Japan during an Asia-Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO workshop in June."

The Nations - 23 April 2007

Chinese Media Trained in Cultural Heritage Protection

"Recently, the Beijing Cultural Heritage Protection Center (CHP) has been involved in two major training activities, both targeted at a very important stakeholder in cultural heritage protection issues: the Chinese media. Working with In-
ternews, an international media training organization, CHP trained over twenty journalists from Northeast China on January 6, 2007; this was the first in a series of media training sessions around China to which CHP will provide specialized expertise on cultural heritage protection law. And last week, CHP responded to a request by CCTV-2 to meet with them in order to discuss issues related to cultural heritage protection laws and were greeted enthusiastically by over fifty editors and journalists.”

CHP - 31 January 2007

Asia-Pacific Calendar of Events

2007 International Symposium on Earthen Structures
Earth Architecture, 22-24 August 2007, Bangalore, India
An examination of the benefits and challenges of earthen structures in the modern world, the conference is jointly organized by the Department of Civil Engineering and Center for Sustainable Technologies at the Indian Institute of Science in Bangalore, India, the Department of Architecture and Civil Engineering at the University of Bath, U.K. and the Ecole Nationale des Travaux Publics de L’Etate, Lyon, France.


Xtreme heritage
Australia ICOMOS, 19-21 July 2007, Cairns, Australia

The 2007 Conference will be held in Cairns, Tropical North Queensland in conjunction with James Cook University from the 19 - 21 July 2007. “Xtreme Heritage: managing heritage in the face of climatic extremes, natural disasters and military conflicts in tropical, desert, polar and off-world landscapes” will provide the forum to bring together researchers and practitioners grappling with some of the most topical issues in heritage today. The Organizing Committee has decided to extend the call for posters for the Heritage Poster Exhibition. Abstracts for exhibits of a size of up to an A1 poster can be submitted via email at http://www.aicomos.org/call-for-posters

For more details, please visit http://www.aicomos.org

New Members
• Centre for Cultural Heritage Conservation and Management, National College of Art, Pakistan
• Engineering Center of Protection of Relics of Rocks and Soils, China University of Geosciences, China
• Faculty of Architecture, Planning & Surveying, Universiti Teknologi MARA, Malaysia
• Guangzhou Baiyun Cultural Heritage Conservation Materials Research Center, Guangzhou Baiyun Cultural Heritage Conservation Engineering Co. Ltd, China
• Training Centre of Conservation and Restoration for Cultural Heritage, China National Institute of Culture Property, China
• World Cultural Heritage Studies, Graduate School of Human Comprehensive Sciences, University of Tsukuba, Japan

We would like to welcome our new institutional members from China, Japan, Malaysia and Pakistan. The China National Institute of Culture Property (CNICP) of Beijing offers training in the restoration and conservation of the Chinese cultural heritage through the support of the CNICP. Universiti Teknologi MARA offers the Master programme in heritage and conservation management. Guangzhou Baiyun Cultural Heritage Conservation Engineering Co. Ltd. offers postgraduate diploma in heritage conservation, short course of materials research and development in cultural heritage conservation, and field research school in relics. China University of Geosciences offers the post-graduate diploma in heritage conservation. National College of Art offers PhD course in Conservation and Management of Cultural Heritage. University of Tsukuba offers Master of World Heritage Studies, Master of Philosophy, and PhD course for heritage management and heritage evaluation.

The AAHM now has 51 institutional members. We would like to extend our warmest appreciation to our existing members and we hope our new members will reap great benefits from being partner of the AAHM network.

Want to join the AAHM?

Signing up for the AAHM is easier than you think. Simply go to the “Members” page of the AAHM website and download the documents your institution requires. Upon acceptance your institution will be eligible for all the benefits of the AAHM. Contact the AAHM at asian-academy@unescobkk.org for more information.

Staff News

We would like to express our heartfelt thanks to Mr Jeffrey Withaya Campbell, from the Australian National University, for his outstanding contribution to the AAHM. Mr Campbell joined the AAHM in September 2006, and is leaving shortly to complete his research on hutong conservation in China.

Internship Opportunities

The AAHM internship programme is open to all students with relevant educational backgrounds. The internship applications and other relevant information is available on our website: http://www.unescobkk.org/index.php?id=923

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