Message from the Secretariat

Welcome to the third edition of the Asian Academy for Heritage Management Newsletter this year. 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

Laotian Site Managers and Trainers of Guides Trained at Vat Phou World Heritage Site, Champasak, Lao PDR

1-7 October, Champasak, Lao PDR

From across five provinces in Lao PDR (Vientiane, Luang Prabang, Houa Phan, Xieng Khoang, and Champasak) heritage and tourism specialists took part in a training-of-trainers workshop that was held at the Vat Phou World Heritage site from 1 to 7 October 2007. The workshop focused on enhancing skills in guiding and visitor management, using both Champasak town and Vat Phou as case studies.

Site managers and guides were asked to cooperate to develop a plan for visitor management and site interpretation for each case study. They were assessed on their knowledge and enhanced skills through practical assignments and a written exam. Many groups displayed a range of strengths in presenting interpretive talks and well-defined visitor management plans. The workshop ended with the development of action plans at the provincial level.

AAHM Member News

International Training Course on Disaster Risk Management of Cultural Heritage 2007

5-17 November 2007, Kyoto, Japan

The Research Center for Disaster Mitigation of Urban Cultural Heritage, Ritsumeikan University (Rits-DMUCH) is organizing the international training course on disaster risk management of cultural heritage in Kyoto, Japan from 5 to 17 November 2007, in collaboration with UNESCO, ICCROM, ICOMOS, and the relevant institutions of the government of Japan. The main objective of the course is to provide an overview of various facets of disaster risk management of cultural heritage. The course includes field-based learning, classroom lectures and practical demonstrations at the His-
toric monuments of Kyoto World Heritage Site. As a result of the training course, participants are expected to apply their knowledge in developing risk management plans for cultural heritage in their own countries.

For more information about the course, please contact Ms Myungsun Yi at: dmuch@st.ritsumei.ac.jp.

Cultural Heritage and Museum Studies at Deakin University, Melbourne, Australia: 2008 Programmes

Deakin University offers courses commencing from February 2008 as follows:

- Graduate Certificate (1 semester)
- Graduate Diploma (2 semesters)
- Master of Cultural Heritage (3 semesters)
- PhD by research

Please visit their website at: http://www.deakin.edu.au/arts/postgrad/chms/index.php or contact Dr Linda Young at: lin-da.young@deakin.edu.au for more details.

Cultural Management Programme (MA) at Chulalongkorn University

Chulalongkorn University offers a 18-month Master of Arts programme in Cultural Management, focusing on three areas of study: (i) cultural management for tourism, (ii) performing arts and theatre management, and (iii) gallery and museum management. The programme will include a combination of lectures, seminar discussions, and on-site field visits.

Interested students are invited to submit their application forms and all relevant documents by 31 March 2008.

For more details about the course and its application process, please contact: macm@chula.ac.th or duangchula@gmail.com.

ICCCROM News

Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region 2007: Preservation and Restoration of Wooden Structures

18 September–19 October 2007, Nara, Japan

The month-long course consisted of formal lectures on wooden architecture in Japan and Asia, survey methods, approaches to conservation and maintenance, design and implementation of conservation projects, management and utilization of wooden structures, and risk preparedness for cultural heritage. The course was held at the Asia/Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO (ACCU) Nara office from 18 September to 19 October 2007.

Participants had the opportunity to attend practical training and on-site lectures at local historic wooden structure conservation project sites. The course also included a three-day study tour to visit historic wooden structures and towns. Participants were exposed to some of the oldest and finest wooden architecture which are on the World Heritage List in the Nara area. They made presentations on conservation of wooden heritage projects in their countries, shared their experiences and discussed issues of common interest.


Opportunities for Students

ACLS Grants Opportunities

The American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) is pleased to announce a third year of the programme of grants to individuals in the archaeology and early history of East and Southeast Asia. This programme is undertaken in cooperation with the Henry Luce Foundation.

The full description of the programme and the application forms are available at http://www.acls.org/eaah.htm. For more information, please contact Ms Kyrylo Danylenko at: kdanylenko@acls.org.

Internship Opportunities

AAHM is accepting interns with relevant educational backgrounds to support its secretariat. Internship applications and other information is available on our website: http://www.unescobkk.org/index.php?id=923.

UNESCO Asia-Pacific News

Traditional Knowledge Systems and Expressions of Culture in South Pacific

31 October–1 November 2007, Queensland, Australia

The meeting explores the use of traditional knowledge systems and the expressions of culture for social and sustainable development and related topics. It focuses primarily on the next generation of indigenous leadership in the Pacific and beyond as well as a digital museum studies facility to cover the South Pacific. Participants include eminent indigenous persons, museum professionals and art professionals from Australia, Indonesia, New Zealand and the United States of America.

For more information, please contact Mr Mali Voi at: m.voi@unesco.org.

International Symposium on Application for World Heritage Listing of the Silk Road

30–31 October 2007, Xi’an, Shaanxi, China

This symposium, organized jointly by ICOMOS, the Chinese State Administration of Cultural Heritage, Shaanxi Province People’s Government and Xi’an Municipal People’s Government, with support from the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, introduced the cultural heritage features of the Silk Road, the concepts and methods of transnational application for World Heritage listing. The aim of this symposium was to provide training for experts and technical consultants from China and Central Asian countries on the application for the Silk Road World Heritage nomination.

For more details about this symposium, please contact Mr Feng Jing at: f.jing@unesco.org.
Singapore Inaugurated as UNESCO’s 193rd Member State at 34th General Conference

17 October 2007, Paris, France

A ceremony held at UNESCO on 17 October 2007 marked Singapore’s official return to UNESCO. Before the ceremony, UNESCO’s Director-General, Koichiro Matsuura held a bilateral meeting with Mr Gan Kim Yong, who leads the Singaporean Delegation to the Conference. They discussed the future cooperation between UNESCO and Singapore and agreed that Singapore would form part of UNESCO’s Bangkok Cluster.

The Kingdom of Cambodia Became the 16th State Party to the UNESCO 2001 Convention

19 September 2007, Paris, France

The Kingdom of Cambodia deposited on 19 September 2007 its instrument of ratification of the UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage (2001) with the Director-General of UNESCO.

Cambodia became therewith the 16th State Party to the Convention taking a strong position in the protection of its submerged archaeological sites and bringing the Convention closer to its entry into force.

Asia-Pacific Heritage News in the Press

Bang a Gong: Gong Culture Festival 2007

“Following UNESCO’s recognition, agencies are now launching an effort to honor and promote the value of gong culture in Viet Nam. They are calling on whole communities to preserve and expand the cultural values of the Highlanders by organizing the Central Highlands Gong Culture Festival 2007 in Buon Ma Thuot City next month.

The event on 21–24 November will incorporate some 30 gong troupes and thousands of artists and musicians from all over the country who will perform in museums and the ‘Eternal Talk from Mountains and Jungles’ street show. Five guest troupes from Laos, Cambodia, and Malaysia will also be on hand. The festival will highlight customary activities in the daily life of highlanders like knitting, weaving, and popular games. Music and clothing specific to the different ethnic groups in Viet Nam, as well as an elephant parade will also be part of the event.

A seminar entitled ‘Gong Cultural Space – Present Status and Conservation Measures’ will provide an opportunity to discuss ways of preserving this important cultural legacy.”


Pollutive Mines Eyed as UNESCO Heritage Site

"An application is to be filed Wednesday with the Cultural Affairs Agency seeking UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Site candidate status for the Ashio copper mines—a site of major pollution in the Meiji era (1868-1912), it has been learned. The application by the governments of Tochigi Prefecture and Nikko in the prefecture embraces the ‘negative history’ of the Nikko mines, which were described in the application as ‘an environmental problem in the shadow of industrial development.’ Other ‘negative’ UNESCO sites include the A-

Bomb Dome in Hiroshima and Auschwitz concentration camp in Poland, but according to the agency there are no sites listed in regard to pollution. A residents group from the former town of Ashiomachi started campaigning for the mines’ nomination in 2005, with the initial objective of promoting tourism by highlighting the positive role the mines played in the modernization of the nation’s industry."


Global Warming Threatens Indonesia’s Borobudur Temple

"Like any historical monument, Indonesia’s magnificent Borobudur temple in central Java has suffered the ravages of time. But now conservationists fear the world’s biggest Buddhist temple, topped with stupas and decorated with hundreds of reliefs depicting Buddhist thought and the life of Buddha, faces a new threat: climate change.”


Asia-Pacific Calendar of Events

World Heritage City Workshop—Melaka

15 November 2007, Melaka, Malaysia

The Melaka Town and Country Planning Department is organizing a workshop entitled “Melaka - World Heritage City” to discuss its efforts towards the listing of Melaka on the UNESCO World Heritage List. Presenters include Associate Professor Syed Zainal Abidin Aidid and Dr Yahaya Ahmad.

For more information and to register, please visit their website at: http://www.jpbmdelaka.gov.my or contact Jabatan Perancangan Bandar dan Desa (JPBD) Melaka: +60 6232 3482.

1st AHPADA International Crafts Expo in the Philippines

22–25 November 2007, Manila, Philippines

The ASEAN Handicraft Promotion and Development Association (AHPADA) will organize an exhibition featuring country and regional pavilions for Europe, the Middle East, Asia and the Pacific, and the Americas. This exhibit showcases the unique arts and crafts reflecting the countries’ cultural heritage and their strong potential in the international market. A special section displays the UNESCO-AHPADA Seal of Excellence Award-winning crafts for 2007. The market area serves as a venue for participating countries to sell their arts and crafts to the public. Cultural events held from 22 to 25 November include craft demonstrations at the country and regional pavilions.

For more information on this event, please visit their website at: http://www.ahpadaexpo.com/ or contact them at: expo@ahpadaexpo.com.
Under these five themes, contributors tackled the issue of how to apply the theoretical ideas for practical purposes in their papers.

The guest editors, Jeff Cody and Kecia Fong, both work as project specialist in the Education Department of the Getty Conservation Institute (GCI) in Los Angeles, USA.

For more information and to order a copy, please contact:
Alexandrine Press
1 The Farthings, Marcham, Oxon OX13 6QD, UK
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New Member
• Centre for Cultural Heritage Studies (CCHS), Department of Anthropology, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong SAR, China

We would like to welcome our new institutional affiliate member from the Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong SAR, China. The Centre for Cultural Heritage Studies contributes to the integration of interdisciplinary research and further development of heritage studies on campus.

The AAHM now has 54 institutional members. We would like to extend our warmest appreciation to our existing members and we hope our new member will reap great benefits from being part 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.

Editor:
Takahiko Makino
t.makino@unescobkk.org

Mailing Address:
Asian Academy for Heritage Management (AAHM)
c/o Office of the Regional Advisor for Culture in Asia and the Pacific, UNESCO Bangkok
P.O. Box 967, Prakanong Post Office
Bangkok 10110, THAILAND
Website: http://www.unescobkk.org/culture/asian-academy
Email: asian-academy@unescobkk.org
Tel: +66 2391 0577 ext. 513
Fax: +66 2391 0866

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