

Report on the Implementation of the Action plan of
Lijiang, China

Prologue

According to the FAX, sent in 1999 by Mr. Richard A Engelhard UNESCO Regional Advisor for Culture in Asia and the Pacific, to Mr. Fuzeng, Secretary General of the Chinese National Commission for UNESCO. UNESCO planned to implement the project Cultural Heritage Management and Tourism: Models for Cooperation among Stakeholders at eight world heritage sites in Asia and Pacific region. In May 1999 Mr. Richard Engelhardt and Ms. Heather Peters paid a visit to Lijiang and held a meeting with Mr. He Zixing member of the Party Committee and the Secretary of Lijiang County Party Committee Mr Yang Tingren Vice Secretary of Lijiang County Committee and the Governor of Lijiang County, and Mr. Zhou Hong Vice Governor of Lijiang County. After their discussions Lijiang Ancient Town was selected as one of the sites in the project. Lijiang Ancient Town became the only site in China included in the project. Mr. Duan

Songting vice governor of Lijiang Dayan Town Deputy Mayor was authorized as the responsible person for this project. The purpose of this project is to investigate and assess the management and preservation measures taken at of the world heritage sites; cultivate the tourism resources and at the same time meanwhile establish an acceptable cooperation model among all the stakeholders. The goal is to eliminate negative impacts, which are brought by the rapid development of tourism. In June 1999, Mr. Duan Songting formed a working group and substantial investigation and illustration were carried out The results of this work, Lijiang Ancient Town Preservation and Tourism Development Research Report was presented at the Bhaktapur Workshop in April 2000 In March 2000, Ms Heather Peters talked with Mr. He Zixing and Mr Yang

Tingren about the possibility of holding the Fifth Annual Workshop in Lijiang in 2001 Mr He Zixing agreed with it orally. In April 2000 Mr. Duan Songting was asked to present the official written response to Mr. Richard. The above report was presented in the Bhatapur Workshop. It was assessed reformulated, and formed the basis for the Action Plan which will serve as guideline for preservation of Lijiang Ancient Town Since that time, Lijiang County Government has been carrying out the various actions in the action plan step by step.

On August 15 2000, a formal fax sent by Mr. Engelhardt to Mr. Yang Tingren, announced that UNESCO would like Lijiang to host the Culture Heritage management and Tourism he Fifth Annual Workshop. Lijiang County Government responded positively on 31st of August, agreeing to hold the workshop in Lijiang, Mr. Engelhardt was subsequently invited to Lijiang as part of the secretariat set up for this workshop. In January 2001 Mr Engehardt accompanied by representatives from Norway UNESCO held meetings with Mr He Zixing, Mr Yang Tingren and Mr Zhou Hong regarding the preparation of Lijiang Workshop. Mutual terms of agreement were reached and a second talk was scheduled in April In April of 2001, Mr. Richard and his colleagues were invited to visit to Lijiang. During his time in Lijiang, Mr Engehardt discussed about the further details of the preparation for this workshop with Mr Zhou Hong. At the same time, he participated in the celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the founding Lijiang Naxi Autonomous County Government, In order to guarantee a successful workshop, Lijiang County Party Committee created the Lijiang Ancient Town Preservation Action Plan Office Mr. Yang Tingren, Mr. He Lianghai, Mr He Chengyong, and Mr Zhou Hong were assigned to be the leaders of this office; Mr. Duan Songting was nominated the responsible person of this office. At the same time, Lijiang County Government issued the plan to enhance the

Liliang Ancient Town Action Plan. From February to March 2001, Mr. Duan Songting went to Kunming and Beijing to handle the concerning formalities regarding the workshop. In April 2001, Ministry of Construction of China, UNESCO Chinese Commission and World Heritage Center approved to the workshop In order to make the Lijiang workshop a great success and determine the Lijiang workshop model, Lijiang County Government had utmost efforts. They have received support and assistance from the Lijiang Prefectural Administration, Yunnan Provincial

Foreign Affairs Office Yunnan Department of Construction, UNESCO Chinese National Commission, UNESCO Regional Office of Asia and the Pacific, World Heritage Center etc. Here, we would like to extend our sincere thanks to all the people who offered us support and help. The reason for Lijiang County Government holding this meeting is to address any inadequacies, and better preserve the Old Town, In addition, we are trying to provide some useful experience, and set a good example for the heritage sites in Asia and the Pacific Region Preservation of the Ancient Town is a long-term project, and an international issue as

well. Though some achievements have been made on the preservation of the Lijiang Ancient Town, due to some factors, such as regulations, funds, personnel and technique, there are still a lot of difficulties and problems to be solved. We wish to improve our work by discussing, exchanging and learning from other successful experience of Ancient town preservation management. There are still some defects in the submitted final report of Lijiang Ancient Town preservation. Any criticism and correction from you are always welcome.

Waiter

2001.8.6

General Introduction to Lijiang Ancient Town

1. Natural environment

Lijiang lies in Southwest China and north-west Yunnan Province. It lies on the transition between the Tibetan Plateau and the Yunnan-Guizhou Plateau. Two geographic features characterize it: 1) complex topography landforms, 2) a wide range of vertical topography with a wide climate range. It is classified as upland monsoon climate. The special geographic feature and the weather produce the beautiful landscape, biological resources and waterpower. The Jinsha River, which is the upper reach of the Yangtze River, winds its way around Lijiang County, covering about 447 kilometers. It forms the First Bend of Yangtze River, the Tiger Leaping Gorge that contains the vast waterpower. Jade Dragon Snow Mountain and Laojun Mountain are located in the area of Lijiang. They not only have a wide range of diverse ecosystems but also have high scenic value. Lijiang Ancient Town lies in the center of the Lijiang Basin. It is 2400 meters above the sea level, and is surrounded by mountains. A 5596-meter-high snow mountain towers on the north side of Lijiang. The Snow Mountain is the background to Lijiang Ancient Town. It lies the First Bend of Yangtze River. The Yuquan spring flows deep into the town and divides into hundreds of branches.

2. History and culture

During the Spring and Autumn Period, Lijiang was part of the territory of the Qin Kingdom. Not until 1235, in the Yuan Dynasty, did Lijiang become an administrative part of Yunnan Province. The ancestors of the Naxi migrated from the area of Qinhai Province to Lijiang about 1800 years ago, and merged with the Yunnan, Sichuan and Tibet. During the Tang Dynasty 1400 years ago, Tang (Han Chinese), Nanzhao (Bai) and Tubo (Tibetan) were three powerful groups, the Naxi people took advantage of the certain situation and learned from the other minorities so as to strengthen themselves, making Lijiang a place with multiple cultures. The foundation of Lijiang Old Town goes back to the Song Dynasty (800 years ago); the town was expanded during the Yuan, Ming and Qing Dynasties. The site of Lijiang was a wise choice, it has a magnificent backdrop of Jade Dragon Snow Mountain; good city planning of an excellent water system, it is characterized by unique architectural features and a traditional folklore making Lijiang a unique city. With water as the soul of Lijiang, the old Dongba Culture is unique. Naxi Ancient Music is the essence of its historic culture. The unique city planning, zigzagging old streets; row upon row of Naxi style buildings, the springs crossing the whole city, trees create a picture of harmony between nature and human being. Just like a poem rich in artistic conception—Bridges, Springs and Naxi households. 4564 households and 13,780 people still live in the town, engaging in trade and livelihood in this active town.

3. History of Preservation

Early in 1951, a policy "Preserving the Old Town and Cultivating the New City" was issued by the local government. Until today the Lijiang Ancient Town is well preserved because of this wise decision. In 1983, "Lijiang City Overall Planning" was enacted. It is a flagship act for the preservation of the Old Town. Lijiang Ancient Town was inscribed as a national historical and cultural city. With the "Lijiang historical and cultural city protection planning" in May of 1998, Lijiang People's Congress issued "The Lijiang Naxi Autonomous County Ancient City Protection and Construction Management Tentative Regulations." These were the first local laws on county level for the preservation of ancient cities in China. In June of 1994, this regulation was upgraded to the provincial level. Lijiang made the bold exploration in legislative construction for the protection of ancient cities.

In October of 1994, the Yunnan Lijiang Provincial Government approved the implementation of Lijiang Ancient Town Preservation Five-Four-Three-Two-One project, which started the application procedure for Lijiang to become inscribed on the UNESCO World Cultural Heritage List. The detailed contents of this project were improving 5 systems in Ancient Town: for example, water supply and fire control, electricity and telecommunication, drainage, street lamps, transportation, they also realized improvement in four aspects of the Ancient Town:

- 1) environmental protection facilities
- 2) gardening,
- 3) cultural infrastructure, and
- 4) tourism reception facilities.

They also refurbished three streets: Sifang Street, Xinhua Street and Qiyi Street. They also decreased density of buildings and environment was improved. After suffered from the earthquake took place in 1996; the local government changed the disaster into an opportunity, and revitalized the Ancient Town. The local government expended 3 Billion RMB (31,650,000USD), to demolish inappropriate buildings, an area of more than 20,000 square meters They also construct drainage system, refurbished the streets, bridges, water supply facilities, toilets, streets lamps, gardens, telecommunication, electricity, fire control facilities, etc. They rebuilt The Mu Family's Palace " using architecture style of Ming Dynasty. While doing so to preserve the Ancient Town. As part of the construction, they built the Wangu Tower and Double Stone Garden, and worked to bury electrical wiring. Addition, they relocated and closed down the factories, which polluted the Ancient Town. Finally they created a program for controlled out migration of residents in order to decrease population density thereby improving the environmental conditions in the Ancient Town.

December 1995, the Lijiang County Government issued the " Lijiang Naxi Autonomous County Ancient Town Fire Controlling Tentative Regulation". This regulation strengthened the fire control in the old districts. In 1900, they established a fire alarm system. In December 2000, they issued "Dayan Town Fire Control and Security Management Regulation". In May 2001, Chinese Ministry of Public Security approved the local government to establish the No.2 Team, which belongs to Lijiang County Fire Control Team.

In order to preserve the traditional households in the Old Town, in March 1997, Lijiang County Government assessed one hundred and forty households in the Old Town, 500-5000 Yuan RMB allowance to ninety-seven households which is specially protected, They distributed altogether 200,000 Yuan RMB to the above households.

Action Plan for Lijiang Ancient Town

The main content of the Action Plan for Lijiang Ancient Town, which was drawn up at the Bhktapur Workshop, Nepal in April of 2000, include eight items. The goal of these actions is identical with that of Lijiang County Government's long-term action plan for the Ancient Town preservation. Some of the items are parts of work programs, which have been planned by Lijiang County Government since 1987. Some of the items are major problems, which have emerged the development of tourism. Because of all the items are very complex, many of them have been realized only after much effort, and still need improvement. Some progress has been made but no substantive achievement made. Some items can not be realized at present and we still need to adjust the timetable. We will try our best in a long period of time. Following is my presentation of what has been achieved so far:

A Those Parts of the Action Plan which have been implemented

1) collecting Local Preservation Fee in Lijiang Ancient Town

a. Preparatory Work;

In November of 1999, the Lijiang County Governmen calls a meeting to discuss the Tourism Bureau, Bureau of Commerce, Bureau of Construction and Dayan Town Government of Lijiang County to attend the meeting. The initial plan was to charge tourists, 5~ 10 RMB per day.

In addition tourism operators and entrepreneurs in Ancient Town, they would be charged 1%- 2% of their profit. The implementation of this plan began on January 1 , 2001. The Merchandise Price Bureau, Financial Bureau, Industrial and Commercial Bureau, and Tourism Bureau of Lijiang County were assigned to be responsible of researching as presenting this regulation.

After the further detailed investigation, the formal plan of "Collecting Local Preservation Tax of Lijiang Ancient Town" came into being. The Yunnan Provincial Finance Department and Yunnan Provincial Merchandise Price Bureau approved it. In May of 2000, the Yunnan Provincial Government signed the bill formally. In this signed regulation, the Local Preservation Fee is explained as a kind of administrative tax, which was collected by the Lijiang County Financial Bureau, and managed by the Lijiang County Government. The tax is to be used for the preservation, management, revitalization, restoration and research of the Ancient Town. The " Local Preservation Fee" is collected from the tourists who sleep in Lijiang; every tourist is charged 20RMB per day The hotels and travel agencies in Lijiang are authorized by Lijiang County Financial Bureau to collect it. This plan has been carried out since July of 2000.

However, when they first began to collect the fee. The Lijiang County Financial Bureau encountered difficulties. The hotels and travel agencies, who are responsible of collecting tax, said that

Collecting " Local Preservation Fee" from tourists, would caused the tourists increase their costs, and it would cause a decrease in tourism, they were worried it would have a negative impact on their economic profit, they also complaint that collecting the fee was every complicated. In addition, tourist's thought that although preservation of Lijiang Ancient Town was Lijiang Government's obligation, they felt it is not reasonable to collect this fee from the tourists, The government should collect it from the operator and entrepreneurs in the Ancient Town. Some tourists also complained the fee was too high.

Facing this difficulty, Lijiang County Government reported the situation to Lijiang Prefectural Administration and Yunnan Provincial Government, and asked to postpone the implementation date. At the same time, they appointed Lijiang Prefectural Tourism Bureau and Lijiang County Tourism Bureau to hold a meeting, with the way, the authorities could explain the need and importance of collecting the local preservation fee. They stressed that Lijiang Ancient Town is an important scenic spot. In fact, it is just like a large park. To preserve and manage Lijiang Ancient Town is challenging task, and it requires abundant investment. This means that the authorities must have a stable budget for investing in preservation and management. Only by collecting this reasonable fee, can they establish and ensure the funds necessary for preservation and management of Lijiang Ancient Town, in this way; the authorities also can increase the number of the tourists to Lijiang. If Lijiang local government does not collect the fee, then, the stakeholders will lack funds to preserve their world heritage site; it will then be difficult to strengthen the management of Lijiang Ancient Town. All these factors will influence the sustainability of tourism development, and will spoil the essential benefits of tourism enterprises.

b. Actions

In November of 2000, Lijiang Prefectural Administration called a meeting. One of the topics in this meeting was to modify the Local Preservation Fee and postpone the time frame of its implementation. The decision was made to 20RMB per person (no matter how many days he or she stays in Lijiang) this regulation was implemented on 1st of Jan 2001.

In order to promote wide understanding and support of this fee Lijiang County Government made speeches, and distributed leaflets to advertise the need and importance of this fee. At the same time Lijiang County Financial Bureau drew up the bill, and signed the "Collecting Agreement", with the departments, who are authorized to collect the tax.

On January 1st, 2001 the of collecting this fee was on track; Hotels and travel agencies in Lijiang took part in actively, and the tourists supported it widely.

C. Outcomes and assessment

Lijiang County Government collected 9,500,000RMB (1, 1 90,000USD), totally. And have expended 7,000,000RMB (880,000 USD), to restore and preserve Lijiang Ancient Town. By doing so, the authorities have established a stable channel of funds for preserving Lijiang Ancient Town and are promoting the management of Ancient Town.

d.Feedback from Stakeholders

Inhabitants in Lijiang Ancient Town support collecting the " Local Preservation Fee". They think it will improve the environment of Ancient Town. Some tourists, however, still don't understand the need for the fee, but most do and support it. Those hotels and travel agencies who initially disagree to collect the local tax, now, they cooperate with it, for the realities shows that collecting the local fee does not cause the decrease of tourists to Lijiang, but instead there is an increase.

e. Future Actions

In the future, we, the Lijiang authorities need to strengthen the monitoring of collection, management, distribution and use of the local fee. First we must ensure that sufficient fees are collected; second, we must distribute it fairly, making sure that the entire local fee is used to preserve Lijiang Ancient Town.

2) Creation of "Lijiang Ancient Town Preservation and Management Committee "

a. Preparatory Work

Lijiang Ancient Town is an urban community, a historical and cultural city in China. It is also a world heritage site. Thus preserving the old streets, maintaining the old buildings and promoting the municipal infrastructure and hygiene are primary focus for stakeholders. Lijiang County Construction Bureau is the primary department overseeing this task. However, to preserve Lijiang Ancient Town also involves many other issues, such as water pollution, commerce, tourism, cultural preservation, inhabitant, security, etc. These problems have to be carried out by many departments, so there is a need to establish an authority and a comprehensive mechanism.

b Action

In June 2000, Lijiang County Government formally established "Lijiang Ancient Town Preservation and Management Committee". Mr. Zhou Hong, Vice Governor, was assigned to be Committee leader. The Committee members consist of fourteen governmental officials, eleven experts and seven locals resident. Under the leadership of

Committee, an office was formed. The office place and duties have been initially determined.

C. Outcomes and Assessment

Since the establishment of the " Lijiang Ancient Town Preservation and Management Committee", a lot of work has been carried out. But at the moment it is a temporary authority. The staff is borrowed from the other relevant departments, the office is still not fixed, and committee has no formal authority. Its responsibilities are still not clear, so it can still be considered action in progress,

D. Future Actions:

Changing the " Lijiang Ancient Town Preservation and Management Committee" into a formal mechanism from temporary mechanism, will involve many difficulties, for example, the system of administration, regulations, personnel and fund, It is very complicated. Moreover,

because China is undergoing a period of administrative reform and is reducing all work staff, work is even tougher. How to set up Ancient Town management authority scientifically is still to be determined after careful study.

3) Investigation and Study of other World Heritage Sites in China and America.

a. Preparatory work

As a world heritage site and tourism spot, Lijiang County Government is paying attention to learning advanced management techniques and experience from other historical cities and heritage sites in China. They are doing this by sending people aboard to study and inspect other sites when it possible.

b. Actions Taken

In July 2000, the three heritage stakeholders identify which were sent by the Lijiang County Government to Pingyao in Shanxi Province, and Shaoshan in Hunnan Province. They went just after they attended the international workshop on Chinese Culture Heritage Preservation and City Development: Opportunity and Challenge, held by UNESCO, the World Bank, China's National Ministry of Construction the and National Culture Relics Bureau. In February 2001, an investigation team consisting of 6 members from the Lijiang Prefectural Administration, and Lijiang County Government went to Gulin in Guangxi Province, Shandong and Dalian of Liaoning to study the urban management plan, tourism development and culture preservation there. In July 2001, two heritage management officials from Lijiang County Government went to America to investigate

c. Outcome and assessment

A research report was made every time came back from these study tours, in order to put the experience learned into practice. All the achievements we have received these years in heritage management, urban construction, tourism cultivation and cultural preservation totally depends on the experience we have learned from the others. The way we learn from others is by visiting other sites and inviting experts to visit Lijiang. Almost all the famous Chinese experts on heritage management have visited Lijiang, and also many foreign experts have come to Lijiang.

B. Items still to be accomplished

1) Drawing up the " Regulations on Lijiang Ancient Town Protection Management

The regulations were drawn up in June 1994 provided the legal framework for the preservation of Lijiang Ancient Town. However these regulation are not very concrete and practical. Some of the contents are out of date. After Lijiang Ancient Town was inscribed as a world cultural her age site a complete, concrete and practical regulation on preservation of Lijiang Ancient Town was in great need.

Early in May 1998, the CPPCC Lijiang committee held a two-day meeting with some experts to create a set of regulations, however they were not approved. In May 1999, the Lijiang People's Congress held another meeting to draft a set of regulations. These were also not approved.

In June 2000, Lijiang County Government appointed specific experts to deal with this issue. However it is still not perfect. The reasons that the regulations has not been approved are:

- a,) these preservation regulations are part of the nation's regulations
- b) while the state laws are not perfect, the local regulations are not easily eliminated;
- c) Comparative laws are not available;
- d) there is still no agreement on how to preserve the heritage and what has to be protected. But the Lijiang county Government now is still trying to get it through.

2) Resolving the timber Supply needed for the Maintenance of the Buildings in the Old Town

Lijiang owns rich natural forestry resources. In 1998, after the implementation of the "Natural Forestry Protection" policy using traditional way to preserve the buildings with timber became difficult. It is a good policy to stop cutting the forest and to protect the environment, however, in order to maintain the authenticity of Naxi architecture style, a lot of timber is in great need.

More than ten thousand buildings in the Old Town need timber to be constantly renewed. When the state policy and Old Town preservation encountered this contradiction, the Lijiang County Government took active measures: First, they enforced the policy. They planted trees

but did not cut. The Lijiang County government closed down more than 30 factories, which used timber as the raw material. This reduced their income 50,000,000Yuan RMB and 3000 staff members from these factories lost their jobs. Second, they tried to control the timber, which is already cut and give priority to using it for restoring the old building in the Old Town. From 1999 until now, the timber problem has been solved this way. However, the stock is limited, and it is not a long-term strategy. To solve this problem, officials from the Lijiang County Government went to Beijing and Kunming to seek special privileges for Lijiang Old Town. Unfortunately, so far no results have been achieved.

Recently, the County government has been seeking permission from higher authorities such as Myanmar and Vietnam. In this case, some staff to Japan to learn from their experience on how to solve the timber supplies problem.

3) Revitalizing the Market in Lijiang Ancient Town

Lijiang is a vital commercial town along the Former Tea and Horse Caravan Route. The commerce here used to be prosperous. Daily necessities of all kinds were available here, especially at town, the Square Market that was open everyday. It was the place for the people living in the Old Town to buy fruits, vegetables and meat. With further development of tourism and the preservation of the Lijiang Ancient Town, and for the sake of the tourists' convenience, all the fresh products markets in the Ancient Town were moved out. Consequently the people, who live in the Old Town, have to go outside to buy their daily vegetables. In addition, more and more shops, selling souvenirs, opened in the old town. Only a small part of the shops in the Old Town have daily necessities. We recognize that protecting the old town, the local people should also have priority. Otherwise the people living in the Old Town will continue moving out.

Lijiang County Government had plans to revitalize one or two small-scale fresh products markets for the sake of the local residents in the Ancient Town. However, due to the density of architecture they have yet to identify a place to put the market. But, this item is still being worked on, and we are trying our best to finish it October 2001.

4) Preservation and Revitalization on Traditional Culture

The traditional culture in the Old Town is rich. However to preserve the traditional culture in the Old Town does not mean to maintain all the elements without any improvement. We should only preserve the quintessence of it. We should also note, culture is not static; it follows changes of the society. It cannot survive without innovation. Culture can keep pace with society after being reformulated. The Lijiang County government just holds this attitude, which preserving and revitalizing the traditional culture. It is promoting the following:

a. Popularize and promote the traditional dress

Traditional dress is a diagnostic characteristic of a minority group. Naxi dress is the symbol of Lijiang Ancient Town, and an important part of its live culture. Recently, Lijiang county government formed the special unit to reform and popularizes the traditional dress. Now many new dresses, which meet the young peoples need, are available in the market. The government is appealing for more people to dress in the new costumes. The traditional costumes are like the school uniforms. People who work in the hospitality are required to dress in the traditional costumes.

b. Preserve the Naxi Language

Facing the situation that the Naxi language is disappearing, Lijiang County Government is taking active actions to protect it. Now a bilingual class-Naxi and Chinese is under experiment in Xingren primary school.

c. Revitalized the Street washing and folk dance evening in the square street

Since July 2000 the facility for washing the street has been revitalized and it is being conducted regularly. Also the folk dance evening in the Square Market was revitalized.

Both the tourists and the local people enjoy the folk dance evening

d) Revitalized lantern floating custom

From October 2000, the custom of lantern floating was revitalized in the old town as a tourist program.

e. Drawing up Dongba Culture Preservation Regulation

June 1st 2001, the ninth conference of the People's Congress of Yunnan Province is Lijiang Naxi Autonomous Dongba Preservation Regulation. It symbolized the fact that the work has been in the orbit with a exploration and practice.

f. Civilized the local residents

Lijiang County has education for the local residents with the spirit of " Treasure the Old Town, Being a qualified citizen". They created Demonstrative Unit, Demonstrative Community" and "Demonstrative Family", "An Ancient Town without Fake Goods". All these campaigns strengthened the management on tourism and civic environment Lijiang was entitled as one of the Demonstrative Scenic Area of Ten Excellent Scenic Areas in China by Chinese Central Office of Civilization, National Ministry of Construction.

5. Investigation of out-migration of local people

Early in 1995, due to the density of the population and architecture in the old town, the infrastructure and living condition in the old town were very poor. This situation was a disadvantage for the preservation working on the Old Town In order to reduce the density of the population in the Ancient Town, and improve the living condition for the local people, Lijiang county government developed the idea of developing a new area in Lijiang City, and thereby distributing more population widely. They have persuaded some of local residents to move out to the new area of the city. From 1982 to 1996, more than 8 000 households, about 12,000 people, moved out of the Old Town.

The number of the population who moved in this period of time was moved under local government control, and the more helped to preserve the old city better.

Since 1997, with the rapid development of tourism, parts of the old city have experienced informal migration of local residents. The most seriously affected areas are Jishan Lane, Xinyi Street, Mishi Lane; Sifangjie Lane, Shuangshi Lane, Xinhua Street, Cuiwen Lane, Xianwen Lane, Guangyi Street.

For the beneficial purpose, the local people turned their rooms into shops or rented them out to others. They themselves moved out to the new area of Lijiang City. In this way, the Old Town is totally becoming a commercial area, and is losing its the authenticity and is losing its traditional life livelihood of the old city. This kind of out migration has taken place only in some parts of the Old Town. It has drawn the attention of the local government, because if it is not controlled right now, it will surely influence the city negatively. This out migration is happening not only for economic reasons, but also because of the inconvenience for daily life. The Lijiang County Government now is paying special attention to this problem while at the same time they are taking actions to improve the infrastructure.

The out migration still needs carrying in in-depth investigation, and the situation of the intense commercial activities in the Old Town. After completing this investigation, they will draw up the relevant resolutions. Lijiang county government is confident they will solve these problems .