RESEARCH CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS ON
ASIAN APPROACHES TO CONSERVATION

2006
Research Conference Proceedings
on
Asian Approaches to Conservation

organized by

the UNESCO-ICCROM Asian Academy
for Heritage Management and the Faculty of Architecture
Chulalongkorn University

3-5 October 2006

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Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand
Asian Approaches to Conservation:
Research Conference Proceedings 3-5 October 2006

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The Faculty of Architecture, Chulalongkorn University is committed to promoting academic cooperation with international organizations and institutions of higher learning. Cultural heritage management is one of the Faculty's priorities, which encourages exchanges of experience among countries and, in the process, enhancing knowledge and expertise of both faculty members and students.

The Faculty wishes to express its warmest thanks to UNESCO-ICCROM ASIAN ACADEMY FOR HERITAGE MANAGEMENT for co-hosting an international conference from October 3-5, 2006. My thanks also go to Chulalongkorn University for allowing us to use Maha Chulalongkorn Building as a venue for this conference.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all participants. Had it not been for their meaningful attendance, this conference would not have achieved its goals.

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December 2006
Asian Approaches to Conservation
Research Conference of the
UNESCO-ICCROM Asian Academy
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Maha Chulalongkorn Building,
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Bangkok, Thailand

Background
This conference was organized for scholars, researchers and practitioners in the field of cultural heritage conservation in Asia and the Pacific. The accelerated deterioration and depletion of the region’s resources due to natural disasters, urbanization pressure and political factors pose an urgent challenge.

Considering the importance of re-examining existing theoretical and practical paradigms and accommodating diverse perspectives and values in heritage conservation planning and management, the two-day research conference will be held in order to foster interdisciplinary and intercultural academic exchange among the members of the Asian Academy for Heritage Management (AAHM).

Under the overall theme of “Asian Approaches to Conservation”, the conference will be divided into three sessions.

Session I: ‘Application of Legal and Policy Frameworks for Conservation’
The application of legal and policy frameworks both at national and local levels is essential for the protection of cultural heritage. In Asia and the Pacific, there exists a range of regulatory environments from antiquated laws to progressive public-private partnership arrangements to innovative new protocols like cultural heritage impact assessments. Within this context, this session explores various legal and policy frameworks in the region and how they direct, hinder or influence conservation decisions. Beyond mere inventory-taking, this session shall look into the origin of these frameworks, their on-going evolution and their appropriateness with regard to the respective cultural context.

Session II: ‘Innovative Technologies in Conservation’
This session serves as a platform to introduce and discuss the impact of new technologies in the conservation of cultural heritage. Technological innovations play an increasing role in safeguarding against the loss of our inheritance - particularly in the region, where relatively recent conservation projects have provided a test-bed for emerging new technologies. Applications such as Geographic Information Systems (GIS) for cultural and natural sites, 3D scanning and data capture, remote sensing and satellite imaging, networked cultural databases, image-based modeling and rendering, and large-scale terrain modeling have led to
remarkable advancements in the conservation of both tangible and intangible culture. At the same time, the introduction of these new technologies has also raised new challenges - particularly regarding the capacity-building of the conservation profession.

Session III: ‘Linking Indigenous Knowledge and Heritage Management’
There is widespread recognition of the need for local community involvement in the conservation of cultural landscapes and natural heritage, as many of the important sites of natural and cultural significance in Asia and the Pacific continue to be inhabited. Through the generations, these communities have evolved traditional, endogenous resource management systems, many of which have been forgotten or sidelined by “modern” management regimes. Only through recognizing the importance of these practices, reviving them in local communities and passing them on to future generations, can the well-being of the cultural and natural resources be sustained for years to come. This session shall address possible approaches of mainstreaming indigenous knowledge systems in order to safeguard traditional practices and promote sustainable heritage management.
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