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Knowledge to lead



CONSERVATION FOR PEACE

World Heritage Impact Assessment

*UNITAR Hiroshima Series on the
Management and Conservation of World Heritage Sites*

Hiroshima, Japan, 19-24 April 2009

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In partnership with



UNESCO World
Heritage Centre



The Getty Conservation Institute

The Getty Conservation
Institute

ICOMOS

International Council on
Monuments and Sites

IUCN
The World Conservation Union



Conservation for Peace

The UNITAR Hiroshima Series on the Management and Conservation of World Heritage Sites started in 2003, and has thus far comprised five annual workshops held in Hiroshima itself and one in-country workshop in Mumbai, India. The Series offers a set of innovative approaches to heritage conservation, including:

- A values-based management approach examining the significance of the properties to be conserved;
- The fusion of cultural and natural heritage management;
- The recognition of both the tangible and intangible aspects of heritage values; and finally
- Conservation for Peace.

Uniquely well-placed in Hiroshima, which possesses two World Heritage sites, the Series seeks to utilize UNESCO's Convention on natural and cultural heritage more effectively by focusing on national policy making and planning, and to exchange know-how on best practices and case studies.

The universal theme of Conservation for Peace has a special resonance in Hiroshima. Also, the World Heritage regime is part of recent developments related to global commons or common heritage – including, among others, the oceans, Antarctica, outer space and genetic resources. The regime is among the most promising, as a result of its focus on both cultural and natural heritage.

In the introductory Conservation for Peace themed workshop conducted in 2008, various peace building outcomes that heritage conservation could generate were discussed: heritage conservation in times of conflict, World Heritage in danger, inscription to the World Heritage list of memories of conflict and a hope for peace (Hiroshima's A-Bomb Dome being a stark example), and a more progressive concept of the Peace Park model. It was concluded that ultimately, the World Heritage regime itself is aiming at peace, the avoidance of conflict (including inter-community or inter-stakeholder conflict) and the promotion of the conservation of the world's common heritage. Therefore the concept of Conservation for Peace does not limit itself to armed conflict or trans-boundary situations.

During the second five-year cycle of the Series (2009-2013), the Conservation for Peace theme will be further developed and examined from differing angles.



2009 Workshop Objectives

The 2009 Workshop is entitled **“Conservation for Peace - World Heritage Impact Assessment”**. Heritage is not an article in a vacuum showcase. It lives with people, and people live in heritage sites. Architects say that the best way to conserve built heritage is to live inside it. Even in the case of properties requiring restricted access (reserves etc.), designation as a World Heritage site often attracts a considerable increase in visitors. It is therefore imperative that the impact of a range of human activities upon both tangible and intangible aspects of heritage be regularly assessed. These assessments provide a baseline for judging the management and use of sites. The major question arises – how can an impact on the heritage “values” of a site be effectively assessed? UNITAR will apply its “values-based management” as the basis for a methodology to assess impacts on the **values** of sites.

The specific objectives of the 2009 workshop will be to:

- Review the basics of the World Heritage regime and its implications for peace, incorporating available information, updates and current trends;
- Elucidate the underlying principles of “values-based heritage management”, with a particular focus on peace building or nurturing;
- Introduce the basics of World Heritage impact assessment;
- Examine leading assessment policies and strategies, identifying best practices and lessons learned;
- Through reality-based practical exercises, extract key concepts and common issues while developing impact assessments for given sites;
- Contribute to the development of a manual for site managers on impact assessment in World Heritage management;
- Enhance long-term peer learning and exchange among the participants.

The UNITAR Faculty and Participants' Profile

The Series is organised with the funding support of the Hiroshima Prefectural Government and in cooperation with major partners active in cultural and natural heritage resource conservation, namely UNESCO and its World Heritage Centre, the Getty Conservation Institute (GCI), the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) and the World Conservation Union (IUCN), who form the Faculty.

The participants (up to 30) will consist of:

- Potential or actual heritage site managers;
- Natural/cultural conservation specialists and trainers;
- Decision makers and government officers within national World Heritage administrations such as the Ministries of the Environment, Culture, Forestry, Conservation or Tourism;
- Representatives of national academic institutions, think-tanks and civil society.

Selection

Selection, by an ad hoc committee composed of UNITAR and its faculty, will be based on candidates' qualifications and merits, potential benefits they may gain from the workshop in the conduct of daily professional duties as well as future roles they may play as trainers. A short paper, submitted by the candidate, as well as the field of expertise and compatibility with the theme of the workshop will also be considered. Candidates should be nominated by appropriate national/institutional organizations. (Consideration will also be given to the geographical distribution and gender balance of the candidates.) Minimum age for applicants is 30, maximum 60. Representatives from post-conflict countries or countries/sites affected by man-made or natural disasters, who can describe their training needs in the requested short paper/letter of motivation, will be given priority in the selection process.

Application Procedure

A call for applications will be sent through diplomatic channels to the Member States of the United Nations, focal points of partner organizations and other multilateral entities, as well as to all UNDP Resident Representatives in the Asia-Pacific region; the UNITAR Alumni Network will also be consulted. Interested individuals and organizations are required to submit a completed **application form**, **personal history (CV)** and **two letters of recommendation** from the candidate's supervisors as well as the requested **short paper** (for details, please refer to the annexed *Instructions for the Short Paper*). Incomplete application documents as well as those reaching UNITAR after the closing date will not be considered. Please send the application package preferably by email to hiroko.nakayama@unitar.org or berin.mckenzie@unitar.org. An on-line application will also be available on: www.unitar.org/hiroshima/unitar-activities/world-heritage-sites/2009

The **working language of the workshop will be English**, therefore a good understanding of spoken and written English is mandatory.

Participation Costs

Thirty participants from the Asia-Pacific region will be selected for the 2009 workshop. UNITAR scholarships, given as a priority to least developed country candidates, will cover flights, tuition fees, accommodation and meals. Candidates from industrialized countries are requested to obtain financial support from their respective country/organization. For those covering their own expenses, please note that the average cost for hotel and meals for one week in Hiroshima (benefiting from UNITAR negotiated packages) is around US\$900, and round-trip flights Tokyo/Hiroshima are about US\$600. The final decision about the circumstances for participation remains with UNITAR.



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معهد الأمم المتحدة للتدريب والبحث
聯合國訓練研究所

UNITAR Hiroshima Office
Chamber of Commerce and Industry Bldg., 5F
5-44 Motomachi, Naka-ku,
Hiroshima 730-0011
Japan
www.unitar.org/hiroshima