 Costs

Participants from developing countries are exempted from their course fee. The organizers will cover all their expenses for tuition, training, support materials, roundtrip travel, accommodation and meals during the course. Participants from non-developing countries are asked to cover their course fee, although limited financial support may be available upon request.

 Language

The working language of the course will be English. Proficiency in the English language is an essential prerequisite for participation.

 Criteria for Selecting the Participants for International Training Course 2009

The criteria for selection are in accordance with those set for ICCROM's courses. In the workshop and team project of this training course, it is expected that the participants will take part in field exercises and workshops aimed at formulation disaster management plan of a cultural heritage site by taking into consideration the nature of that heritage and the disaster management context of their respective countries. Therefore, it is more desirable for you to apply in PAIRS OF TWO EXPERTS, each belonging to the cultural heritage and the disaster management fields of your own country.

Forthcoming International Training Course 2009 will be held in Kyoto (Japan) and Kathmandu (Nepal) and aims at formulating practical disaster risk management plan for mitigation earthquake risks in historic urban environments.

 Application

Applicants are asked to complete the application form and send it by E-mail no later than 31 May, 2009 to the Research Center for Disaster Mitigation of Urban Cultural Heritage (Rits DMUCH) (see E-mail address below).

Along with your application form, please submit a short paper (3-5 pages) describing project(s) concerning cultural heritage or risk management in which you have been involved, and your overall potential for success in further applying the course contents in your professional career.

Incomplete or late application packets will not be processed. Should you need further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Research Center for Disaster Mitigation of Urban Cultural Heritage, Ritsumeikan University (Rits DMUCH)
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UNESCO Chair Program on Cultural Heritage and Risk Management

International Training Course on Disaster Risk Management of Cultural Heritage 2009

Dates: 31st August to 12th September 2009
Places: Kyoto (Japan), Kathmandu (Nepal)

In cooperation with the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, ICCROM, ICOMOS, the Tribhuvan University (Kathmandu, Nepal)
Disaster and Cultural Heritage

Recently natural and man-made hazards such as earthquakes, fires and terrorism have caused serious and irreversible damage to cultural heritage. Therefore, comprehensive risk management is essential for the protection of cultural heritage from disasters. In this light, the Cultural Heritage and Risk Management project of Ritsumeikan University Research Center for Disaster Mitigation of Urban Cultural Heritage (Rits DMUCH) aims to organize the UNESCO Chair International Training Programme and develop a scientific support network, in order to build the institutional capacity needed to formulate comprehensive risk management plans that are based on the characteristics of cultural heritage and nature of hazards in the regional context.

Ritsumeikan University and its Training Course

A thematic meeting on Cultural Heritage Risk Management was held in Kobe, Japan, in January 2005, as part of the World Conference on Disaster Reduction (WCDR). The meeting adopted a declaration that recognized the close relationship between the protection of cultural heritage and socio-economic development.

In response to the recommendations of the Conference, Rits DMUCH has been acting as a focal point for organizing international research, training and information network in the field of cultural heritage risk management and disaster mitigation.

The third International Training Course on Disaster Risk Management of Cultural Heritage was held as a certified UNESCO Chair Program from 3 to 15 November 2008. During this course, 7 participants were invited from 4 countries: Bhutan, Iran, Nepal and Serbia. We also invited 2 experts from Taiwan as observer.

The course includes field-based learning, classroom lectures and practical demonstrations at the World Heritage Sites in Kyoto. Rits DMUCH also provides various kinds of academic support to the participants to help them develop risk management plans for cultural heritage in their own countries.

Objective and Structure of the Course

The main objective of the course is to provide an overview of the various facets of disaster risk management of cultural heritage. The course provides interdisciplinary training for professionals to:

- Undertake an integrated risk assessment to analyze the vulnerability of cultural heritage to physical, socioeconomic and political risks;
- Build an integrated system for disaster risk management of cultural heritage, incorporating disaster preparedness and urban planning;
- Formulate risk management plans for cultural heritage that correspond to the regional disaster management plan; and
- Establish an international scientific network system for risk management of cultural heritage.

The course comprises lectures, site visits, workshop, discussions, team project and individual/group presentations. Participants are expected to actively participate throughout the course. The course aims at promoting the development of collaborations and network building among scholars and professionals in cultural heritage protection. This course is provided the scientific supported by the UNESCO World Heritage Centre and ICCROM.

Organizers and Participants

The training course is organized in cooperation with the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, ICCROM, ICOMOS and relevant institutions of the government of Japan. Particularly, the training course 2009 is implemented in cooperation with the Tribhuvan University (Kathmandu, Nepal).

Participants will include managers of cultural heritage, disaster risk management experts, decision makers and government officials involved in cultural properties or disaster management.