

UNITED NATIONS INSTITUTE
FOR TRAINING AND RESEARCH
(UNITAR)



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(ユニタール)

Hiroshima Office

5th Workshop on the Management and Conservation of World Heritage Sites

“Conservation for Peace”



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Cultural and Natural Heritage and Peace

Respect and appreciation of culture and nature – can it be possible even in times of war and conflict? Although international legal instruments stipulate the obligations of belligerents to respect cultural property,¹ people frequently fight or kill in the name of culture or nature, destroy them as a consequence of armed conflict, or even mark them as symbolic or material targets in wartime strategies.²

If a consensus could be reached at a global level on the importance of preserving heritage, it is possible that specific sites could be placed within a special protection regime.³ Until now the World Heritage Convention has recognized the outstanding universal value of 851 individual sites around the world. These sites in fact represent “matters of international concern”, and inscription on the World Heritage List or recognition as “World Heritage in Danger” serve to reduce damage in times of conflict and also enhance restoration in post-conflict periods.⁴ Inscription of sites or movements towards listing – in itself a demanding process requiring negotiation and cooperation between many stakeholders – could potentially provide a healing effect to war-torn societies.

Conservation at an international level of certain sites that embody sombre memories may enhance popular convictions that these experiences should never be repeated.⁵ It is held that heritage can also play a potentially more innovative role in supporting peacebuilding efforts. The Hiroshima Peace Memorial was inscribed on the World Heritage List due to the fact that “it is a stark and powerful symbol of the achievement of world peace for more than half a century following the unleashing of the most destructive force ever created by humankind.”⁶ In many ways the conservation history of the Memorial mirrors Japan’s post-war reconstruction history⁷ and it has contributed both to the recovery and positive development of Hiroshima and its identity (from a military city to a ‘City of Peace’). Utilizing the power of heritage to unite and mediate between concerned parties and stakeholders, a number of peacebuilding projects have been implemented through the medium of heritage management. For example, the ‘Peace Park Movement’, instigated with the World Heritage site Waterton-Glacier



Presentation made by Mohammad Zia Afghar,
participant of the 2007 workshop

¹ The 1954 Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict The Hague, 14 May 1954 Preamble states: “... damage to cultural property belonging to any people whatsoever means damage to the cultural heritage of all mankind, since each people makes its contribution to the culture of the world”. In addition, Article 4 (1) of the 1954 Hague Convention provides for the obligation of the High Contracting Parties “to respect cultural property situated within their own territory as well as within the territory of other High Contracting Parties by refraining from any use of the property and its immediate surroundings or of the appliances in use for its protection for purposes which are likely to expose it to destruction or damage in the event of armed conflict, and by refraining from any act of hostility directed against such property.” As to the protection of the natural environment, the Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949, and Relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (8 June 1977, Protocol I, Article 55) calls for the protection of such environment in war time.

² For example, the International Tribunal for Yugoslavia - Prosecutor v. Dario Kordic & Mario Cerkez - Trial Chamber III - Judgment - IT-95-14/2 [2001] ICTY 3 (26 February 2001), para 207; similarly, the environmental damage caused in the Gulf War or the on-going War in Iraq; and also Jerusalem and Ayodhya, India, both sites of religious battles.

³ For example, Chapter II of the Hague Convention of 1954, Chapter 3 of the Second Protocol to the 1954 Hague Convention and Art. 85(4)(d) of the Protocol Additional I to the Geneva Conventions.

⁴ For example, Bamiyan (Afghanistan), Angkor (Cambodia), five sites in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Manas Wildlife Sanctuary (India), Samarra (Iran), Air and Ténére Natural Reserves, (Niger).

⁵ Island of Gorée (Senegal), Robben Island (South Africa), Auschwitz Birkenau (Poland).

⁶ 1996 Advisory Body Evaluation. Similarly Auschwitz Birkenau (Poland) inscribed due to the “hope that, supported by terrible proof, (it) will contribute to the maintenance of world peace”.

⁷ See Norioki Ishimaru, “Risen-From-the-Dead Hiroshima” in Born on this Planet, Chugoku Shinbun, 2004.

International Peace Park, has seen rapid growth in many parts of the world.⁸ On the World Heritage scene, a proposal to inscribe the demilitarized zone between North and South Korea was inspired by this movement.⁹ The advisory body evaluation for Shiretoko, a Japanese natural World Heritage site inscribed in 2005, suggests the possibility of developing the site with neighbouring islands in Russia, as a wider “World Heritage Peace Park”.¹⁰ The cases of Angkor in Cambodia and Bamiyan in Afghanistan demonstrate that World Heritage recognition can enhance the post-conflict reconstruction of these areas.

The 2008 Workshop

Since 2003, the *UNITAR Series on the Management and Conservation of World Heritage Sites* has employed a “values-based approach”, investigating not only the physical, “tangible” structures of heritage sites, but also their values and significance, their “intangible” aspects. In the four annual workshops held to date, participants have discussed and learned about specific means to evaluate, interpret and conserve the values and significance of potential World Heritage sites. The 2008 workshop will focus on the potential implications and roles of heritage in post-war reconstruction and as a contribution towards peace and reconciliation.

The objectives of the 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 peacebuilding;
- Consider the role of heritage in war-torn, post-conflict or post-disaster situations;
- Examine leading policies and strategies, identifying best practices and lessons learned;
- Create long-term management plans for sites, using nomination dossier or periodical-reporting formats;
- Enhance long-term peer learning and exchange among the participants.

Faculty and Participants

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 environment, culture, forestry or tourism;
- Representatives of national academic institutions, think-tanks and civil society.

⁸ See the resources and report of the conference organised by the Parks Canada and the US National Parks Service, <http://www.peaceparks2007.org/>.

⁹ <http://news.scotsman.com/topics.cfm?tid=699&id=942192007>

¹⁰ http://whc.unesco.org/archive/advisory_body_evaluation/1193.pdf

Representatives from post-conflict countries or countries/sites affected by man-made or natural disasters will be given priority to participate in the present workshop. The candidates are requested to describe their training needs in the requested short paper/letter of motivation.

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 and 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 authorities. (Consideration will also be given to the geographical distribution and gender balance of the candidates.)

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

Application Procedure

A call for applications will be sent through diplomatic channels to the Member States of the United Nations, focal points of partner organisations 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 organisations 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 closing date will not be considered.

Participation Costs

30 participants* from the Asia-Pacific region will be selected for the 2008 workshop. UNITAR scholarships, given as a priority to least developed country candidates, will cover flights, tuition fees, accommodation and meals. Candidates from industrialised countries are requested to obtain financial support from their respective country/organisation. 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.

Notification of selection will be made by early March 2008.

The attached application form accompanied by a personal history (CV), two (2) recommendation letters from different individuals/organisations and the requested short paper should be submitted, preferably by E-MAIL, at the latest by 31 January 2008 to:

UNITAR Hiroshima Office
hiroko.nakayama@unitar.org / james.short@unitar.org
or by Fax : +81/(0)82/211 0511

Application can also be made through the UNITAR Hiroshima website:
<http://www.unitar.org/hiroshima/programmes/whs08>

*Minimum age for applicants 30 and maximum 60