



2010 Advanced Course on Conservation and Restoration Techniques of Traditional Architecture for the Asia-Pacific Region

(Suzhou, China)

1 November – 6 November, 2010

Background

The Asia-Pacific region is one of the most important cradles of human civilization. China, India and other countries in the region have created the most glorious ancient civilizations which have far-reaching influence. Traditional architecture is the treasure of ancient civilization and significant heritage from the past. The Asia-Pacific region has a long history of architecture of various styles and with supreme technique, and has contributed greatly to the development of human civilization. The improvement of restoration techniques is highly important in traditional architecture conservation work, and a key thematic concern in World Heritage domain.

That the importance of training and educational mechanism has been overlooked is the one of the problematic issues for sustainable conservation and restoration. It is difficult for the professional craftsmen and technicians to successfully accumulate effective experiences and cases for lacking up-to-date information and methodology. Meanwhile, due to unsystematic engineering standards, a great number of cultural and historical information and signals could not be fully expressed and some of them have been unfortunately faded away. With the older generation of technicians gradually gone and negative impact from commercialization and modernization, there are fewer successors in this domain to carry on the restoration techniques. The traditional craftsmanship is facing a serious challenge and development crisis.

The Traditional Architecture Conservation and Restoration Techniques Training Course for the Asia-Pacific Region was co-organized by World Heritage Institute of Training and Research for the Asia and the Pacific Region (WHITRAP) Suzhou Centre and the School of Architecture of Southeast University of China, aiming to provide efficient and effective training in terms of theory, methodology, and techniques in World Heritage conservation and restoration technology (especially of wooden architecture).

WHITRAP is an international non-profit organization under the auspices of UNESCO focusing on training and research of World Heritage, with three operational focal points (centres) respectively in Beijing, Shanghai and Suzhou. Suzhou Centre is specialized in training and research of World Heritage restoration technology and management.

The School of Architecture of Southeast University is one of the most prestigious of its kind across China, holding such renowned experts like Prof. YANG Tingbao, Prof. LIU Dunzhen, Prof. TONG Jun, etc. Devoting to Chinese traditional architecture for years, the School of Architecture of Southeast University has rich educational and research experiences.

Organizers

- World Heritage Institute of Training and Research for the Asia and the Pacific Region (WHITRAP), Suzhou Centre, Suzhou, P.R.China
- The School of Architecture of Southeast University, P.R.China

Objectives and Program

- The course adopts a collaborative and multidisciplinary approach and is designed for trainees to be familiar with the theories and principles of the conservation and restoration of the timber structures;
- to learn successful experiences of conservation and restoration of the timber structures in other countries of the world;
- to understand the ideas and methods of codes for conservation and restoration of traditional timber architecture in Asia-Pacific region;
- take the specific restoration cases of the Classical Gardens of Suzhou as an example, to understand the technical essentials of the Xiangshan Group's restoration techniques;
- to strengthen the ties of trainees, and share the experiences of each other.

The courses in Suzhou include (1 November—6 November, 2010):

- conservation ethics and principles;
- history of traditional Chinese architecture and East-Asian architecture;

- principles of conservation and restoration of timber structures;
- the architectural techniques of the Xiangshan Group;
- methods and instruments of conservation and restoration of timber structures;
- to discuss on the present situation of the conservation and restoration of timber structures;
- the gardening arts appreciation of the Classical Gardens of Suzhou;
- to observe and study the restoration cases of the Classical Gardens of Suzhou, such as the Winding Stream Tower in the Lingering Garden;
- to observe and study the restoration cases of in Suzhou, such as Xuanyuan Palace in Dongshan Area.

Site study tour: Fujian Tulou (inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2008)

(7 November—11 November,2010)

Participants

The course is designed for a maximum of 30 participants. The course is open to the engineers, technicians and craftsmen in the field of restoration of traditional architecture.

The course is designed for all the state parties of Asia-Pacific region. Please fill out the **application form** and send it together with the following by E-mail:

- a copy of passport;
- a copy of professional certificate in restoration of traditional architecture;
- a recommendation letter (from the supervisor of the applicant at work);
- a copy of the education certificate;
- Copies of other certificates;
- PPT materials should be prepared by participants for self-introduction. (Required: 10 minutes, in English, including personal information, learning experience, work experience, the involved cases of traditional architecture conservation and restoration, etc.)

WHITRAP Suzhou will notify the successful applicant and his/her working institution before September 15, 2010.

Application deadline

Applications should reach WHITRAP(Suzhou Centre) by **25 August 2010**.

Certificate

Certification will be awarded for those who have successfully completed the training course.

Expenses

The expenses of applicants during the course shall be borne by WHITRAP Suzhou, as follows:

(1) Travelling expenses:

Each of the participants shall be provided with an economy class return air ticket from the nearest international airport from their residence to Shanghai Pudong International Airport, and transportation fees between Shanghai Pudong International Airport and Suzhou.

(2) Accommodation:

Participants shall be provided the basic living expenses incurred during the training course from 1 November to 6 November 2010 in Suzhou.

(3) The expense of site study tour shall be borne by participants.

Insurance

WHITRAP Suzhou will not provide participants with medical insurance or any other kind of coverage. Therefore, it is the responsibility of each participant to ensure that they have the proper insurance coverage prior to entering P.R.China.

Language

The course will be conducted in English and Chinese.

Contact

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