

Report for the 41st Session of the World Heritage Committee (Kraków, 2-12 July 2017)

1. General information

- **Name of the Centre:** International Centre on Space Technologies for Natural and Cultural Heritage (HIST) under the Auspices of UNESCO
- **Address:** No.9 Dengzhuang South Road, Haidian District, Beijing, China
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- **Name and contact information of the Director/Head:** GuoHuadong, hdguo@radi.ac.cn or
Executive Deputy Director: Hong Tianhua, hongth@radi.ac.cn
- **Designated Focal Point(s) (name, title and contact information):**

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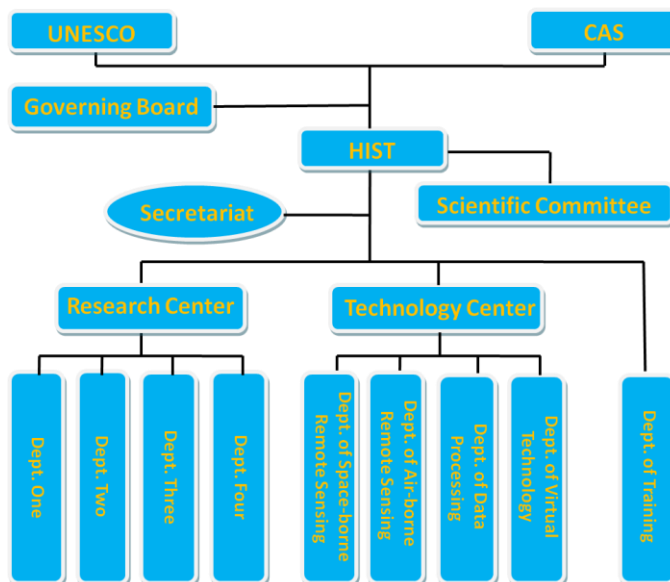
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- **Website of the Centre (if available):**<http://www.unesco-hist.org>

2. Institutional and operational structure of the Centre (Governing Board, Staffing, Operational funding and premises)

The operation and management of HIST is carried out under the direction of a Governing Board. The Governing Board is the decision-making body in charge of examining and approving the mid-term strategy, annual work report and annual programs and budget, supervising HIST in its implementation of the Board's decisions, and promoting cooperation and exchange with UNESCO, its Member States and relevant international organizations. The Scientific Committee of HIST comprises of some 30 experts and scholars from China in the fields of space technologies

and natural and cultural heritage to provide professional consultation for HIST's strategy and annual work plan. HIST's Executive Team is composed of a secretariat and nine departments: four Research Departments and Departments of Space-borne Remote Sensing, Airborne Remote Sensing, Data Processing, Virtual Technology and International Training.



HIST Organization

Since its establishment, HIST's annual operational funding has been provided by its hosting institution: Institute of Remote Sensing and Digital Earth (RADI) of the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

Chinese Academy of Sciences, representing the Government of China, started to provide annual operational budget to HIST since 2015 in addition to the operational funding provided annually by RADI.

3. Updates on the management of the Centre – particularly on meetings of the Governing Board and key decisions adopted

HIST had its 6th session of the Governing Board which briefed on UNESCO's evaluation on HIST's performance since its establishment, adopted the Annual Work Report of 2016 and discussed the work plan for 2017, the draft of Medium-Term Strategic Plan for 2018-2023 and the Biennial Work Plan for 2018-2019. The meeting pointed out that 2017 will be a transition year due to HIST's status renewal process with UNESCO. In addition to a follow-up on the projects which HIST already has, it needs to initiate more collaboration with countries along the One Belt and One Road.

4. Programs and activities implemented since April 2016 and planned for the current year

N.	Title of the activity	Reference to WHCBS¹
1	A Virtual Satellite Ground Receiving Station launched for Arthur C. Clarke Institute of Modern Technology (ACCIMT) in Sri Lanka, May 2016. It can be used to monitor the dynamic change of conservation status of the 8 world heritage sites in Sri Lanka,	3.6
2	Co-hosted the International Symposium on Earth Observations for One Belt and One Road, 16-17 May 2016, Beijing, China	4.8
3	Co-organized UNESCO Science Centres Coordination Meeting in Beijing, 16-18 May 2016	4.8
4	Organized the 3rd International Training Workshop on Space Technology Applications for World Heritage, 22 June - 7 July 2016	3.7
5	Participated in the 40th Session of the World Heritage Committee in Istanbul, Turkey, 10-20 July 2016	
6	Organized the 2nd Huangshan Dialogue on UNESCO Designated Places (World Heritage, World Biosphere Reserves and Global Geoparks) and Sustainable Development, 12-14 September 2016, Huangshan, China in collaboration with UNESCO World Heritage Centre, Secretariats of MAB and Global Geoparks Network.	4.8
7	Establishment of HIST Hengyang Base in November 2016.	
8	The first performance evaluation of HIST (2011-2016) by UNESCO conducted in December, 2016	
9	The 6 th Session of HIST Governing Board and a Seminar on Space Technologies for World Heritage sites held in March, 2017	
10	Attended the 3 rd Session of the International Coordination Committee of Preah Vihear World Heritage Site in Siem Reap, Cambodia on 21 March 2017. HIST has been invited to be a partner on using space technologies for monitoring the dynamic change of Preah Vihear and its environment. MOU is to be signed between HIST and the National Authority for Preah Vihear before June 2017.	3.6
11	Visited APSARA National Authority (Cambodia) on 22 March 2017 and summarized the project collaboration between HIST and APSARA during 2013-2016. New	3.6

¹WHCBS stands for the World Heritage Capacity Building Strategy (see: <http://whc.unesco.org/archive/2011/whc11-35com-9Be.pdf>)

	MOU is to be signed before June 2017.	
12	Organize a High-level International Training Workshop on Space Technology Applications for World Heritage in the countries along the One Belt and One Road. Programmed: September 2017.	3.7
13	Participate in the 41st Session of the World Heritage Committee in Krakow, Poland. Programmed: 2-12 July 2017.	
14	Draft next Mid-Term Strategic Plan (2018-2023) and Biennial Work Plan for 2018-2019, Programmed: throughout 2017	
15	Initiate collaborations with Pakistan, Tunisia and Uzbekistan on Space Technologies for World Heritage sites throughout 2017,	3.6
16	Renewal of the Agreement between UNESCO and the Government of China on the operation of HIST (2 nd phase of six years between 2018-2023). Programmed: end of 2017 or early 2018.	