

**2015-2017 Conservation Report of
Silk Roads: the Routes Network of
Chang'an–Tianshan Corridor,
China Section
(C1442)**

**STATE ADMINISTRATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE
ICOMOS XI'AN CONSERVATION CENTER**

Executive Summary

Since Silk Roads: the Routes Network of Chang'an–Tianshan Corridor (hereinafter referred to as “Silk Roads”) was officially inscribed on the World Heritage List at its 38th World Heritage Committee, the State Parties of China, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan have respectively submitted their state of conservation reports to World Heritage Committee on 27 November 2015 and 15 and 29 January 2016, and a WHC decision was made at its 40th session in 2016. The Decision requests the State Parties to submit conservation reports to the World Heritage Centre by 1 December 2017 for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018.

“Silk Roads: China Section” has involved four provinces in China, known as Shaanxi Province, Henan Province, Gansu Province and Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, consisting of 22 heritage sites. Since the property was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2014, according to the “World Heritage Conservation and Management Regulation”, the “Law on the Protection of Cultural Relics” and some other international charters and domestic laws, the State Party has been actively deploying conservation, management and monitoring activities of the Silk Roads and enhancing the entire conservation situation. The government and relevant institutions pay much attention and give support to the conservation and management work along the Silk Roads, and carry out conservation presentation of heritage

combined with the requirements of management planning and the current situation of the component sites.

ICOMOS Xi'an Conservation Center, as the committee secretariat of the State Parties of China, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, has been positively played the role as an international secretariat. Through the AIMS platform, newsletters on the Silk Roads, exchange visits of experts, academic conferences and other activities, IICC-X has been strengthening cooperation and communication among countries along the Silk Roads.

Based on the consolidation of heritage conservation work, 22 heritage sites continue to promote interpretation projects, and carry out public education activities, enhancing a better understanding of how the component sites in China relate to the overall Chang'an-Tianshan corridor and to the wider Silk Roads network.

Management authorities of all the component sites also attach great importance to activities with stakeholders including local communities, relying on the component sites for education and publicity to enhance the external radiation of the heritage, and encouraging local communities to participate in the heritage management and conservation for greatly promoting the understanding, support and participation in the heritage conservation.

According to the relevant requirements of World Heritage Monitoring and

Management, the State Party has been constantly promoting the application of new technology on the daily monitoring of the 22 component sites in China which optimizes data collection, strengthens research of new technology and further improves monitoring work of the World Heritage site.

Meanwhile, China State Administration of Cultural Heritage has been strengthening investigations and researches on beacon towers along the Tianshan Corridor, and constantly carrying out a series of research programs. These achievements present a certain understanding for the conservation of beacon towers along the Silk Roads and the relevant research is ongoing. In the future, after the completion of conservation and research of beacon towers along the Silk Roads, it could be considered to incorporate several valuable and well-preserved beacon towers into heritage conservation area, and make minor boundary adjustment.

The State Party will, as always, actively carry out research, conservation and management of the Silk Roads and continue to adhere to the conservation and management of the world cultural heritage. It will comprehensively promote the Silk Road heritage in enhancing the conservation, management, presentation and utilization, further improve the Silk Roads heritage conservation and management of long-term mechanism and presentation and interpretation of the heritage, strengthen the conservation and monitoring of the heritage, thoroughly dig the

connotation of the Silk Roads heritage, explore the integrated conservation and rational utilization of cultural routes, constantly enhance the scientificity and normativity of work, and actively share cases at work through a variety of platform media (for example, presentations, AIMS) for discussion among member countries.

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1. Background

Since Silk Roads: the Routes Network of Chang'an–Tianshan Corridor was officially inscribed on the World Heritage List at the 38th World Heritage Committee, the State Party has been actively trying to carry out heritage conservation along the Roads and improved the level of conservation and management of the component sites. On 27 November 2015, according to the requests of its 38th session, the State Party submitted “The State of Conservation Report of Silk Roads: the Routes Network of Chang'an–Tianshan Corridor, China Section” to the World Heritage Committee, and has responded to the four recommendations proposed by the Decision. Having examined this report at the 40th World Heritage Committee in 2016, the Committee has proposed several advices for the three State Parties of China, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan and reached a WHC Decision as followings:

WHC Decision 40 COM 7B.34

1. Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision 38 COM 8B.24, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),

3. Welcomes the detailed reports submitted by the three State Parties of China, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan addressing the requests made by the Committee at the time of inscription of the property;

4. Notes the on-going and essential work on interpretation to allow a better understanding of how the 22 component sites in China relate to the overall Changa'an-Tianshan corridor and to the wider Silk roads network, and urges the relevant States Parties to complete their ongoing interpretation projects;

5. Commends the initiative of the State Party of China to use interpretive material to enhance heritage outreach efforts and encourage local communities to participate in site management and conservation work, and suggests that ways should be found to promote this work in other components of the property;

6. Also notes that research on important smaller sites in Kyrgyzstan along the corridor is ongoing, and that minor boundary modifications might be brought forward, in due course, by the State Party of Kyrgyzstan for one or more caravanserais and from the State Party of China for selected beacon watch towers;

7. Further notes the detailed work undertaken on the remains of elaborate water management systems, and that a minor boundary

modification might be brought forward by the State Party of Kazakhstan for the irrigation system that supported Karamergen;

8. Also commends the initiative of the State Party of China to explore new technologies for daily monitoring work in 22 component sites in China to improve data collection, as well as its collaboration with the ICOMOS International Conservation Centre in Xian (IICC-Xi'an) on an ongoing programme to explore new methods;

9. Supports the proposed collaboration between the States Parties of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan and the International Centre on Space Technologies for Natural and Cultural Heritage (HIST, China) in relation to monitoring of remote sites;

10. Regrets that no substantial progress has been made yet to create management plans for the eight component sites in Kazakhstan, and also urges the State Party to make progress with this work and submit the completed plans to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies by 1 December 2017, and requests the State Party of Kyrgyzstan to update its management plans and confirm that this has been achieved, by 1 December 2017;

11. Expresses its extreme concern that proposals for a major road directly across the Talgar component site in Kazakhstan were planned and started being implemented without any details being provided either to the

Silk Roads Coordinating Committee or to the World Heritage Centre, and in contravention with the national legislation;

12. Taking into account a moratorium imposed by the State Party of Kazakhstan on the road and bridge construction, further urges the State Party of Kazakhstan to explore other routes outside the boundaries of the Talgar site and its buffer zone, and to dismantle the parts of the bridge that have already been constructed;

13. Also expresses its concern that reconstruction work is ongoing at the Talgar site without any details having been submitted for review and seemingly without adequate evidence to justify the work, and that residential development has been built in the buffer zone, which has a highly adverse impact on the setting of the Talgar Citadel;

14. Urges furthermore the State Party of Kazakhstan to halt the residential development in the buffer zone and to provide full details of the project to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;

15. Recommends the State Party of Kazakhstan to address the governance issue at the local level in order to ensure adequate planning, efficient management and decision-making;

16. Urges moreover the State Party of Kazakhstan to address the recommendations of the ICOMOS Advisory mission, initiated by the State

Party and carried out in March 2016, with regard to protection, management and awareness-raising and to take all necessary actions to ensure the safeguarding of the authenticity and integrity of the Talgar component site of the serial property;

17. Also requests the State Party of Kazakhstan to invite, as soon as possible, a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the Talgar component site and other sites of the serial property in Kazakhstan, to consider the implementation of the recommendations of the Advisory mission and the progress accomplished with the development of management plans for all components sites in Kazakhstan;

18. Further requests the States Parties to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 December 2017, a joint updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018.

The Resolution gives affirmation to heritage conservation of Chinese government and hopes Chinese government will continue on relevant conservation and management work. It also requests the State Parties to submit conservation reports to the World Heritage Centre by 1 December 2017, illustrating the implementation of relevant work in China, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018.

2. International Coordinating Mechanism and Heritage Conservation Cooperation

Paragraph 3 of the Decision by the 40th World Heritage Committee recognized the detailed report submitted by the three State Parties. The international coordinating mechanisms designed for “Silk Roads: the Routes Network of Chang’an–Tian-shan Corridor”, a transnational linear World Heritage site, has been playing an important role during and after the nomination. Under the international coordinating mechanism, the State Parties are strengthening mutual heritage conservation cooperation, and promote and improve the conservation and management level along the Silk Roads.

2.1 Coordinating Mechanism

ICOMOS Xi’an Conservation Center (hereinafter referred to as IICC-X) enhanced working function as the secretariat of committee of China, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, undertook “the Silk Roads Archives Information Management System”, set up the international experts database, strengthened the training and cooperation project, developed academic exchange, explored the international technical advice and assistance, and cooperated archaeology project in Centre Asia culture heritage, participated in the coordination of international activities, continued to promote the Silk Roads heritage related exhibitions and publicity after the nomination.

Noting Article 11-17 of the Decision by the 40th World Heritage Committee on the issue of Talgar site of Kazakhstan, China and Kyrgyzstan have been dealing with Kazakhstan actively, and trying to help and promote the solution of relative issues. In November 2017, China will send representatives and experts to each component site in Kazakhstan, to help Kazakhstan cultural heritage managers on the implementation, management and other issues on the heritage zone. China State Administration of Cultural Heritage plans to visit Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, deeply discusses to build and perfect more normalizing communication and coordination mechanisms.

2.2 Heritage Conservation Cooperation of the State Parties

In 2015--2017, based on the early exchange and cooperation, China will take a further cooperation with Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan in aspect of archaeology and heritage conservation, such as the excavation of ancient Rahat city with Kazakhstan, the excavation of large graves in Sazagan ruins(撒扎干), the fifth excavation of ancient Tepe city(铁佩) and excavation of ancient Bukhara city in Kyrgyzstan, promote cooperation in archaeology and heritage conservation. During the cooperation practice, the Chinese archaeological team shared their working conceptions, ideas, methods and advanced technique with local partner, gained appreciation and more cooperation in future. The states parties will be closely linked and create a better future through world heritages of the Silk Roads.

IICC-X has been actively inviting the archaeological experts from nations along the Silk Roads to conduct communication and discussion. On 26 March 2016, IICC-X invited archaeological experts and professors from Pakistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan to have a symposium, sharing relative knowledge and information, as well as studying and visiting the heritage sites in Shaanxi and Henan provinces. In 6 September 2017, The Chinese Dunhuang Academy and Kyrgyzstan National Historical and Cultural Heritage Protection Department signed a cooperation memorandum that in the coming 5 years, both countries will cooperate in the field of archaeological investigation and excavation, scientific conservation, digitalization, exhibition, undertake high level academic exchanges and professional personnel training programs for youth in cultural heritage, and push forward sustained development of cultural heritage in both countries.



Fig. 2-1 Heritage Conservation Cooperation between China and Countries

Along the Silk Roads



Fig. 2-2 Discussion of Archaeological Experts from Nations along the Silk Roads

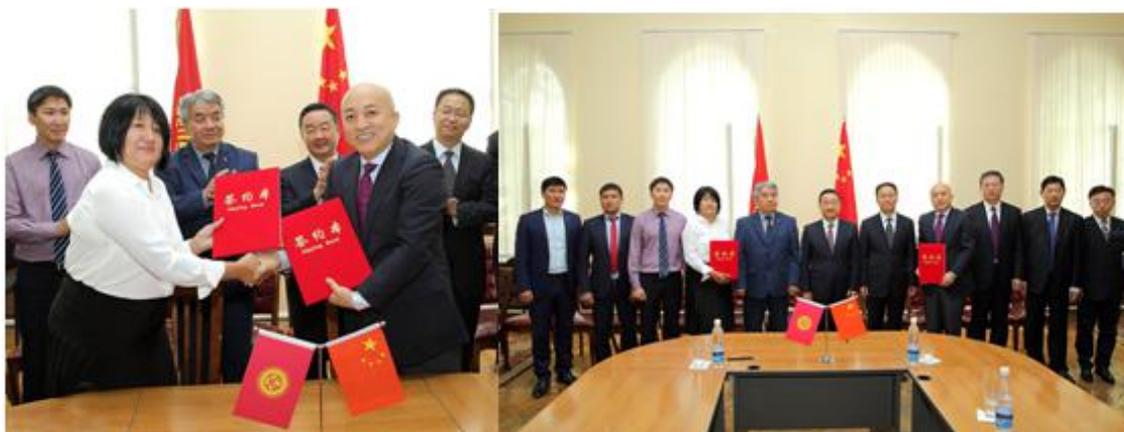


Fig. 2-3 The Chinese Dunhuang Academy and Kyrgyzstan National Historical and Cultural Heritage Conservation Department Signed a Cooperation Memorandum

2.3 Work Progress of IICC-X

IICC-X, as the international secretariat of the coordinating committee working group of the State Parties, has been positively promoted

communication and coordination between three countries. On the basis of the first phase of “Silk Roads Archives Information Management System” (Silk Roads AIMS), IICC-X was starting to initiate its second phase’s research and development of the Silk Roads AIMS, and so far the second phase had been finished. The platform have been updated, and functions such as safety operation of the system, optimized coordination of management module, the access procedure, information’s presentation format, platform management system have been maintained and enhanced. The Russian message of the platform had improved to facilitate the use by the Central Asian counterparts. Moreover, Professor Tim Willams will collaborate with IICC-X about his thematic research report of the Silk Roads, and share the data of 5,500 heritage sites of the Silk Roads on the Silk Roads Archives Information Management System with relative people.

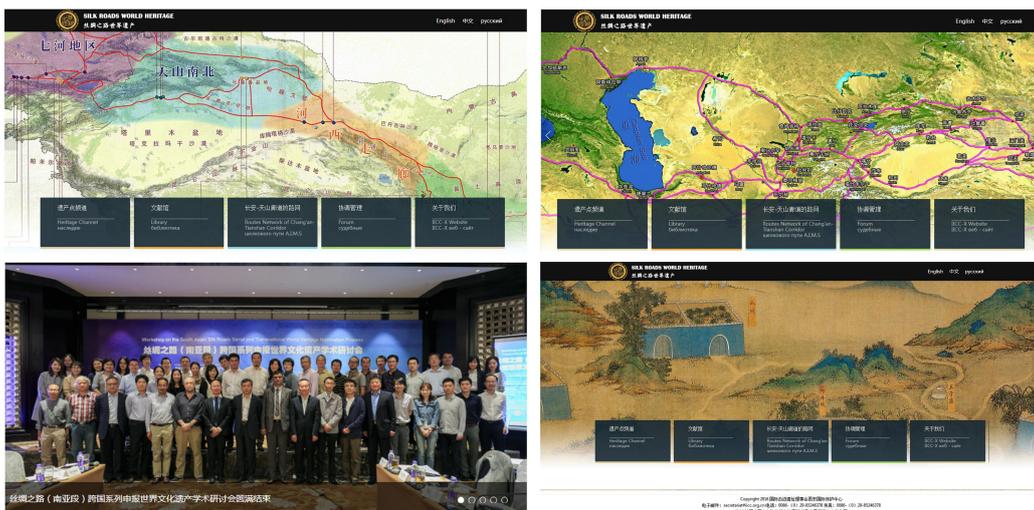


Fig 2-4 The Silk Roads Archives Information Management System

With the support of China State Administration of Cultural Heritage, IICC-X has compiled and published 12 issues of “Newsletter of the serial transnational nomination of Silk Roads to the world heritage list” in Chinese, English and Russian around Silk Roads world heritage conservation, management and other related content. The autumn issue of 2017 is under compilation, collecting and reporting the relevant dynamic information about conservation and management of heritage sites along the silk roads, disseminating and introducing the heritage sites as well as the heritage conservation concept, enhance news exchanges and promote the conservation and management of the Silk Roads.



Fig 2-5 Newsletter of the Serial Transnational Nomination of Silk Roads to the World Heritage List

Meanwhile, IICC-X established the south corridor database standards and are selecting the data collection, in order to promoting the work of database

construction of the South Asia Corridor. IICC-X and Professor Tim Willams from London University cooperate with each other to conduct supplement South Asia countries' information. Next step is going to establish close relationship with Qinghai, Sichuan, Yunnan and Tibet provincial heritage administration department in order to supplement relative data.

2.4 Academic Forum and Seminar of Silk Roads

In 2015-2017, for enhance the exchange and cooperate between the silk roads heritage sites, China has been organizing serials academic forums, seminars and conferences, representatives and scholars from specialist agencies, universities, relative government organizations, and international agencies attended actively, to explore methods of heritage conservation, management, academic research and cooperation of the Silk Roads. All these forums, seminars and conferences will benefit to advance the interactive understanding and trust in different countries, different city and different culture, to advance heritage conservation and management along the Silk Roads

Relative academic forums and seminars are as followings:

No.	Time	Location	Forums and Conferences
1	13 May 2016	Tang West Market	“One Belt One Road” Countries Culture Heritage Conservation and

		Museum	Management Forum
2	20-24 July 2016	Shaanxi Normal University	Archaeology, Art text and History--International Academic Conference of New Vision of the Silk Roads
3	7 September 2016	Tang West Market Museum	The First Session of Silk Roads International Museum Friendship Foundation
4	23-24 September 2016	Xi'an University	The First Session of Xi'an Silk Roads Historic Culture International Academic Conference
5	18-19 March 2017	Maijishan Cave Temple Complex	<The Silk Roads Forum: Changan and Qinzhou Maijishan> International Academic Conference
6	17 April 2017	Yuelu Academy	“One Belt One Road” Creativity and Heritage Youth forum
7	15 May 2017	Beijing Yanxihu International Convention	“One Belt One Road” International Cooperation Summit Forum

		Center	
8	20 May 2017	Tang West Market Museum	“One Belt One Road” New Pattern of Cultural Exchange Forum
9	10 June 2017	Luoyang, Henan Province	The Opening Ceremony of 2017 Cultural and Natural Heritage and Cultural Heritage & “One Belt One Road” Forum
10	4-7 September 2017	Xi’an, Shaanxi Province	the serial transnational nomination of Silk Roads to the world heritage list (The South Asia Section) International Academic Conference
11	8 September 2017	Tang West Market Museum	The Third Session of Silk Roads International Museum Friendship Foundation
12	13-14 September 2017	Tashkent, Uzbekistan	The Sub-regional Meeting on Centre Asia Silk Roads Corridor Management Strategy
13	20-21 October	Xi'an University	The Second Session of Xi’an Silk Roads Historic Culture International

	2017		Academic Conference
14	21-22 October 2017	Nanjing University	2017 Silk Roads Culture Research Forefront and prospects Conference & the First Launch of “Silk Roads Culture Research”
15	3-4 November 2017	Shaanxi Normal University	Inauguration Ceremony of “Scholar and Teacher Educational Alliance”, “Culture & Social Science Alliance”, and “Books and Document” Publishing Alliances”, “One Belt One Road” Education and Culture Exchanges Summit Forum, The Xi’an Consensus of the Silk Roads Education and Culture Exchanges and Cooperation

3. Deepening Interpretation and Presentation of Heritage Sites along Silk Roads

In order to further enhance a better understanding of how the 22 component sites in China relate to the overall Chang'an-Tianshan corridor and to the wider Silk Roads network, the State Party has been actively conducting researches and improvement of the interpretation projects along the Silk Roads, and incorporating interpretation projects into regional cultural tourism resource plans and educational projects. Therefore, the outreach efforts around the heritage sites will be increased, and the site management and conservation work will be promoted.

3.1 Consolidating the Foundation of Heritage Conservation

Since the Silk Roads was officially listed on the World Heritage List, the State Party has been further promoting the development of archaeological investigations and researches on heritage sites. During 2015-2017, according to practical work demand and under the arrangement of China State Administration of Cultural Heritage, all the heritage sites continue to strengthen archaeological investigation, excavation research, and conservation work of cultural relics. For instance, Site of Luoyang City from the Eastern Han to Northern Wei Dynasty has excavated Tai Ji Dian(Hall of Great Supremacy) and its surrounding architectural sites, north-side yard site of Tai Ji Dian, west gate of the imperial palace and

No.8 architectural site; Site of Dingding Gate, Luoyang City of Sui and Tang Dynasties has excavated east gate of Ning Ren Fang(residential area), southeast part of the Fang, Dingding avenue and west gate of Ming Jiao Fang(residential area); these excavations are of great significance for further understanding the architectural layout and form of the imperial city. Site of Shihao Section of Xiaohan Ancient Route has investigated Xiecheping Site, Luanshipa Site, temple site of Emperor Wen of Zhou Dynasty and beacon tower sites along the Xiaohan Route, and these achievements have preliminarily proved the ancient route of Xiaohan and north-south route relation. Site of Bashbaliq City and Subash Buddhist Ruins has conducted investigations and excavations under the help of technical methods for figuring out the scale and functional layout of two sites.

The establishment of academic research institute is beneficial to continuously develop relevant academic researches of the world cultural heritage. Site of Han'gu Pass of Han Dynasty in Xin'an County has specially set up a Cultural Institute for the Site to provide strong guarantee for the protection and presentation of the Site. Site of Bashbaliq City has set up Bashbaliq Study Institute of Jimsar County in June 2016. Gansu Province has set up a Standardization Committee for the Conservation of Ancient Fresco and Earthen Ruins to deeply promote regularization and standardization of the work.

The seminar and conference related to the heritage sites will be held to conduct in-depth study on the heritage sites and the OUV from multi-perspective and multi-level. For example, “the fourth senior seminar on cultural heritage management in Xinjiang cultural heritage system”, “Link between past and future---the conservation symposium of Qiuci Grottoes”, “2015 International Seminar of fresco art in Kizil Cave Temple Complex along Silk Roads” and “Conservation and Management Seminar on Site of Bashbaliq City”. All the experts and scholars attending these seminars have made suggestions for the conservation and management of the heritage sites in Xinjiang and strengthened the sustainable development of the utilization of heritage resources.

3.2 Implementing Heritage Conservation Projects

In order to intensify the conservation of the site and its surrounding environment, all the heritage sites have successively implemented heritage conservation projects (see the table below), for wholly and completely interpreting and presenting the OUV of heritage sites along the Silk Roads.

Sites	Heritage Conservation Projects and Plans
Site of Weiyang Palace in Chang'an City of the Western Han Dynasty	1) Conservation presentation project of Zhicheng Gate avenue site (from Zhicheng Gate to Heng Gate) and conservation presentation project of numbered sites in Weiyang Palace 2) Completion of the World Bank loan program of first phase conservation project on road remains in Weiyang Palace, and the examinations of site conservation projects listed as Shaofu, Central Government Office, Tianlu

	Pavilion, Shiqu Pavilion, Xi'an Gate, South Moat, West Wall, Presentation Route in Weiyang Palace
Site of Daming Palace in Chang'an City of Tang Dynasty	1) Reinforcement project of Danfeng Gate Site 2) Conservation presentation project of east water culvert in Han Yuan Dian 3) Presentation enhancement project of Da Fu Dian and its northwest area in Daming Palace
Site of Dingding Gate, Luoyang City of Sui and Tang Dynasties	Compilation and completion of conservation presentation plan of two Fang and one avenue in Dingding Gate Site
Site of Qocho City	The fifth conservation project: maintenance and conservation work of cultural sites
Site of Bashbaliq City	Compilation and completion of design plan of west river dike and its flood control in the Bashbaliq City Site
Site of Han'gu Pass of Han Dynasty in Xin'an County	1) Emergency reinforcement project of Site of Han'gu Pass of Han Dynasty in Xin'an County 2) Conservation presentation project of the east wall of Site of Han'gu Pass of Han Dynasty in Xin'an County
Site of Shihao Section of Xiaohan Ancient Route	1) Conservation plan of Site of Shihao Section of Xiaohan Ancient Route 2) Design plan of intensive conservation of Shihao Section of Xiaohan Ancient Route 3) Conservation renovation plan of Xiaohan Ancient Route
Site of Suoyang City	Reinforcement project of Site of Suoyang City and construction of protective infrastructure
Kizil Cave Temple Complex	Emergency reinforcement project of unstable rock and conservation project of cultural relics
Maijishan Cave Temple Complex	Preventive conservation project construction
Bin County Cave Temple	1) Design plan of conservation reinforcement project of rock mass and monk cave dorms in Bin County Cave Temple 2) Regulation project of water penetration; Reinforcement and maintenance project of Ming Jing Tai; Conservation project of eaves of Cave Zhangba

Great Wild Goose Pagoda	Maintenance project of eaves of the Pagoda from one floor to six floor
Small Wild Goose Pagoda	Maintenance project of house corner of Baiyi pavilion and conservation maintenance project of Cishi Pavilion
Xingjiaosi Pagodas	Conservation project of Xingjiaosi Pagodas
Zhang Qian Tomb	Conservation project of Zhang Qian Tomb

3.3 Completing Ongoing Interpretation Projects

Interpretation projects are also important work since the heritage sites were nominated on the World Heritage List. In order to enrich relevant knowledge and connotation of cultural heritage's interpretation and presentation, promote the public's understanding and appreciation of Silk Roads, and cultivate people's awareness and participation of cultural heritage conservation along the Silk Roads, all the heritage sites, supported by China State Administration of Cultural Heritage, constantly study, train and evaluate interpretation and presentation of the sites, and enhance interpretation level along the Silk Roads.

Site of Weiyang Palace in Chang'an City of the Western Han Dynasty has compiled "Design Plan of Identification System in Site of Weiyang Palace in Chang'an City of the Western Han Dynasty", "Project Design of Presentation Route in Site of Weiyang Palace in Chang'an City of the Western Han Dynasty", "Specific Design Plan of Plant Restoration for the Environment in Site of Weiyang Palace in Chang'an City of the Western Han Dynasty", and replaced identity boards in the heritage area, for the

completion of conservative infrastructure and the improvement of environment. Site of Luoyang City from the Eastern Han to Northern Wei Dynasty has finished boundary pillars of the inner city, installation of identity signs and tour signs, and sand table simulation and display boards, for fully interpreting the history, structure, important sites and unearthed cultural relics of the City. Safety patrol vehicle and testing equipment are also bought to guarantee the conservation of the City. According to management plan, Site of Qocho City and Site of Yar City have respectively built a visitor centre, and Site of Yar City has paved a 4100-meter road to improve the quality of tour activities. Site of Bashbaliq City started the museum construction project in 2016 which contained museum, visitor service center, archeological research center and tour bus departure center.

Learning from the experience of Mogao Cave Temple Complex, Bingling Cave Temple Complex and Maijishan Cave Temple Complex have finished boundary pillars, instruction signs and warning signs for improving presentation infrastructure, bettering environmental capacity and visitor reception and effectively alleviating the conflicts between heritage conservation and tourism development. Bin County Cave Temple has completed “Platform Plan of Cultural Tourism and Presentation in Bin County Cave Temple” and WeChat public number, installed virtual panoramic roaming system and scenic digital navigation system, planted a

variety of trees, and implemented square reconstruction and landscaping projects.

3.4 Propaganda and Public Education Activities

All the heritage sites take full advantage of thematic exhibitions, conference lectures, publications, media, multi-dimensional publicity platform, home publicity and so forth to publicize cultural heritage conservation. The sites also held many activities in terms of International Museum Day, Chinese Cultural Heritage Day and some other traditional holidays. And therefore the value and connotation of heritage sites will be sufficiently propagandized and interpreted to the public.

In November 2015, IICC-X established the WeChat group and online communication platform to communicate management and conservation problems at any time for managers of 22 heritage sites, representatives of government authorities and professional organizations in China. What's more, the specific issues can be addressed to the relevant agency representatives. At present, IICC-X are studying the establishment of an international Silk Roads heritage group and preparing the establishment of Silk Roads heritage fund to promote international communication and cooperation among relevant countries of the Silk Roads.

National Centre for the Performing Arts has held an exhibition on 28 April 2017 known as "Eternal Music and Dance in a Flourishing Age---An

Exhibition of Relics from Shaanxi” which collected over three hundred pieces of music and dance remains reflecting the artistic and cultural qualities and the prosperity of Chinese and foreign cultures in the starting point Chang’an of the Silk Roads. Site of Dingding Gate Museum has held activities at Cultural Heritage Day on 8 June 2017, like “The Ninth National Youth Cultural Knowledge Contest” and “Legacy Defender Research and Experience Activities”. Xinjiang cultural heritage departments have carried out a series of tour activities named “Silk Roads Culture into the Campus---Literature Exhibition of Kizil Cave Temple Complex on the Silk Roads”, “Night Tour at Site of Yar City”, “Whirling Dance at the Fingertips and Skills Contributing to Craftsmanship---Exhibition on the Achievements of Protection and Restoration of Cultural Relics in Xinjiang” and so on. These activities are a new exploration on the heritage conservation and inheritance of Xinjiang heritage conservation and tourism culture that give tourists some inspiration while participating in activities and narrow the distance between cultural heritage and the public.

A number of media teams have come to video in the heritage area, reported achievements of heritage conservation and management, carried out heritage publicity and collection of heritage culture, and publicized values and historic influence of the Silk Roads, such as “China Dream • Silk Roads Dream” of Xinhua News Agency, “Military Principle of China”,

“National Treasure Archive”, “Great Migration in Century”, “Discovery”, “Homeland Dreamland”, “Video Annals of China”. A Documentary named “Let the History Tell the Future” with a hundred episodes and some other television programs are broadcasted in the outdoor screen at Xinjiang downtown area which greatly propagandized the knowledge of cultural heritage conservation.

Through various propaganda and public education activities, the concepts of cultural heritage conservation are strengthened and the public are approval and more proud of the Silk Roads culture. It appeals for much social strength to join in the conservation of Chinese legacy and the cultural value broadcast for establishing a profound society foundation to long-term protect the Silk Roads heritages and culture.

4. Role of Stakeholders on the Conservation and Management of Heritage Sites along Silk Roads

From 2015 to 2017, various heritage sites actively carry out activities with stakeholders including local communities, relying on heritage sites for education and propaganda to enhance the external radiation of the heritage and to greatly promote the understanding, support and participation in the heritage conservation.

During the 2016 International Museum Day, Site of Weiyang Palace in Chang'an City of the Western Han Dynasty, together with No. 76 Middle School in the buffer zone in Xi'an, carried out a culture lecture with the theme of "excellent history and culture into the campus" , in 2017 together with the activity of "Museum into the two hundred schools", six schools in the buffer zone conducted publicity and education activities to educate middle school students about the knowledge of history, culture and heritage conservation. Site of Luoyang City from the Eastern Han to Northern Wei Dynasty takes advantage of slack season every year, conducting propaganda in various villages, posting propaganda slogans, starting dialogues with local villagers, establishing coordination mechanisms, propagandizing the important values of the Law of Cultural Relics Conservation and World Cultural Heritage, and selecting the protection of amateur Cultural Relics members, thus to make a better

understanding of the majority of the heritage site residents for the protection of the sites. Site of Daming Palace in Chang'an City of Tang Dynasty carried out a series of activities and cultural performances with the theme of "Silk Roads Culture" on the Public Grand Stage. It carried forward the traditional culture and strengthened citizens' sense of heritage conservation. Archaeological Sites Park of Dingding Gate, Luoyang City of Sui and Tang Dynasties freely opens daily from 6:00 to 22:00 for the Luoyang citizens to play and exercise, making hundreds of thousands of citizens of the surrounding communities benefit; During annual International Museum Day and China Cultural Heritage Day, on the implementation to the public "One Yuan to Enjoy Dingding Gate" activity, it allows more citizens to enter the Dingding Gate Museum. In 2016, it joined the national-annual-travel ticket network, reduced fees for visiting the museum and attracted more tourists to experience the Sui and Tang dynasties' culture and enhanced citizens' conservation awareness and urban identity.

Site of Han'gu Pass of Han Dynasty in Xin'an County encourages local residents to actively participate in activities such as the annual Mid-autumn Poetry Festival on August 15, Mid-Autumn Moon Festival activities and World Heritage Day campaigns; Paying attention to the popularization of science and the conservation and education of cultural heritage to the local youth. Regularly organize young students to carry out patriotism education

practice activities in Site of Han'gu Pass of Han Dynasty, creating a good atmosphere for the entire society to participate in heritage conservation. Due to the fact that Site of Shihao Section of Xiaohan Ancient Route is located in a remote mountainous village, the reserve needs to be well protected by cultural heritage and to actively communicate with local residents and guide them to participate in the heritage conservation and propaganda activities. Taking the plaza area and the parking lot as Entertainment venues, villagers are encouraged to regularly hold temple fairs and material exchange meetings at Guan Yu Temple, actively attract villagers to participate in the site protection and environmental remediation projects to increase their senses of identity and cultural pride.

Qiuci Research Institute of Xinjiang held a series of Central Propaganda and Museum of Public Cultural activities such as "Propagating the Silk Roads Culture, Representing the Western Style" in the Tarim Basin. It was warmly welcomed by cadres, masses, teachers and students from all ethnic groups there. Heritage sites organize local people and young students to visit the heritage sites for free, and carry out a wide range of mobile museum "into the campus, into the community, into the rural areas, into the enterprise" activities.

Big Wild Goose Pagoda and Xingjiaosi Pagodas As religious relics, Buddhist groups should be the largest stakeholders, it is right to strengthen their communication and cooperation with the Buddhist Temples and

Buddhist Association in the conservation, propaganda, utilization and management of the temples and eventually achieve the goals of heritage protection and religious activities. The most important stakeholder in Zhang Qian Tomb was Zhang Qian's descendants. Every year in Tomb Sweeping Day, government of Chenggu County sponsors the invitation of Zhang Qian's descendants and other social groups to participate in the ceremony of public sacrifice.

5. Monitoring Work and Data Collection of Heritage Sites along Silk Roads

In order to meet the needs of World Heritage management, the State Administration of Cultural Heritage of China has continuously promoted the monitoring of the Silk Road Heritage Site and applied the new technology to the daily monitoring of the composition of 22 properties in China.

5.1 Establishment of Heritage Monitoring and Pre-warning System

In line with the relevant requirements of the Guide to Operational Implementation of the World Heritage Convention and the Measures for the Administration of the Monitoring and Inspection of the World Cultural Heritage in China, the monitoring of the heritage of the Silk Roads in China continues to implement the Three-tier monitoring Heritage sites of national, provincial and world Cultural, Two-level inspection system of national and provincial. At present, 22 heritage sites further improve the monitoring system and monitoring platform for heritage sites, arrange full-time staff to inspect and collect data and grasp on a timely basis the heritage preservation in heritage conservation, cultural environment, heritage security, influencing factors, management guarantee, development pressure, environment pressure and other changes in the data. Targeted

monitoring is implemented according to the heritage conservation needs and a monitoring report is submitted on time every year, to ensure site preservation integrity to meet the heritage point of the day-to-day management and monitoring needs.

Commissioned by China's State Administration of Cultural Heritage, IICC-X undertook the research project on the monitoring and management of the Chinese segment of the "Silk Roads: Chang'an-Tianshan Corridor Road Network". On the basis of the situation of the monitoring and management status and monitoring progress of the 22 heritage sites in the previous period, and will continue to hold discussions with the heritage site managers on the monitoring issues and work out the next work plan to improve the monitoring and early warning levels at each heritage site along the Silks Road.



Fig. 5-1 Monitoring and Management Research Project of Silk Roads Heritage on Chinese section

At the same time, information collection on cultural relics and the surrounding environment and 22 heritage sites continue to improve dynamic information monitoring and early warning management, to strengthen monitoring and early warning so that heritage management becomes more and more scientific, informatized and standardized. Among them, Site of Dingding Gate, Luoyang City of Sui and Tang Dynasties completed "Site of Dingding Gate, Luoyang City of Sui and Tang Dynasties monitoring and early warning system project approval report" in early 2016 and applied for a special grant of State Cultural Relics conservation funding support; Gansu Province relies on Mogao Caves monitoring and early warning system, fulfilling the heritage monitoring system platform integration and system linkage, the construction of the provincial world cultural heritage monitoring and early warning platform. Kizil Cave Temple Complex, Site of Bashbaliq City, Site of Yar City, etc. Established monitoring early warning system and come into use.

5.2 Application of New Technologies in Heritage Monitoring

The daily monitoring of 22 heritage sites is based on the introduction of new techniques, utilizing the instrument monitoring equipment to continuously collect and analyze the data on the factors of affecting and potentially affecting the traits of the cultural relics, increasing heritage monitoring and conservation.

Site of Weiyang Palace in Chang'an City of the Western Han Dynasty, Site of Dingding Gate, Luoyang City of Sui and Tang Dynasties, Small Wild Goose Pagoda, use remote data transmission and other technologies to continue to monitor cultural heritage itself, ease the contradictions between "large sites" and "no coordination in human resources". Two sets of monitoring equipment for groundwater level monitor and train vibration detector were added to the Site of Han'gu Pass of Han Dynasty in Xin'an County, to realize the real-time monitoring of water level changes and the impact of train vibration in site. Bin County Cave Temple uses MW320EA-PE automatic weather stations, indoor moisture-proof sensor network relay equipment, indoor moisture-proof carbon dioxide, soil moisture content sensors for long-term monitoring of safety factors. Big Wild Goose Pagoda and Shaanxi Provincial Institute of Cultural Relics Protection cooperate to research of the Big Wild Goose Pagoda's first layer of water line, commission a qualified company to take the opportunity to repair the gray seam, resettle probes for real-time monitoring on the source of water, salt content and direction. Xingjiaosi Pagodas using ground wave monitoring technology to monitor the tower body and the ground.

6. Study and Conservation of Beacon Towers

Beacon towers along the Silk Roads are an important part of the Silk Roads and part of the Great Wall of the World Heritage. The State party has been actively carrying out investigations and studies on beacon towers. Before being formally listed in the World Heritage List, the research and conservation of beacon towers are contained in the Great Wall---Beacon towers resources conservation system. Based on this, under the premise of systematically documenting the preservation of the Great Wall-beacon towers resource (the location of these beacon towers has been marked in Annex V-1 and V-2 of the supplementary materials submitted by the State Party in February 2014). In connection with beacon towers and other management stations along the Corridor continued to carry out a series of research and investigation programs. The “China Great Wall Protection Report” has released to the public by the China State Administration of Cultural Heritage on 30 November 2016. The preparation of the “Great Wall Conservation Overall Plan” was starting which is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2017.

At the same time, the relevant provinces along the Silk Roads also carried out the Great Wall conservation work symposium (including beacon towers). Such as, Gansu Province has held the conservation work symposium (including beacon towers) on 28 September 2015 in Lanzhou,

which summarized the Great Wall conservation work(including beacon towers) in the province in the past, and scheduled the deployment of the work in the present and the future.

From July to October 2016, State Administration of Cultural Heritage organized and launched the "Special Enforcement Inspector of the Great Wall", the conservation and management of the Great Wall-beacon towers resources along the Silk Roads have been approved. And the 15 provinces involved in the Great Wall resources jointly held a series of open class about the Great Wall. For example, on 23 September in Jiayu Pass, the westernmost point of the Great Wall, Song Xinchao, deputy director of State Administration of Cultural Heritage, gave a vivid lesson of the Great Wall to the children of Yuquan Town Central Primary School.

In addition, the State Administration of Cultural Heritage has set up the Great Wall Resource Database, launched the “Great Wall Heritage of China” website (www.greatwallheritage.cn), realized the digital management of resource information, and realized the information sharing of the Great Wall resources by releasing the Great Wall resources (including beacon towers), protection management and historical and cultural information to the public. Researched information systems of conservation and management, to enable multi-condition inquiries, information updates, integrated business management, and established the Great Wall Resource Monitoring System.



Fig. 6-1 the Great Wall Conservation Work Symposium in Gausu Province



Fig. 6-2 A Series of Open Class about the Great Wall in Jiayu Pass

At present, the archaeological research and conservation work of the Great Wall-beacon towers system is still underway which will provide the basis for systematic conservation and planning to more clearly understand these vast remains. Next Steps as archaeological work and research work are ripe, consider incorporating a few beacon towers which have good value and preserved condition into the heritage range, and making minor boundary adjustment.

7. Summary

China will, as always, actively carry out research, conservation and management of the Silk Roads and continue to adhere to the conservation and management of the world cultural heritage. It will comprehensively promote the Silk Road heritage in enhancing the conservation, management, presentation and utilization, further improve the Silk Roads heritage conservation and management of long-term mechanism and presentation and interpretation of the heritage, strengthen the conservation and monitoring of the heritage, thoroughly dig the connotation of the Silk Roads heritage, explore the integrated conservation and rational utilization of cultural routes, constantly enhance the scientificity and normativity of work, and actively share cases at work through a variety of platform media (for example, presentations, AIMS) for discussion among member countries.

Annex: Related International and Domestic Academic Forums and Conferences

1. Exchange and Cooperation Forum on Preservation of Cultural Heritages of the Countries along the “Belt and Road”

On May 13, 2016, co-sponsored by the State Administration of Cultural Heritage and Shaanxi Provincial People's Government, hosted by Shaanxi Provincial Bureau of Cultural Relics, the “Exchange and Cooperation Forum on Preservation of Cultural Heritages of the Countries along the “Belt and Road” was launched in Tang West Market Museum of Xi’an. There were over 180 participants in the forum including experts from the United States, Britain, Russia, Spain, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and other countries, representatives of department of cultural heritage along the "Belt and Road" and from China's Shaanxi, Henan, Xinjiang, Gansu, Qinghai, Ningxia, Shanxi, Yunnan, Fujian, Hainan, as well as representatives of the municipal cultural heritage department of Xi’an, Xianyang, Hanzhong, Luoyang, and experts and scholars of Shaanxi cultural system. Meanwhile, four sub-forums were held including “the Forum on the Protection, Management and Monitoring of the Silk Road”, “the Forum on Archeology and Cultural Relics Protection”, “the Forum on Museums and Education”, and “the Public Forum on the Protection of Cultural Heritage”. Experts and scholars expressed their opinions and demonstrated different concepts and technical means of protection,

management and monitoring of cultural heritage both at home and abroad, which also showed the expectation of all countries attaching importance to the protection of cultural heritage and the win-win cooperation.

As the year of 2016 marked the 10th anniversary of the establishment of IICC-X, Mr. Feng Jian, Deputy Vice-director of IICC-X, delivered a brief speech at “the Forum on the Protection, Management and Monitoring of the Silk Road”, briefing participants on the work for the past ten years, and inviting them to attend the celebration of the 10th anniversary of IICC-X held on the evening of May 13. Representatives from the State Administration of Cultural Heritage, the Xi'an Municipal Bureau of Cultural Relics and members from the Silk Road world heritage working group congratulated the development of IICC- X in the past ten years. Participants were all free to communicate and wished IICC-X continue to flourish in the future.





2. Archaeology and Art Text and History—New Perspectives On Silk Road Research International Academic Conference

From July 20 to 24, 2016, sponsored by History and Culture College of Shaanxi Normal University and Shaanxi History Museum, undertaken by Qianling Museum and Zhaoling Museum, the “Archaeology and Art Text and History—New Perspectives On Silk Road Research International Academic Conference” was held in Shaanxi Normal University Academic Center.

Based on the "joint research class of the Silk Road and Chang'an", the conference further promoted the important activities of Silk Road and Changan research. It attracted nearly 70 experts and scholars who have made great achievements in the Silk Road and Chang'an historical and cultural studies, and submitted over 60 theses. Most of the participants were mainly from provincial and municipal museum and heritage units along the Silk Road, some of them were famous domestic professors, and some were well-known scholars from Russia, Japan, France, South Korea and Hong Kong. The theses of the conference covered a wide range of

areas with high quality, involving the Silk Road, archeology, images, history, religion and other directions, which not only revealed new documents and new perspectives, but also re-discussed the existing studies and promoted the level of the conference academic activities. The cooperation between universities and museum and heritage units will give full play to their respective advantages and strengthen exchanges among scholars, which will lay a good foundation for further promoting the cooperation among the museum and heritage units along the Silk Road and pushing forward the Silk Road and Chang'an research.



3. First Conference of “Silk Road International Association of Museums”

On September 7, 2016, the first conference of “Silk Road International Association of Museums” was launched in Tang West Market Museum of Xi’an. Over 100 participants including museum curators and leaders of museum and heritage units from 59 museums(41 domestic and 18 foreign) of 19 provinces and cities of 14 countries, attended the conference, together with guests from UNESCO, Chinese Culture Promotion Society, Silk Road

Chamber of International Commerce and National Association of Private Museums.

In line with the principle of “negotiating, building and sharing”, at the initiative of Silk Road Chamber of International Commerce, the Silk Road International Association of Museums was jointly established by 59 museums along the Silk Road. The Association also issued “2016 Xi’an Declaration of Silk Road International Association of Museums” in the name of all member units of the association. Mr. Wang Bin, curator of Tang West Market Silk Road Museum, was elected as the chairman of the association. It aimed to promote exchanges and cooperation in collection management, exhibitions, public education, cultural industries, public services, scientific research and personnel management among the museums along the Belt and Road initiative; to conduct international exchanges and cooperation and organize visits to museums along the Belt and Road promoting the multilateral and bilateral beneficial cooperation; to organize the "Belt and Road" museum forum sharing cultural heritage protection and research achievements; and to build a network platform of alliances to serve the cooperation of museums and cultural protection agencies all over the world.



4. The First International Symposium on the History and Culture of Silk Road in Xi'an

From September 23 to 24, 2016, the first international symposium on the history and culture of the Silk Road in Xi'an was held in Xi'an University. More than 80 scholars at home and abroad from the United States, Britain, Russia, Israel, Turkey, Serbia and Japan attended the seminar. The purpose of the conference was to jointly explore the role and contribution of the Silk Road in the historical and cultural development of both China and the West from the perspectives of history, education and cultural heritage, and to further demonstrate and bring into play the innovation and leading role of Xi'an in the construction of the "Silk Road Economic Belt." Around the theme of "Chang'an Memory, Silk Road Interchange," all scholars spoke freely and splendidly, exploring in depth and extensively the unique role played by the Silk Road in promoting economic and cultural exchanges between China and foreign countries. They also discussed the historical origin of Xi'an and the Silk Road, and many issues such as history,

literature, arts and education, which not only showed the role and contribution of Xi'an culture in the formation and development of the Silk Road, but also extended the influence of the education and culture of Xi'an, conducive to promoting the understanding and trust along different regions, cities and cultures of the Silk Road, and compiling the Silk Road research and the new chapter of Belt and Road development.



5. The Academic Seminar on "Silk Road Forum: Chang'an and Maijishan of Qin Zhou"

From March 18-19, 2017, the academic seminar on "Silk Road Forum: Chang'an and Maijishan of Qin Zhou", jointly held by the Maijishan Grottoes Art Institute, the College of History and Culture of Shaanxi Normal University, the Shaanxi History Museum and Tianshui Normal

University, was held in Maiji Mountain Grottoes in Gansu.

During the seminar, experts and scholars held a positive and enthusiastic discussion around the research on the Maiji Mountain Grottoes, the Dunhuang Grottoes, the historical origins of Chang'an and Qinzhou, the historical places in Qinzhou, the study of Buddhist art images, and the exchange of Chinese and Western cultures. After two days of intensive and orderly discussion and study, all agreed that the Maiji Mountain Grottoes Art Institute should firmly seize the historic opportunity of the "Belt and Road" policy implemented by the government and the "Chinese Civilization Inheritance and Innovation Zone" launched by Gansu Provincial People's Government, taking advantage of the opportunity of being integrated into the Dunhuang Academy to promote exchanges and cooperation with fraternal units, universities and research institutes, in order to further promote the capability of academic research at the Maiji Mountain Grottoes and jointly contribute to the protection, research and promotion of the Maijishan Grottoes which was the Buddhist art treasury and the world cultural heritage.



6. The International Youth Forum: Creativity and Heritage along the Silk Road

The International Youth Forum: Creativity and Heritage along the Silk Road Opens at Yuelu Academy, Changsha, Hunan Province on April 17, 2017. Over 100 participants including 83 youth representatives from 65 countries along the route of the “Belt and Road” Initiative, UNESCO officials, experts, and diplomatic envoys to China attended the Forum.

In a congratulatory message to the forum, Chinese Vice Premier Liu Yandong addressed the young people that for thousands of years, the people along the land-based and maritime Silk Road carried forward the spirit of the Silk Road and wrote a historical chapter of friendship and mutual understanding. In the new historical period, China put forward the proposal of building the “Silk Road Economic Belt” and the “21st Century Maritime Silk Road Initiative”, which was an important measure to expand all-round opening up and was also devoted to sharing more development opportunities and achievements in more countries. With the theme of "Creativity and Heritage", this forum encouraged young people to work for heritage protection, entrepreneurship and innovation, conducive to people-to-people exchanges among countries along the Belt and Road Initiative route. The vice-premier also hoped that young people from every country can appreciate the world with shared views, promote exchanges

and harmonious co-existence of different civilizations, and contribute to a community of common destiny for all mankind.



7. Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation

The Leaders Roundtable of the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation has kicked off on May 15 at the Yanqi Lake International Convention Centre in Beijing. Leaders from 30 countries and heads of the United Nations, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund attended the roundtable summit. Focusing on the theme of "strengthening the international cooperation and jointly building the “Belt and Road” and achieving win-win development, the leaders exchanged their views on docking development strategy, promoting interconnection, strengthening

humanities exchanges and other issues, and reached extensive consensus and issued a joint communique.

The summit reached 5 major consensus: to promote the cooperation of the "Belt and Road" initiative and jointly tackle the challenges facing the world economy; to support the strengthening of the coordination of economic policies and the docking of the development strategy, realizing the coordinated development; to push forward the pragmatic cooperation in all fields to continuously make new achievements; to establish a bridge of non-governmental exchanges between countries; to firmly believe that the "Belt and Road" construction is an open and inclusive development platform, and all countries are equal participants, contributors and beneficiaries.

Xi also announced that China will host the second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation in 2019. He emphasized that, "it is in our common interest to push forward the "Belt and Road" initiative and to jointly cope with the current challenges facing the world economy. We have every reason to be confident about the prospects for the "Belt and Road" initiative. At the same time, the initiative is a long-term project with a long way to go and requires all parties to work together to achieve tangible results. I believe that with the joint efforts of all parties, the "Belt and Road" project will surely be able to build itself into a road to peace, prosperity, opening up, innovation and civilization."

8. the Seminar on "the New Model of People-to-People Exchanges in the Belt and Road"

On May 20, 2017, the seminar on "the New Model of People-to-People Exchanges in the Belt and Road" hosted by Tang West Market Group was held in the Tang West Market Museum of Xi'an. Mr. Guan Qiang, Deputy Director of the State Administration of Cultural Heritage, attended and addressed the event, while Mr. Zhou Rong, Director of Shaanxi Provincial Cultural Relics and others delivered keynote speeches.

Focusing on the people-to-people exchange to promote the "Belt and Road" initiative, the seminar invited renowned experts and scholars from relevant fields to make theoretical considerations on the new model of humanistic exchanges in the "Belt and Road": to develop cultural undertakings, enhance mutual understanding and promote cultural exchanges; to develop cultural and creative industry, use the "Internet+" thinking to promote international cultural trade; to develop innovative international cultural tourism mode of the Silk Road; to create the international tourism train----"Chang'an". The participants offered their advice and suggestions on the promotion of the mutual understanding among civilizations along the "Belt and Road", the creation of a dialogue mechanism among different civilizations to boost the development of national cultural undertakings and the prosperity of cultural trade along the

line, to assist the Chinese cultural enterprises to "go global" and advance Shaanxi to give its full play to the role of humanistic exchanges in "Belt and Road Initiative". The symposium was of great significance in exploring a new mode of people-to-people exchanges and fully giving full play to the resource advantages of Shaanxi and Xi'an. It was an active exploration of the inland cities and new modes of people-to-people exchanges along the Belt and Road.

9. The Opening Ceremony of 2017 Cultural and Natural Heritage Day and the Forum on Cultural Heritage and “Belt and Road”

On June 10, 2017, the opening ceremony of 2017 Cultural and Natural Heritage Day and the Forum on Cultural Heritage and “Belt and Road”, hosted by the State Administration of Cultural Heritage and Henan Provincial People's Government, undertaken by the Cultural Relics Bureau of Henan Province and the Luoyang Municipal People's Government, were held in Luoyang, Henan Province. Nearly 300 people took part in this event including representatives of relevant international agencies such as the UNESCO and the World Bank, some embassies to China of countries along the “Belt and Road”, representatives of relevant ministries and departments, heads of cultural relics departments of various provinces (autonomous regions and municipalities), representatives of the heritage management agencies along the Silk Road, relevant persons in charge of Luoyang City

and Museum and heritage units as well as the media.

This year's Heritage Day was organized around the theme of "cultural heritage and the Belt and Road Initiative". It took advantage of this platform to organize activities with various forms and rich content and fully implement the spirit of President Xi Jinping's keynote speech at the 2017 Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation; to strengthen international exchanges and cooperation, boost the development of the "Belt and Road" initiative, to attach importance to the protection of cultural heritages, and to mobilize more people from all walks of life in the cause of cultural heritage protection.



10. Workshop on the South Asian Silk Roads Serial and Transnational World Heritage

From September 4-7, 2017, the workshop on the South Asian Silk Roads Serial and Transnational World Heritage ended successfully in Xi'an, drawing a successful conclusion to this four-day international academic

event on South Asian Silk Roads. This workshop vigorously promoted the preparatory work for declaring the World Heritage of the South Asian Corridor of the Silk Road and achieved fruitful results.

The meeting began with a welcoming address by Mr. Huang Xiaohua, Deputy Secretary-General of Xi'an Municipal Government and Mr. Zhou Kuiying, Deputy Director General of Shaanxi Provincial Bureau of Cultural Relics. They pointed out that the South Asian Silk Roads Serial was an inalienable part of the ancient Silk Road and a connecting link between Eastern and Western cultures. The promotion of the declaration of the World Heritage of Silk Road was highly consistent with President Xi's thinking on "the Belt and Road" and can promote common progress and common prosperity among countries along the Silk Road. In the section of scholars and experts' speeches, experts from all regions and fields made reports respectively on the archeology, investigation, research, protection, management status and achievements of the cultural heritages in the South Asian Silk Roads Serial and the strategies for applying for the next step. At the same time, it was proposed to hold at least one international symposiums each year in the future. The IICC-X will establish a data system on the South Asian Silk Roads and provide technical support for the declaration of the World Cultural Heritage on the transnational series of the South Asian Silk Roads.



11. The 2nd Conference of “Silk Road International Association of Museums”

On September 8, 2017, the second conference of “Silk Road International Association of Museums” opened in Tang West Market Museum, Xi’an, the starting point of the Silk Road. Over 100 participants including museum curators and leaders of museum and heritage units from over 50 museums of 20 provinces and cities of 9 countries, attended the conference, together with leaders and guests from UNESCO, Chinese Culture Promotion

Society and Silk Road Chamber of International Commerce.

The conference focused on topics such as museums and intercultural exchanges, Silk Road culture studies and proposals for the development of the Association of Museums, and conducted keynote speeches and dialogues and exchanges. Experts attending the conference held discussions on topics ranging from museum collections, management, operation, service, social education, public relations, cultural industries and sources of funds, and put forward rational proposals in light of the future development of the Association of Museums. They interpreted the deep connotation of the Silk Road as an economic route but also a cultural, spiritual road from the perspectives of literature, archeology, history, geography and ethnology, which was of wide and far-reaching significance for the promotion of exchanges and cooperation between the museums along the "Belt and Road". In particular, it played a very important role in promoting the development of private museums.





12. The Sub-Regional Meeting “Developing Management Strategies for the Silk Roads Heritage Corridors in Central Asia”

From September 13 to 14, 2017, the Sub-Regional Meeting “Developing Management Strategies for the Silk Roads Heritage Corridors in Central Asia” was convened in Tashkent, capital of Uzbekistan, with four contracting states: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, the delegations and consultants from UNESCO, the International Institute for Central Asian Studies (IICAS), Catholic University of Louvain and the Silk Road Cultural Tourism Research Association of Xi'an attending the meeting. Mr. Li Erwu, director of the IICC-X secretariat, Aigerim Danabekova, Deputy Director, was invited to the meeting on behalf of the international Secretariat of the Serial Transnational Nomination Coordinating Committee.

As the continuation of the 4th meeting of the Coordinating Committee of the Silk Roads World Heritage Serial Transnational Nomination held in Almaty, Kazakhstan, in November 2015, the meeting belonged to the 2nd

phase of the UNESCO/Japanese Funds-in-Trust project on“Support for Documentation Standards and Procedures of the Silk Roads World Heritage Serial and Transnational Nomination in Central Asia”.

The theme of the meeting was to review progress towards management plans elaborated by the four Central Asian countries for the component parts/sites of the Silk Roads Heritage Corridors. On the basis of the shared heritage list and in the framework of the management system of the nomination of Silk Road heritages, it organized agenda on the development, implementation, monitoring and updating of management systems. The agenda also included an assessment of the appropriate buffer zone for the component parts/sites of the Silk Roads Heritage Corridors and the development and management strategy of the Silk Road Heritage Corridor in Central Asia.

The meeting displayed and discussed the progress with the adequate documentation, archaeology and management of the serial transnational nomination “Silk Roads: Fergana-Syrdarya Corridor”, to be presented by Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. The meeting urged the four countries to officially establish the working group for inscription of world heritage, and required Kazakhstan to organize the working group meeting as soon as possible. In terms of the already inscribed Silk Roads: Chang’an Tian-shan Corridor, it encouraged China, Kazakhstan and the Kyrgyz Republic to continue their efforts for the better

management and further archaeological understanding with an emphasis on sustainable tourism. The participants also discussed the progress accomplished by Tajikistan and Uzbekistan on the Zarafshan corridor (Pendjikent-Samarkand-Poykent corridor), and emphasized the establishment of the management system of the Silk Roads World Heritage Sites in Central Asia and the sustainable development of the tourism of heritage sites along the route.



13. The 2nd International Symposium on the History and Culture of the Silk Road in Xi'an

On October 20-21, 2017, the 2nd International Symposium on the History and Culture of the Silk Road in Xi'an was held in Xi'an University. More than 120 scholars from Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkey, Tajikistan, Mongolia, South Korea, Japan and other provinces and regions attended the conference. The experts and scholars of the seminar discussed the frontier issues in many studies of the Silk Road extensively and deeply around the theme of "keeping watch for each other and chasing after dreams of Changan". They also compared the studies on the Silk Road with

the economic, social, cultural, and educational development of Xi'an and Shaanxi. The meeting integrated the past and the present through both China and the West and explored in depth the historical role and realistic significance of the Silk Road in the development of world civilization, which will surely play a positive role in promoting the construction of a new starting point for the "Silk Road Economic Belt" in Xi'an.



14. 2017 Seminar on Frontiers and Prospects of Silk Road Culture Studies and the First Issue of "Journal of Silk Road Culture"

From October 20-22, 2017, "2017 Seminar on Frontiers and Prospects of Silk Road Cultural Studies and the First Issue of "Journal of Silk Road Culture" was held at the International Convention Center of Xianlin Campus of Nanjing University. Sponsored by Nanjing University, the seminar attracted over 20 experts and scholars from Dunhuang Academy, Gansu Bamboo Slip Museum, Lanzhou University, Northwest Minzu University, Lanzhou University of Finance and Economics, Nanjing University, Yangzhou University, Jilin Academy of Social Sciences and

other research institutions. Professor Lai Yonghai, well known expert on Buddhism and senior professor of liberal arts at Nanjing University, Professor Sun Jiang, Chang Jiang Scholar at the Ministry of Education and dean of the Xueheng Research Institute at Nanjing University, Professor Wang Yueqing, director of Social Sciences Division of Nanjing University, Mr. Yang Weizhong, professor of Philosophy at Nanjing University, Mr. Lu Guobin, general manager of the Nanjing Branch of the Commercial Press, Dr. Hu Yong, deputy director of Buddhist Culture and Management Committee of Niushou Mountain, attended the seminar, together with more than 30 teachers and students from Philosophy Department of Nanjing University and College of Journalism and Communication.

Eleven scholars made keynote speeches aiming at establishing a platform for studying Silk Road culture and promoting the further development of traditional ideological and cultural studies, which was of great significance to the study of the Silk Road culture between Nanjing University and Northwest China.



15. The Establishment Conference of "Teacher Education Alliance", "Humanities and Social Sciences Alliance" , "Book Archives Publishing Union" & "Belt and Road" International Forum on Education and People-to-People Exchanges

From November 2 to 4, 2017, the Establishment Conference of "Teacher Education Alliance", "Humanities and Social Sciences Alliance" , "Book Archives Publishing Union" & "Belt and Road" International Forum on Education and People-to-People Exchanges were held in Shaanxi Normal University. The theme of the conference was "to build an educational community of humanities and promote the communication of people along the Silk Road." More than 500 people participated in the conference including An Dong, Deputy Party Secretary and Deputy Director of Shaanxi Provincial People's Congress Standing Committee, Liu Jianqing, Director of the Eurasian Department of the Education Ministry's Department of International Cooperation and Exchange, Li Zhijun, Deputy Secretary of the Higher Education Commission of Shaanxi Provincial and other persons-in-charge of Provincial Administration of Foreign Experts Affairs, Provincial Department of education, Provincial Higher Education Commission, Provincial People's Congress, Provincial Government and Provincial Party Committee, together with Lapu-Jeff, Vice President of Russia's National Normal University, Sharifov, President of Tashkent

National Normal University, An Lizhe, Deputy President of Lanzhou University, Meng Fanli, Deputy President of Xinjiang University. Moreover, universities and institutions along the Silk Road as well as representatives of the relevant state embassy in China, school's leaders, teachers and students and media.

The establishment of the "three alliances" aimed at cultivating a group of high-quality, interdisciplinary talents with international vision by means of cooperation in running schools, exchange of students, mutual recognition of credits, building of education practice bases, scientific research cooperation and sharing of book publishing resources, to promote the economic, cultural and social development in all countries along the route.

The conference officially promulgated the "Xi'an Consensus on People-to-People Exchanges and Cooperation in Education on the Silk Road" and read out a letter of congratulation sent to the conference by Ambassador Denisov, the plenipotentiary ambassador of the Russian Federation to the People's Republic of China. At the meeting, "Silk Road People-to-People Exchange Research Center", "Uzbekistan Research Center", "Turkey Research Center" and "Afghanistan Research Center" unveiled at the school marked the formal establishment of four national and regional research centers.

