

## WHV – Dong Building Technology

### Dong Villages, China

### PROJECT DATES

Cultural property inscribed on the Tentative List (2013)

23 July - 06 August 2023

**THE SITE** - Residing close to the water is the most important settlement pattern of Dong Villages. The houses are distributed on mountain slopes along rivers. The drum tower and Sasui (famous heroine of Dong Nationality) altar are the most important basic elements of a Dong village. The multi-storey drum tower, the symbol of a Dong village, is usually built in the flat or high grounds of the village center. A square is built in front of the drum tower, and provides a venue for the entire village to come together for meetings, festival celebrations, and other public activities. The typical residences of Dong people are called “Diaojiolou”, stilt houses built with Chinese fir wood and consisting of three or four floors. They feature a wood column-tie structure, and a tiled roof, and are surrounded by corridors and railings. In some regions, the corridors and the eaves are respectively connected between houses. A large number of Dong Villages have fish ponds dugged out in front and at the back of the houses and build a two-storey granary on stilts beside. The fish ponds are used to rear fish and for fire safety, features a waterside village.

**OBJECTIVES** - The project will continue the documentation work initiated in 2016, already identified as a World Heritage Volunteers Best Practice in the 10th Anniversary publication of the Initiative. It aims at protecting existing heritage, especially existing buildings and building construction techniques; exploring new directions for the development of cultural heritage; raising local residents' awareness of cultural heritage protection; and take publicity measures to expand public influence and visibility of Dong Villages.

**ACTIVITIES** - Volunteers will visit several Dong Villages on the tentative list and learn about the characteristic and heritage value of each village. They will hold traditional activities with local communities, and together with the experts and planners in team they will give a series of posters and lectures about Dong heritage conservation issues to government officials and local villagers, including about the model of Dong drum tower made during the previous projects. Volunteers will participate themselves in the making process of Dong drum towers, using traditional materials, tools and techniques under the supervision of Dong architects.

**PARTNERS** - World Heritage Office of Tongdao County, Village Committees of Gaoshang Village, Gaosheng Village and Kezhong Village,

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