

WHV – Dong Building Technology for the Future Community

Dong Villages, China

PROJECT DATES

Cultural property inscribed on the Tentative List (2013)

01 August - 31 August 2024

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 flagship activities at the Dong Villages, which were awarded the WHITRAP Global Award for World Heritage Education Innovative Case in 2023, will be continuing for the 7th year, focusing on the increased global and local awareness of the importance of preserving Dong building techniques and on the role of local youth for the sustainability of community engagement in heritage conservation efforts.

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 thanks to the long-term partnerships and working relationships among volunteers, Moshi architects and local households, the hands-on activities and workshops on Dong constructions will also continue, with the reproduction of scale models of key element of Dong architecture.

PARTNERS - WHITRAP World Heritage Institute of Training and Research for the Asia And The Pacific Region; Gaobu Village Committee; Cofinity Research Centre, UK.

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