

# WHV – Conservation Program for Villages Guarding the Royal Tombs

## Imperial Tombs of the Ming and Qing Dynasties, China

Cultural property inscribed on the World Heritage List (2000)

## PROJECT DATES

02 July - 13 July 2024

**THE SITE** - The Imperial Tombs of the Ming and Qing Dynasties were built between 1368 and 1915 AD in Beijing Municipality, Hebei Province, Hubei Province, Jiangsu Province and Liaoning Province of China. The Ming and Qing imperial tombs are located in topographical settings carefully chosen according to principles of geomancy (Fengshui) and comprise numerous buildings of traditional architectural design and decoration. The tombs and buildings are laid out according to Chinese hierarchical rules and incorporate sacred ways lined with stone monuments and sculptures designed to accommodate ongoing royal ceremonies as well as the passage of the spirits of the dead. They illustrate the great importance attached by the Ming and Qing rulers over five centuries to the building of imposing mausolea, reflecting not only the general belief in an afterlife but also an affirmation of authority.

**OBJECTIVES** - The North China University of Science and Technology will engage with the campaign for the first time, with activities dedicated to the rediscovery of a less known and visited element of the Eastern Royal Tombs of the Qing Dynasties, the guardian figures of the non-core area.

**ACTIVITIES** - The University will engage volunteers in promoting capacity-building practices targeting youth and communities at the tomb-guarding villages, enhancing participants' awareness of the role of rural areas in preserving and promoting cultural heritage.

**PARTNERS** - Culture Research Institute of the Eastern Royal Tombs of the Qing Dynasty; Administration Committee of the Eastern Royal Tombs of the Qing Dynasty; COFINITY Research Center; Huiyingfang Village in Maranyu Town, Zunhua City, the People's Government of Maranyu Town in Zunhua City; Intangible Heritage Project; Manchu and Chinese Calligraphy Inheritor; Museum Curator of the Eastern Royal Tombs of the Qing Dynasty; History Expert of Qing Dynasty; Researcher of Manchu Tomb Guardian Culture.

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