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THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

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**Item 19 of the Provisional Agenda: Progress report on the Global Training
Strategy**

Proposal to establish a World Heritage Training and Research Institute in China

SUMMARY

This Document contains a proposal by the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee 2003-2004, Mr Zhang Xinsheng (China), to establish a “World Heritage Training and Research Institute in China” (CWHTRI).

Introduction

As the Host of the 28th Session of the World Heritage Committee, the Government of China wishes actively to promote the implementation of the Convention concerning the world cultural and natural heritage, and in particular the 4 strategic objectives enshrined in the *Budapest Declaration on World Heritage* adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 26th session in 2002, by establishing a “**World Heritage Training and Research Institute in China**” (CWHTRI). If established, this Institute could in time become a UNESCO institute.

Background

The first Periodic Report on Asia-Pacific Periodic region, presented to the 27th session of the World Heritage Committee (Paris, 2003) placed emphasis on the need for further efforts for capacity building and training in the domains of traditional conservation techniques; the use of traditional materials; management and tourism plans; and monitoring mechanisms and risk preparedness.

This was reflected in the Memorandum of Understanding signed by the Director-General of UNESCO and the Minister of Education of China on 1st October 2003 which emphasized, inter-alia, the importance of establishing a World Heritage education/training and research institution for capacity building.

Objectives of the World Heritage Training and Research Institute in China (CWHTRI)

The CWHTRI would have the following principal objectives:

- To contribute to the achievement of a more even geographical distribution of training and research institutions for World Heritage conservation, with particular emphasis on the Asia - Pacific region;
- To promote better protection, conservation, management and governance of the properties on the World Heritage List;
- To carry out capacity-building activities such as research, training for site managers, local government officials, educators and technicians in China and for Asia-Pacific countries, as well on the conservation of both cultural and natural heritage sites;
- To encourage the development of a World Heritage site manager's regional network to exchange information, experience and best practices.
- To facilitate the establishment of disciplines relating to World Heritage conservation at university level by hosting UNESCO chairs and other academic activities;

- To accelerate communication, particularly the free flow of information aimed at educating and raising awareness about World Heritage among the general public and especially youth;
- To foster international collaboration by formulating cooperative projects with UNESCO and other national/ international bodies.

Governing body

The CWHTRI would be governed by a council whose members would be drawn from the different ministries in China and specialized agencies and universities in China, including: the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Construction, the Ministry of Culture, the State Cultural Heritage Administration, the National Commission of the People's Republic of China for UNESCO, Tsinghua University, Peking University, and local governments. Representatives from WHC, ICCROM, ICOMOS and IUCN would be also invited participate in the council.

Secretariat

A Secretariat would be established to ensure the day-to-day functioning of CWHTRI with a full-time director and two other staff members, appointed by the Chinese authorities.

Budget and facilities

The Chinese authorities would ensure the smooth running of CWHTRI by providing a building, and a regular budget for the overheads, facilities and activities. Extra-budgetary funds may be sought from other national and international organizations as necessary.

A Memorandum of Understanding between the National Commission of the People's Republic of China for UNESCO and the UNESCO World Heritage Centre to promote co-operation in the implementation of CWHTRI activities should be studied.