Series on the Management and Conservation of World Heritage Sites

Training Workshop on “World Heritage: A Value-based Approach”
Mumbai, India, 18 – 21 August 2005

Executive Summary and Next Steps

UNITAR would like to express its thanks to the many resource persons and participants who contributed their time and expertise to the workshop so graciously: the Urban Design Research Institute (UDRI) of Mumbai and in particular Abha Narain Lambah – a UNITAR alumni – who made this national event a reality. Special thanks go to UNESCO and its World Heritage Centre for assistance throughout the Series. Finally UNITAR wishes to convey its gratitude to all those in Hiroshima who support its work in the Asia-Pacific region.

Introduction

The Series on the Management and Conservation of World Heritage Sites, one of the six main programme pillars of the UNITAR Hiroshima Office for Asia and the Pacific (HOAP), aims at a better management and use of the World Heritage Convention through supporting national policy making and planning, and exchange of information on best practices and case studies. In addition to annual training workshops dedicated to Asia and the Pacific, for the first time, a country-level workshop was conducted in Mumbai, India, with a former UNITAR training participant/resource person as the main coordinator.

The Mumbai Workshop, conducted in cooperation with UDRI and UNESCO, took place from 18 to 21 August 2005. It’s objectives were to introduce the participants to basic knowledge, information and updates on the World Heritage regime and current topics regarding heritage management, set down the underlying principles of value-based heritage management, identify leading policies and strategies pertaining to Indian heritage management, explain legal and policy planning techniques, discuss case studies and practical exercises, and enhance long-term learning and exchange among the participants.
The Mumbai Workshop

Some 20 participants from different regions of India, two international participants, one observer and six resource persons supported by UDRI and UNITAR staff, partook in the workshop.

The training workshop used three main training methodologies:

1) Presentations and lectures
2) Study tours
3) Practical exercise

1) Presentations and lectures by experts selected by UNITAR and representatives of its partner organizations, UDRI and UNESCO. The presentations, followed by Q and A sessions, addressed the following:

- Opening remarks by Shri C. Babu Rajeev, Director General of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) introduced the current situation of cultural heritage conservation in India and underlined the emerging trends and challenge faced by the agency taking charge of 19 out of 21 cultural World Heritage sites in India.

- Opening remarks by Abha Narain Lamber, Member of Governing Council of UDRI explained the process leading to the organization of the current training workshop in Mumbai, India. Ms. Lambah provided basic data regarding the World Heritage resources in India and explained the project of nominating Mumbai Fort area for World Heritage inscription.

- Opening remarks by Hiroko Nakayama, Programme Officer of UNITAR stressed the relevance of World Heritage Convention as a tool to enhance the protection and sustainable use of selected cultural and natural resources for the humanity, and the necessity to adapt it to the changing situation in today’s world.

- Introduction to the World Heritage Convention by Augusto Villalón, Cultural Heritage Planner at A. Villalón Associates, Philippines made an overview on the World Heritage regime including available international assistance mechanisms and criteria for nomination. Mr. Villalón then explored India’s natural and cultural sites and explained the specificity of heritage management in this country.

- Illustrated lecture on the management of cultural World Heritage sites in India by Amita Baig, World Heritage Fund brought into relief the world surrounding conservation specialists, and pressures from socio-economic and political factors. Cases from Indian sites indicating conflicts between site development and heritage conservation, and between site conservation and society’s development have been presented.
• **Conservation issues in India – periodic monitoring reports, Amita Baig** first explained the objectives and procedures of periodic monitoring and challenges and problems found in heritage management in India. New trends observed in India and beyond, and newly applicable principles and hints for conservation specialists were then presented.

• **Keeping your World Heritage property in great shape by Augusto Villalón** revisited the key principles laid down by the World Heritage Convention in light of the reality observed at heritage sites. Mr. Villalón presented numerous simple questions that site managers could ask themselves in their daily work in heritage management, and stressed the importance of information for main stakeholders and the necessity of appropriate preparation.

• **Bazaars in Victorian Arcades by Rahul Mehratra, Architect & Urban Designer, and Trustee of UDRI**, while presenting the conservation plan of Mumbai’s Fort area, identified kinetic and static parts in physical, historical and psychological elements of a city, and suggested a new reflection flow to achieve integrated heritage conservation and town planning in harmony with overall (tangible and intangible) culture.

2) **Study tours** to two districts of Mumbai, first to the UNESCO Awards sites and the Victoria Terminus Station (a World Heritage site) and second to the nomination site of Victoria Precinct and Marine Drive formed an important part of the training workshop. They not only introduced the participants to Mumbai’s World Heritage site and sites in preparation for nomination, but also illustrated many and different efforts made by Mumbai stakeholders - civil society as much as the city authority - to conserve people’s common memories and history (World Heritage or not), to promote culture, and to improve landscape and life of people therein.

**Abha Narain Lambah**, after a comprehensive introduction to Mumbai sites\(^1\), took the participants to Doctor D. N. Road from where the participants could observe the Rajabai Tower and Elphinstone College that have been prized by the UNESCO Heritage Award. The restoration of St. Thomas Cathedral was also explained. The participants then walked to the Mumbai World Heritage site, the Victoria Terminus Station – the Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus.

**Rahul Mehratra and Sharda Dwivedi (Member of Governing Council of UDRI)** took the participants on a bus tour under monsoon rains. The Victorian precinct restoration and conservation efforts as well as the nomination project for the Mumbai Fort area including the Marine Drive have been explained.

At the end of the study visits the participants formed teams of 3-4 to discuss what have been learned at the study tour, and presented key words for the knowledge acquired. The following are some of them:

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\(^1\) See *supra* page 2.
3) **A practical exercise** was organized, employing case-study analysis by working teams. Four (4) teams were established and assisted by a resource person. Teams worked together throughout the workshop period to formulate a policy document for the management of a given site and to present it in plenary. A variety of learning and training methodologies designed by UNITAR were incorporated in the exercise.

Team I
**Pondicherry** (nomination)

Dayalan  
Divay Gupta  
Karni Jasol  
Kiran Joshi (resource person)  
Munish Pandet  
Shadish Velu (data provider)
UNITAR “Training of Trainers (ToT)” Initiative

In order to expand the impact of training, UNITAR HOAP gives increasing importance to Training of Trainers (ToT) concepts and tools. Potential trainers (the workshop participants) are invited to submit projects for country/sub-regional level training. UNITAR will assist training projects in such fields as project development, training methodologies, and guidance on thematic matters by UNITAR faculty, through distance-learning, dispatch of experts and fundraising.

Team II
Goa (site management)

Djamel Boussa
Paromita Desarkar
Ketak Nachinolkar (data provider)
Nitin Sinha
N. Taher
Augusto Villalon (resource person)

Team III
Chandigarh (potentially endangered site)

Rahul Mehrotra/Abha Narain Lambah (resource persons)
Sangeeta Bagga Mehta (data provider)
BN Mishra
Nupur Prothi Khanna
Nitin Raje
Renu Saigal

Team IV Hampi (monitoring)

Brinda Gaitonde
Narasimhan Ghanti
Satya Veeradevaru Prabhulingappa Halakatti (data provider)
Navin Piplani
Savita Raje
Priyaleen Singh (resource person)
AK Sinha

UNITAR Hiroshima Office for Asia and the Pacific, www.unitar.org/hiroshima
Outcome, evaluation and next steps

There are roughly three main outputs from the Mumbai workshop:

- Training modules consisting of all the presentations and documents to be made available on the UNITAR Hiroshima website, www.unitar.org/hiroshima, and in a CD distributed to all participants;
- Case studies prepared by the four working teams and comments made by the Panel of the Resource Persons;
- Future trainers identified and network of cooperation and opportunities of discussion/co-organization of training created among the training participants. Creation of an on-line forum for discussion to be pursued.

Each participant was requested to fill in an evaluation form at the end of the workshop. The people in Mumbai, represented by the organizers, have been evaluated extremely hospitable. The impressions of Mumbai as a venue were diverse. While many noted the vibrant nature of Mumbai, others notice alerting signs of degradation of environment/life space and the living conditions.

The overall evaluation of the workshop was extremely positive, however suggestions for improvement were also provided. The chart herewith aims to show a brief summary of the key points of the participants’ evaluation.

It was suggested that UNITAR work with UDRI to make a suggestion to relevant authorities to include inter-disciplinary training workshops in the consultative process of each (potential) World Heritage sites. The participants also requested UNITAR to create an on-line forum of discussion.

The next step will be a regional workshop to be organized in Hiroshima, Japan (March 2006), entitled ‘Management of the intangible values of World Heritage sites’. A thorough evaluation for the first cycle of the Series (2003-2005) and planning for the second cycle (2006-2009) will also be conducted. Partners and alumni are therefore requested to provide further guidance and information to improve the Series.

Hiroko Nakayama, Geneva
September 2005