The International Conference “Cultural Heritage Values in China: Identifying, Evaluating, and Treating Impacts to Cultural Relics,” Shandong University, Jinan, and Qufu Town, Shandong Province, China, October 26-28, 2010
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“Cultural Heritage Values in China: Identifying, Evaluating, and Treating Impacts to Cultural Relics” was the first international conference on heritage values and site damage assessment in China. The conference focused on information exchange and strategies for addressing at-risk cultural sites, with emphasis on local stakeholder involvement. As part of the conference, a draft site evaluation protocol was developed, field-tested at three cultural sites in Qufu, Shandong Province, and assessed. Chinese and Korean university students attended the conference and provided evaluation of format and content to organizers.

Background
Chinese society faces major impacts to cultural heritage relics and sites from natural disasters and the cumulative effects of urbanization and development. Local officials must develop procedures for rapid, accurate assessments of a cultural relic’s condition, then determine mitigation and prioritize treatments. The convergence of Chinese and international needs for identifying, evaluating, and addressing critical impacts to heritage resources provides a perfect opportunity to synthesize information on heritage values and management strategies to enhance those values. This project was the first international conference on heritage values and site damage assessment in China, focusing on information exchange and strategies for addressing at-risk cultural sites, with emphasis on local stakeholder involvement. As part of the conference, a draft site evaluation protocol was developed, field-tested at three cultural sites in Qufu, Shandong Province, and assessed. Chinese and Korean university students attended the conference and provided evaluation of format and content to organizers.

The first day of the conference was held at Shandong University, bringing together an international panel of heritage management experts to compare experiences and expertise on a wide variety of cultural heritage issues from China and the world. The conference was opened by special lectures from Yan Chen, the Vice-President of Shandong University; Zhixiu Xie, Director of the Cultural Relics Bureau of Shandong Province; and George S. Smith, Adjunct Faculty, Florida State University. Papers were organized into three sessions summarized below.

Session 1 - Managing and Protecting Heritage Values: Broad Perspectives
Phyllis Messenger’s presentation, “Cultural Heritage Protection and Archaeological Ethics,” examined the ways that archaeologists adapt work methods, teaching techniques, and even work settings, to maintain relevance in understanding and protecting cultural heritage in the twenty-first century. Hilary A. Soderland’s presentation, “(In)compatible Interlocutor in Sustainable Heritage Governance: Appraising Jurisprudential Universality as a Heritage Management Tool” examined the universality of law as a governing apparatus...
and management tool at the nation-state, regional, and local levels and its effect on legal adherence, implementation, and enforcement with respect to sustainable heritage. George S. Smith’s presentation, “The Role of Heritage Values in Protecting and Managing the Past for Individuals, Communities, and Nations” discussed how protecting and managing the past in the public interest is based on individual, community, and national values, as reflected in laws, regulations, policies, and guidelines and how heritage values must be balanced with the needs and concerns of contemporary society. Haiguang Yu’s presentation, “Thoughts on Some Key Issues on Protection of Cultural Heritage” provides Chinese perspectives of understanding and awareness of cultural heritage issues outlined in the State Council Notice on Strengthening the Protection of Cultural Heritage, the national mobilization order that strengthens cultural heritage protection by establishing clear requirements. Dr. Yu’s discussion acknowledges Protection of Cultural Heritage (2008) by Jixiang Shan, credited with promoting practice and theoretical research on heritage protection. Hilary DuCros’s presentation, “Macau’s Management of Cultural Heritage Values” discussed Macau’s challenges to safeguard both tangible and intangible heritage in communities faced with rapid urban cultural change. Arlene Fleming’s presentation “Heritage and the Development Process” discussed the use of Environmental Impact Assessments and Strategic Environmental Assessments to identify, document, protect, and manage cultural heritage resources and relics within the development context.

Session 2 – Intangible Heritage in China: Science and Stewardship

Jinpeng Du’s presentation, “Review on Preservation of Large Heritage Sites in the Past Five Years” discussed government actions to promote and protect sites through the cooperation of the State Administration of Cultural heritage, the Ministry of Finance, and the Institute of Archaeology of Chinese Academy of Social Sciences over the past five years. Shengqian Chen’s presentation, “The Past for the Present or the Future: The Current Questions and Possible Strategies for the Preservation of Chinese Paleolithic Sites,” discussed the need to consider short-term and long term goals for the preservation of Paleolithic sites in China and the need for policies, training, site inventory and funding for these unique sites. Qing Wang’s presentation, “Protection of the Salt-Industry Heritage in Laizhou Bay, North Shandong, China” discussed the need to develop conservation plans to protect cultural heritage through a research program to mitigate destructive factors associated with modern salt extraction and fish farming, economic development, oilfield construction, and farming. Chuanwei Zhang’s presentation, “Cultural Heritage Protection Under the Law” discussed the need to balance economic development with cultural heritage protection by enacting laws that enhance cultural inspection departments’ authority and responsibility, provide stricter penalties for those who damage or destroy cultural heritage, and establish a national staff member responsible for cultural heritage protection.
Session 3 – Where Heritage and Communities Intersect

Byung-mo Kim’s presentation, “Development and Heritage Protection: A Korean Case” discussed collaborative efforts with the Korean government to minimize impacts and maximize heritage benefits of Neolithic dolmens (megalithic features) in the path of a major highway project. Wherever possible, the dolmens were protected and incorporated into public spaces created by the highway project. Chen Shen’s presentation, “Identifying the Values and Impacts of Cultural Heritages Under Economic Development: the Case Study of Mongolia Oyu Togoi Project,” discussed development, implementation, and review of the cultural heritage management plan for areas impacted by development of the largest copper-gold mine in Mongolia. The plan included tangible and intangible resources as well as public programs and evaluation of the cultural heritage program. Jigen Tang’s presentation, “Value Presentations in Cultural Heritage: Management for Archaeological Sites” discussed the need for public archaeology to deliver more public benefits, take into consideration tangible and intangible heritage values that include all periods of Chinese history and prehistory, and called for more international cooperation in Chinese archaeology, especially visits to on-going excavations. Hui-Chi Huang’s presentation, “The Revival of Taiwan’s Indigenous Cultural Heritage,” discussed the upsurge of Taiwanese indigenous cultural identity and view points, safeguarding intangible heritage, and the need to incorporate safeguarding practices through strategic planning and management. Pei-Lin Yu’s presentation, “Heritage and Stewardship of Ancestral Remains: America and China,” discussed how ancient human remains and funerary objects are tangible heritage with many values, as recognized by both China and North America laws. The intersection between the legal structure and heritage values of China and the U.S. offer strategic space in controversial situations. Yufan Cui’s presentation discussed the relationship between Chinese heritage resources and a rapidly growing Chinese and international tourist audience. Tension between conservation and commercial interests requires public sector leadership and coordination, and best principles for sustainable heritage tourism include forums for stakeholder consultation as well as adaptable management guides.

Field Testing the Site Evaluation Protocol

On the second and third days, participants field-tested a draft field evaluation protocol, guidelines, and form. This exercise provided the first-ever forum for Chinese cultural heritage managers to interact with colleagues from other countries who are working on similar issues, and an opportunity to visit actual heritage sites in order to evaluate a procedure for documenting and reporting harmful impacts. This procedure (adapted to Chinese needs from the U. S. National Park Service) was designed to provide first order data for use in identifying and prioritizing treatments to impacted sites. The sites evaluated were: the Kong Residence complex (孔府; the World Heritage Site known to English speakers as the Confucius Family), the Shao Hao tomb (少昊陵) complex, and a section of the Lu State (鲁国) rammed-earth wall.

After site evaluations were completed, the protocol, guidelines and form were evaluated. Group discussion identified specific measures to improve the form for Chinese cultural heritage managers.
1. Include space to write in specific culture-historical time period(s) of the heritage resource; the check-the-box approach doesn’t work well.

2. Specifically address multi-component cultural heritage resources; although a primary cultural period may be the focus, multiple components contribute to heritage value.

3. Add space to describe improvements and new infrastructure (e.g., safety and traffic features, signage, and facilities for restrooms, eating, etc).

4. Consider intangible heritage values (e.g., viewshed, acoustics, ethnic identity value, language or skill value) and include very clear definitions of intangible heritage.

Plans are currently underway to publish detailed results of the field exercises, with recommendations to modify the process based on this review.

**Dissemination of Results and Conclusion**

As a result of this conference, several participants submitted papers for the World Archaeological Intercongress in Beijing, July 2011. Shandong conference papers will be published in a special issue of the *Journal of Oriental Archaeology* by the Center for Archaeological Studies at the University of Shandong. The Center website has posted a summary of the conference (http://www.arc.sdu.edu.cn/zhxindongtai/2010/10-10/wenhuiyichan.htm) with contact information for all participants. Plans are underway for additional sessions on this topic at other professional meetings, and to coordinate with the Northwest University in Xi’an on their new Cultural Heritage program curriculum.

In closing, Professor Wang of Shandong University summed up the spirit of the “Cultural Heritage Values in China: Identifying, Evaluating, and Treating Impacts to Cultural Relics” experience by saying that “to see and hear the people behind the artifacts, sites, and ruins is the heart of cultural heritage.”

**About the Authors**

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