

WORLD

The League of Historical Cities Bulletin



# HISTORICAL CITIES

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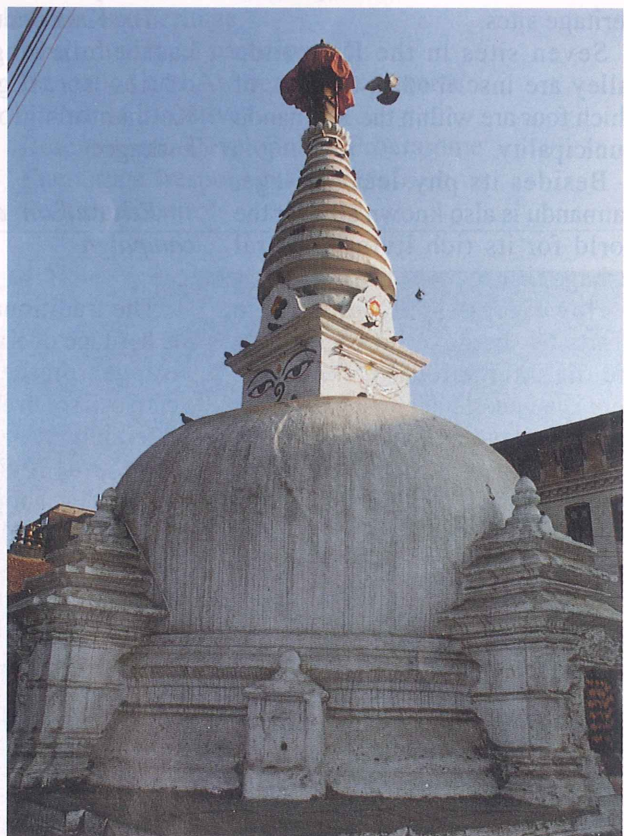
Wat Phre Singh temple in Chiang Mai

*Katmandu*

*Chiang Mai*

*The World Heritage Committee*

*Interview*



The Maha Bouddha Mandir Temple in KATMANDU



# Katmandu *Heritage conservation strategy*



One example of renovation  
 Left: Thkan Baha temple before renovation  
 Right: after renovation

### *Background*

Katmandu is proud to be listed on the UNESCO list of World Heritage sites.

Seven sites in the Katmandu valley are inscribed in the list, of which four are within the Katmandu municipality.

Besides its physical heritage, Katmandu is also known all over the world for its rich living cultural heritage.

However, despite substantive efforts by the government, people and the international community, there is a general decline in the state of our heritage today.

The challenge for Katmandu is to conserve our heritage as a living system for the future generations as we move forward into the 21st century.

The threats to our heritage have come from many sources such as an ignorance about the importance of heritage and a lack of economic space over competing ends.

What is needed is innovation in tapping existing investments in the education system, tourism, regulatory frameworks, local

financial resources, as well as the preservation of what remains of the ancient concepts of land as trust or the Guthi.

The Katmandu Metropolitan city has the following programs as part of its strategy to conserve Katmandu's globally recognized heritage.

### *Education and information campaign*

The traditional values that kept the heritage of Katmandu are slowly disappearing because of pressing economic needs to switch professions.

An artist finds that his son now has a video shop and is unable to pass on knowledge and skills.

A widely scoped awareness campaign is needed to instill pride in traditional skills.

These professions also need to pay well to keep them attractive. Tourism has been a big help towards this end.

### *Economic Incentives Program*

Keeping the built and living heritage of Katmandu is going to

require resources and incentives for the people who maintain it.

It is also time consuming and requires much study and education.

Till recent times, land and the grains grown on the land provided the incentive, but with a decline in the agricultural system, a more direct economic intervention may be needed till the Guthis can be revived.

Entrance fees and sale of handicrafts to tourists can be one source of revenue.

Tax rebates and subsidized materials have also been suggested as possible incentives.

### *Legal and regulatory disincentives*

Encroachment, theft, and failure to comply with or enforce building codes requires effective implementation of regulatory disincentives.

Effective vigilance by local people will also be critical.

### *Sponsor program*

There are numerous restoration and repair works that can be carried out with small financial resources



from individual contributions.

Schools, offices and clubs can be mobilized to raise funds to sponsor such activities.

The strategy is to prepare a list of schemes that can be locally sponsored.

*Heritage Revolving Fund*

There are numerous privately owned heritage sites that need repair badly.

The idea behind creating a revolving heritage fund is to purchase such property, restore it and sell it for a margin to cover the overhead expenses.

The fund may also provide loans at low interest for individuals who wish to invest in heritage conservation.

*Research and development*

There are new ways, techniques and skills needed to keep our heritage intact.

In the Nepali context, cost reduction techniques are important.

Keeping the weeds and pests at bay, preventing corrosion, restoring water systems, repainting etc, will require some research and development of new techniques.

The municipality will work with leading research and development agencies to achieve the above goals.

*Pollution Control*

As many of the heritage sites are in the core city areas, vehicle

pollution and waste-disposal are serious problems.

Besides the short term impact on esthetics, these have long-term impacts on decay and corrosion of heritage sites.

The municipality is committed to keeping monumental zones clean and also limiting access, if not totally banning polluting vehicles' entry into these zones.

*For further information,  
Mayor's office, Katmandu, Metropolitan  
City  
Kalimati, Katmandu  
phone 977-1-277574  
Fax 977-1-277576*

Katmandu Metropolitan City has the following goals and guiding principles as its heritage conservation and tourism development strategy:

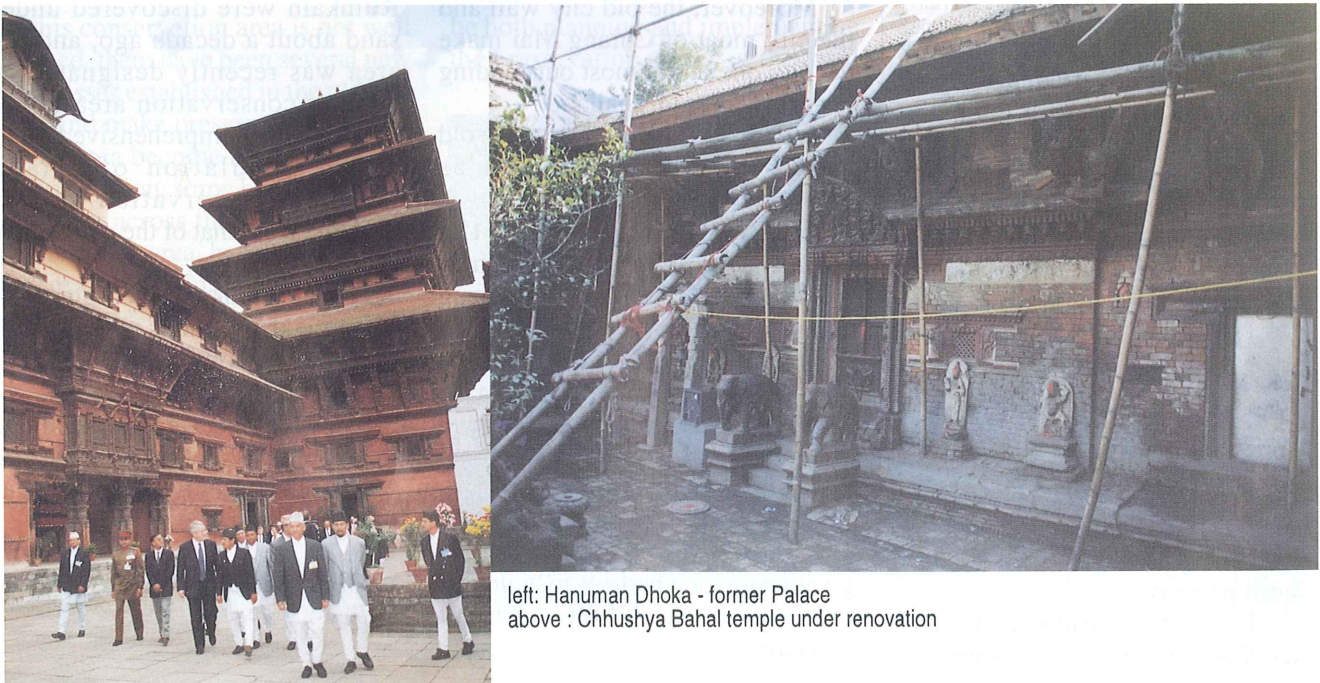
**GOALS:**

To contribute to the conservation of Katmandu's built and living heritage.

To make tourism an incentive for conservation and maximize tourist stay

**GUIDING PRINCIPLES:**

- Authenticity
- Instill pride and ownership of Katmandu's built and living heritage
- Maximize local participation
- Education and Awareness Programme
- Financial incentives
- Research and Development Programme
- Encourage "responsible tourists"
- Pollution control

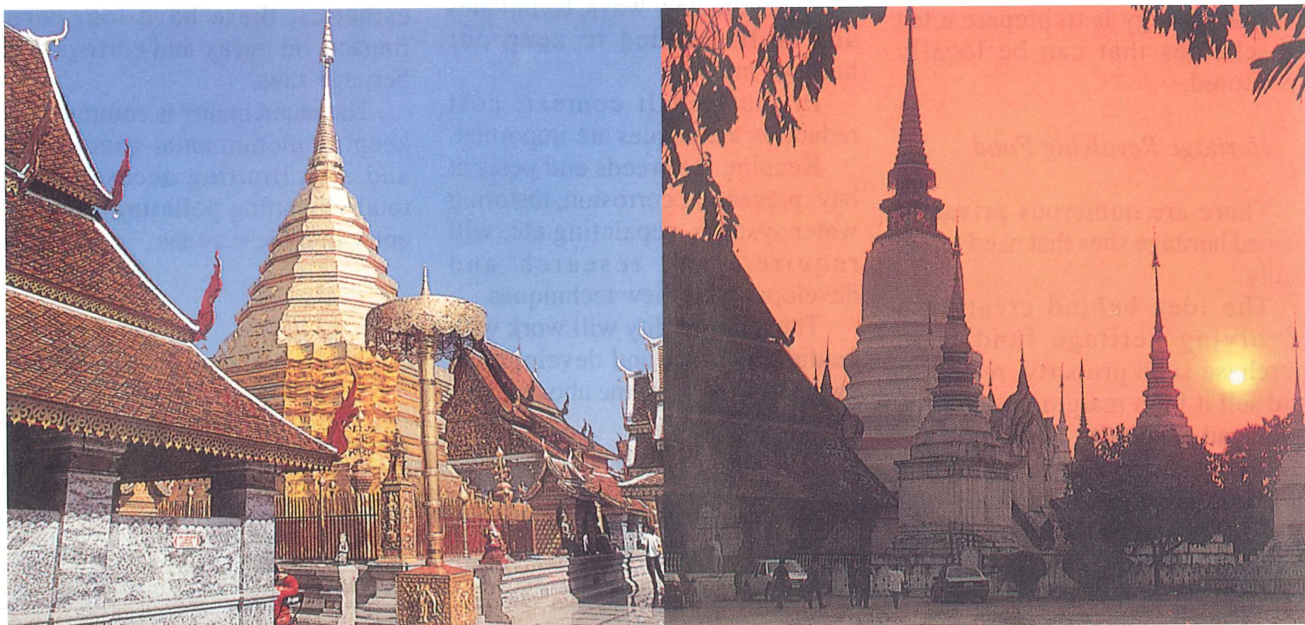


left: Hanuman Dhoka - former Palace  
above : Chhushya Bahal temple under renovation



# Chiang Mai

*preservation policy of Chiang Mai Historical City*



Wat Phra That Doi Suthep temple (left) and Wat Suan Dok temple (right)

## *Historical Background*

Chiang Mai is the second most important city in Thailand.

Established by King Mungrai in 1296 A.D., the city was meant to be the capital of his Lanna Kingdom.

The city is situated in the Chiang Mai- Lamphun valley, having the Tanontongchai mountain range along the western side, and the Pipunnum mountain range along the eastern side of the city.

The old Chiang Mai city was built in an almost square shape, approximately 1.8 km x 2.0 km.

Brick city wall and the city moat mark the old city boundary.

Within the old city, there are many temples of different types of architecture depending on the period they were built.

The Lanna Kingdom prospered for 229 years, until its defeat at the hands of the Burmese.

Two hundred years of Burmese occupation exerted much influences on local people's way of living and the architectural style of the temples in Chiang Mai which can be seen until present.

Thereafter, Chiang Mai became a colony of the Thai Kingdom.

Gradually, Chiang Mai became part of Thailand and now it is one of the most important cities and provinces of the Thai Kingdom.

## *Preservation Policy for Chiang Mai City*

Since Chiang Mai was first established as an independent state, architectural style of this city is different from other parts of the country.

Moreover, the old city wall and the city moat of Chiang Mai make the city one of the most outstanding historical sites in Thailand.

As a result, the area within the old city wall was designated as preservation area.

The central office of the Department of Town and Country Planning is in charge of this Chiang Mai Comprehensive Plan.

The regulations of preservation area limit a building height to 16 meters and state that buildings must either have gable roof or traditional decoration on them.

In order to support the preservation policy, the government gives restoration budgets to buildings that are registered as national treasures.

Moreover, there is another preservation site in Chiang Mai province besides the area within the city.

It is called "Wiang Kumkam" which was also established by King Mung Rai before moving to Chiang Mai.

Because of a flood, Wiang Kumkam was abandoned and left unattended since the establishment of Chiang Mai.

Many important sites of Wiang Kumkam were discovered under sand about a decade ago, and the area was recently designated as another conservation area in the Chiang Mai Comprehensive Plan.

The regulation of Wiang Kumkam preservation area is different from that of the old Chiang Mai city.

Wiang Kumkam is recognized as a historical site and is taken care of by the Department of Fine Arts, Ministry of Education.

New buildings are not permitted to be built within this area because it was only recently announced as preservation area.

## *Implementation of Preservation Policy*





Picturesque scene of rural Chiang Mai (left) and Thai elephants provide transportation and entertainment (right)

The preservation area and regulations were established by the Department of Town and Country Planning. The Chiang Mai Municipality is in charge of its implementation.

It is necessary to revise the present regulation to make the guidelines more precise.

Many different post-modern buildings with gable roofs are permitted to be built under the present regulation.

Such new constructions are alienated from the old city atmosphere.

Furthermore, because land usage of this conservation area is not well defined, there have been several new businesses established in the old city area and make preservation process of the area become harder.

In addition, some high-rises were built just across the street from the preservation area, hampering efforts to maintain the old city's atmosphere.

*Remarks*

An efficient preservation policy implementation requires some changes, such as: first, there should be a buffer zone surrounding existing preservation area so that the skyline of the city would gradually change from the preservation area.

Second, there should be detailed regulations for land usage, for instance, building forms that would make the preservation area of Chiang Mai should have Lanna atmosphere than what it appears now.

Third, local government should be both planning and implementing the preservation policy at the local

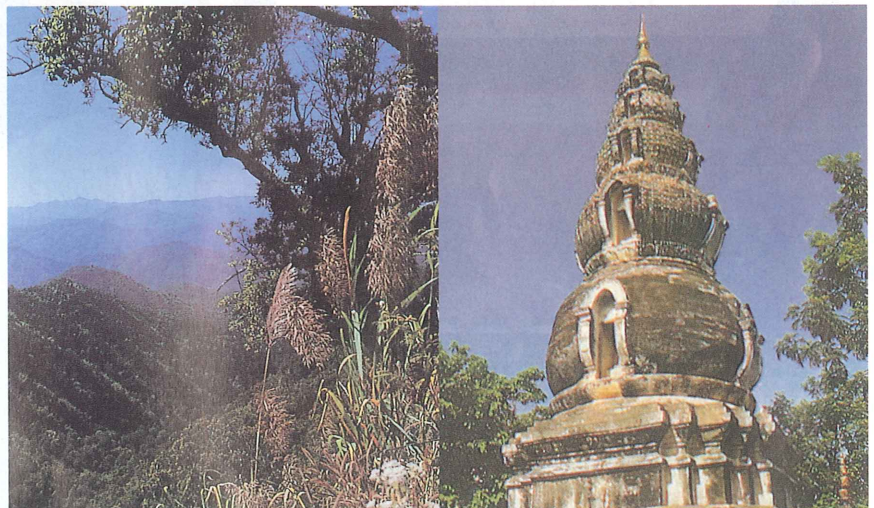
level.

Fourth, the central government should provide preservation budget to save private cultural heritage as well as those designated as national treasures.

To conclude, even though the preservation policy of Chiang Mai is not well implemented from an academic point of view, Chiang Mai is still a lovely historical city.

There are still many historical sites that are beautiful and worth visiting.

For more information:  
 Tourism Promotion and Development  
 Section, Chiang Mai, Thailand  
 Tel:66-53-252478  
 Fax:66-53-233952



The mountain scenery of Chiang Mai (left)  
 Wat Ku Tao temple (right)



*The 22nd Session of the World Heritage Committee, Kyoto, Japan*

The 22nd Session of the World Heritage Committee was held in Kyoto at the Kyoto International Conference Hall from Monday, 30 November to Saturday, 5 December 1998. Approximately 300 participants from Japan and the rest of the world gathered in Kyoto, including representatives from States members of the Committee. Prior to the Committee Session, the Session of the World Heritage Bureau was held on Friday, 27 November and Saturday, 28 November, where the agenda of the Committee was discussed in advance.

The World Heritage Committee is an intergovernmental committee that was established in accordance with the World Heritage Convention (officially called the Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage) and is comprised of

21 States members, including Japan.

The objective of the World Heritage Convention, which to date has been concluded by 153 countries, is to establish a system of international co-operation and assistance toward the protection of cultural and natural heritage as world heritage of humankind as a whole. Japan concluded the Convention in 1992.

Natural Properties of 3 sites and Cultural Properties of 27 sites which include the sites in the member cities such as the La Grand-Place, Brussels and the Historic Monuments of Ancient Nara, were inscribed on the World Heritage List at the Kyoto Conference. The Mayor of Kyoto, Yorikane Masumoto, the Chairperson of the League of Historical Cities, gave the address of welcome at the opening session of this conference.

It was decided that the next session will be held in Marrakech, Morocco next year.

*It is said that the 21st century will be a century of spiritual rediscovery. Despite, or perhaps due to globalization and the rapid development of science and technology, and increasingly highly information-oriented society, not only material but also spiritual wealth will be in demand.*

*Under these circumstances, it can be said that conservation of the World Heritage sites will become increasingly significant because these monuments help people understand and tolerate different cultures as well as giving us spiritual satisfaction.*

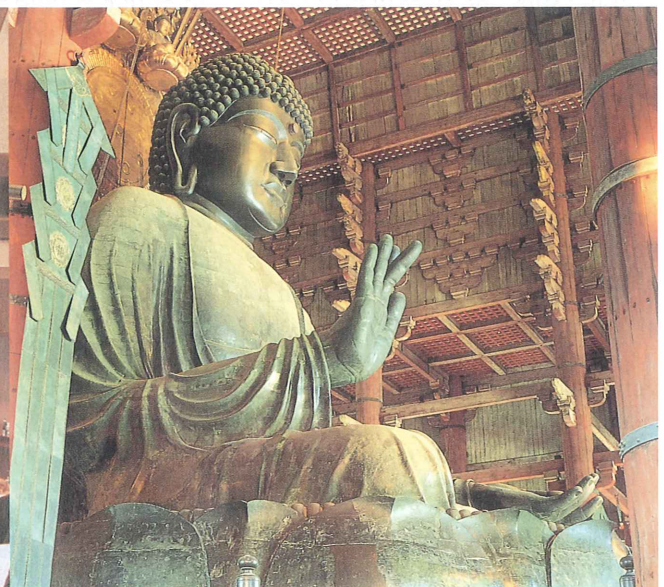
*Enveloped in the beautiful natural surroundings, Kyoto has over 2,000 historical properties including National Treasures and Places of Scenic Beauty. They are our inheritance of over 1,200 years of history. As the treasury*

*of Japanese culture, Kyoto represents the soul of the Japanese people.*

*As the Mayor of this city, it is my duty to preserve Kyoto, the city of beautiful nature and bountiful cultures, as a place for people of the world to meet in place and exchange ideas and cultures beyond the differences of race, religion or social structure.*

*It is now the most beautiful season in Kyoto. The whole city is ablaze with autumn leaves. On this occasion, it gives me a great pleasure that you have an opportunity to contemplate the natural and cultural aspects of this city.*

-Extract from the address of welcome by Yorikane Masumoto, Mayor of Kyoto at Kyoto Conference-



The opening of the 22nd session of the World Heritage Committee at Kyoto International Conference Hall.(left)  
Historic monuments of Ancient Nara which was inscribed on the cultural heritage list at the last Conference.



*New Member City*

The application from the City of Hague to become a member of the League was approved at the 3rd meeting of the Board of Directors in Cracow, Poland. This makes the total number of member cities 59 (48 countries).

**Hague** (Kingdom of the Netherlands)

Mayor: W.J.Deetman  
 Population:450,000  
 Contact:H.F.Ambachtsheer, director of the local department for monuments and Sites  
 Address: po box 12655 2500 DP the City of Hague, Netherlands  
 Tel: 31-70-3534800  
 Fax: 31-70-3534854



The Queen Beatrix at the state opening of Parliament on the third Tuesday in September

*City of Power*

The Hague's political role has long been contrasted with the visible reputations of Amsterdam and Rotterdam-higher profile neighbours of creativity, trade and industry.

However, its hidden power over these centres has always been significant.

Guide to national political direction, the Hague is now playing a greater role than ever in affecting the path of the country and business in the new Europe.

Seat of national government, city of diplomacy and international relations, Royal Residence, home to the International Court of Justice, and city in which the world's first peace conference was ever held in 1899, the Hague has long played the role of the unseen fixer.

And not only in the political arena.

The role of the city has become one of European centre of management decision making.

It is now lifting its veil of discretion, and playing a growing continental business role.

**The League of Historical Cities List (59 cities from 48 countries)**

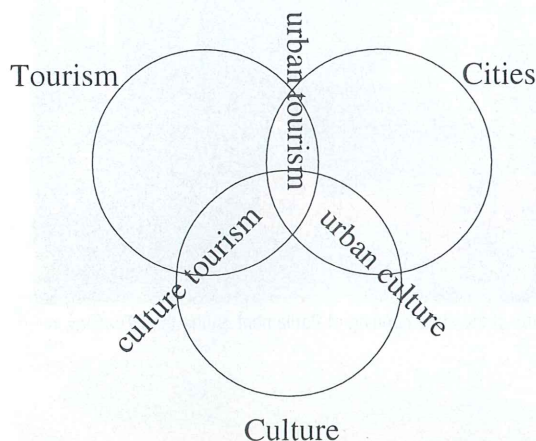
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|--|---|--|
| Accra (Republic of Ghana)  | Guadalajara (United Mexican States)             | Montreal (Canada)                              |
| Alexandria (Arab Republic of Egypt)                              | Hague(Kingdom of the Netherlands)               | Montpellier(France)                            |
| Algiers(Algeria)   | Hanoi (Socialist Republic of Viet Nam)          | Nanjing (People's Republic of China)           |
| Amsterdam (Kingdom of the Netherlands)                           | Helsingborg(Sweden)                             | Nara(Japan)                                    |
| Athens (Hellenic Republic)                                       | Iasi(Romania)                                   | Paris(French Republic)                         |
| Baghdad(Iraq)  | Isfahan (Islamic Republic of Iran)              | Prague (Czech Republic)                        |
| Barcelona (Spain)  | Istanbul (Republic of Turkey)                   | Quebec (Canada)                                |
| Bordeaux (French Republic)                                       | Jerusalem (State of Israel)                     | Rio de Janeiro (Federative Republic of Brazil) |
| Boston (United States of America)                                | Kaesong (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) | Rome (Republic of Italy)                       |
| Bratislava (Slovak Republic)                                     | Katmandu (Kingdom of Nepal)                     | Santiago de Compostela(Spain)                  |
| Brussels (Kingdom of Belgium)                                    | Kiev (Ukraine)                                  | Tashkent (Republic of Uzbekistan)              |
| Budapest (Republic of Hungary)                                   | Konya(Turkey)                                   | Tunis (Republic of Tunisia)                    |
| Chiang Mai (Kingdom of Thailand)                                 | Kyongju (Republic of Korea)                     | Ulan Bator (Mongolia)                          |
| Cologne (Federal Republic of Germany)                            | Kyoto (Japan)                                   | Varanasi (India)                               |
| Cordoba(Spain)   | Lahore (Islamic Republic of Pakistan)           | Vienna (Republic of Austria)                   |
| Cracow (Republic of Poland)                                      | Lisbon (Portuguese Republic)                    | Xian (People's Republic of China)              |
| Cusco (Republic of Peru)   | Melbourne (Australia)                           | Yangon(Myanmar)                                |
| Dublin (Ireland)   | Mexico City (United Mexican States)             | Yogyakarta (Republic of Indonesia)             |
| Edinburgh (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) |   | Zagreb (Republic of Croatia)                   |
| Fez (Kingdom of Morocco)   |   | Zurich(Swiss Confederation)                    |
| Florence (Republic of Italy)                                     |   |  |



INTERVIEW

# Gregory Ashworth

Faculty of Spatial Sciences, University of Groningen, Kingdom of the Netherlands



*This topic combines three elements, each of which has separate origins, broader purposes and wider relationships than can be considered here. These are culture, tourism and the city.*

*However any attempt to consider them separately will totally miss the point and be not only irrelevant to our purpose but misleading. Two words dominate much of the discussion below; these are synergy, where the aggregate of the elements is greater than the sum of their parts, and the catalyst, where a systems change is facilitated by the presence of a specific element. Clearly not all the relationships within this triangle are of equal importance to our argument but the understanding of any one requires its consideration in relation to the others.*

-Extract from his presentation at Cracow Conference-

**Your have made a presentation under the title of "Transmission of cultural values in a historical city" at the working session of the 6th World Conference of Historical Cities in Cracow. Will you give us the main point of your lecture briefly?**

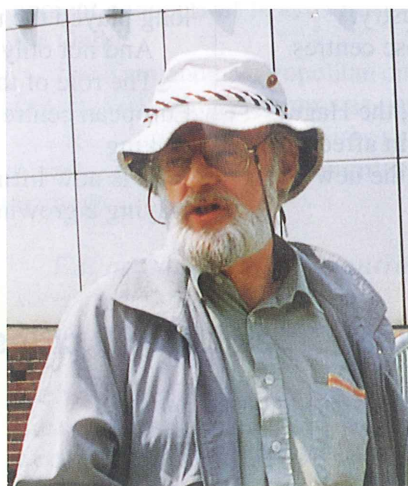
The most important point in my presentation was that we are combining three quite separate phenomena.

These are, culture, taken here to mean the aesthetic productivity of a society past and present; tourism, an activity organized by an economic industry; and cities, a particular spatial form and set of functions.

Each of these is much wider than our focus on urban heritage tourism and each of these has other uses, goals and methods.

Combining the three in a system of harmonious mutual benefit is not a self-evident condition.

It has to be actively managed.



**What do you expect of the League when each member city of the League deals with the common theme of conservation and development ?**

The cities of the League have much to offer to the world and to their citizens.

But if they are to do this successfully, using their interpreted pasts in the service of quite different markets then a number of preconditions are required.

These are, first recognition that intervention is needed; secondly, an understanding of the different uses and users of the urban past and the ways in which they interact; and thirdly the development of structures, instruments and methods of intervention that avoid the dangers of conflict and disharmony while maximizing the benefits to both the heritage resource and the users.

Access to Secretariat.  
 e-mail address: [lhcs@city.kyoto.jp](mailto:lhcs@city.kyoto.jp)  
 URL address: <http://www.city.kyoto.jp/somu/kokusai/lhcs/>

## The League of Historical Cities Secretariat

International Relations Office, City of Kyoto, Teramachi Oike, Nakagyo-ku, Kyoto 604-8571, Japan/Phone +81-75-222-3072 Fax +81-75-222-3055