

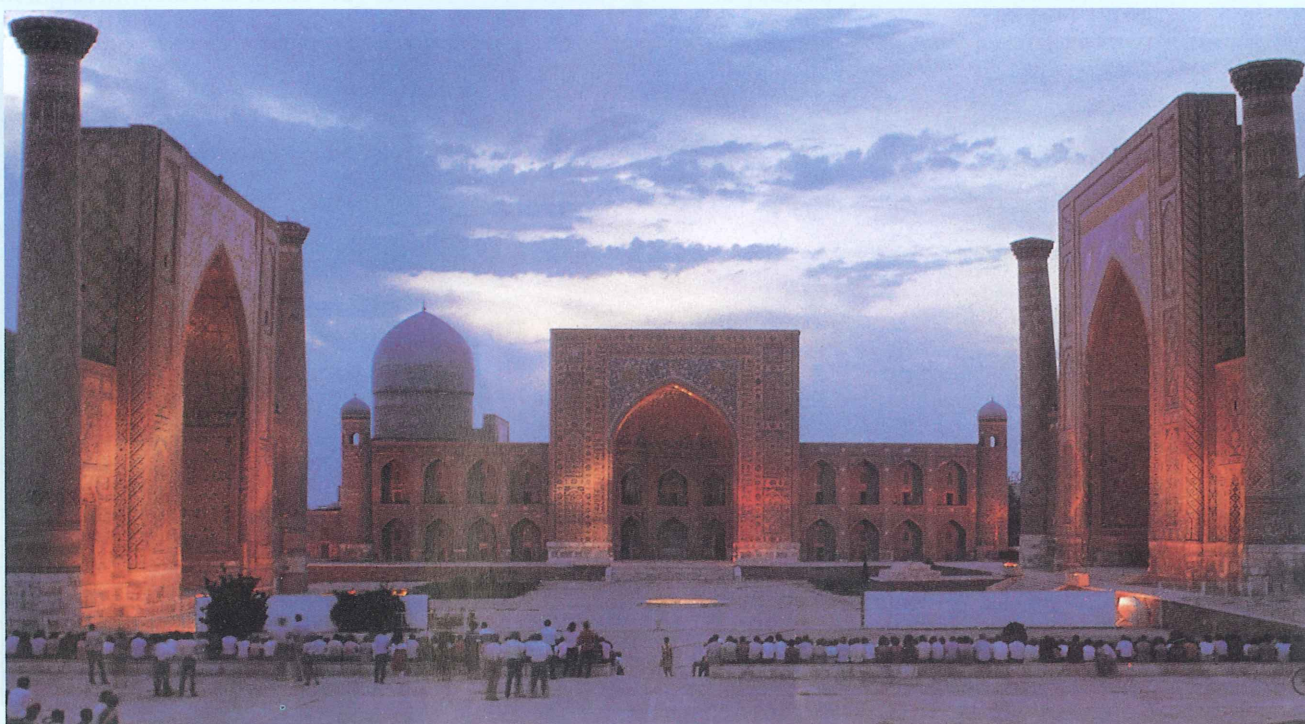


WORLD

The League of Historical Cities Bulletin

# HISTORICAL CITIES

NO. 22: February 2001



Tashkent, Republic of Uzbekistan

## *Reports from Member Cities*

## *The 7th World Conference of Historical Cities*

## *Interview from Rio de Janeiro*

City Hall of Ballarat, Australia





# City of Ballarat ( Australia )

Ballarat is one of Australia's foremost regional cities. It is an elegant city with a tremendous history. The lure of gold was a magnet drawing people from all over the world to Ballarat in the 1850s. The rush to the Ballarat Goldfields gave enormous impetus to Victoria's population growth.

It also established Ballarat as a major business and commercial center.

Today Ballarat is the service center for Western Victoria with professional, retail, commercial, education, health and welfare services.



The Ballarat community has a proud record of initiatives aimed at the protection of its heritage.

### Heritage Study

In 1978 the City of Ballarat undertook a conservation analysis of its historic buildings and places.

This study identified several hundred sites of significance on a national, state and local level.

This study was updated in 1982 and is the subject of a further review at present, taking in a wider area, both rural and urban.

### Urban Character Study

Much of Ballarat's character comes from its historic buildings and places.

A study is underway to identify what elements contribute to this character with a view to ensuring that new development recognizes and contributes to that character.

### Building Protection

Sites of significance have been given statutory protection requiring that alterations be carefully assessed before being allowed to proceed.

### Building Restoration

The restoration of both public and private buildings in Ballarat has been occurring for many years.

In recent years the Council has been involved in the restoration of major public buildings including the Town Hall, Her Majesty's Theater and the Mining Exchange.

Historic homes are restored with pride by their owners by the hundreds each year.

The City of Ballarat offers financial assistance through low interest loans to assist continued restoration activity.

The Council also provides a heritage advice service. Anyone considering building restoration can

obtain expert advice free of charge.

### Public Education

Public education is an important component of protecting our history and an activity which the Council and wider community has been involved in for many years.

Heritage Week is an annual event where activities are organized to improve knowledge of our history and generate new enthusiasm for heritage protection.

**The Sovereign Hill Historic Township** - replica gold mining town of the 1850's, **Gold Museum**, **Eureka Center** - an interpretive center based around the Eureka Rebellion which is a major event in Australian history, **Eureka Trail** and **University of Ballarat** are all part of a significant infrastructure which has been developed to further heritage education.



**Urban Character Study**

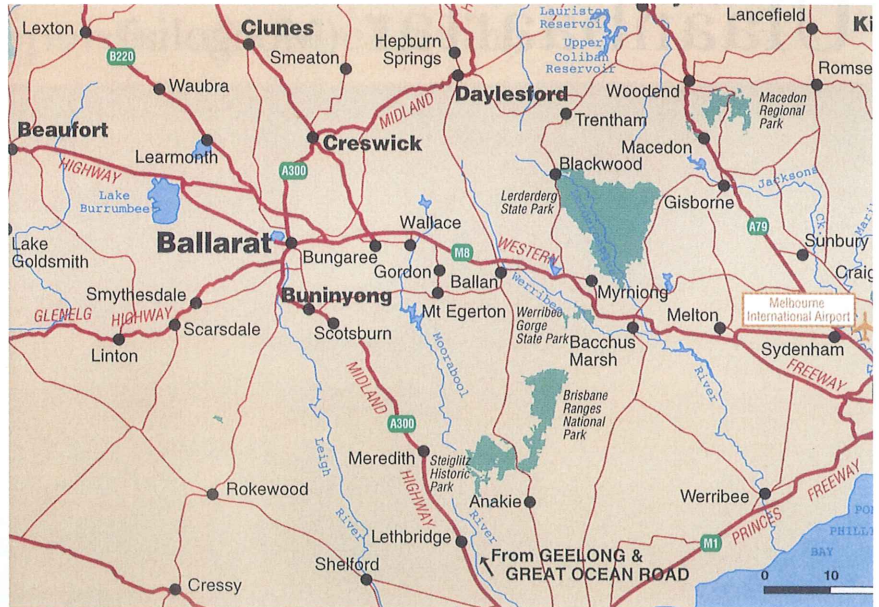
In recent years, there have been increasing pressures placed on Ballarat's central historic residential areas by medium density housing development.

Properties occupied by deteriorating pre 1920's homes are being demolished to make way for new buildings. These sites are targeted because they are reasonably priced and are within close proximity to the commercial center of Ballarat.

There have been increasing objections to many of the new development proposals. More importantly, there are growing concerns over the consequent perceived loss of character created by these medium density houses and their impact on the streetscape as a whole. Many new developments are viewed as being "out of character" and lacking sensitivity to the broader context. Community action groups such as *Ballarat Citizens for Thoughtful Development* have formed in response to the construction of "insensitive" developments.

They are concerned that if current development trends are left unchecked, Ballarat's unique character could be lost.

The City of Ballarat



commissioned the Ballarat Urban Character Study in October 1998. It was instigated to address the concerns over the perceived loss of urban character in the inner residential areas of the municipality.

By providing a documented inventory of Ballarat's urban character and an assessment of elements which are significant, the study forms a basis for evaluating the impact of new development.

It also forms the basis for identifying any appropriate measures required to ensure that new development does not have a

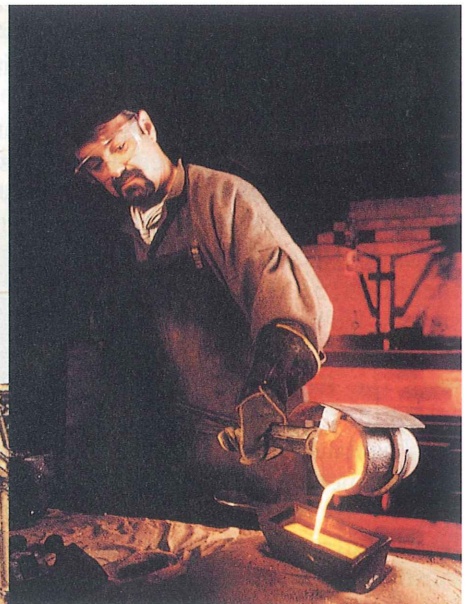
negative impact on urban character.

A steering committee was established to oversee the development of Ballarat's Urban Character Study and consisted of a group of council and community representatives.

*For further information,  
Ballarat Economic Development Board,  
City of Ballarat  
PO BOX 655 Town Hall, Queen Victoria  
Square, Sturt Street Ballarat, Victoria,  
Australia 3353  
TEL 61-3-5320-5620  
FAX 61-3-5333-4117*



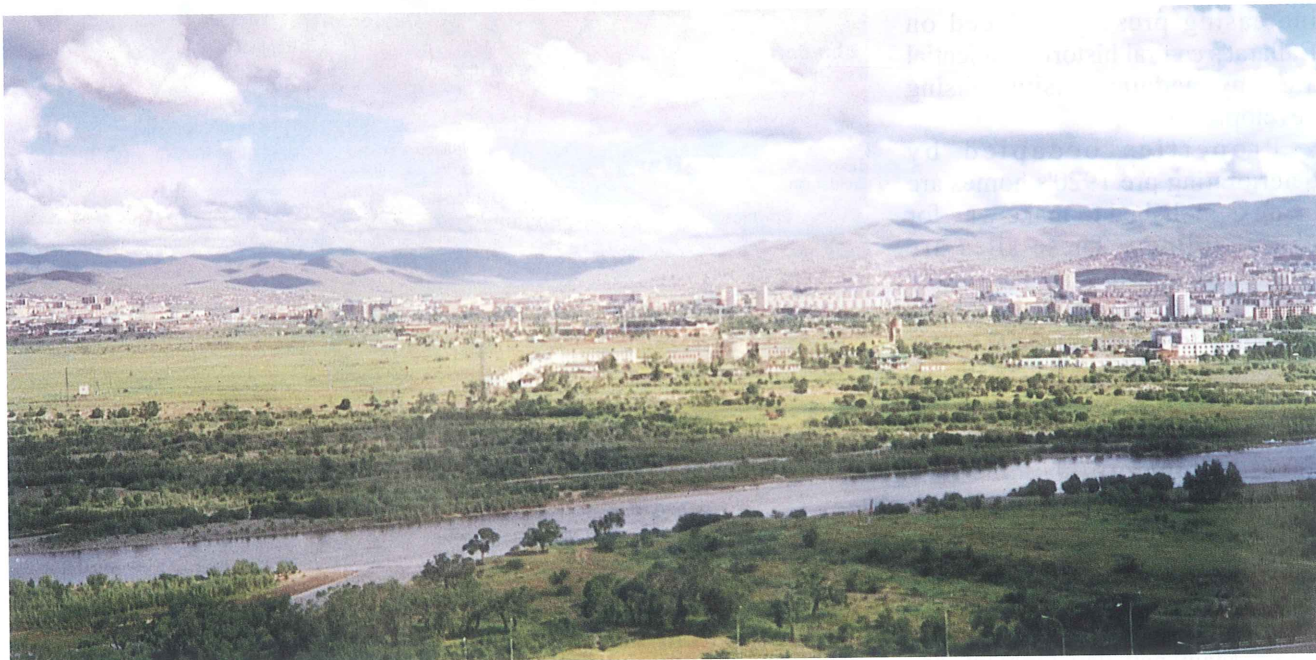
Ballarat heritage streetscape



Gold pouring at Sovereign Hill



# Ulaanbaatar (Mongolia)



The landscape of Ulaanbaatar

Ulaanbaatar is the capital city of Mongolia. Since democratization was taken in 1990, Ulaanbaatar has undergone drastic changes.

Once a mysterious, far off and inaccessible place, it is now an exciting and fascinating city.

Ulaanbaatar is the political, economic and cultural center of the country.

The city was founded in 1639 and in 1994 the 335th foundation anniversary of Ulaanbaatar was widely celebrated in Mongolia.

The name of the capital has been changed several times.

It was called ORGOO in 1639-1706, IKH KHUREE in 1706-1911, NIISLEL KHUREE between 1911-1923, and lastly ULAANBAATAR since 1924.

ULAANBAATAR is situated on the bank of river Tuul and is surrounded by beautiful foothills of the Hangayn Nuruu mountain range, with the Bogd Khan mountain facing the city in the south.

Ulaanbaatar stands at an altitude of 1350 meter above sea level.

The climate is continental, mostly cold and dry. The climate has exceptionally sharp variations in temperature in the course of a day.

The recorded highest temperature in summer is 38 degrees centigrade and the lowest temperature in winter is minus 49 degrees centigrade. Ulaanbaatar has 280 sunny days in a year on average.

The city has a population of 619,200. Young people under 35 make up 70% of the city's population, over 40% of them are children under 16.

Ulaanbaatar presently covers an area of 140,000 hectares. Administratively, the city is divided into 9 districts.

There are 25 higher schools and universities enrolling some 14,000 students and 111 secondary schools with 108,000 pupils in Ulaanbaatar.

The city is governed by 72 municipal assembly persons who are elected every four years.

The first-ever multiparty elections were held in July 1990, in which the ruling Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party was victorious. The national privatisation policy and other enactments aimed at introducing market principles were adopted in 1991, allowing privatisation of agriculture and state-owned assets.

*For further information,  
External Relations Office, Ulan Bator  
Metropolitan Government  
TEL 976 - 11 - 324331  
FAX 976 - 11 - 322147*



Mongolian Sumo Wrestling



# Tashkent (Republic of Uzbekistan)



## Culture and heritage

The population is young and dynamic. Seventy per cent of Uzbekistan's 23 million people are less than 30 years old.

There is universal literacy due to an effective system of public education and 52 universities across the nation. Some of these, together with the Uzbek Academy of Sciences, are internationally renowned for their innovative scientific research. At this moment, some seven million people, or one third of Uzbekistan's population is Uzbek, but a hundred nationalities such as Russians, Tadjiks, Tatars live in the Republic.

## A brief history

Throughout history Uzbekistan has been a gateway between East and West. For millennium it has been the home of a mixture of Persian and later Turkic peoples, including the 6th century B.C. Scythians, and later the Sogdians, the legendary Silk Route traders who were conquered by Alexander the Great in the 4th century B.C. on his way to India.

The cities of Samarkand and Bukhara became renowned as a holy Islamic city.

Science and the arts flourished as early as the 9th century - still in print

are the medical writings of Avicenna.

In the 13th century the Mongols under Genghis Khan overran this region, and it became the heart of an empire that extended from the Urals to India. This was followed by the rule of Timur in the 15th century.

By the 19th century, the region had fallen into economic and cultural stagnation, prey to the whims of petty tyrants and the intrigues of Russia and England.

Russia eventually incorporated Central Asia into its empire in 1865. This at least brought improvements in transportation and education, and an end to the slave trade.

The Soviet period saw continued improvements in education and society, but proved to be intrusive, effectively banning religion and eventually introducing the Cyrillic script in place of the Arabic and Latin scripts, and making Russian the *lingua franca*.

The economy was integrated into the Soviet planning system, and Uzbekistan experienced remarkable industrial development, but at a great cost to the environment. Massive irrigation canals were constructed in the 1930s and 1950s, and whole factories were transported from European Russia during

WWII. The standard of living rose significantly, which allowed the traditional family-centered lifestyle to flourish. Population growth was very high, with families of 10 or more children common. Following the earthquake in 1966, all Soviet Republics and Warsaw Pact countries contributed to a massive rebuilding programme of Tashkent.

By the 1970s, economic and environmental problems were evident, especially the tragedy of the Aral Sea, once the world's fourth largest inland sea, which has lost 40% of its water through excessive irrigation. The rigid political and economic system of the Soviet Union became less and less viable, and it was dissolved in 1991.

Overall, despite the legacy of crisis which the Soviet system left behind, it is fair to say that great strides were made during this period to bring Uzbekistan into the 20th century.

*For further information,  
City of Tashkent, Republic of Uzbekistan  
TEL 998 - 71 - 133 - 6475  
FAX 998 - 71 - 139 - 1517*



**The 7th World Conference of Historical Cities  
Summary of the presentation at the working session.**

**Workshop no. 1 Architectural Coherence and Urban Integration in  
Historic Cities**

Mr. Vaissade Alain	Mayor of Geneva
Mr. Abreu Antonio	Deputy Mayor of Lisbon, in charge of the redevelopment of historic cities
Mr. Sun QingJun	Deputy Mayor of the city of Xian
Mr. Coulomb Rene	Director General of the Historic, Center of Mexico
Mr. Tropeano	President of the Association of Cities and Regions for European culture
Mrs. Berlanga	Representing the Mayor of Mexico
Mr. Vasconi	Architect
Mr. Volle	Moderator and Professor of Geography Paul-Valery University - Montpellier

The remarks on this subject have contributed to an interesting debate.

The ideas of architectural coherence and urban integration remain the inspiration of all public action.

The latter idea, broader and more general, justifies closer attention from politicians whereas the former idea seems more suited to a response from an artist or an ordinary citizen.

***Past and modernity: a permanent confrontation in the historic city***

Historical Cities represent our history, our heritage and we are the guardians of the cultural values and the architectural richness. Each historical city has also sought their urban qualities.

They must confront all the aggressions of our contemporary societies such as cars, poverty, mass tourism, pollution, an urban growth that stretches their territories. The speed and mobility of our modern era has replaced the slow maturation of a historic city.

Every speaker emphasized this permanent confrontation in the historic city, a confrontation between **the past** and **the modernity** which is seen in the architectural, technical, social and economic fields.

As it is impossible to repeat what has been done in the past without a danger of stagnation, it is necessary for us to accept a historical perspective which must be protected at all costs.

The historic city is a living entity in which contemporary life should be able to develop.

Our urban heritage must be part of the development of the modern city. "To modernize is not to make things look new, it is to integrate a rejuvenating element into old buildings."

**Reconstructing the city: to conserve is to transform**

The goal is that the redevelopment of the historical city should be qualitatively exacting and that all that is done today in a historical city should be based upon

the heritage of a historical city. Coherence at the planning stage is a prerequisite of coherent long term action. However, it is vital to consult the citizens in order to gain their commitment to the projects.

**Conclusion**

A general agreement was given on the following points in this working session. It seems necessary:

1. to devise a Global City Project which is coherent in architectural, urban and social terms.  
It must also avoid uniformity and standardization.
2. to conceive of urban integration as a complex process with social significance.
3. to rid ourselves of paradigms both of a invasive modernity and also of a rigid conservation approach which advocates immobility in the interests of protection.

We are encouraged to choose the direction of the city, to make living there together with its motif, and to unveil the historic city as a contemporary living space.

**The Next 8th World Conference of Historical Cities will be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 2002.**

**The Meeting of Board of Directors and a Preparation Meeting for the World Conference of Historical Cities will be held in Rio de Janeiro this year.**

**The Cities of Principal Officer shall meet in Rio de Janeiro this year.**





**Workshop no. 2 Melting Pot of Cultures in Historic Cities:  
The mediteranean example**

Mr. Jean Clos	Mayor of Barcelona
Mr. Max Rouquette	Writer
Ms. Cattarini	UNESCO
Mr. Pierre Pitiot	Director of International Mediterreanean Film Festival
Mr. Yves Larbiou	Moderator, Deputy Mayor in charge of Cultural Affairs

**The City as melting pot: A function of geographical situation**

*On the major inland axes : Roman roads or pilgrims trails to Rome and Santiago de Compostella*

*Near the sea : trading-posts serving the entire Mediterranean basin*

Such geographical situations of contact, of exchanges and of confrontation often between pagan peoples, Jews, Christians and Arabs encouraged a mixture of different peoples, different ideas and different practices.

This favoured a rich panoply of cultural, religious, scientific and economic activities in the fields of medicine, pharmacy, botany, Italian Banking techniques etc.

**Economic development and democracy**

The role and dynamism and wealth of the merchant class weakened the power both of priests and hereditary princes who were obliged to accept that their now-rich cities be governed by Consuls. This allowed the development of an initial form of democracy.

**Mediterranean identity: a culture both many faceted and unique**

Conquests, conflicts, resistance, banishment, welcome: The movements of history have led the populations of our cities into contact with others not only to reject them but also to take on board the new values which they brought.

This contact with other peoples implied a constant consideration of the difference between one's own identity and the values of others. Mutual assimilation gave rise to a culture with a taste for mixtures.

It becomes clear that the Mediterranean basin has been a cradle of creativity and of artistic expression, in spite of religious restrictions which forced that expression into other forms.

The sea and limited coastal space oblige Mediterraneans to transform and amplify all available space.

We have seen several examples of the dramatisation of space in both architecture and urban planning. We have also seen examples of the multiculturalism of cultural life.

A university city, Montpellier, welcome increasing numbers of students and researchers from all continents. The words of traveller Benyamin ben Yona of the 12th century, "one sees people of all languages in Montpellier" are truer today than ever.

As is the policy of UNESCO, we must face the challenge of globalisation by affirming the fertile diversity of our cultures and our heritages.

Our historical Mediterranean cities are the living examples of cities which have never closed in on themselves but, rather, have remained open to the buffetings of history, ceaselessly hungry to live, to develop and to expand.

But the story of these Mediterranean cities is also the story of all historic cities which have their own living identities and their own place in the mosaic of world cultures.

It was confirmed that it is necessary to protest against a standardization of culture.



**A Membership Fee for the fiscal year of 2001**

< Notice from the Secretariat >

**An annual membership fee is now collected in accordance with the Covenant of the League.**

**The articles on a membership fees had been suspended for 1998, 1999 and 2000. But resumption of membership fees system was decided at the General Assembly of the League of Historical Cities in Montpellier in 2000.**

**Membership Fee**

**100 US\$ for one member city**



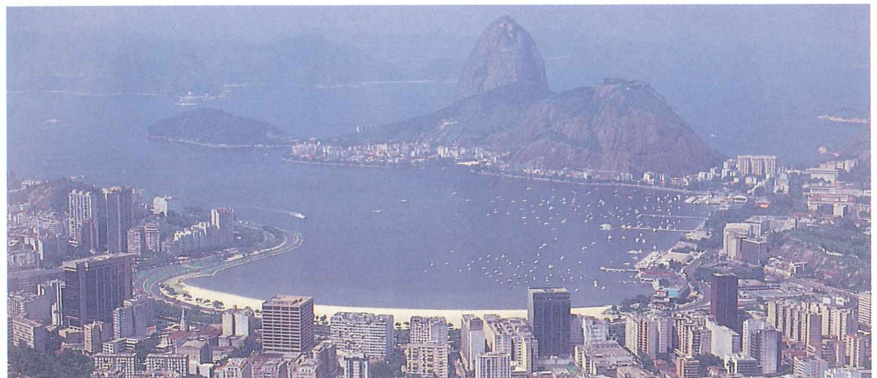
INTERVIEW

# Claudio Garcia de Souza

Former Coordinator of International Relations and Protocol Department, City of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil



**City of Rio de Janeiro, Director City of the League of Historical Cities, the Host City of the 8th World Conference of Historical Cities in 2002**



**Your city was re-elected as a Director of the League of Historical Cities. What is your aspiration as one of the Principal Officers ?**

Rio de Janeiro, as a director of the League of Historical Cities, intends to cooperate with the League's board in broadening and developing the League's aims, particularly the cooperation between the League's member cities.

**What is the activity or the project which your city has been engaged in on the common theme, "Conservation and Development of Historical Cities" of the League of Historical Cities ?**

As the delegation of Rio de Janeiro mentioned at the Montpellier Conference, we are engaged in the renewal of several sections of historical buildings with a view to preserving them as active parts of the city.

I refer in particular to the "Tiradentes Program".

This program has the support of the Brazilian Federal Government

and the Inter-American Development Bank and will see a large central area of Rio de Janeiro redeveloped and living conditions improved.

**What do you expect of the League when each member city of the League deals with the common theme, "Conservation and Development of Historical Cities" ?**

As each member city of the League deals with the common theme, "Conservation and Development of Historical Cities", we expect that the example set by all member cities will be a guiding line for Rio de Janeiro.

We believe these efforts will gain the support of international financing institutions and should help individual cities to carry on such important work.

**What do you expect of the next World Conference of Historical Cities which will be held in your city in 2002 ?**

We expect that the next World Conference of Historical Cities, held

in Rio de Janeiro in 2002, will add to the success of the work already carried out by the League and will be an opportunity for all members cities to become acquainted with Rio de Janeiro.

The each city will provide a useful information in discussing difficulties as well as successes achieved in historical cities.

**Please give your message to the members of the League of Historical Cities.**

Rio de Janeiro will welcome all member cities of the League that may participate in the 8th World Conference in my city in 2002 and by opening itself to all visitors, by showing them our problems, we hope to hear their comments because we feel sure that we have a lot to learn from the Member Cities of the League.

*Access to Secretariat.  
e-mail address: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