

WORLD

The League of Historical Cities Bulletin



HISTORICAL CITIES

NO. 27: MARCH 2003



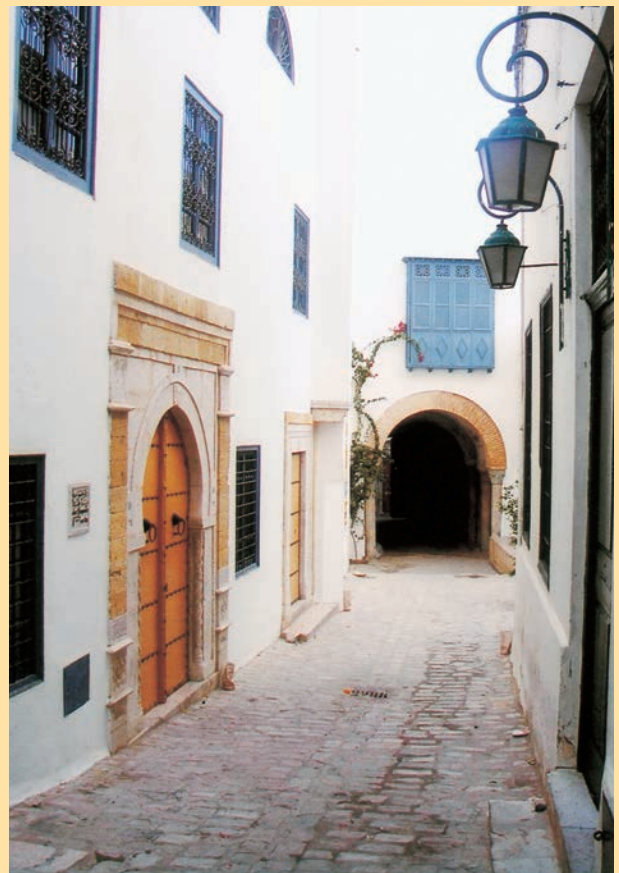
Cuza University in Iasi, Romania

Tunis

Iasi

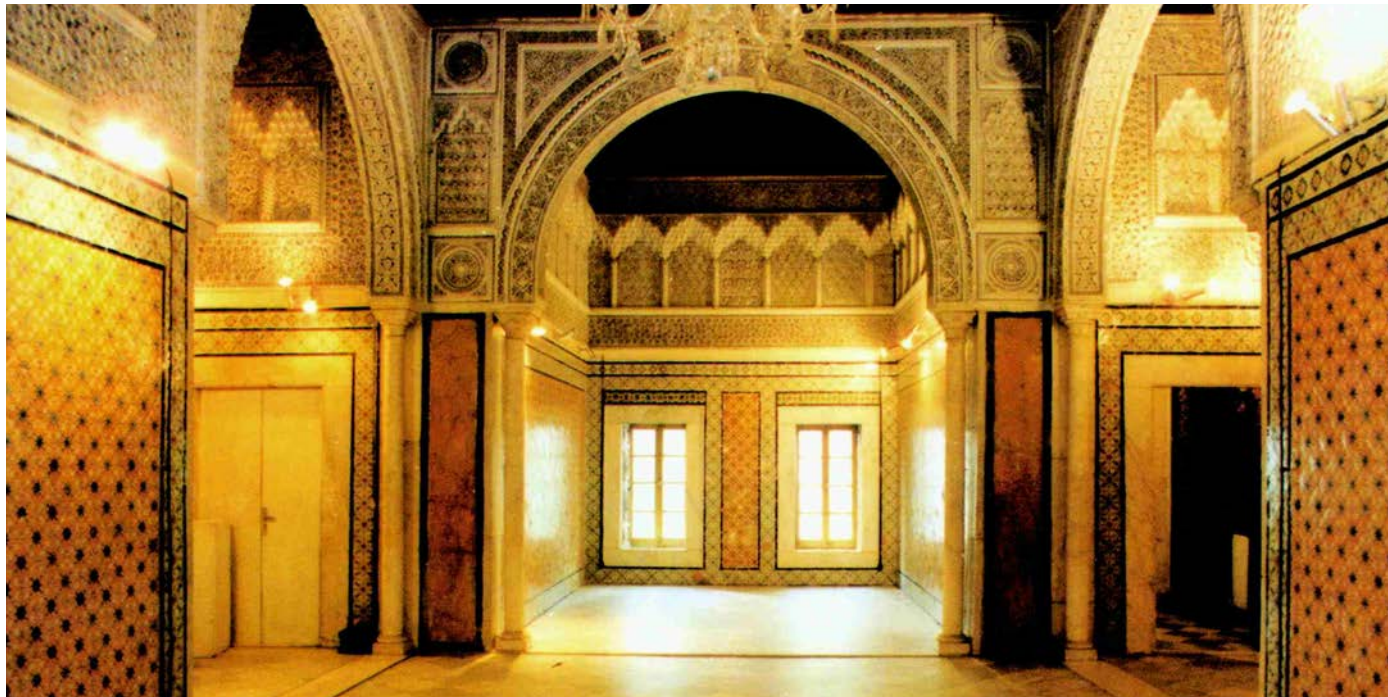
Kyoto World Water Grand Prize

*Message: Mr. Gérald Tremblay
Mayor of Montreal*



Labyrinthine alley in Medina, Tunis, Tunisia

Tunis (Tunisia)



Inside of the Grand Mosque

Tunis is located at the heart of the Mediterranean, southwest of Sicily and almost equidistant between Alexandria and Tangier.

The original core of Tunis is the Medina, one of the best preserved Arab-Muslim cities in the region.

Medina was designated as UNESCO World Heritage City in 1979. The city has an area of 270 hectares, and around 100,000 inhabitants out of the urban Tunis area's population of 1.5 million.

Since the early 1970s, Tunis has taken an active role in preserving its cultural heritage.

Projects have included the restoration of key historical buildings, urban renewal projects, housing improvements and the development of cultural activities.

Preserving the Medina

In the early 1970s, the movement to preserve the historical Medina area centered around a unique institution known as the *Association Sauvegarde de la Medina de Tunis*, ASM for short.

Jointly sponsored by the Municipality of Tunis and UNESCO, and with the support of international consultants, ASM was

created from a strong pool of local expertise.

Early projects included the refurbishment of the Dar Lasram, a major city palace which is now used as space for design studios, offices and conference space for the ASM, as well as the restoration of the souks and the development of public housing in the Hafsia area of Medina.

In the 1980s, the Hafsia neighborhood was further developed in order to satisfy the housing needs of low-income citizens, using a subsidy system supported by funds supplied by the World Bank. This project was awarded Agha Khan Prize for Architecture.

Following this success, another major housing improvement initiative called the Oukala Project was launched in the 1990's.

The Tunisian word, oukala refers to overcrowded, unhealthy housing arrangements. Partially financed by the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, the Oukala Project has transformed the lives of thousands of people and produced a major qualitative improvement in the housing situation for Medina's citizens.

The Hafsia Project and the Oukala Project were also significant in the sense that they were the first projects for the upgrading of existing housing funded by the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD).

While public funding remains important for the restoration of major monuments in Medina, financial support from private sources is increasing as well.

Heritage themed tourism is expected to take off in Tunis, with historical buildings and galleries serving as a focal point.

The ASM has achieved wide recognition for its work towards conservation and urban renewal.

In September 2001, Tunis was elected to house the Regional Secretariat of the Organization of World Heritage Cities (OWHC), representing North Africa and the Middle East.

Growing interest in recently built architectural heritage

A flagship project for revitalizing the Avenue Bourguiba was finally launched in the late 1990's.



Minaret in Tunis

Avenue Bourguiba is located at the heart of the Bab Bhar area, East of Medina. The avenue runs East-West across an urban area dating from the late 1800s, featuring numerous shade trees and a central promenade.

Between 2001-2002, works were initiated to widen the existing pavements, install new lighting and benches, restore building facades and generally clean up the whole area.

The crowning glory of the project was a gold-tipped clock tower and fountain constructed on the main roundabout of the Avenue. The clock tower was completed just in time for the opening ceremony of the autumn 2001 Mediterranean Games.

The local citizens are enjoying the friendly atmosphere of the sidewalk cafe terraces on the newly expanded Avenue. Work towards revamping the Avenue de France is currently being planned, and other streets are expected to follow.

In addition to the Avenue improvement project, restoration was begun on the Art Nouveau Municipal Theater, one of the city's architectural highlights.

This restoration has led to an awareness of the cultural value of city center buildings built during the late nineteenth century onwards.

The vast majority of the city's historical housing was built post-1800.

As a result, the city's central area is a rich catalogue of various architectural forms and styles. This architectural patchwork is of interest to both architecture buffs and visiting tourist.

Artificial buildings from the late 1800s can be found alongside Neo-Moorish styling, and everything from Art Nouveau to Art Deco can be observed in the local building style.

However, the restoration of early twentieth century property in central Tunis will require more than just architectural scholarship, as funding and initiatives from the Local-Government will be crucial for success.

Successful urban conservation: conditions and challenges

Procedures for urban conservation are complex, requiring the cooperation and good will of numerous entities within the city.

Today, Tunis is very much aware of the need to protect its diverse urban environments.

We believe the city center has enormous potential as tourist destination, offering a pleasant Mediterranean atmosphere rich in

cultural heritage.

In terms of managing architectural heritage, the conditions and challenges faced by Tunis are not unlike those in other Mediterranean cities.

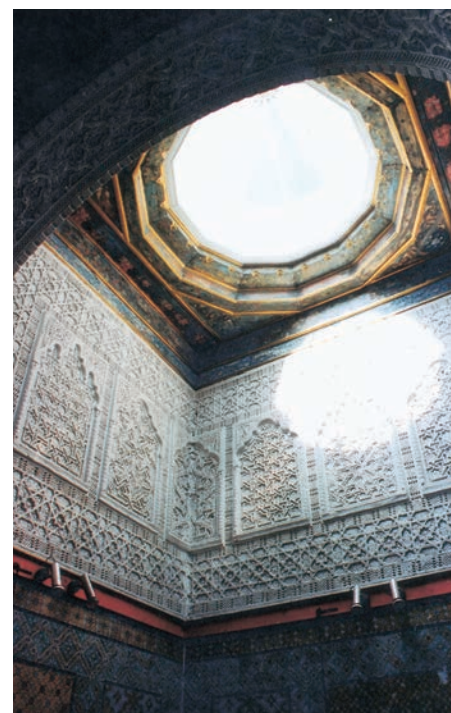
Professional groups will need to develop ways of making the best use of centrally located historical neighborhoods.

Architects and their clients must reflect upon how to create meaningful links between the existing architectural heritage and new building.

For the city of Tunis as a whole, the hope must be that its valuable urban inheritance will survive.

For further Information

Ms. Semia Akrouit Yaiche
 Director, Association, Sauvegarde de la Medina de Tunis, 24 Rue du Tribunal, Tunis Tunisia
 phone 216-71-56-36-18
 fax 216-71-56-09-65



Iasi (Romania)



Three Hierarchs Monastery

Preserving History

Although the first documentation of Iasi dates to 1408, the city's roots go far deeper into the past.

During the 14th century, a stone church belonging to the Armenian trading community was already established.

This evidence allows us to believe that during the mid-14th century, there was an urban settlement developed around a former village dating back to the 13th century.

Moreover, within the proximity of Iasi, archaeologists have discovered traces of the last great Chalcolithic Civilization of Europe, the Cucuteni culture, finding painted pots and statuettes dating from 4500~4450 BC.

The Cucuteni civilization is considered to be the summit of the Neolithic spirituality. The beautiful Cucutenian geometrical paintings, adorning large pots and goddess figurines, have attracted the

attention of scientists all over the world.

The Dacian, Greek, Roman and Byzantine civilizations gave the town of Iasi a first rank position on their commercial maps.

Constantly threatened and occupied by Turkish, Russian, and Austrian armies, Iasi represented a permanent target over the years.

In spite of this geographical disadvantage, the town has managed to resist fires and other destruction.

A Romanian poet once said of Iasi in 1979: "There is no other town in Romania like Iasi, where every street corner and every building resembles a stamp in an old history album".

Due to its importance throughout centuries, there is a multitude of architectural styles in Iasi, both Eastern and Western, carrying the personal touch of local architects vision.

Diverse influences and decorative styles are blended into a

particularly expressive architectural synthesis.

Iasi has the highest density of poets and museums of any town in South-East Europe.

There are currently 425 monuments and 315 historical buildings of great interest that require protection.

The city patrimony includes a large number of buildings, parks, residential buildings of all types, as well as museums and palaces.

Religious heritage is a highly treasured feature of the Iasi landscape and it is no surprise that Iasi is included on the international map of Orthodox pilgrimage.

Today, Iasi is one of the most important Romanian cities. It is renowned as a national center for education.

Iasi reflects a dynamic urban image, where old and new, history and modernity are intermingled. Finding ways of harmonizing these diverse elements presents a special problem for the local public administration.

There are constant efforts being made by the national and local government to preserve Iasi's cultural and historical identity.

In the "Local Plan for Sustainable Development for the next 25 years", recently approved by the City Council, a principal strategic direction is represented by the consolidation of the Iasi's identity and promotion of its image as a traditional, multicultural and spiritual city.

Urban development projects were defined on this basis with broad community support.

The local citizens' interest in the city's patrimony, the rehabilitation of historical sites and the recovering of viable local tradition is encouraging.

The Department of Urban Development and Architecture manages of urban planning and construction permits, aiming to preserve historic buildings.

Conserving the architecture of



Eminescu University Library

old Iasi presents some problems, primarily a substantial increase in maintenance and renovation costs for historical buildings, which are generally higher than those for the new buildings.

Beyond the preservation and restoration of buildings, the traditional commercial streets of the historical town will be reinvested with active social and economic life.

Firstly, this project will contribute towards regaining the valuable historical image of this urban space, secondly the projects will aim to increase and harmonize the modern urban activities in the area, whose beneficiaries will include both tourists and locals.

In some historic squares, such as Union Square, old paving stones will be restored, preserving the original design of the mosaic.

As many of the cultural heritage sites are located in core city areas, vehicle pollution is a serious problem to consider.

The City Council has made transportation issues a priority in the effort to diminish the negative

environmental implications of cars and to encourage the use of environmentally friendly forms of transportation.

In addition to this administrative measure, some streets have been designated for pedestrian use only, or limiting the access of cars during weekends and holidays.

Also, the City Hall has decided to designate the 22nd of September as “A Day without Cars In My Town”, to be observed in the central area of the town.

It has been shown that Iasi City Hall is committed to the preservation of the cities architectural heritage, and will not spare any effort to maintain the spiritual and cultural identity of Iasi by enacting policies which support preservation and restoration of the historic sites.

For further Information

*Mayor's Office
City hall of Iasi, 11 Stefan
cel Mare si Sfant Av. Iasi
6600, Romania
Phone 40-232-211-215
Fax 40-232-211-200*



The Palace of Culture, Iasi

World Conference of

An outline of Previous and Upcoming World Conference of Historical Cities

The 1st Conference

Venue: **Kyoto** (Japan)
 Date: Nov. 18 to 20, 1987
 Theme: Historical Cities in the 21st Century
 Tradition and Creativity
 Number of participating cities: 26 (25 countries)

The 2nd Conference

Venue: **Florence** (Republic of Italy)
 Date: Jun. 18 to 21, 1988
 Theme: Historical Cities for the Future of Mankind
 Number of participating cities: 33 (27 countries)

The 3rd Conference

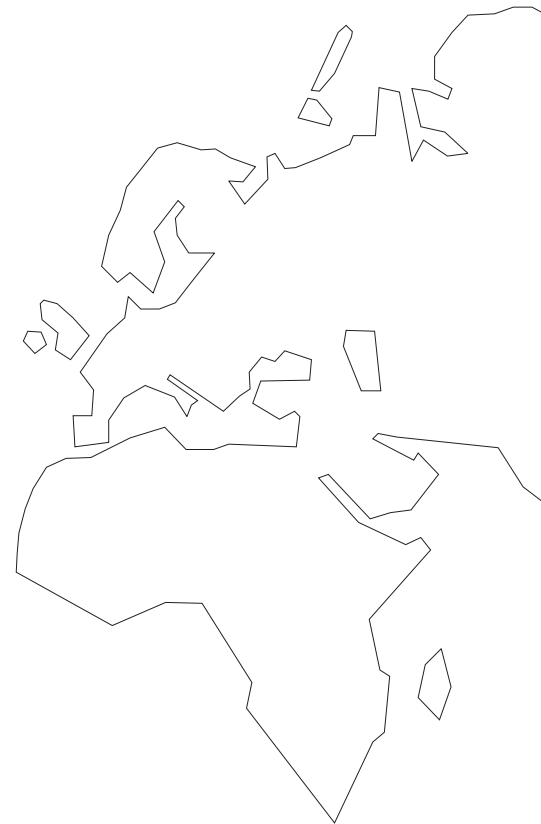
Venue: **Barcelona** (Spain)
 Date: Oct. 28 to 31, 1991
 Theme: The Memories of and Futures of Cities
 Number of participating cities: 40 (23 countries)

The 4th Conference

Venue: **Kyoto** (Japan)
 Date: April 25 to 28, 1994
 Theme: In Quest of the Wisdom of
 Historical Cities
 Number of participating cities:
 45 (40 countries)

The 5th Conference

Venue: **Xian**
 (People's Republic of China)
 Date: Sep. 9 to 13, 1996
 Theme: Revival of Historical Cities
 Number of participating cities:
 51 (37 countries)



What's new in Kyoto

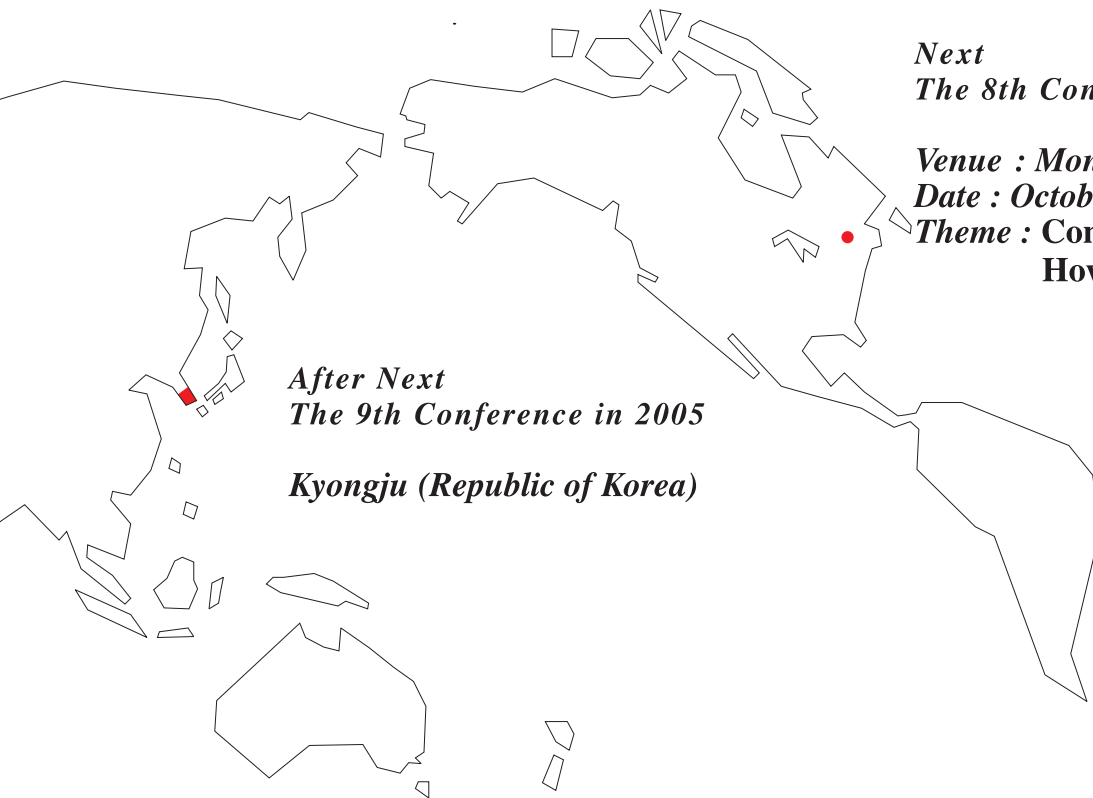
"Kyoto World Water Grand Prize presented by Kyoto City and Soroptimist International of Kyoto" was established to contribute to solving world water issues on the occasion that the 3rd World Water Forum was held in Kyoto and its vicinities from March 16 to 23, 2003.

The prize aims to "honor a distinguished individual or organization whose long term and continual activities towards the welfare for all citizens by addressing critical water issues in developing countries. These include water and health issues such as sustaining safe drinking water and preventing water contamination". However, countries, local self-governing bodies and commercial corporations are not eligible candidates.

The prize will be awarded for the first time at the Fourth World Water Forum in March 2006. Kyoto City will award the Prize Winner 5 million yen, an additional prize and a certificate of merit.



Historical Cities



*Next
The 8th Conference in 2003*

*Venue : Montreal (Canada)
Date : October 6 to 8 , 2003
Theme : Conserving and Developing
How? With whom? Why?*

*After Next
The 9th Conference in 2005*

Kyongju (Republic of Korea)



The 6th Conference

Venue: **Cracow** (Republic of Poland)
Date: May 25 to 28, 1998
Theme: Heritage and Development of Historical Cities
Number of participating cities: 30
(22 countries / 1 area)

The 7th Conference

Venue: **Montpellier** (French Republic)
Date: July 5 to 8, 2000
Theme: History and Value
Number of participating cities: 53
(24 countries)

Principal Officers

Chairperson	Kyoto
Vice Chairperson	Paris
	Xian
Directors	Cracow
	Montpellier
	Montreal
	Rio de Janeiro
	Vienna
Auditor	Kyongju

The League of Historical Cities List (61 cities from 49 countries)

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

MESSAGE

Gerald Tremblay

Mayor of Montreal, Director City of the League of Historical Cities


**Protecting Montreal's Heritage:
Our gift to future generations**

The administration of the Ville de Montreal is proud to welcome people from all over the world for two major events in October:

The 8th World Conference of Historical Cities and "Mosaiculture International Montreal 2003".

Montreal is the merging point of Canada's French and English cultures, a thriving cosmopolitan city that features a harmonious blend of old and new.

There are currently nearly 180 ethnic communities coexisting amidst its population of 1.9 million.

Protection of public cultural heritage is one of the foremost concerns of the administration of the newly united Ville de Montreal, which officially came into being on January 1, 2002, following the merger of the central city and the 29 Montreal Island suburbs.

Perfect Timing

There could not be a more auspicious time for Montreal to host the 8th World Conference of Historical Cities. Last spring, the

city's administration organized the Montreal Summit, a forum which brought community leaders together to determine the new city's major priorities and goals.

Development and protection of cultural heritage were the two main points of consensus that emerged from these meetings.

As a result of this summit, the administration recently created the Heritage Board to advise the municipal council on actions and investments that will ensure that the city's valuable cultural heritage will be passed down to future generations.

Citizen participation

We believe that it is important that the citizens of Montreal have a hand in making the decisions that will affect their urban landscape and cultural heritage.

The Urban Plan Ideas Contest was recently announced as part of our commitment to providing the new city with a master urban development plan by late 2004.

This contest illustrates our desire to encourage the development of pleasant living environments that will meet the needs of the many diverse communities that comprise Montreal.

The program for the 8th World Conference of Historical Cities further reflects our belief that the public's vision should be included in any discussion of heritage protection and development.

In addition to the official program intended for Mayors and elected municipal officials, we will also offer a public program of presentations and tours tailored

to the needs of administrators, academics, students and citizens interested in heritage issues.

Horticultural masterpiece

The schedule of the 8th World Conference of Historical Cities will conveniently overlap with the closing ceremonies of the 2003 edition of the international horticultural festival "Mosaiculture International Montreal".

This event will run from June 20th, 2003 until October 6th under the theme "Myths and Legends of the World". It will attract visitors from more than 50 municipalities from 35 countries from around the world.

We are hoping that Mayors and other elected officials attending the 8th World Conference of Historical Cities will take this opportunity to arrive in Montreal a few days early to view their own city's contributions to this magnificent "green showcase."

Mosaiculture International Montreal will then travel to various cities around the world presenting its showcase under the aegis of the Metropolis it will visit and the International Committee every three years, such as Shanghai in 2006 and Boston in 2009.

I look forward to seeing you in Montreal in October 2003!

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