



*Nara  
~ Nara, a City Steeped in History ~*

*Cover Photo: The Grand Dedication Ceremony of the Great Buddha Temple for the Showa Period Restoration (photo by Taikichi Irie)*

*Review of the 10th World Conference of  
Historical Cities in Ballarat, Australia 2006*

*Report of Round-Table Forum II*

- |             |                               |
|-------------|-------------------------------|
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**WORLD  
HISTORICAL  
CITIES**

**The League of Historical Cities Bulletin**

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# Nara, a City Steeped in History

by Culture & International Affairs Section,  
Tourism & Economy Dept. / City of Nara

## History of Nara City

1,300 years ago, in 710, Nara became the capital of Japan. The Nara capital, known as "Heijo-kyo", flourished for 74 years. Thus, in Japan, this period is known as the "Nara Period". Heijo-kyo was in a flat basin area, surrounded by low mountains. The Capital was laid out in the style of the Chinese city Chang'an. It measured 5 km (3 miles) north to south by 6 km (3.5 miles) east to west. The city streets were constructed in a grid pattern. The population is estimated to have been 100,000. During this period, Japanese official envoys and delegations called "Kentoshi" were sent to the court of the Chinese Tang Dynasty to learn about the highly advanced Chinese ideology, knowledge, and civilization of the time. They executed their task eagerly. Japan also had contact with the Korean peninsula, India and Iran in the Nara period. Indeed, the Heijo-kyo Capital in those days was quite a lively international city and its doors were open to the world. Many Buddhist temples were constructed in Nara during the Nara period, to serve peace and prosperity of the nation. One of them, Todai-ji Temple was established as the central state temple for all state provincial temples, and a huge bronze Buddha statue was built as the principal image of this temple. After 74 years, the capital was moved to Kyoto. However, major Buddhist temples remained in Nara and a new town was formed around them. The town continued to grow into a city of temples and shrines, and became the original old Nara city.

## Rich Cultural Heritage

Nara has sustained many historic wooden structures built in the course of a long history. Todai-ji's Hokke-do, Shoso-in Imperial repository, and Toshodai-ji's Kondo were built during the Nara period. Some structures were reconstructed in later centuries. Among them were the Kofuku-ji's Five-storied pagoda (15th century), which has become a symbol of Nara's landscape, and Todai-ji's Great Buddha Hall, the world's largest wooden structure. These buildings don't keep entirely the same state as when they were first built, because wooden structures are always exposed to the danger of decay. Thus, in Japan, our ancestors accumulated the knowledge of



(ill.1) Nara (Heijo) Palace Site

(Photo by Tatehiko Yano)

how to preserve wooden buildings. Under the knowledge the decayed wooden parts were replaced using the traditional methods, and sometimes the buildings were completely dismantled to restore them. Preservation and restoration need a supply of the right sort of materials, and knowledge of the traditional technique, style, design, and structure. The essence of "wooden culture" is condensed in them. After so many years, the wooden buildings in Nara City still retain their beautiful shapes, maintained by the unique traditional method. But such method couldn't be understood internationally well until Japan ratified the World Heritage Convention in 1992. Therefore, in 1994, an international conference on World Heritage was held in Nara City. The theme was about the authenticity of cultural properties, and the following idea was established; the application of authenticity should be based on the characteristics of the national or local history and culture in which the property has been inherited. The Nara Document made out as a result of the conference, expressed to the world the spirit of respecting cultural diversity and has opened the way for the registration of various kinds of cultural properties on the World Heritage list. Besides wooden structures, there are numerous cultural assets in Nara City. For example, in the east end of the city lies Kasugayama Primeval Forest which forms an important cultural landscape. The Japanese have worshiped nature since ancient times. Kasugayama Mountain has been protected as a sacred mountain of the Shinto Gods for over a thousand years. It retains primeval vegetation despite the fact that it lies adjacent to the town. The Nara



(ill.2) The Great Buddha  
(Photo by Tatehiko Yano)



(ill.3) Deer crossing the street



(ill.4) Reconstruction of the Imperial Audience Hall

Park area, including the Kasugayama Primeval Forest, is a place of rich greenery which is in unity with historic monuments. In this area, 1,200 wild deer roam. They have been venerated as "divine deer" since old times, and today they are designated as a Natural Monument. Their friendly figures often appear on the streets out of the park. The deer are not afraid of humans at all and coexist with humans in the city. This is a rare example in the world. To the west of the city center lies the Heijo Palace Site. After the Palace fell into disuse, for many centuries the site was used as rice paddies, so no buildings have been constructed on the site. The ruins of the Palace buildings and the government offices remain underground completely in this spacious area covering 120 ha. The site is preserved as a Special Historic Site. In 1998, the property which consists of eight cultural assets, Todai-ji, Kofuku-ji, Kasuga shrine, Kasugayama Primeval Forest, Gango-ji, Yakushi-ji, Toshodai-ji, and the Heijo Palace Site, was registered on the World Heritage List as "the Historic Monuments of Ancient Nara".

#### Tourist City, Nara

Present-day Nara is a tourist city that is visited by 13,000,000 people a year both from the inside and from the outside of Japan. Nara's rustic atmosphere, which is conserved by various regulations, attracts many people. Besides, new events suitable for Nara have been created. Since 1999, every summer, the "Nara Candle Festival" has been held around Nara Park. After sunset, the area is lit up by many candles. The sight that soft candle lights spread all over the park are very popular and many Nara citizens participate in the festival as volunteer staff.

#### Conservation of Cultural Assets and Utilization of Them

In Japan, the administration for conservation of cultural assets is working with not only "tangible cultural assets" but also "intangible cultural assets", such as traditional craft techniques, and performing arts. It is also working for the conservation of traditional skills and techniques necessary to preserve cultural assets. Nara City also has its own special staff that deal with cultural assets, and designates important cultural assets, and subsidizes repair of them. Not only the preservation of cultural assets but utilization of them in modern society is important. Cultural assets of temples and shrines are used for the religious purpose. But the Heijo Palace Site just looks like a grassy field and we often hear voices asking what use can be made of it. So various methods have been tried to gain a deeper understanding of the remains. As one example, the reconstruction

of the Imperial Audience Hall is in progress as a national project. Preserving the remains underground, the wooden structure, once stood there 1,300 years ago, will be completed in 2010 above the remains. This project may be regarded as a kind of development.

#### Commemoration Project of the 1,300th Anniversary of the Heijo Capital

Nara City aims to be a "city where we learn from and live with World Heritage". So, using the World Heritage and historic cultural properties as the core, Nara City intends to promote information exchange which help people to know Nara better, utilizing new information actively, and to offer opportunities of exchange to people from all over the world as well as people from Japan. In 2010, Nara City will hold a special event to commemorate the 1,300th anniversary of the Heijo-kyo Capital at the Heijo Palace Site. We think it will contribute a great deal to the realization of our aim. This project aims at making use of the living knowledge and skills from Japan's history and culture. It is an international cultural festival jointly sponsored by the official and private sectors. Right now we are making various preparations both of facilities and of programs. Under the concept, "Beautiful Japan, and beginning with Nara", we will hold an exhibition type of cultural project from the spring to the autumn.

#### Candidature for Hosting the World Conference of Historical Cities and its Significance

As the core of this event, Nara City would like to host the World Conference of Historical Cities in the year 2010. As for the conservation of cultural assets, various attempts have been made around the world, and a system has been established and is gaining understanding of people. And making effective use of the cultural assets is as important as the conservation. The Heijo Palace Site is a very rare example in the world of cultural conservation and use. From the perspective, we think that holding the commemoration project of the 1,300th anniversary of the Heijo Capital is a great attempt to make use of the site. We would like people from the historical cities around the world to experience this attempt, and then at the World Conference of Historical Cities, we will discuss how to use cultural assets and what they should be in the future, to search for a new direction of them. If this helps eventually to light the way for the future direction of the cultural assets usage, it will be wonderful.



(ill.5) Beautiful wooden framework of Nandai-mon Gate in Todai-ji Temple

(Photo by Taikichi Irie)



(ill.6) Nara Tokae (The Nara Candle Festival)



(ill.7) An image of the Commemorative events of the 1,300th anniversary of Nara Heijo-kyo Capital

#### For further information

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Impact and Benefit  
Round-Table Forum II with Zhengzhou and Gyeongju  
The Review of the 10th Conference in Ballarat

Case Study in Zhengzhou:  
"To Enhance the Protection of Culture  
Heritage, Build the Future of Historical Cities "

Though Zhengzhou, just as many other member cities of the LHC, owns a different cultural background, it has the same historical deposits of human civilization that lasted up to now. In the situation of today's economic development and globalization, we are also facing the problems in culture heritage protection and city development.

For a long time, there had been an idea in protection of culture heritage, which believed protection means refusal of any change, that is, maintaining its original state, and being the opposite of city development. Now, we realize that rich history is not a burden to a city, but a unique resource that can be relied on in the city development. Just by standing on the back of the history and culture, we have our city today. Thus, enhancing protection of culture heritage and recognizing and extending its value will bring to our city measureless effects and benefit.

Mr. Li Liushen, Standing Vice Mayor of Zhengzhou

Under the common efforts of the whole society, the action of heritage protection will become a kind of development power to change the image of a city, enhance its cultural taste and increase its competitiveness and uniqueness. Of course, all these can't be done without the input from the government of city to protect the heritage, and without the true attention from the all circles of the society to protect the heritage.



[Zhengzhou-1,2] The ruin of Shang Dynasty is located in the city proper of Zhengzhou with as area of 16 square kilometers. The ruin has a known city wall of 7 kilometers, 3 kilometers of which can still be seen above the ground. This city ruin is 3600 years old, and was one of the largest cities in the world at that time. We can't bypass the city of Shang Dynasty when we talk about the history of city development in the world and the history of city development in China. Because of the inadequate cognition and protection, the ruin was regarded as a heap of loess for Zhengzhou before. In recent years, the government has increased the input of protection gradually, and started the project of protection. After the project of protection is finished, the ruin will be a city landscape which contains rich culture, and the city itself will be greatly changed.



[Zhengzhou-3,4] Because Zhengzhou Municipal People's Government is unstinting in their efforts to invest in the heritage protection, the image of city has changed dramatically and it is attracting more attention. More and more people know Zhengzhou because of Shaolin Temple and ruins of Shang Dynasty, the residents of Zhengzhou pay more attention and take an active part in the heritage protection. The acceleration of urban construction and improvement of image has attracted more visitors and investors, increasing the comprehensive strength of Zhengzhou. The culture heritage possesses good industrial value. Good protection of cultural heritage will not only produce active social benefit, but also bring good economic benefit for cultural industry development, such as improvement of environment, development of tourism, leisure and service industry of surrounding area and so on.



The Ballarat Railway Station

## Case Study in Gyeongju:

### "Restoration of Historical City through Cultural Reform"

Gyeongju was the capital of the Silla Dynasty throughout the first millennium. It is Korea's most valuable heritage city. Gyeongju is in the southeastern region of the Korean Peninsula in Northeast Asia. During the days of Silla, it was the east end of the Silk Road, that is, the eastern terminal of cultural exchange between the East and West. In 57 B.C., six small tribal states that were ruling the area around Gyeongju formed a confederate kingdom named Seorabeol. About this time in the West, Caesar was ruling the Roman Empire. In A.D. 503, the kingdom adopted a new name, Silla. Around this time in India, various schools of Hinduism were being consolidated under the guidance of famous spiritual teachers. In 676, Silla conquered its two rivals, Baekje and Goguryeo, to unify the Korean Peninsula for the first time. The year 935 saw the demise of the Silla Dynasty. Silla succumbed to the new-found Goryeo Dynasty.



Mr. Baek Sang-seung, Mayor of Gyeongju

Its capital, Seorabeol, was renamed Gyeongju, by which it has since been known to this date. The plan to renovate the historical and cultural city of Gyeongju has the following aims:

- Increase the value of Gyeongju as an ancient capital;
- Recreate the Silla culture for future generations;
- Build a city where the past and present are beautifully harmonized; and
- Eventually to build a historical city graced with both regional characteristics and global perspectives.



Mr. Katsuji Nakao, Superintendent of Nara City Board of Education, makes presentation titled "New Initiative for the Restoration and Utilization of Heritage in Nara City" in the Forum.



Hon. Tim Fischer, former Deputy Prime Minister addresses a welcome speech at Mining Exchange where participants enjoyed dinner on October 30, 2006.

#### Objective

- Increase the value of Gyeongju as an ancient capital
- Recreate a future-oriented Silla culture
- Create a city that harmonizes past and present
- Cultivate a historical city of global scale with regional attractions

#### Outline of Project

- Period : 2005-2034 (30 years)
- Cost : 3.28 trillion won (US\$3.2 billion)
- Responsible Agency : Gyeongju City Government
  - Period : 2005-2009 (5 years)
  - \* Cost : 266 billion won (US\$200 million)

[Gyeongju-1] It will take 30 years to implement, from 2005 to 2034, and cost 3.2 billion US dollars. The preliminary work began in 2005 and is to be completed by 2009 with a budget of 200 million US dollars. This phase comprises the restoration of Hwangnyongsa Temple and Woljeonggyo Bridge and reconstruction of the royal capital area with a view to securing the infrastructure for recreation of the splendid Silla culture.

#### Grandeur of Hwangnyongsa

- State Temple of the Silla Dynasty
  - Construction Period : 93 years under four kings (553-645)
- Lofty Pagoda in the Royal Capital
  - Nine-Story Wooden Pagoda : Height 80 meters
- Temple at the Heart of Royal Capital
  - The early governing site of the Six Clans
- Spiritual Home of the Silla People
  - The main state temple and Asia's largest Buddhist monastery
- Unification of Three Kingdoms
  - Silla unifies the Korean Peninsula in 676, three decades after construction of the nine-story wooden pagoda at Hwangnyongsa.

[Gyeongju-2] The temple was founded in 553, about as old as St. Sophia Cathedral in Istanbul. A giant golden statue of Buddha was erected in 573, around the time the Sui Dynasty unified China. The Main Hall was dedicated in 584, about the time Pope Gregory I was inaugurated. The nine story wooden pagoda was completed in 645, same year the Taika Reform began in Japan. Koreans regard Hwangnyongsa as an invaluable historical monument.



Mr. Rob Hulls, Minister for Planning of Victoria, addresses an opening speech at Ballarat Lodge on October 31, 2006.

#### Restoration Plan of Hwangnyongsa

- Period
  - Overall Restoration : 2005-2034 (30 years)
  - Partial Restoration : 2005-2009 (5 years)
  - Formulation of Basic Plan : September 2005 - December 2006
- Cost
  - Overall Restoration : 250 billion won (US\$ 250 million)
  - Partial Restoration : 13 billion won (US\$13 million)
  - \* Work Plan for 2007
    - Cost : 3 billion won (US\$3 million)
    - Basic design of cloisters, the south gate, and walls
    - Survey of underground foundations

[Gyeongju-3] The overall restoration plan will be implemented over 30 years. The budget for overall restoration amounts to some 250 billion US dollars. The first-stage partial restoration will cost 3 million US dollars. The work plan for next year, requiring 3 million US dollars, will focus on drawing up basic designs of cloisters, the south gate and walls, as well as survey of underground foundations for overall restoration.

#### Reason for Restoration

- Revive Silla's splendid architectural culture
  - Highlight the standard of Korean wooden architecture in the 5th-6th centuries
- Reconstruct stately pavilions among vast ruins
  - Restore temple ruins to remove desolate impression
  - Secure three-dimensional stability for flat space
- Represent the dynamic spirit of Koreans rising on the global stage
  - Symbol of Silla's royal authority and national strength
  - Enhancing national pride by restoring historical heritage
- Preserve cultural heritage and maximize its availability

[Gyeongju-4] The restored temple will stand for Silla's royal power as well as Korea's present national strength. Consequently, it is expected to greatly help enhance the national pride of Korean people. Above all else, the project will highlight restoring a major cultural heritage and maximizing its availability.

## Remarks

The summary of other Round-Table Forums in session will be reported in the future issue of the newsletter.

# Voices from the Participants

## Looking back on the good memories of 4 days

### The Review of the 10th Conference in Ballarat

#### City of Melbourne Member City of the LHC

**John So**  
Lord Mayor of Melbourne



It was with great pleasure I attended the 10th World Conference of Historical Cities in Ballarat. The City of Melbourne's participation in this important forum has provided greater insight into the ways other cities are managing the legacy of history.

We were delighted visiting delegates had the opportunity to see both Melbourne's heritage architecture and modern responses to urbanisation. As one of two Australian members of the League, we were grateful for the opportunity to present on the theme of "Evolution and Innovation".

One of the challenges facing historical cities is to preserve heritage assets while embracing sustainability. Our presentation "Melbourne: Building Tomorrow's Capital" introduced this city's approach to that challenge and our determination to create tomorrow's heritage, today. We hope the post-conference tour to Melbourne and presentation on CH2, our 6-star green building, provided a firmer understanding of our future direction.

We would like to thank the City of Ballarat for a successful conference, and also offer congratulations to Konya on its successful bid to host our next meeting in 2008.

#### City of Melbourne Member City of the LHC

**Jane Sharwood**  
Manager of Melbourne International



The City of Melbourne was delighted to organise and sponsor the post conference field trip to Melbourne, for delegates attending the 10th World Congress of Historical Cities, held in Ballarat.

The first stop on the Melbourne field trip was at the magnificent Royal Exhibition Building in Carlton Gardens. One of the world's largest and oldest exhibition pavilions, symbolising the great 19th century international exhibition movement, and on 1 July 2004, became the first building in Australia to achieve World Heritage listing.

The historic Melbourne Town Hall was next, where delegates heard presentations on the new Council House 2 (CH2) building, which is Australia's first six star green building and also, Council's joint projects with the Tianjin Environment Protection Bureau, China to apply green building principles to the refurbishment of their building in Tianjin (Melbourne's Chinese sister city).

Delegates then participated in small group

orientation through the historic heart of the city conducted by the City of Melbourne's Greeter Service. This is one of the Council's most popular tourism services - staffed by fully trained and highly enthusiastic volunteers), providing personalised walking tours for delegates.

For more information on the Melbourne Greeter service, please visit <http://www.thatsmelbourne.com.au/info.cfm?top=264&pg=2318>

#### Workshop speaker from Hong Kong

**David Lung**  
Professor of Architecture,  
The University of Hong Kong



This is my first visit to Ballarat.

The 10th Conference hosted by the City of Ballarat, whose historical significance is by no means less important than other historic world cities, is particularly meaningful to me in two folds:

1) As a frequent visitor to Australia, this is the first time I come to grips with the birthplace of Australian democracy. We learned this from the visit to Sovereign Hill, especially lessons from the spectacular Sound and Light Show. The battles took place in Ballarat precedes the formation of the Federation in 1901 as a nation.

2) It is a place where gold fields were mined by European and Chinese settlers in the 1850s. The Chinese gold miners in Ballarat and Bendigo from the Si-yi county in Guangdong is an important piece of the Chinese diaspora jigsaw puzzle. My timely visit to Ballarat on this occasion is especially useful to me, as I have been an advisor to the Kaiping municipality in the process of applying for UNESCO World Heritage Inscription in 2007, which is a story closely connected with Chinese gold miners and labourers in Australia.

The Conference was well organised and the papers were informative and of high calibre. We were well entertained. The pre and post conference tours were excellent. My only suggestion to the next host is to have a forum session for the young people to debate among themselves on the future of their cities.



Ballarat Townhall



Mining Exchange

**"4th World Mayors' Summit " was held in Istanbul, Turkey, from April 12 to 15, 2007.**



The 4th World Mayors' Summit was a great success and a memorable event which built on the success of its predecessors held in Paris (France) in 2000, Athens (Greece) in 2002 and Moscow (Russia) in 2004 drawing distinguished representatives from 90 cities and local governments of 68 countries all around the world along with ministers, religious leaders, senior experts, esteemed academics, senior business leaders and representatives from reputable international organizations and eminent supra-national entities such as the Council of Europe, OECD, the Olympic Committee, Economic Cooperation Organization, UCLG and Arab Towns Organization. The Summit was coorganized by the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality and the World Institute of Glocal and Cities' Diplomacy on April 12 - 15, 2007 in the 2010 European Capital of Culture, Istanbul.

Coming together, the mayors and the local authority leaders of the world had an excellent platform to discuss and exchange on the common challenges and opportunities of the 21st century within the framework of the thematic sessions on Cities Diplomacy -A Role Model for Peace, Global Cities-Models of Multicultural Understanding, The Alliance of Civilizations: The Role of Cities and Local Governments and Millennium Development Goals and Cities as well as accompanying several bilateral meetings.

At the 4th World Mayors' Summit all the speakers declared their views on how to contribute to the achieving of a peaceful, prosperous world with an enhanced focus on human necessities, universal values, city-to-city cooperation beyond borders, environment friendly governance and better multicultural understanding at the local level. All these common goals and considerations are summarized in the Summit's final document, namely the Glocal Citizens Declaration. This Summit also marked the awarding for the first time of the Prize for Multicultural Coexistence (a prize given to a local authority leader who has distinguished himself/herself in the field of multicultural coexistence) to the Mayor of Sarajevo, Mrs. Semiha Boravac and the signing of the Sister City Protocol between Istanbul and Jakarta. Istanbul provided the perfect setting for this event with its special blend of modern urban lifestyle harmonized with its amazing heritage culminated by great civilizations through thousands of years.

For more information, please visit <http://www.mayorssummitistanbul.org>



Bilateral Meeting



Opening Session



Signing Ceremony



Closing Ceremony



Dinner at Grand Bazaar



**4th World Mayors' Summit**  
in Hilton Convention Center Istanbul, April 12-15 2007

# Review for the 10th World Conference of the League of Historical Cities, Ballarat Moderator of the Roundtable Forums: Dr. William Logan



**William Logan**  
UNESCO Chair of Heritage and  
Urbanism and Alfred Deakin Professor,  
Deakin University, Melbourne

Three hundred and fifty people from 35 cities, including 12 member cities, participated in the 10th World Conference of the League of Historical Cities at Ballarat in the Australian state of Victoria. An hour's drive west of Melbourne, the city of Ballarat emerged as the result of the 1850s gold rushes and has a significant heritage of historic buildings, urban precincts and parks and gardens. These form the basis of important tourism activity and give a distinctive flavour to Victoria's third largest urban and economic centre.

The conference theme was one of increasing relevance as we move into the 21st century - 'Sustainable Historical Cities: Economics, Preservation and Visions for the Future'. The objectives outlined by the Organising Committee were to enable city managers, developers and residents to better understand the important role that urban heritage has as a vector of development; that is, as an asset upon which our cities' growth and prosperity can build.

It is already well recognised that our urban heritage is a major part of the broader cultural heritage that gives identity to local, regional and national communities. Through presentations by the member cities and invited experts, the conference showed how coming to terms with this heritage in the planning vision for our cities can lead to increased investment in new development projects.

The key point is that achieving this balance between new development and protecting and enhancing our heritage largely comes down to location and design. We need to locate major new developments in the right places and use design approaches that ensure the new constructions both represent the best modern of modern architecture (tomorrow's heritage) and respects their context.

Four themes were identified to achieve these objectives - Protection and Guidance; Impact and Benefit; Desire and Expectation; Evolution and Innovation. These were dealt with in a day-long series of four workshops with papers by invited

experts and four forums with presentations by member cities spread over one and a half days.

The various speakers emphasized the need to 'valorise' urban heritage - that is, to show the value of heritage, how it creates jobs and revenue for the local economy, including from tourism but also restoration industries. They also stressed the importance of the adaptive re-use of historic buildings. By remodelling and re-using, rather than demolishing and building completely anew, cities can tap the 'embodied energy' in the old structures. This is increasingly important as the world faces up to rapidly rising rates of energy use and global warming.

Some speakers pointed to another need - to develop arguments that are appropriate and relevant to Asian cities which are growing at extremely fast rate and where residents are anxious to improve their standards of living. We cannot rely on arguments based on the experience of the developed West where population growth is now static or declining and where standards of living are already high. It is essential to see heritage protection and new redevelopment as part of a single process of 'management of change'.

All cities - in developed and developing countries alike - need to have a vision for the type of change they want and where to encourage it. Most delegates talked about the importance of ensuring that the local community is involved in the identification of heritage values and in the management processes. Effective planning will not be just the top-down imposition of controls by central authorities, elite social classes or even professional experts.

There is also a need for a legislative framework for protection of listed buildings and precincts to implement the community's vision. This will especially include controls on demolition of significant existing structures and on height of new developments but must be based on consultation with stakeholders and experts. It will involve issues of appropriate compensation and provision of guidelines and other forms of advice to property owners.

The keynote speaker, Dr Richard Engelhardt, UNESCO's Regional Advisor for Asia and the Pacific, summed up the conference with his line that 'Cultural heritage is a community asset and like any asset it needs investment and risk management'.

The conference was followed by the General Assembly of the League and the Closing Ceremony. It was a great pleasure to have been invited to participate in the Conference, both in the Organising Committee and as moderator of the roundtable forums. The whole conference went extremely smoothly, generating a warm atmosphere among delegates and an excellent set of paper which merit publishing as a set of proceedings.

## The League of Historical Cities Secretariat

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## The 11th World Conference of Historical Cities in 2008 City of Konya, Turkey

**Period: June 10 - 13, 2008**

**Theme: Living Cultural Heritage in Historical Cities**

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