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Sheki ~The Examples of Restoration, Protection and Practical Use of Historical Architectures ~

Cover Photo: Hall in the Khan's Palace

Invitation to the 12th World Conference of Historical Cities

12 - 15 Oct., 2010 in Nara Japan



WORLD HISTORICAL CITIES

The League of Historical Cities Bulletin

No.55: June 2010

The Examples of Restoration, Protection and Practical use of Historical Architectures

Ms. Gulnaz Salamova, Deputy Mayor of Sheki, Azerbaijan

Outline of Sheki

Protection and restoration of historical and cultural monuments is the sole responsibility of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Azerbaijan. There are cultural services within the executive authorities of the country which monitor the state of monuments. During the independence of Azerbaijan, among other prominent historical monuments, Albanian temple in Kish village and Sheki Khans' palace have been restored.

Being the capital of the Sheki Khanate, Sheki was situated at the southern foothills of the Greater Caucasian mountain range. The old town was located somewhat lower than its situated now, in the valley of the Kish River. After the old city was completely destroyed by mudflows in 1772, Sheki was rebuilt in a new location. The town layout of Sheki was determined by its natural features; the city is formed as a harmonic combination of manmade buildings in combination with the natural environment. Here is the brief information on the most outstanding monuments of Sheki.

The Albanian Temple in Kish village

The Albanian temple in Kish village dedicated to St. Eliseus is situated on the high bank of the Kish River and is one of the major Christian architectural monuments of Caucasian Albania. It is a pre-Islamic church founded in the beginning of the Christian era. Later it was partially destroyed and reconstructed in the 11-12th century. The church in Kish has got a special status among the Albanian monuments and was named the mother of Eastern Albanian churches. It is valuable not only as the architectural monument, but also as the historical one. The history of the origin of the church is connected with the history of dissemination of the Christianity in the Caucasian Albania. It is the most ancient church in the history of Christianity.



View of Sheki

Sheki Khans' Palace

The most outstanding and valuable monument of the 18th century Azerbaijan is Sheki Khans' palace. It was constructed in 1761- 1762 as a summer residence of Hussein-khan Mushtad (grandson of Gadzhi Chelebi). The unique beauty two-storied building of the palace amazes with its magnificent interior and exterior. The facade of the palace is richly painted with anecdotal drawings displaying scenes of hunting and war as well as intricate geometrical and vegetative patterns.

In the center is a huge stained-glass window from a multi-colored glass mosaic. (It is remarkable up to 5, 000 glass pieces were used per 1 square meter). Other smaller windows of the palace are also made of pieces of colored glass and covered with openwork stone lattices. In front of the palace there used to be a marvelous garden from which only two huge branchy plane trees, the Palace's coevals, have survived. For 200 years like devoted servants they have been protecting this architectural treasure of Azerbaijan.

New Sheki Fortress

Sheki khan Gadzhi Chelebi (1743-1755) during his reign constructed a fortress in the northeast for defense purposes. The overall length of the fortification is about



Khan's Palace Facade



Albanian Temple in Kish Village

1, 300 meters, its southern height is about 8 m, the northern - 4 m. Thickness of the wall is over 2 meters. 21 towers were located along its length. From the north and the south the fortress was closed by arch gates. The wall and the two towers of the fortress were badly destroyed. But in 1958-1963 the fortress was restored.

Caravanserais

Sheki was famous as the city of craftsmen and merchants. Merchants and traders from the countries of the Great Silk Way used to gather there. Therefore, a great attention was paid to construction of caravanserais. So in the 18th - 19th centuries 5 big caravanserais were active in Sheki. Only two of them have survived.

The Upper and the Lower built in the 18th century. Even then the craftsmen tried to provide worthy service to lodgers. Caravanserais were built with a view of all convenience and safety of merchants and their goods. In Sheki caravanserais merchants stored their goods in cellars, traded on the first floor, and lived on the second.

The caravanserais were rather big: the Upper one was 6,000 square meters, the Lower - 8, 000 square meters. Their height was about 14 m. Each one had more than 200 rooms. According to the tradition caravanserais had two and even four entrances. When closed, caravanserais turned into fortresses. The Upper caravanserai today is used for its direct purpose - it is a hotel complex.

"Kingdom of the Eternal Silence" Underground Museum

The museum is located at the Tepebashi area of Fazil village of Sheki. This unique monument discovered by the archaeological dig of the National Academy of Sciences belongs to Caucasian Albania and covers the period from the first half of the first millennium B.C. until the first quarter of the first millennium A.D..

Underground museum is 150 square meters having entrance and exit gates. Graves and household wells are exposed at the museum. The relevant scientific publications define the archaeological material of this period as the Yaloylutepe culture covering the period from the 5-6 cc. B.C. to the 3-4 cc. A.D..

Recent years, number of festivals and cultural events are organized in Sheki to present and promote historical, cultural and moral values of Azerbaijan.

Silk Holiday (2006)

In all historical periods silk industry played a great role in the economic life of

Sheki. In the Middle Ages the silk of Sheki was regarded a major source of income, a major raw of income in the world trade. Many foreign merchants from Russia, France, Italy, Iran, Turkey, China, India, and Greece came to Sheki to purchase silk. In 1829 new Silk Factory started working. In 1852 the silk thread produced in Sheki was sold at a higher price in London. Currently the silk factory of Sheki continues these traditions.

New Great Silk Way was reconstructed by our national leader Haydar Aliyev in 1998 and it will help to develop cultural and economic relations among the Eurasian countries. Azerbaijan has an active role in promoting cultural cooperation in the region.

In August 2006 "Silk holiday" was organized by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Azerbaijan and Executive Administration of Sheki. Delegates from the "brother" cities of Gabrovo (Bulgaria) and Lapseki (Turkey), Ambassadors of Russian Federation and Turkey, members of National Parliament, national outstanding persons of science, culture and fine arts participated at the event. Participants and guests were introduced with silk products as well as several samples of crafts.

Craftsmen holiday (2007)

Sheki is the town of craftsmen. Majority of crafts having emerged simultaneously with the town development of Sheki were still functioning not long ago.

Dozens of crafts, originating from ancient times, such as, blacksmith's work, copper-smith's work, tinsmith's work, jeweler's art, pottery, hatters, tailor, carpentry, stained-glass (shabaka), wood carving, embroidery (takalduz), confectionery and etc. are very popular not only in Azerbaijan but also in abroad.

In June 2007 "Craftsmen holiday" hosted Ambassadors of 14 states accredited in Azerbaijan and other guests. Products of craftsmen were exposed at the event.

Sheki is the Land of Civilizations (2008)

Scientific conference "Sheki is the land of ancient civilizations" and cultural program were jointly organized by the Institute of History of the National Academy of Sciences, Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Azerbaijan and Executive Administration of Sheki in 27-28 June 2008.

Scientific presentations, visits to the historical sites, exposition of the products of Sheki artisans and finally concert of local musicians were quite interesting for participants and guests (delegations of 29 embassies in Azerbaijan).



New Sheki Fortress



Upper Caravanserai



Sheki's Stained-Glass "Shabaka"



Sheki's Wooden Art

For further information

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The 12th World Conference of Historical Cities will be held in Nara Japan, from 12 to 15 October this year. The Secretariat is pleased to inform that **the deadline for early registration has been extended from 30 June to 30 July**. As you will obtain JPY30,000 discount from regular registration, the Secretariat highly recommend readers to register for the participation by 30 July. The early-bird registration fee costs JPY50,000 including any three-night accomodation in Nara between 11 and 16 Oct., all meals from 12 to 14, and the post conference tour to Kyoto on 15 Oct. with Kyoto Mayor's Lunch. You can download the registration form from the 12th Conference official website <http://wchc2010-nara.jp/>. Followings are the messages from the Mayor of Nara and the keynote speaker for the Conference.

Gen Nakagawa

*Mayor of Nara
Host City*



This year the ancient city of Nara in Japan will be hosting the 12th World Conference of Historical Cities. My name is Gen Nakagawa, Mayor of Nara and, with the conference now only half a year away, I am pleased to report that Nara is busily proceeding at an enthusiastic pace to prepare for the opening. Nara is home to the UNESCO World Heritage known as "the Historical Monuments of Ancient Nara" and our city is famed both within Japan and abroad as the ancient city that preserves the very essence of Japanese Buddhist art and culture in its wealth of treasures. Nara is an international cultural tourism city that is visited by approximately 14 million people each year and there are times when our entire city seems to take on the character of a museum. Indeed, Nara is a place filled with such a strong historical and cultural atmosphere that it is commonly referred to as the spiritual home of the Japanese people.

This year also marks the 1,300th anniversary of Nara's establishment as the first full-scale capital of Japan. During this commemorative year, a festival entitled "The 1,300th Anniversary of Nara Heijo-kyo Capital" is taking place in Nara under the slogan of "The Birthplace of Japan". This festival is being held to provide visitors with impressive sights and experiences from 1,300 years and, beyond this, a greater sense of historicity and meaning that transcends time and location.

Each day, the Nara Palace Site (and main venue for this festival), is welcoming a great many visitors who are already creating a lively sense of occasion. Nara looks on the 12th World Conference of Historical Cities as the most important festival project. The main theme

of the conference is the "Succession of Historical City with Creative Revitalization". I would therefore like to invite all of you to participate in the Conference Roundtable and Workshop meetings and, together with our Citizens, to experience the excitement of dispatching new learning across the world from our great historical city.

We wish to provide an opportunity for high school students to talk about the future of historical cities from a youthful standpoint and so, for the first time, high school students from Japan and overseas will take part in a Youth Forum during the conference. By establishing such a Youth Forum we also wish to nurture and inspire our young people because it is they who will eventually carry forward the future of historical cities. I am certain that making preparations to participate will be meaningful to all the students who participate.

Moreover, Nara City will host an Picture Contest by inviting elementary school and junior high school students to submit paintings on the theme of "This is an example of cultural heritage in my town!". We consider that a feeling of greater pride for one's home town or city can be instilled in the hearts and minds of our children by such painting. The exercise of appreciating examples of their cultural heritage in paint will, in turn, undoubtedly strengthen their sense of identity. Please contact info@wchc2010-nara.jp for the procedure of participation in the youth forum and picture contest.

That the distinguished Mayors and city planning experts of other historical cities will be visiting Nara from all around the world to discuss the future of our historical cities together, is an enormous pleasure for me and I am already very excited at the prospect. So I now ask that, everyone, please be sure to pay a visit to Nara this coming October! We are looking forward to giving you a most warm and enthusiastic welcome.

<The 12th World Conference of Historical Cities in Nara>

Period : 12-15 October 2010 (Pre-conference tour will be provided on 11 Oct.)
 Theme : "Succession of Historical City with Creative Revitalization"
 Venue : Nara Prefectural New Public Hall (Opening Ceremony), Nara Centennial Hall
 Program:

Day 1 (12 Oct.)	Day 2 (13 Oct.)	Day 3 (14 Oct.)
AM Opening Ceremony	AM Workshop	AM Excursion to Heijo Palace Site
Keynote Lecture	PM Round Table	PM General Overview for the Session
PM Youth Forum		General Assembly of LHC
Workshop		Closing Ceremony

Day4 (15 Oct.)
 Post-conference Tour to Kyoto (Sponsored by the City of Kyoto)
 including Lunch hosted by the President of LHC, Mayor of Kyoto

**Message from the Mayor of Nara and
Keynote Speaker for the 12th Conference**

Mayor Gen Nakagawa & former Director-General of UNESCO Koichiro Matsuura



From the Gate to Todai-ji Temple

Koichiro Matsuura

**Former Director-General
of UNESCO**

Keynote Speaker



It brings back fond and diverse memories when I look at the list of member cities of the League of Historical Cities as I have had the privilege of visiting most of these beautiful places during my career as a diplomat, the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee and the Director-General of UNESCO.

There are currently over 250 cities and urban sites inscribed on the UNESCO's World Heritage List (890 sites as of May 2010), representing various geographic and socio-economic conditions and constituting the largest World Heritage 'category'.

The conservation of historic cities as well as urban landscapes, whether they are World Heritage or not, must be an integral part of urban development. Special attention should be given to the preservation of cityscape as a whole and not only to the individual architectures. Significant progress has been made by the international conservation community in this regard. Major challenges however remain in the face of emerging global transformation. Many historic cities suffer the consequences of unsustainable tourism and strive to hit the right balance between globalization and local development. Rapid environmental degradation has also been seriously affecting urban heritage. A century ago, only 4% of the world population was metropolitan but today, approximately half the world's habitants are in urban settings. These are only some of the pressing issues that cities are confronting everyday.

Since the adoption of the 1976 Recommendation concerning the Safeguarding and Contemporary Role of Historic Areas our understanding and appreciation of cultural heritage has broadened significantly. Spurred on by the debates on the Global Strategy, which emerged during the first part of 1990s when growing imbalances between inscribed cultural and natural properties on the World Heritage List became apparent, a steady broadening of meaning and interpretation of heritage has taken place. In 1992 the World Heritage Committee adopted the new heritage category of Cultural Landscapes, in 1994 the concept of authenticity was re-defined in Nara, and in 2001 UNESCO launched the programme on Modern Heritage. The result has been a widening interpretation of heritage, from monuments and sites to encompass the entire built environment, including the intangible dimensions of heritage and aspects of cultural diversity. These were further expressed in the UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity and the UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage both adopted in

2001 and set out in the 2003 UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, as well as the 2005 UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions.

UNESCO's World Heritage Centre, with the support of the World Heritage Convention's States Parties, its Advisory Bodies and other partner organizations, has been coordinating efforts to address the most urgent challenges facing the conservation of historic cities.

The improvement of the urban infrastructure and the successful preservation of integrity and authenticity of historic cities could only be met through an appropriate planning and legal framework. Political will of the local authorities and decision makers to take action to comply with these plans and legal instrument is essential. It is also evident that the local population that contributes to the city's cultural significance needs to be part of the conservation effort.

While many countries have managed to develop adequate legislation and regulations for the protection of urban historic areas over recent decades, the sustainability of public and private efforts towards conservation is far from being demonstrated in a world where public resources available for cultural investments are scarce and dwindling. The toolkit now available to urban conservators is by no means small: it is formed by a good system of internationally accepted principles of conservation, reflected in turn in such important international legal tools as the 1972 World Heritage Convention. Furthermore, the toolkit is supported by a large number of good practices developed over more than a century in different contexts, and on an elaborate planning and regulatory framework.

While most of the issues relating to the present and future challenges have now been identified, the new Recommendation will have to reflect a great variety of situations and stages of evolution that historic cities face within regions, as well as in different parts of the world. A document with universal value must necessarily encompass the diversity of approaches and value systems of different cultures, and define concepts and tools that will have to be adapted to their specific contexts. UNESCO is currently preparing a Recommendation on the Conservation of Historic Urban Landscape which I am sure will set out solid guidelines in this field.

As each city is unique, there is no unequivocal or single answer to good urban conservation. Respecting the legacy of historical cities and bestowing them on to the next generation is a mission that is at a time challenging and fascinating for all of us who undertake the enormous task of conservation of historical cities.

I look forward to meeting many of you and discussing the way forward at the 12th World Conference of Historical Cities in Nara.



Nara Park / A monument commemorating the Haiku Poet "Matsuo Basho"



Nara Candle Festival (Tokae)
For this famous summer event, started 10 years ago by local volunteers, many thousands of candles are lit across wide lawns to create a truly fantastic sight.



Nara (Heijo) Palace Site / Suzakumon Gate (the Main Gate of Heijo-kyo Imperial Palace)
This year celebrates the 1300th Anniversary of the ancient Heijo-kyo capital.
The gate has a 'changing of the guards' ceremony daily.

Photos : Courtesy of Nara City Tourist Association

Places to See in Nara
 Introduction of the places where the participants will visit
 during the 12th World Conference of Historical Cities

<Places to See in Nara, An Impressive City of 1,300 Years - Historicity transcending both time and space->

1,300 years ago, Japan's first permanent capital "Heijo-kyo" was located in Nara. The Heijo-kyo Palace, as the political and cultural center of the nation at the time, extended over an area as wide as 120 hectares. Today this 'Nara Palace Site' is preserved as a special historic site and designated as one of the 'Historic Monuments of Ancient Nara', a group of eight properties registered as an individual entity on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

During this year, 2010, several events are being held here to celebrate the 1,300th Anniversary of the Heijo-kyo Capital and its Palace. In April reconstruction of the 'Daigokuden' (Imperial Audience Hall) of the Palace - where all the ancient political and ceremonial activities took place - was completed. This impressive architecture, together with the Suzaku-mon Gate (reconstruction of which was completed 12 years ago), is a grand monument to evoke and awaken the spirit of that ancient time. These two construction projects have been attracting much interest because they represent a new form of preserving and utilizing historic sites. An excursion to the Heijo-kyo Palace site will take place on the third day of the 12th World Conference of Historical Cities, on October 14th. Although the original ancient imperial and government buildings no longer stand on the Palace site, the well-preserved architectures of several nearby temples and shrines remain as important pilgrimage destinations for modern generations.

The Todai-ji Temple complex, for example, is home to an enormous bronze 'Great Buddha', an extraordinary statue which was formally completed with an "eye-opening" ceremony

in 752. The precincts of Todai-ji temple are vast, with several historic buildings, and the Great Buddha is actually housed within the iconic 'Daibutsuden' (Great Buddha Hall) which is one of the world's largest wooden structures. Each of Todai-ji's buildings houses figures of Buddha that are national treasures.

Another important property within Nara is the Kasuga-taisha (Shinto) Shrine which, in 768, was dedicated to the sacred Mountains of Kasuga and Mikasa nearby. The striking vermilion painted corridors, numerous hanging lanterns, and roof thatching made from the bark of Japanese cypress trees together produce a highly elegant aesthetic that powerfully conveys the luxury and dignity of Nara's imperial heritage.

A pre-conference tour on October 11th will visit the two World Heritage sites of Todai-ji Temple and Kasuga-taisha Shrine.

The historic townscape area called 'Naramachi' within the larger city of Nara had for centuries survived as a typical 'monzen-machi' (a town originally built in front of a large temple or shrine) but it was almost destroyed by modern development. However, thanks to citizen action and the support of local authorities, planned developments were halted. The same local efforts were subsequently channeled into preserving the old town and the district has now become a tourism attraction in itself. However, this preservation drive was not intended for tourism-building purposes but as a way of protecting the residential and merchant lifestyles of the local people. As such, Naramachi remains a living, functioning, town of the present. This illustrates one feature of historic city Nara; the local enthusiasm to create and embrace a new symbiotic culture for life in modern-times that still breathes the air of more ancient days.



Left: Daigokuden (Imperial Audience Hall)
 Centre: Suzaku-mon Gate
 Right: Naramachi

<Applicants for Round table, Workshop and Youth Forum Wanted ! >

City of Nara invites persons interested in making a presentation based on the following themes in the Round Table, Workshop and youth forum of the 12th Conference. Those who wish to make a presentation, please read the followings and contact the 12th Conference Secretariat (City of Nara) at +81-742-34-1965(Fax) or info@wchc2010-nara.jp

Round Table (Meeting for Mayors and Administrative officials to be held on 13 Oct.)

- <Theme 1> "Unique City Planning Utilizing Its Historical Characteristics -Establishment of Identity"
- <Theme 2> "City Maintaining Its History -Harmonious Coexistence"

Workshop (Meeting for experts and specialists to be held on 12 and 13 Oct.)

<Theme> "System Designing to Succeed Culture of Historical City"

- *Topic 1: Technical Succession
- *Topic 2: Disaster Prevention of Historical City

*Submission of abstract in English 1000 words or Japanese 1500 characters by 20 July is required for application of making a presentation in Round Table or Workshop.

Youth Forum (Meeting for high school students from member cities age between around 16 to 18)

Selected high school students from member cities are invited to participate in the youth forum on 12 Oct. Applicants must send the abstract for the presentation under the theme of "the Succession of Historical City with Creative Revitalization" in either Japanese or Korean 1500 characters, English 1000 words or Chinese 1200 characters together with a letter of recommendation from the member city by 20 July. Five teams will be selected and informed the result to the corresponding person of each member city. The selected students' registration will be free of charge and international airfares for participation will be paid by the City of Nara maximum JPY300,000 per city. Students will make a presentation and discuss with other students in the forum. Furthermore, a home stay with Japanese families from 12 to 14 Oct. and the various program including excursion and school visit will be provided.



Kasuga-taisha Shrine's 'Ni-no-torii' in Morning Light
 (Photo by Taikichi IRIE taken Feb.1979)

Greetings from the Mayors of New Member Cities Bad Ischl (Austria) and Bursa (Turkey)

The Secretariat is pleased to announce that two cities have become new member cities of the League of Historical Cities namely Bad Ischl (Austria) and Bursa (Turkey). The Secretariat asked the Board members to evaluate their membership via internet and they were approved in March 2010. The League enlarged the membership to 86 cities from 55 countries.

City of Bad Ischl (Austria)

Hannes Heide
Mayor



The Austrian historical City of Bad Ischl is proud and honored to be a new member of the League of Historical Cities. Bad Ischl supports the activities of the League and is looking forward to cooperate with all the other member cities and to exchange experiences in the preservation of our cultural heritage.

It was Bad Ischl where history has been made. Many celebrities, crowned heads and statesmen have met here. It was here that young Austrian Emperor Francis Joseph I met his later wife Elisabeth, famously known as Sisi, for the first time and got engaged. The Kaiservilla (the Emperor's Villa) was the place where the Austrian Emperor signed the declaration that led to the First World War.



Bad Ischl became a fashionable spa resort with notable guests like Prince Klemens Wenzel von Metternich in the first half of the 19th century, when medical science discovered the effects on health by the local salt water. The marriage of the later Emperor Francis Joseph has been childless until they used medication with salt in Bad Ischl. That is why the three boys were named the "Salt Princes".

This led to the growing wealth of the place, still documented today in countless historical buildings. Painters and Composers came to the City to spread out the beauty of Bad Ischl.

These days the City has started many efforts to keep the historical substance in renovating and restoring buildings. With the acceptance of Bad Ischl as a member of the League of Historic Cities, all these efforts have been recognized and will encourage the people of Bad Ischl to continue their work in keeping the historical charm of their city.

Official Website: <http://www.bad-ischl.ooe.gv.at/>



City of Bursa (Turkey)

Recep Altepe
Mayor



We believe that becoming a member of the League of Historical Cities is a large step forward for the city of Bursa. Thanks to the Marmara Sea and Surrounding forest, Bursa has been a city where is the ancient seat of many civilizations enriched by cultural heritage and the great nature. Bursa Metropolitan Municipality, now a member of the League of Historical Cities, will continue and strengthen its efforts to protect and value our historical monuments, and to share our knowledge and experiences with the members of the League.

Bursa - the only city in Turkey characterized with the word Green is located at southern part of the Marmara region and is considered as a bridge between Asia and Europe. Bursa has a strong industry, pioneered by automotive, machinery and foodstuff sectors. Bursa is the treasury of history; It is a city proud of its cultural heritage thanks to many monuments from Byzantine, Ottoman and Republican periods.

Bursa is a city of novelties; the first minaret with a fountain, the first masjid, the first silk factory and the first museum in Anatolia are only some of the examples.

The unique and valuable historical, cultural and natural treasures attract people Bursa to visit

and come back again. It is possible to watch our beautiful city from the Aras Waterfall at 1700 meters on the Mountain Uludag, or it is possible to eat Bursa's delicious fish and olive at Mudanya Seashore while watching the beautiful bay and green forests. Parks, thermal spas, mosques, madarasahs, museums and others are all situated in Bursa.

Bursa's rich food culture is also remarkable. Bursa's cuisine is known for the desserts and dishes that were presented to the contemporary Turkish kitchen. Doner Kebab, Pita Kebab, Walnut Pastry, Cheese Dessert and Candied Chestnuts are some examples.

As a mayor concerning special importance of preserving, enrich and share cultural and historical heritage, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Board Director cities for becoming a member of the League of Historical Cities. I hope that we will have the opportunity to learn from the experiences of other cities on preservation and enrichment of historical and cultural heritage and also we can share our experiences with others.

Official Website: <http://www.bursa.bel.tr/>



The Role of Technology in the Development of Historic Cities
 General Secretary of The International Committee for the Conservation
 of the Industrial Heritage : Stuart B. Smith, OBE



Stuart B. Smith
 General Secretary of The International
 Committee for the Conservation of the
 Industrial Heritage, U.K.

Accepting an invitation from the Mayor of Kyoto to visit the City and view the Biwa Canal was a very easy decision. Although I am a frequent traveller to Japan I had never seen the Biwa Canal, particularly at cherry blossom time!. Constructed in the 1890s this canal connected Lake Biwa with Kyoto via an inclined plane, provided clean water to the citizens of Kyoto and also provided the first hydroelectric power plant in Japan which transformed the local economy and provided Kyoto with the first electric trams in Japan.

For all of my working career I have been involved with industrial museums, having spent 20 years at the Iron bridge Gorge Museum in Shropshire, England - the birthplace of industry and a world heritage site - and for the last 15 years I have been in Cornwall, the pioneering home of hard rock mining for tin and copper, where the earliest high power steam engines were developed for pumping, winding and railway engines. Since 1986 I have been the voluntary secretary of The International Committee for the Conservation of the Industrial

Heritage (TICCIH) which has members in over 60 countries and advises ICOMOS on potential world heritage sites.

Many people involved with historic cities do not seem to appreciate that cities are not just an accumulation of castles, shrines, temples and important houses but also have an infrastructure of technology and commercial activities which sustain their development.

Thus in Kyoto 17 or more important historic temples, shrines and a castle are designated as world heritage sites but the important infrastructure, which was mentioned by Hiroshi Mimura in the March bulletin, are not included as part of the world heritage site. Similarly Lake Biwa and the Canal, which improved the health of the citizens of Kyoto and also provided power for the development of the city, were not included in the world heritage site application.

This is not uncommon as there are numerous sites on the world heritage site list which derive their importance from industrial activity - from Sweden to Mexico - where only the important buildings in the city are included as world heritage sites, totally ignoring the industrial sites just outside the city which provided it with its wealth.

I sincerely hope that a reconsideration will be given to the world heritage site for Kyoto so that it may include historic manufacturing sites within the city and also the Lake Biwa Canal.

For further information contact the TICCIH website : <http://www.ticcih.org> and also the mAAN (modern Asian Architecture Network) website : <http://www.m-aan.org>

Right:
 Mr. Stuart B. Smith (third from left) with Mr. Daisaku Kadokawa, the President of the League of Historical Cities / Mayor of Kyoto (second from left) on the Biwa inclined plane with the officials of the City of Kyoto, on the occasion of Mr. Smith's visit to Kyoto on 7 April 2010.



The League of
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The 12th World Conference of Historical Cities in 2010 in Nara, Japan

Period: 12 - 15 Oct., 2010
 Theme: Succession of Historical City with Creative Revitalization
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Kasuga-Taisha Shrine / Cloister and Garden Lanterns
 Photo : Courtesy of Nara City Tourist Association