



- Accra
- Alexandria
- Algiers
- Amsterdam
- Andong
- Ankara
- Athens
- Bad Ischl
- Baghdad
- Ballarat
- Barcelona
- Bordeaux
- Boston
- Bratislava
- Brussels
- Budapest
- Bursa
- Buyeo
- Cape Town
- Chengdu
- Chiang Mai
- Chernivtsi
- Cologne
- Constanta
- Cordoba
- Cracow
- Cusco
- Dijon
- Dublin
- Edinburgh
- Fez
- Florence
- Geneva
- Gongju
- Guadalajara
- Gyeongju
- The Hague
- Hanoi
- Helsingborg
- Hebron
- Hue
- Iasi
- Isfahan
- Istanbul
- Jerusalem
- Kaesong
- Kanazawa
- Kathmandu
- Kazan
- Kiev
- Konya
- Kutaisi
- Kyoto
- Lahore
- Lisbon
- Lutsk
- Lviv
- Melbourne
- Mexico City
- Minsk
- Montpellier
- Montreal
- Mtskheta
- Nanjing
- Nara
- Nicosia
- Nis
- Norwich
- Norwood Payneham & St Peters
- Odessa
- Osmangazi
- Paris
- Prague
- Quebec
- Riga
- Rome
- Sanliurfa
- Santiago de Compostela
- Sarajevo
- Sheki
- Strasbourg
- Tainan
- Tashkent
- Termez
- Tunis
- Ulan Bator
- Varanasi
- Veliko Turnovo
- Vienna
- Xian
- Yangon
- Yangzhou
- Yogyakarta
- Zagreb
- Zhengzhou

*Tainan To Thrive Merging Cultural Past
With Creative Life*

Cover Photo : Confucius Temple

*Review of the 13th World Conference
of Historical Cities*

16- 18 Apr., 2012 in Hue Vietnam



WORLD HISTORICAL CITIES

The League of Historical Cities Bulletin
No.64: March 2013

Tainan To Thrive Merging Cultural Past With Creative Life

Cultural heritage and cultural creativity
The close connection between cultural heritage and its surroundings, including the natural environment and intangible cultural heritage, has a universal value. That the development of the surrounding environment is inter-dependent with cultural creativity is a worldwide consensus. The designation of the European Capital of Culture and the UNESCO nomination of creative city networks can both illustrate this. This development not only contributes cultural and economic benefits to historic cities, but also promotes both the re-generation and development of the city. Moreover, this is also crucial in enhancing the city's international reputation and raising its visibility. If we re-consider the conservation of cultural heritage in Taiwan and its connection with the surrounding environment, such as historical, humanistic, and other intangible cultural elements, it will be possible to highlight cultural and historical contexts and values.

As the cultural capital of Taiwan, Tainan bears the responsibility of promoting the link between cultural heritage and potential urban resources on an international platform. The initial aim is to formulate strategies and concepts of cultural heritages. Cultural heritage should lead to the development of a creative city with cultural and creative industries treated as creative resources. Understanding successful experiences brought by the LHC will help us forge a close link between cultural heritage and urban re-generation and development as well as taking cultural heritage as the core value for the promotion of the creative city.

Culture and creativity are the contemporary language for people in Tainan to communicate with the world. We provide a profound and cultural heritage and the persistent spirit of traditional craftsmanship for new generations to freely express their creativity.

Attractive historical sites

While roaming around Tainan's old lanes and streets, we often unwittingly find, just around the corner, many traces of history. Everyone who has ever been to Tainan knows that the tastiest dishes in Tainan are usually hidden in unnoticed alleys. They seem to be playing hide and seek with the visitors. Although 20% of the visitors to Tainan came for their to historic interests, 27% were drawn by Tainan's food. The result also shows a special and cultural atmosphere in Tainan: coming here, you can see the beauty of



Shen-nong Street- Photo by Bo-Liang Lin

life everywhere; coming here, you feel in the air the leisure of many happy years. Later developments included the rule of the Dutch, who developed the international port Da Yuan Harbor at Anping in the 17th century, as well as the Zhengs' reign that first provided education and a broader scope of development, the Qing period which led to the general belief of sea gods and development of the commercial areas in the capital city (Fucheng), the period of Japanese rule that rigorously enforced urban development to establish a modern city, and the diverse ethnic integration and cultural advancement after the World War 2. Through these events, Tainan has gradually developed to become a unique city. Moreover, the ordinary people's culture, hidden in the streets, bowls, cups, and utensils, also glows in abundant colors because of Tainan's historical background.

Take Shen-nong Street and Xin-mei Street for example, built in the Qing Dynasty. This attractive street block escaped being converted into a straight street during the period of Japanese rule. This kind of street block not only preserves the original lifestyles, but also retains the most human relationships between households because of its perfect street width.

Policy for Conservation and Reviving of Historical Architecture

We believe there are three main dimensions in protecting cultural assets and historical memory: preserving the past, contemplating the present, and looking to the future.

If a city wants to be recognized as being great for its culture, preserving the past history is not enough. However, if we are not willing to acknowledge the past of our ancestors, we will not pay attention to our children's future, either. As a result, valuing past historical memories can be said to be the most basic task for Tainan, the cultural capital of Taiwan. This is historical Tainan.

In Tainan, over the past few years, both government authorities and the public have carried out transformations of old architectural spaces. Tainan city has a

long history, with a rich cultural texture. Besides having almost a quarter of the nation's historic sites, Tainan also contains many historic buildings that are in need of urgent maintenance and reuse. There are, moreover, a lot of old houses that do not qualify as historic sites but carry people's historical memories. It is impossible for us to simply discard them in the process of urban development, as other cities do. Working in the public sector, we are constrained by limited funding. Since we probably have the largest number of historic buildings and old houses in the nation, we are unable to maintain all of them at the same time. However, we have worked hard to fulfill our duties. All of the above mentioned buildings have not only been renovated but also contracted to be reused and revived for practical purposes. Apart from bringing history to life, they have also become important spaces where people nowadays may construct a new set of memories.

Cultural Civil Society

Citizens are gradually becoming more aware of cultural resource protection and the trend of "collective memory" emphasized in contemporary international cultural property preservation. Preserving old street houses that are not historic sites or buildings has also become a challenge we must overcome.

Many non-governmental groups concerned about the cultural issue in Tainan, and we do not see their concerns as problems but as powerful support. We are very happy to see that a strong "cultural civil society" is developing in Tainan, because this is a precious resource that many highly commercialized and urbanized cities cannot obtain.

Humanistic thinking is the manifestation of cultural inheritance and the expression of humanistic values. We strive to carry forward the wisdom of our predecessors, realizing it through the preservation, the inheritance, the revitalization, and the innovation of our citizens' collective memories.

Art and Literature in the City

In addition to preserving and reviving our historic sites and buildings, we also encourage art and literature to thrive and flourish in the city, to discover local cultural values that originated in Tainan. Art and urban aesthetics are key indexes of a community's quality of life. We combine new and old, innovate through tradition, and stimulate the spirit of contemporary Tainan culture.

Taiwanese writer Yeh Shih-tao once said: "Tainan is a good place for dreams, work, romance, marriage, and a carefree life."

Located behind the National Museum of Taiwan Literature and across from the Confucius Temple, the first and second floors of the Former Tainan Forestry Administration have now become the Yeh Shih-tao Memorial Hall. The purpose of establishing this memorial hall is to pay tribute to Mr. Yeh's extraordinary contribution to Taiwan literature. It was also the first memorial hall dedicated by the government to a single writer. Besides, at historic sites, buildings, and cultural spots in Tainan, we selected ten talented local performing groups and invited them to perform dramas that possess Tainan characteristics while keeping with the artists' own original creativity.

The value of Tainan

History and culture are Tainan's foundations for development. We cherish the past on this land and try our best to enrich its soil. From history to humanities, art, and creativity, we hold a clear set of priorities when it comes to "the value of Tainan."

When taking history into account, we are also aware that the existence of the public sector is to serve the citizens, the people. Everything done and every policy made by the public sector should be in line with humanistic principles, the concept of "humanistic values." Everything related to human life is a unit that makes up culture. From humble and modern material inventions, to constructions, thinking, and action, all of them are likely to become tangible or intangible cultural assets for our future generations. Therefore, in addition to cherishing the cultural heritage given by our ancestors, when encountering the collision between the past and the future, we cannot sell ourselves short, giving in to the past without limits and postponing the future forever. Instead we should look for a more creative way to create a win-win situation, allowing "the new" and "the old" to co-exist and develop together in this unique city. This is "the value of Tainan."



Yeh Shih-tao Memorial Hall



Cultural and creative industries of old houses - Photo by Bo-Liang Lin



Many non-governmental groups are concerned about the cultural issue in Tainan- Photo by Bo-Liang Lin



Art performing in the historical site- Photo by Bo-Liang Lin

For further information

Tainan Foreigner Assistance Center

No.6, Sec.2, Yonghua Rd.,
Tainan City, Taiwan.
Tel: +886-6-2991111
#8244
Out-of-Hours Service
Tel: 0800-024-111
<http://foreigner.tncg.gov.tw/en/>



There are almost a quarter of the nation's historic sites in Tainan

Students from Kyoto and Hue
 Voices from Participants in the Youth Forum
 Held on the First Day of the 13th Conference

Hiromu Hashizume from Kyoto

When I was selected to participate in the World Conference of Historical Cities, it was my aim to serve as a worthy representative not only of Kyoto, but of Japanese university students as well. Assigned to describe the current state of Kyoto's historic buildings and streets, I approached the event with a sense of both pride and responsibility.

When I actually arrived in Vietnam for the conference, the city of Hue seemed to exude the same sense of historical charm as Kyoto -making it a perfect location, I felt, for an event on historical cities. The conference itself also gave me a chance to experience and learn at many different levels.

Particularly fascinating were the themes of "communication" and "social networking", which were shared among the different countries. As the world becomes increasingly globalized, the way in which we collect and transmit information has become a key factor in preserving our historical assets. Representatives from all over the world felt that gathering and sending out information using social networking sites was important; and it is my feeling that young Japanese should also take advantage of this tool in order to spread in the word information about the state of our own historical assets, if we wish to preserve them.



Saki Sakurai from Kyoto

The World Conference of Historical Cities served as a meeting place for university students from all over the world, and contributed greatly to my own growth. Listening to the presentations made by scholars, government officials, and students made me aware of the many problems facing the preservation of our world heritage as well as the efforts being made to resolve them. I also got a better sense of issues like dealing with garbage and cultural diversity, which we generally aren't forced to confront with the world heritage sites in Kyoto.

The student exchange forum gave me a chance to hear a number of opinions on preserving our historical cities. Discussing with others how we might protect our world heritage greatly broadened my own perspective on ways to address this challenge. Students from all over the world were convinced that we should use communication tools like Twitter or Facebook to help preserve our historical treasures. It was wonderful to be offered this opportunity to express our thoughts. I hope that I will be able to

make use of the insights I gained at the World Conference of Historical Cities as I continue to deepen my understanding of culture.



Youichirou Shimada from Kyoto

Being able to participate in last year's World Conference of Historical Cities as a representative of Kyoto was a valuable experience, and I am grateful for the support of all those who made this opportunity possible.

I learned from the presentations that the problem of preserving our historical cities is not just something we face in Japan, but common to countries all over the world. I did, however, sense a difference in the level of difficulty accompanying this issue in various areas. The garbage problems in Vietnam and the environmental problems in England, for example, are ones that I feel we have already addressed in Japan. The challenge that we face here-that of passing our historical cities on to the next generation in the face of a low birthrate and aging population-is one that I believe many historical cities in the world will need to grapple with in the years to come. It is for this reason that Japan stands on the leading edge of resolving issues related to urban history, and I feel strongly that its strategies will serve as a guideline for others in the future. I believe it is the young people that must take the decline of our historical cities seriously and into their own hands if we are to successfully hand down our cultural assets and traditions to future generations.



Truong Quang Trung from Hue

In the partnership of League of Historical Cities and Hue city, The 13th World Conference of Historical Cities was held in Hue City from April 16 to 18, 2012 under the theme of "Defining universal heritage challenges and solutions". This conference designed as an academic as well as a policy forum which will enable dialogues for mayors, city leaders, experts and youth from all over the world to share and discuss theories, methods, approaches and programs of defining universal heritage challenges and solutions.

In this regard, with the cooperation between the Youth Union and Dean of History - Hue University of Science hosted the Youth Forum under the theme "Youth awareness and action in promoting traditional heritage values". The forum is being actively discussed at present by youth representatives from Japan, Vietnam, America, UK and Turkey. It was emphasized throughout the discussions that participants were a very privileged group to have been brought together and to have seen so much together. It was recognized that the participants had a responsibility to take what they had learnt back with them to their schools, families and communities so that the message of Heritage preservation and promotion could be spread. It became apparent to the workshop participants that both the young and the old in today's society had the responsibility to put preservation measures in place to save these heritage treasures from further destruction in which the human element is quite prevalent even at Historical Heritage Sites.

Besides the discussion forum, the organizer had arranged for youth participants to take part in various activities such as: photo exhibition on Culture, Heritage and Festivals from participant cities; field visit to Hue citadel, Heavenly Lady Pagoda, and the tombs of Nguyen Dynasty, the last Dynasty of Vietnam and visit the Street children's Home sponsored by JASS (The Japanese Association of Supporting Street Children's Home in Vietnam). This was to be done in the form of open discussion focusing on the facilities that they would like to see at such sites to help visitors better understand what they were seeing and the need for the protection of the world's cultural and natural heritage.

As the Forum concluded, the young delegates expressed their hope to continue the discussions in the future. The relaxed atmosphere of the event was a guarantee for success, as it provided the best atmosphere for bringing their viewpoints closer through cooperation.

As for the youths of Hue city, this is truly a good opportunity for us to share and exchange our ideas on cultural values. The forum help provide concrete possibilities by which to reinforce young people's sense of responsibility to their cultural and natural heritage and to encourage them to participate actively in their societies' democratic decision making process. According to Mr. Ahmet Koru, Chairman of the Youth Assembly, Konya City, Turkey: "As

a world youth, we should make contribution for not using our cultural inheritages unconsciously and in order to make everybody conscious, we should start campaigns by the help of social Networks and publications. We should embrace world history and we should do that honestly and ethically, not for commercial purposes. We shouldn't think tourism as a way to earn MONEY, we should use it as a culturally shared tool.

These incredible two days are an ideal platform for youth to become further engaged in the world around them, share ideas, learn more about the issues facing their own cities and the international community and meet other politically aware young people. Through the statement in our declaration, we firmly together hand in hand make efforts to reach our goals, including:

1. Adopting a new concept of inheriting and promoting the cultural heritage values using the motto "Unity in diversity";
2. Arranging academic exchanges, establishing the professional relationship associated with cultural heritage conservation and pointing out the cultural characteristic peculiar to each people through representatives present at this gathering;
3. Taking action to disseminate and to enhance the national cultural values through the participation in the cultural activities both in and outside the country;
4. Raising our knowledge of others' cultures and civilizations with a view to enhance our understanding and expand our friendly cooperation.

Through this forum we discovered that youth are not just looking for knowledge, they want to participate. And even more important, they want to contribute. Together we challenge the working environment and come up with ways of making our work more meaningful, connecting it to a wider purpose.



The Secretariat is pleased to announce that three cities have become new member cities of the League of Historical Cities, namely Hebron (Palestine), Kutaisi (Georgia), and Tainan (Chinese Taipei). Their membership was approved at the LHC Board of Directors' Meeting 2012 held last April in Hue, Vietnam. The followings are the greetings from the Mayors of the above cities. The League membership enlarged to 95 cities from 59 countries and regions.

City of Hebron (Palestine)

Khaled Osaily
Mayor



Hebron's history represents a cumulative journey spanning thousands of years of human development in this part of the world, as in other regions, to leave behind a significant historical, civic and cultural heritage, embedded in the fabric of the common human heritage.

Hebron, with its millennia of history, is an important example of Man's ability to build successive civilizations, evolving through constant contact with other populations. Ever since it was built by the Canaanites, our city has turned industry and trade into bridges for communication and cultural exchanges with other civilizations.

Hebron also bears a very high religious significance derived from Palestine's historical sanctity. It has been closely connected, both in name and history, to the Patriarch of all Prophets, Abraham praised in his name. Furthermore, as part of the Jerusalem-Bethlehem-Hebron triangle, it has become a religious pilgrimage destination as well as an important center of science and culture with visitors coming in from various parts of the world in search of enlightenment. Its spiritual significance provided it with a



City of Kutaisi (Georgia)

Besik Bregadze
Mayor



According to the ancient mythology the history of Georgia began from Kutaisi no less than 3500 years ago. The plot of well known "Argonautica" centres round the city - Kutaisi. The historical Kutaisi is the throne city of Colchi with wealth and golden fleece and the residence of well known Aetes and Medea.

The history of Kutaisi started from III century B.C. From ancient times and later

cultural and social mixture that enriched its fabric and added color to its social and cultural mosaic.

Its basic Mamluk architecture was embellished and enriched over the years with Ottoman touches until it became a unique system woven by the human values of its residents, thanks to their cultures, beliefs and respect for the values of others. It now reflects the depth of human relations between different cultures. The city's architectural fabric is one of a kind in its evolution based on the respect of its residents' human values, traditions and beliefs.

We, at Hebron Municipality, believe that our city's historical and cultural values are an integral part of the general human heritage. Hebron's accession to the League shall underscore the diversity of humanity's cultures and values. As a member of the league of historical cities to hope to build the bridges of communication and common action in view of preserving human values in the world's historical cities and consolidating relations between those cities' municipalities so as to improve their present and safeguard them for future generations.

On behalf of Hebron Municipality, we express our appreciation for all efforts aimed at preserving the cultural heritage and historical values of the world's cities. We also convey the greetings of the citizens of Hebron, cradle of civilizations and cultural hub for thousands of years.



into the feudal era, Kutaisi intensively kept the position of the first city in western Georgia. Kutaisi stayed in all epoch one of the major cultural-educational, intellectual and unique historical place.

In X-XII centuries Kutaisi was the first capital of united Georgia. In this period King Bagrat III built the outstanding monument Bagrati Temple in Kutaisi as a symbol of the Country's unity which is an outstanding monument of Georgian architecture. UNESCO included Bagrat's Temple in the list of UNESCO World Heritage.

Later in 1106 King David, the Builder, built outstanding monument of Georgian architecture Gelati Monastery Ensemble. The complex comprises several monuments built

in different times (basically in XII-XIII cc). In 1994 the Gelati Monastery was entered the World Cultural heritage List of UNESCO.

In XII century the history of Kutaisi as the capital of unified Georgia ended, when the king of United of Georgia the David IV, the Builder, transferred the royal throne in Tbilisi. Despite having given up the status of the country's first city, Kutaisi has never lost its importance and significance in the history of Georgia.

The role of Kutaisi in the development of Georgian culture is great. Kutaisi is still the major cultural-educational center. In XII century, Gelati Academy was established by David, the builder. The academy was regarded as a symbol of wisdom and holiness throughout the nation.

Kutaisi is the hometown of Zakaria Palishvili the founder of Georgian national classical music and the composer of Meliton Balnchivadze, whose son George Balanchini is the founder of American classic ballet and is the greatest choreographer of our time. Many foreign guests are surprised

City of Tainan (Chinese Taipei)

Lai Ching-Te
Mayor



Tainan, a historical city in the world, in ancient times was already the Paradise of the Hiraya and animals.

The Dutch and Koxinga once fought for her in the 17th century, and hereafter Chinese and Japanese had dominated till recently. Therefore, Tainan was an epitome of Taiwanese culture and history.

I believe that we will share our experiences in conserving and utilizing our cultural heritage with other historical cities of the league.

In addition, we would like to transcend national boundaries, to actively promote cultural exchange and cooperation among the members of the league.

Tainan, which serves as an intersection between Europe, China, Japan and is the origin of Taiwanese, is the most worthy city for your discovery!

Taiwan's Capital for 300 years

As early as 17th century, Tainan had surfaced onto the international stage to become the center connecting Taiwan with the world. Having been the capital of Taiwan for 300 years, Tainan is the hometown of Taiwan.

The Siraya Aborigines, the Dutch, the Chinese and the Japanese have all lived here once, left magnificent cultural treasure and made the city a fertile ground of modern arts and creative industry. The cultural capital of Taiwan, in 2010, opened a new chapter in its history. Former Tainan County and City was merged and upgraded into one municipality.

seeing in a small city the beautiful architectural building of Opera House, which consists of world famous artistic compositions.

In Kutaisi State Historical Museum more than 200 multi-profile exhibits are contained, and the collection particularly describes the long life of Georgia and Kutaisi city.

Paintings, sculpture, graphics, unique pieces of art, including the world featuring artist's works as Pirosmiani, Akhvediani, Gudiashvili masterpieces which are kept in David Kakabadze Fine Art Gallery. A couple of years ago the Kutaisi drama theatre's 100th anniversary was widely celebrated. Numerous Georgian artists performed there.

Kutaisi is a new member of the League of Historical Cities, but for its unique historical and cultural heritage, it certainly deserves an honorable place in this Historical League. Our city is ready to demonstrate the values of its historic heritage and actively be involved in partnership process with the members of the League of Historical Cities.

City of Delicacies, Museum of Life

Tainan boasts of possessing over one-fourth of the historic sites of Taiwan, including Wusanto Reservoir and Chianan Canal built by the Japanese engineer Yoichi Hatta and designated as the potential world heritage spots. Abundant crafts, local delicacies and old alleys with long history, altogether make Tainan a living museum.

More than 3.5 million tourists per year come to Tainan to visit historic sites and taste local delicacies. Year-round festivals include the Spring Tour in Tainan in January, Yanshui Beehive Fireworks in February, Koxinga Cultural Festival in April, Dragon Boat Festival in lunar May, Coming-of-age Ceremony on Chihsi (lunar July), Siraya Night Sacrifice in fall, and so on. All of these demonstrate the cultural characteristics of Tainan which attracts many overseas and domestic tourists.

Heavyweight of Traditional Crafts, Infinite Energy of Culture

With the long history of delicious food and the most genuine local delicacies, different night markets are available seven days a week in the "City of Fine Food."

Besides, many artists with the highest national honor for arts and craftsmen are passing down the traditional arts and craftsmanship in Tainan. Tourists can see the most prominent works of arts and crafts in their workshops or local temples. With the highest density in Taiwan, there are 16 colleges which have aesthetic design related departments in Tainan.

Tainan is the cultural capital, a paradise of tourism, a town of new technology, as well as a low-carbon city. No matter you come to Tainan for travelling, investing, or settling down, our finest culture and most friendly people will welcome you with open arms.



Bagrati Temple, Symbol of United Georgia (X-XI century)



Gelati Monastery (XII century)



Confucius Temple Cultural Zone



Many Historic Sites and Temples in Tainan



National Cultural Heritage "Chihkan Tower"

Greetings from the Mayors of New Member Cities Hebron, Kutaisi and Tainan

Life Beyond Tourism
 Non Profit Cultural Portal and Community
 Paolo Del Bianco : President, Fondazione Romualdo Del
 Bianco-Life Beyond Tourism



Paolo Del Bianco
 President, Fondazione Romualdo Del
 Bianco-Life Beyond Tourism, Florence, Italy
 Member of ICOMOS Hungary Committee

The Fondazione's mission is to foster intercultural dialogue. Familiarising with other cultures' customs and traditions helps increase our knowledge of cities behind their fancy facades, and knowledge of landscape beyond its superficial appearance. This is the basic premise underlying the Life Beyond Tourism philosophy, first introduced in Baku in 2007 at a conference on the "21st Century and the Historic Islamic City".

In a globalised society, the theme of intercultural relations is a priority. If, in addition to that, a historical city joins the UNESCO list, its mission radically changes because it becomes a centre of worldwide attention, thus acquiring the honour, and the burden, of becoming an example, a workshop for communication, an area with an educational role.

Taking our cue from the vocation, and thus the mission of a place, we need first and foremost to rebuild the sense of community, the sense of a tree from which each branch takes its vital lymph, because people's attention today focuses solely on the branch of the tree as though it were a separate reality; but the part makes sense only if it is conceived and lives as an element in the whole.

Thus the Fondazione's contribution lies primarily in stimulating a widespread sense of belonging and of responsibility in safeguarding and enhancing the Historical Urban Landscape precisely in its capacity as an expression of that whole. We intend to help support and protect that whole's representative players such as, for instance, the businesses that hand down local knowledge and are part and parcel of the overall culture of the whole.

The Fondazione, with its more than twenty years of activity based on "international encounters without competition, respecting

individual identities - discovering the past together, working to build a shared future", has set up, as the best practice and practical application of the Life Beyond Tourism philosophy, a virtual space, a global portal - the Life Beyond Tourism Non-Profit Portal - to contribute to the interpretation and presentation of the cultural heritage of the world's various regions and cities.

This is a cultural portal and web community (web 2.0) which contributes to the 'use and enjoyment' of cultural heritage 'for social purposes', fostering the interpretation and presentation of a region's cultural personality as it addresses the changes wrought by time. The Fondazione's network - consisting today of over 500 institutions and universities in 77 countries on the five continents - plays a key role in this venture based on a system which is fully self-supporting from financial standpoint.

In practice, Life Beyond Tourism's activity consists in the construction (already achieved) and implementation of a database of cultural players (including both cultural institutions and private businesses representative of a place) and of traditional knowledge in different regions of the world in order to facilitate:

1. the interpretation and presentation of the place's personality
2. the study of the place's cultural biography
3. the description and presentation of the place's cultural biography to the visitor
4. the sensitisation of the local population
5. legal guidelines at the national and regional level
6. the observation and comparison of values shared by various cultures and the specific manner in which different cultures present and communicate those values to the visitor
7. the sensitisation and preparation of the visitor.

All of this is already in operation, all of this is already a 'heritage', and all of this, together with its updates, was illustrated in Florence in the course of a ceremony for the 40th anniversary of the 1972 UNESCO Convention promoted by the Fondazione RDB-LBT, among others, and sponsored by UNESCO.

The Fondazione offers this self-supporting initiative as a best practice to which historical cities can refer.

It is in this context that we hope to cooperate fruitfully with the League of Historical Cities.

The 14th World Conference of Historical Cities in 2014

City of Yangzhou, China

Foreign Affairs of Yangzhou Municipality
 8 Wenchan xi lu, City of Yangzhou, China
 Phone: +86-514-87782312
 Fax: +86-514-87782309



The Slender West Lake of Yangzhou

**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
 E-mail: lhcs@city.kyoto.jp
 URL: <http://www.city.kyoto.jp/somu/kokusai/lhcs/>