



Cover Photo: Luxor Temple interior at night

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

105 cities from 61 countries and regions
(As of 1st December, 2014)

*Administrative policy and examples of conservation
of historical architecture in Luxor, Egypt*

*Review of the 14th World Conference
of Historical Cities*

2-4 Sept., 2014, Yangzhou, China



WORLD HISTORICAL CITIES

The League of Historical Cities Bulletin

No. 68: December 2014

Administrative policy and examples of conservation of historical architecture in Luxor, Egypt

Luxor, cradle of ancient Egyptian civilization

Located in Upper Egypt, Luxor has been described as the world's biggest open-air museum. It is one of the most popular destinations in Egypt, a veritable "must-see." Because of this almost every tourist company has an office somewhere in the town.

It has been estimated that Luxor contains about a third of the most valuable monuments and antiquities in the whole world, which makes it one of this planet's most important tourism sites. Monuments such as the Luxor Temple, Karnak Temple, the Valley of the Kings, the Valley of the Queens, Deir El-Bahri (the Mortuary Temple of Hatshepsut), the workers' village at Deir El-Medina: the list goes on and on. Though most visitors will stay for just a few days, it would take a substantial amount of time to visit everything in this amazing town.

Once known as Thebes, Luxor's importance in ancient Egyptian history cannot be denied. It was the religious capital for almost all of the Pharaonic period, which is why the town is dominated by the two temples: the Temple of Luxor, and the immense Temple of Karnak, the world's largest temple complex.



Today Luxor is split into two by the River Nile, and these two areas are known as the East Bank (where the town lies) and the West Bank. Though this was also true in ancient times, the two parts were called the city of the living (East Bank) and the city of the dead (West Bank).

Luxor is situated 670 km (416 miles) to the south of Cairo, 220 km (137 miles) to the north of Aswan, and 280 km (174 miles) to the west of Hurghada. It is the second-most-popular place to visit in Egypt, behind Cairo, and is accessible in a number of ways.

Administrative policy and examples of conservation of historical architecture

Local authorities have been pressing an ambitious project to reinvent and revive Luxor, and expand the city's tourist infrastructure. The objective of the project is to establish and carry out a work plan for environmentally sustainable tourism development that also benefits the local population. To achieve this objective, the following core themes emerged from a study approach that stressed the active participation of all major stakeholders:

(1) Preservation of cultural resources protects Egypt's heritage and promotes economic development.

(2) Planned growth promotes sustainable economic development.

(3) Meeting the contemporary needs of local residents is vital to the success of the plans.

These core themes in turn identified specific

objectives for the Comprehensive Development Plan for the City of Luxor:

- Contribute to the preservation of the area's unique cultural heritage by alleviating pressures on the existing sites through the creation of additional tourist attractions;

- Prevent further urban sprawl and the deleterious effects of unplanned development on the cultural heritage and on the population's living conditions; and

- Create new economic opportunities for the citizens of the region.

The Comprehensive Development Plan incorporates the following elements designed to achieve these objectives:

- The creation of an open museum in Luxor, in large part related to the excavation and restoration of the Avenue of the Sphinxes linking the major temples of Karnak and Luxor, Conservation of The Colossi of Memnon, restoration and renovation of the Temple of Khnum at Esna, and restoration of some other archeological sites.

- The creation of a planned new community, New Luxor, especially after increasing the area of Luxor tenfold by extending east to the Red Sea coast to include the City of Marsa Alam and west to Kharga Oasis to enlarge the area to more than 37 thousand square kilometers.

- Introduction of and support for the cultivation of higher-value crops in the agricultural zone surrounding the City of Luxor in addition to some other investment projects.

Restoration of the Avenue of the Sphinxes

During the Pharaonic period, the Avenue of the Sphinxes connected the Temples of Luxor and Karnak, a processional avenue lined on both sides by 1,200 statues of sphinxes. Both temples were substantially completed during the New Kingdom period, over 3,000 years ago. Successive rulers altered and added to the temples: Amenhotep III built the Temple of Luxor during the 18th Dynasty, adding gardens between the Temple of Luxor and the complex of temples at Karnak. The ram-headed sphinxes lining the avenue bore his likeness. The ensuing centuries have buried this processional avenue and its statues under two meters of silt and sand, and urban development covered it with housing, asphalted streets, and other structures, obscuring its route and interrupting this dramatic connection.

Over the last 50 years, portions of the Avenue of the Sphinxes (also known as Kebash Avenue) have been excavated, revealing remnants of the sphinxes and the roadbed. Short segments near each temple have been fully excavated and are now integral parts of the antiquities' settings. Test excavations at segments along the 2.4-kilometer length of the Avenue have verified its location and underlined its archaeological potential.

The investment project focuses on the renovation of the Avenue of the Sphinxes to improve the touristic experience, increase the vitality of the city center, and form the centerpiece of an Open Museum. The emphasis of the project at all times is on the accommodation of the living needs of the permanent population (mitigating the effects of congestion in a growing city center) with an active effort to increase job and entrepreneurial opportunities.

Conservation of The Colossi of Memnon

The Colossi of Memnon are the most visible remains of what was once the most richly ornamented of all Theban monuments. The Colossi of Memnon are 16-meter-high red quartzite colossal statues of Amenhotep III that mark the entrance of the temple in front of the first pylon. Initial site excavations revealed abundant architectural remains, including stelae (columns), building blocks, and several colossal statues, all of which were left on site without conservation. The temple structure was originally destroyed by earthquakes, and, since it was never fully excavated, the site was overgrown with vegetation and threatened by seasonal floods and agricultural development. These problems were compounded by an increase in surface salts from rising groundwater, a by-product of the construction of the Aswan High Dam in the 1960s.



In 1998, WMF supported emergency conservation, documentation, clearance of the western portico of the great peristyle hall, and planning of a long-range conservation program. The implementation of conservation measures at the site began in 2004, and included the integration of a drainage system to alleviate groundwater and consolidate deteriorating stone. This allowed the statues and stelae to be reassembled and placed on stable soil in their original place.

In early 2013, archaeo-geological investigations around the bases of the colossi revealed artifacts buried under centuries of accumulated soil layers. A piece of the original right forearm of the north Memnon, as well as fragments of the sculpture's pleated kilt, throne, and base, were all recovered. Investigations also revealed a considerable number of granite and quartzite remnants of sculptures of the Egyptian goddess Sekhmet. Conservators reclaimed from abroad a quartzite eye belonging to one of the statues in the portico, and reset it before sending the fragile sculpture to the nearby Luxor Museum of Art. In the north-western corner of the court, foundations were poured and a plinth established to house a monumental statue of a white hippopotamus.

Work is currently underway to desalinate the architectural and sculptural remains, reassemble and raise the four colossal royal statues, and protect the two mud-brick pylons and their gateway. Fragments found in the excavated area of the second and third brick pylons will be documented and reassembled, and the installation of an

additional local drainage system will facilitate the raising of the statues out of the Nile silt.

The restoration and renovation of the Temple of Khnum at Esna

Further down the Nile before Luxor is Esna. A small temple has been excavated in the middle of the city. The temple is dedicated to Khnum, an early god associated with the Nile itself, who would have created men from clay at his potter's wheel. Despite its size, the temple is worth the visit because it remained buried for centuries before it was discovered below the modern city, and exhibits a very good state of preservation. In particular, most of its walls still sport their original colors. Indeed, although there is little trace of it nowadays, the decorations of the Egyptian temples were not only carved but also painted with pigments, so we have to imagine the temples as a shimmering mix of colors, rather than the austere engraved stone we are familiar with. While some colors remain to this day in some parts of the temples, they have faded long ago, and are but a shadow of what they once were. The Egyptian authorities are constantly working to restore the temples, and re-enliven the colors as part of this. Recently, a new technique has been developed, bringing spectacular results.

Included also in the development plan: removal of encroachments from the archaeological area and re-planning of the region to attract more tourists and convert Luxor into an open-air museum. It should be noted that the development of the front yard of the Temple of Karnak has been completed along with the demolition of all the slums that were impeding the view in front of the temple and lighting of the West Bank sites. Work is underway to develop other archaeological sites.

Also included is a plan to expand and re-plan the traffic axes, and the development of main roads. Moreover, the Luxor governorate has developed a Monitoring Project of Vital Locations to secure the city. Also it aspires to turn Luxor into a green city by 2020 by increasing agricultural areas and green spaces in and around cities in addition to the use of solar energy.

The development of affordable, inexhaustible, clean solar energy technologies will have huge longer-term benefits. It will increase countries' energy security through reliance on an indigenous, inexhaustible and mostly import-independent resource, it will enhance sustainability, reduce pollution, lower the costs of mitigating climate change, and keep fossil-fuel prices lower than otherwise.

Finally, it is important to emphasize that work began a long time ago and is still going on to restore, preserve and protect Luxor's precious heritage, which witnessed the glory and greatness of ancient civilization seven thousand years ago, all the way from the prehistoric to the modern era.

For further information

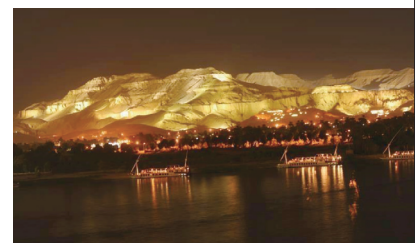
International Cooperation Department
Luxor Governorate, Egypt
Tel: +20 952374449
e-mail: forproglux@yahoo.com
web: www.luxoregypt.org/English/Pages/default.aspx



Restoration of the Avenue of the Sphinxes



The front courtyard of Karnak Temple



Lighting of the West Bank

The secretariat is pleased to announce that the 14th World Conference of Historical Cities was held from September 2 to 4 in Yangzhou, China and its outcome was very successful. Owing to the great efforts of the host city Yangzhou, more than 100 people from 29 cities gathered from all over the world and had meaningful discussions on the future of the historical cities under the theme of “Historical Cities: Ancient Culture Integrated into Modern Civilization.”

In the General Assembly held on September 4, the Yangzhou Declaration was adopted. Please view the following for details:



YANGZHOU DECLARATION OF THE 14TH WORLD CONFERENCE OF HISTORICAL CITIES

We, the representatives from historical cities around the world have gathered in Yangzhou, China, from September 2 to 4, 2014 to conduct dialogues and exchanges for the harmonious development of our cultural inheritance and the civilization of modern cities.

With thousands of years of history, historical cities symbolize the progress of human civilization. Therefore, it is our duty to preserve the global environment, and to seek the sustainable development and a brighter future for our shared treasures. Today, we face common challenges: How can we retain the cultures of our historical cities, while we are developing our economies for the benefit of our people; and how can we reasonably develop our cultural relies for sustaining our prosperity. It is crucial for us to increase our exchanges, strengthen our cooperation, and harvest all our wisdoms through the League of Historical Cities for the green growth of our cities. With these common aspirations, we declare:

1. We shall adopt the slogan: “Historical Cities: Ancient Culture Integrated into Modern Civilization”
2. We pledge to contact our counterparts in other historical cities to conserve and develop our traditional cultures and the global environment. We also encourage youth exchange programs for this purpose.
3. As citizens of historical cities, we will actively preserve, enhance, and promote our traditions and cultures at all levels, amidst ongoing globalization.
4. We pledge to actively enhance the understanding of cultural values within our communities, especially within the younger generation.
5. We pledge to plan programs to sponsor local and regional initiatives relating to the restoration and management of heritage values.

4 September 2014 in Yangzhou, China

Review of the 14th World Conference of
 Historical Cities
 held in Yangzhou, China from 2 Sept. to 4 Sept., 2014.

<Period>

2-4 September 2014

<Theme>

“Historical Cities: Ancient Culture Integrated into Modern Civilization”

<Program>

Day 1 (Sept. 2)

- 13:30 Opening Ceremony & Keynote Speech
- 15:00 Round Table
(Presentations by five city representatives)
- 19:00 Welcome Dinner

Day 2 (Sept.3)

- 09:00 Youth Forum themed “Revitalization of Historical Districts” (continued until 19:00)
Presentations by representatives from Yangzhou, Konya, Kyoto, and Honolulu followed by group discussion.
- 10:45 Round Table
(Presentations by three city representatives)
- 12:00 Lunch
- 14:00 Round Table
(Presentations by five city representatives)
- 18:00 Buffet Dinner
- 19:15 Outdoor live performance “Moon River”

Day 3 (Sept.4)

- 09:00 Official City Tour (Slender West Lake & Art and Craft Gallery)
- 12:00 Lunch
- 14:00 General Overview of the Sessions
- 15:45 General Assembly of the League of Historical Cities 2014
- 17:00 Closing Ceremony
- 19:00 Farewell Dinner

Participants:

Member cities

- Ankara (Turkey)
- Bad Ischl (Austria)
- Baghdad (Iraq)
- Ballarat (Australia)
- Boston (U.S.A.)
- Bursa (Turkey)
- Buyeo (Korea)
- Chiang Mai (Thailand)
- Gongju (Korea)
- Gyeongju (Korea)
- Konya (Turkey)
- Kyoto (Japan)
- Ljubljana (Slovenia)
- Luxor (Egypt)
- Nanjing (China)
- Nara (Japan)
- Osmangazi (Turkey)
- Riga (Latvia)
- Sheki (Azerbaijan)
- Suwon (Korea)
- Tainan (Chinese Taipei)
- Vienna (Austria)
- Xian (China)
- Yangzhou (China)
- Zhengzhou (China)

Non-Member Cities

- Honolulu (U.S.A.)
- Taizhou (China)
- Yancheng (China)
- Zhenjiang (China)



Opening Ceremony



Official City Tour (Slender West Lake)

Review of the Board of Directors' Meeting & General Assembly of LHC 2014 held in Yangzhou, China on Sept.4, 2014

Outline of the Board of Directors' Meeting

Date and Time: 4 September 10:00-12:00

Venue: Shangri-La Hotel Yangzhou

<Board Members>

Chairperson: Kyoto (Japan)

Directors: Vienna (Austria) *Vice-Chairperson

Xian (China) *Vice-Chairperson

Ballarat (Austria)

Gyeongju (Korea)

Isfahan (Iran) *Absent

Konya (Turkey)

Odessa (Ukraine) *Absent



<Host City of the 15th World Conference of Historical Cities in 2016>

At the Board of Directors' Meeting, Mr. Hannes Heide, Mayor of Bad Ischl, and Mr. Aziz Elbas, Head of Culture and Tourism Department, Bursa Metropolitan Municipality, made a final presentation to express the cities' desire to hold, and merits of holding, the conference in their cities. As a result of voting, the board members approved the City of Bad Ischl to host the 15th conference in 2016.

Outline of the General Assembly

Date and Time: 4 September 15:45-17:00

Venue: Shangri-La Hotel Yangzhou

<Election of Principal Officers>

According to article 10 of the League's covenant, the principal officers of the League are one Chairperson, seven board directors including two vice chairpersons, and one auditor. The two vice chairpersons are to be appointed from directors by the Chairperson. The present principal officers were elected at the General Assembly held in Nara in 2010. Their term of service expires at the first General Assembly held four years hence, i.e., at this assembly. Therefore, the principal officers must be elected, and their tenure is from the day of this General Assembly till the first General Assembly held four years later. The results of the General Assembly are as follows.

Chairperson: Kyoto (Japan)

Vice chairpersons: Vienna (Austria), Xian (China)

Directors: Baghdad (Iraq), Ballarat (Australia), Gyeongju (Korea), Konya (Turkey)
Ljubljana (Slovenia)

Auditor: Nara (Japan)

<Report of the Results of Deliberation at the Board of Directors' Meeting>

Mr. Shigenori Shibata, the Secretary General of the LHC, reported the results of deliberation at the General Assembly.

<Yangzhou Declaration>

The City of Yangzhou proposed the Yangzhou Declaration as the outcome of the 14th Conference. Mr. Zhu Minyang, Mayor of Yangzhou, explained about the Declaration, and the Chairperson of the League, Mr. Daisaku Kadokawa, Mayor of Kyoto, who took the chair of the General Assembly, confirmed its approval to the applause of the attendees.

<Signing of the Yangzhou Declaration>

All representatives of the member cities who attended the General Assembly went up to the stage and signed the Declaration one by one.



The Youth Forum took the stand to offer young people the opportunity to make presentations as well as to encourage nurturing those who would support the future of historical cities. 22 people participated in the forum and exchanged their ideas with each other. Also, the Youth Forum Declaration was adopted by the forum participants and was announced at the General Overview of the Sessions on 4 September, the last day of the Conference.

<Schedule of the Youth Forum>

3 Sept.

9:00-10:30

Seven presentations by youth (four speakers from Yangzhou, one each from Kyoto, Konya, and Honolulu)

10:45-12:00

Group Discussion

14:00-19:00

Cultural Exchange



<Youth Forum Declaration>

We, representatives of the youth from historical cities all over the world, gathered in Yangzhou from September 2 to September 4, 2014, to discuss “The Revitalization of Historical Districts,” within the main topic “Historical Cities: Ancient Culture Integrated into Modern Civilization.” During this time, we shared experiences and methods to promote the revitalization of historical districts.

Historical districts are an important component of a city as a whole, and their revitalization is closely linked with the youth of the city. For one thing, through the revitalization of historical districts, the youth are able to acknowledge domestic traditions and cultures as well as overseas conditions. For another, only by widening youth participation can the renovation of historical districts be given more vitality, and the development of historical districts become more sustainable, diversified, and open to infinite possibilities.

We note the problem that when the youth face new things, they to some extent lack the consciousness of protecting the historical districts and promoting the traditional cultures. This is the reason why we are here sharing experiences to protect and promote the historical cities, strengthening cultural communication and defending and promoting traditional cultures. Given this, we request that the following should be executed:

1. Historical districts are at the root of city history and of the continued development of traditional culture. The youth should take initiatives to understand the historical districts, acknowledge all kinds of traditional culture including traditional festivals, and become the inheritors of history and culture.
2. The revitalization of historical districts should be combined with the city’s economic and social development. The youth should more consciously participate in the revitalization of historical districts through social practices including entrepreneurship, and bring in more young people and youthful vigor, in order to achieve healthy and sustainable development of the historical districts.
3. The youth should intensify information campaigns about the historical culture, especially by means of various types of emerging media platforms, to encourage more young people to pay attention to the protection and revitalization of historical districts, and to jointly promote the development of historical districts.
4. National historical districts are humankind’s common spiritual and cultural wealth. Based on enhancing mutual understanding and expanding friendship and cooperation, the youth should promote pluralistic understanding of human history and culture.
5. Within the framework of the World Conference of Historical Cities, the youth should build academic and technical exchange platforms for the active revitalization of historical districts, and build long-term working mechanisms to share experiences.
6. We call on each national government to augment policy leading to revitalization in order to attract, encourage and support the youth for their fruitful contributions in the revitalization of historical districts and the heritage of traditional culture.

Yangzhou, 4 September, 2014



What we expect at the World Conference of Historical Cities

Review of the 14th World Conference of Historical Cities Shigenori Shibata: Secretary General of the League of Historical Cities

The 14th World Conference of Historical Cities was held in Yangzhou in September 2014. Yangzhou is a beautiful city with a 2500-year history, blessed with an excellent environment such as rich greenery and clean water. Slender West Lake, the Great Canal, and rich merchant houses and their historic neighborhoods prospered by salt trading strongly impressed the participants of the conference. Representatives of 29 participating cities at the conference shared their experiences and information about various projects for the conservation of historical areas and the development of the cities, and actively discussed the subjects. Through this process, they reconfirmed the importance of protecting the global environment in order to pass their historical cities down to the next generation.

At the Board Meeting in Yangzhou, The City of Bad Ischl in Austria was approved to be the host city of the World Conference of Historical Cities in 2016. The conference will be held in Europe for the first time in years, after a chain of Asian cities has hosted the conference. I believe this is the result of the enthusiastic campaign of Bad Ischl, which included an impersonation of the historically renowned Empress Elisabeth. I would like to heartily congratulate the City of Bad Ischl for winning the role of host city. It is quite significant that not only large cities but also a comparatively small city such as this will have a chance to hold the conference. I hope we will not adhere to past styles and instead create a new one. I am sure that the 15th conference will attract participants because of its beautiful natural settings and rich historical background. I also feel reassured by the wholesale support of the City of Vienna, a board Member city.

There are many European cities such as Florence, Barcelona, Cracow, and Montpellier who have hosted the conference. However, in recent years not so many cities from Europe have participated in the conferences partly due to the distance from the location of the Asian host cities. I have high expectations for more participants from European cities on this occasion. Also I expect that more cities will join the League of Historical Cities.

Recently the conference has hosted not only the meetings of mayors and other decision-

makers but also the Youth Forum. It is quite meaningful for the young people who will be the future main actors in historical cities to participate in the conference and to discuss what an ideal historical city is. It will also contribute to the formation of a youth network across the world. Further, this could contribute to world peace, the goal of the LHC. It would also be wonderful if we could resume the specialists' forum which we had in the past.

Although the biannual conference is the main event of the LHC, we also aim at promoting friendship among the members and collaboration among us in order to grapple with the issues common to our members. There have already been some cases of sister-city and friendship agreements being formed between member cities, which were triggered by participation in the conferences. In order to further encourage such cases and connect members with various cooperative and collaborative projects, we have released information about the contact person for each member city. We hope this will be of maximum use. Also we will be grateful if you can let us know about your exchange programs, forming of city-to-city ties, and other such news.

Now it is time to improve further the activities of LHC with its membership of 105. We expect that regional diversity among member cities will be further enhanced. In particular, we anticipate the participation of cities from North and South America. Hitherto, geographical distance and the high cost of travel expenses may have hindered their participation. Today these regions have achieved substantial levels of development. Therefore I believe that such problems have become less significant.

We cordially ask members to encourage their sister cities and other affiliated cities to participate in the conference and to join the LHC.

We are looking forward to your active participation and new ideas so as to improve the activities of the conference and the LHC.

Shigenori SHIBATA
Secretary General

The 15th World Conference of Historical Cities in 2016 City of Bad Ischl

Stadtamt Bad Ischl
Pfarrgasse 11
4820 Bad Ischl, Austria
TEL: +43-6132-301-14
FAX: +43-6132-301-12
E-mail: tschmalnauer@stadtamt-badischl.at



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/>