



Cover Photo: Old town with the castle and Ljubljana River  
 Photograph by T. Jeseničnik

*Cultural Development Strategy for Sustainable  
 Protection of Cultural Heritage in Ljubljana*

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

*2-4 Sept., 2014, Yangzhou, China*

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- Tashkent
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- Tunis
- Ulan Bator
- Varanasi
- Veliko Turnovo
- Venice
- Vienna
- Xian
- Yangon
- Yangzhou
- Yazd
- Yogyakarta
- Zagreb
- Zhengzhou

106 cities from 62 countries and regions  
 (As of 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2015)



**WORLD  
 HISTORICAL  
 CITIES**

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# Cultural Development Strategy for Sustainable Protection of Cultural Heritage in Ljubljana

Ljubljana is a city at the crossroads of European history and culture, where over centuries influences from the west and east, north and south have intertwined. It lies at the juncture where Romanic, Germanic and Slavic worlds meet. It is this crucial position that – through the centuries – provided the extremely rich cultural heritage dating back to prehistoric times and is today reflected in the vibrant tempo and cultural life of the city.



Cultural events in the city center

As the saying goes, Ljubljana is tailored to its citizens. What has contributed essentially to this is the revitalisation of the old city centre and renovation of the fronts of the buildings, pavements and parks, and foremost the pedestrianisation of the city centre. Limiting motor vehicle traffic in the city's centre has brought a lively atmosphere to the old city centre, as well as the new bridges and renovated embankments of the Ljubljanica River, which have brought the people of Ljubljana closer to the city. Ljubljana received the European Mobility Week Award in the previous year. The city strives to implement nature- and environment-friendly mobility with diverse activities.



Three bridges in the city center



River banks of Ljubljana



Library under treetops in the city center

## Cultural Development Strategy

Because of the rich culture and cultural heritage we have formalised our goals in the Cultural Development Strategy where one of the main objectives is to curate heritage management that allows a sustainable development of the city centre. By presenting the heritage to the public we provide conditions for conservation and better protection of cultural heritage in the city and consequently

expose its vast educational and tourism potential. We use culture to contribute to greater creativity and better understanding among people. We also use culture to trigger urban regeneration of neglected parts of the city and contribute to social cohesion.

In this context, as part of a wider strategy, the City of Ljubljana is following its primary objective – to establish a system of cultural heritage management policies and develop contemporary methods of heritage popularisation in the public realm. By implementing cutting-edge technology and innovative design, the interpreted content of the heritage will help users to better understand the city and its urban development. Contemporary interpretation techniques (in-situ, multimedia virtual reconstructions and mobile applications) will provide new possibilities for various cultural, educational and tourism programmes.

## Archaeological Park Emona

The measures that we have set are currently aimed at setting up dedicated information points for each major period in the development of settlements and cities in the wider area of present-day Ljubljana and the revitalisation of Archaeological Park Emona. We have established information points on archaeological heritage of Roman Emona to ensure appropriate management and presentation of archaeological remains in situ. The first step towards the realisation of these objectives was a project on the archaeological sites in situ. Through the urban development of the City of Ljubljana several Roman remains were presented. The Cultural heritage of Roman Emona in situ is a result of the more than 100 years of ambition of several conservators, architects and others. It is a result of long-lasting efforts and many actions.

The goals of our project:

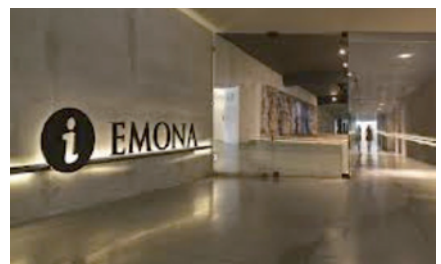
Integration of cultural heritage in the daily life of the city and its citizens.

Inclusion of archaeological parks in the city's urban structure: cultural heritage + contemporary architecture = regeneration of urban space.

Management plan of Archaeological Park Emona which includes sustainable development.

Museum programmes for every generation.

New tourism products – attractive programme.



Archaeological Park Emona

## EMONA 2000

Last year in Ljubljana we celebrated the 2000th anniversary of Roman Emona with more than 100 events.

The City of Ljubljana has prepared numerous interesting events, which proved memorable to Ljubljana, its citizens and visitors. The programme addressed different layers of the public – from amateurs to experts, from non-government organisations to the highest city and government cultural establishments. The local public was included in the contents of the activities. The programme strengthens the identity of the residents to the city and creates a connection between the life in the past and present, while simultaneously including the tourism offering, which is recognised in the European and wider international environment.

One of the most exciting events was performed in August, when we recreated the atmosphere of Roman times at Ljubljana's Congress Square (Kongresni Trg). Roman legionaries demonstrated their skills, Roman citizens performed a ritual in celebration of the foundation of Emona, and various craftsmen demonstrated their crafts at a Roman market and Roman dishes were available for tasting.

The event also featured creative workshops for children and adults.



Celebrating 2000th anniversary of Roman Emona

## THE WHEEL – 5,200 years

The invention of the wheel is one of the foundations of modern civilisation and culture. Thousands of years of inventiveness have not created anything to replace it. The wheel encouraged progress and creativity, and the oldest wooden wheel with an axle 5,200 years old was discovered in the Ljubljana Marshes (Ljubljansko Barje). This year we will establish an information point for presentation and promotion of the prehistoric heritage with the presentation of the settlement of Ljubljana and Ljubljana Marshes with its pile dwellings as a cultural heritage inscribed on the UNESCO list. The wheel made its first public appearance last year in the City Museum of Ljubljana at THE WHEEL – 5,200 Years exhibition, which links ancient heritage and technological and scientific development with

culture and art.

## Plečnik House

Modern Ljubljana was shaped by the strong personal style of Jože Plečnik, the great European architect and a local to Ljubljana.

Plečnik House is a cultural monument of national importance. Plečnik House, where the visionary Slovenian architect, Jože Plečnik, lived from 1921 until his death in 1957 is now home to a fascinating and neatly preserved collection of equipment, books, plans and furniture, mostly located in the cylindrical annex which Plečnik purposely built to house his studio.

Throughout 2014 the doors of Jože Plečnik's home were closed for visitors as renovations of the house and its surroundings, which began in September 2013, were in full swing. After the renovations Plečnik House will once again be set to welcome visitors curious to see the authentic home of the architect. The renovated Plečnik House with a permanent exhibition and a study centre will be reopened in September 2015.

Plečnik House is also a member of ICONIC HOUSES, the international network connecting architecturally significant houses from the 20th century that are open to the public as house museums.

Ljubljana is involved in the nomination of Jože Plečnik's works for inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

## Ljubljana, European Green Capital 2016

The European Green Capital is a European Commission initiative. The title of 'European Green Capital' is awarded annually and it promotes and rewards the efforts of cities that are committed to improving the urban environment. The Award is given to a European city that has demonstrated a well-established record of achieving high environmental standards and is committed to ongoing and ambitious goals for future environmental improvement and sustainable development.

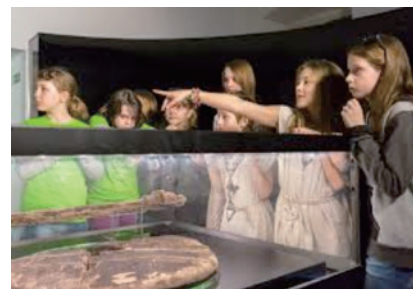
Ljubljana received recognition for raising environmental awareness amongst its citizens, its sustainability strategy 'Vision 2025', its implementation of a range of urban green measures over the past decade and its impressive transportation network. The Jury was impressed by the significant transformation in sustainability made by Ljubljana over the past 10–15 years. This transformation has been achieved in areas including local transport and pedestrianising the city centre.



## Welcome to Ljubljana!

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Wooden wheel with an axle in the Ljubljana City Museum



Interior of Plečnik House



Plečnik's Propylaea – entrance to the cemetery



Dragon Bridge – the symbol of Ljubljana

# Voices from Participants in the Youth Forum held on the Second Day of the 14<sup>th</sup> Conference



## Conclusive speech by Mr. She Junchen, secretary of Yangzhou Youth League Committee.

The Youth Forum of the 14th World Conference of Historical Cities was held on September 3rd, 2014 in Yangzhou. The theme was Revitalization of Historical Districts. Representatives from the League's member cities and youth delegates participated in the forum, with over 100 participants in total. The Youth Forum consisted of three parts. The first part was speeches from youth representatives, the second part was discussion and making a declaration, and the third part was visiting historical districts in Yangzhou.



## <Speeches by youth representatives>

- 1 The first speaker was Mr. Jin Chuan, Chairman of the Board of Yangzhou Gucheng Cultural Tourism Development Co., Ltd. His speech focused on how to preserve and revitalize districts in Dongguan Street.
- 2 Representatives from Kyoto, Mr. Yamazaki and Ms. Omori, delivered a speech on the role of traditional festivals in the revitalization of historical districts. They raised the Jizo-bon festival as an example.
- 3 Mr. Fang Liang, a research assistant at Yangzhou Research Institute of Historical and Cultural Cities, shared with us experiences in preserving and revitalizing Dongguan Street. He emphasized that revitalization should be focused on environment and economy as well as society, and that the protection and preservation of Dongguan Street started from one point and expanded to the whole area.
- 4 Ms. Pauline Chakmakjian introduced the historical districts in Honolulu, and she shared the experiences of Honolulu government in preserving and revitalizing them. Also, she introduced the next step of the revitalization plan.
- 5 Mr. Wang Zi, postgraduate student in Industrial Economics, Yangzhou University, emphasized youth mission and responsibility in revitalization of historical districts. He said that it was a duty and obligation of young people to participate in the revitalization.
- 6 Mr. Ahmet Murat Koru from Konya shared with us Konya's experience in revitalization and preservation. He especially introduced cultural heritage from Anatolia to the Seljuk Empire. He highlighted that only revitalizing historical districts enables us to pass on the heritage to the next generation and allow them to be more confident and have high hopes for the future.

After the speeches, we discussed the youth declaration, so we read and discussed sentence by sentence. A lot of interactive opinions were raised. The declaration states that historical districts are an integral part of a city and revitalization of historical districts is closely related to young people. And the declaration calls for the participation of young people so that the methods of revitalization can be more diversified. It is suggested that we build a platform for exchange and technological communication and there should be measures to boost partnership between different cities.

The third part was regarding the visit in the afternoon on September 3rd. Youth delegates visited Ge Yuan World Heritage, one of the four most famous gardens in China, and also Dongguan Street etc. They also learned about successful cases of the revitalization of Yangzhou historical districts.

We should understand the close relationship between the historical districts and youth. Our consensus is that the core value of historical districts is the past of humankind and the essence of culture, so it can help us to have a clearer direction for future development. And we realized that the young generation has the absolute right to speak: young people always carry out and create history. In this sense, the revitalization of historical districts depends on the knowledge and understanding of young people. Their participation is an obligation in this regard.

We also realized the rapid globalization and development of information technology. Young people should not only rely on the internet or library to understand their own nation and its history. They should visit historical districts by themselves and touch the rich heritage left by the ancestors. It is just like a book: every page is unknown and the process of reading it is not just learning but also discovering. It is a very cool and honorable thing to link your youth with history.

Thirdly, we call for more young people to participate in the revitalization because it cannot be possible without the participation of young people. Delegates from different countries all suggest and recommend that we should take more measures to educate and promote the participation of young people in the revitalization work.

First of all, we should pay attention to education and foster core values. Every country has unique history and culture. As member cities of the League, we should continue to promote the unique historical heritage for young people. In schools, we should attach importance to education about preserving history and culture. From primary school, we should organize visits to those heritages, and teach students techniques and knowledge about preservation and raise awareness of sense of responsibility. Also, we should organize summer camps so that children can go, observe and learn about technologies of preservation and knowledge about the environment.

The second part is about how to enable youth to participate. First of all, we should raise awareness and guide them to participate in community building, especially traditional festivals and customary activities. Secondly, we should promote a volunteer culture by organizing volunteer teams. Their love for their countries will be a motivation, so volunteers could participate in preservation and teach or

learn traditional techniques and provide services to the community.

The third measure is to develop the cultural and creative industry for young people. The combination of historical districts and the creation (of industry) infuses vitality into historical districts.

We should organize lectures or other activities to let young people take part in the activities and also young people can pass on these kinds of activities to other people. We can use national and regional festivals to create a cultural atmosphere and encourage young people to take part in and find out the cultural significance of these kinds of activities. We can also build the right values among young people. We should let them set a good example and encourage them to devote themselves to the protection of historical districts. We should also combine the features of young people; we should enhance cooperation. We know historical districts are the common wealth of people. We should combine and enhance exchanges, take the platform of the LHC, so young people from different countries, different cultural backgrounds, can have exchanges with each other. We can also have school programs and other training programs so that every country's young people can take part in it. So, we must have a policy to encourage young people to take part in the revitalization of historical districts.

### Voices from Kyoto representatives

We participated in the 14th World Conference of Historical Cities in order to make a presentation and engage in discussion at its Youth Forum on September 3rd 2014. Since we have few opportunities to disseminate our views as youth across the world, we considered it a very precious occasion. Therefore we had decided to participate in this forum in order to spread our opinions on the conservation and development of the history and culture of Kyoto.



In the presentation, we talked about Jizo-bon, a traditional religious event for children. Recently many condominiums have been built in Kyoto. Since new residents have been increasing in number, this event serves as a venue for interaction between old and new residents.

The following discussion is dedicated to the future of historical cities. Many participants seem to be interested in the compatibility of historical-townscape conservation and economic growth. We asserted that not only conserving buildings and townscapes, but also conserving culture such as Jizo-bon, will revitalize local communities and historical cities as a whole.

After the discussion, we participated in Youth Forum Activities which included visits to Ge Garden and Shuangdong Historical Street Block. These places are the historical sites of Yangzhou. In particular, Shuangdong Historical Street Block has maintained its traditional townscape while incorporating new shops, thus keeping the area busy. The staff of Yangzhou City guided us and we sensed their passion toward the historical city.

At the dinner, we enjoyed Chinese dishes with the staff of Yangzhou City. We talked about our cities, cultures, school life and many other topics, and deepened our friendship. Participating in the Youth Forum through presentations, discussions, visits and interaction was a precious experience for us. We could not have experienced it if we had remained in Japan.

### After the Conference

It was a very precious opportunity for us to participate in the World Conference of Historical Cities. We not only learned about the measures taken by the historical cities, but also communicated with those who have implemented such measures. We have learned that it is important to understand other cities and their cultures, and to build a bond between people that crosses boundaries.

Our report at the Forum on revitalization of historical cities at the community level through Jizo-bon would have shown the audience a progressive aspect in the area of conservation and development of Kyoto's history and culture. Also we have learned the viewpoints of other young people on the present situation, and the problems and countermeasures of each city. As those who will be torchbearers for the future, their strong intentions and positive actions impressed us deeply. We hope to make the most of this precious experience for our future growth. (Mr. Keishi Yamazaki)

Three days at the World Conference of Historical Cities have brought me many discoveries and insights. In particular the Youth Forum impressed me deeply. We talked about Jizo-bon, while other cities' youth representatives also presented the actual situations, measures and problems of the cities with cultural and historical backgrounds. I found that the topics of their presentations were diverse. As for the discussion part, everyone found it difficult to reconcile the conservation of historical cities and economic development. However, all of them were thinking about solutions from their own points of view. I usually research in the field of Kyoto studies. Therefore the opinions of the people from overseas of similar age who are enthusiastically engaged in such issues were very refreshing and impressive.

Inspired by this, I have come to be interested more in other historical cities. I would like to research and visit various other cities to get first-hand information and use it in my research about Kyoto. (Ms. Satoko Omori)



**Sustainability Consultant,  
ICLEI East Asia Secretariat**  
(Korea)

**Mr. Rahul Teku  
VASWANI**



The League of Historical Cities is a remarkable gathering of global citizens, unique in its ability to transcend geographical, national, and cultural boundaries, and to evoke the vital understanding of a world defined by common visions of beauty, history, and harmonious posterity.

We live in an age where we are witnessing a landmark shift in human living – the shift towards living in cities. About 50% of the global population now lives in cities, and this is likely to increase to 60% by the year 2030. Cities wield an enormous influence over the world.

Today's historical cities are the brewing pots of human creativity, where societies have perennially endowed humanity with renascent ideas and aspirations. The connotation of a "historical city" implies that a city's history has been enriched by local, national, and international influences. In becoming "historical," cities have embraced and outreached to distant cultures, thus taking ideas, resources, peoples, and cultures into their folds and enriching their histories. In return, historical cities have enriched the world with new civilizational ideas, and indeed the recent global recognition that we exist, inextricably and interdependently interconnected, in a finite world.

As global citizens, we comprehend more clearly now that cities are embedded not only in the context of their cultural history, but also in that of their natural history. Cities influence not only their immediate or local environment, but—as the consumers of the largest portions of the world's natural resources—also have an inordinate influence on the global environment.

Historical cities have, thus, historic global responsibilities. Until now, the primary recognition of that responsibility has been the preservation and perpetuation of our cultural heritage—for, in preserving their cultural heritage, historical cities are preserving the common heritage of humankind. Yet, if cities are to continue to be the centers of humankind's creativity, and the vehicles for conveying human

civilizations from the past to future, they must embrace the responsibility of the human impact on the local and global environment. In doing so, cities must fulfill their historic role, by re-inspiring and channelizing human creativity towards understanding and acting upon global environmental challenges.

The 14th World Conference of Historical Cities was held in Yangzhou, People's Republic of China, to recognize and celebrate the global cultural and environmental responsibilities of historical cities. Yangzhou, one the most naturally scenic and culturally endowed cities of China, whose birth is concurrent with the construction of the historic Grand Canal of China, was a perfect place to convene members of the League of Historical Cities and co-vision the future endeavors of their citizens towards attaining a sustainable, ecologically harmonious, human civilization.

The representatives of historical cities concurred that, in the endeavor to offer citizens the resources and comforts of modern living, cities—and thus their citizenry—have the imminent responsibility of sustaining the global natural heritage: the planet and all its beings that contribute to the resourceful living of humankind. Citizens, from all walks of life, and equally the youth, who will realize their material aspirations in the future, bear this collective responsibility to ensure that modern living is not disconnected from the ancient wisdoms of living in harmony with nature.

The Yangzhou declaration of the 14th World Conference of Historical Cities celebrated the common understanding that the roots of our ancient wisdoms lie in our ecologically embedded civilizational histories, and as we endeavor to fulfill our modern aspirations in an increasingly globalized world, we must concomitantly use the creative potential of our cities to preserve our ancient wisdoms and seek sustainable paths for our ecologically and culturally harmonious living. Our collective efforts will rewardingly materialize in the preservation of our global heritage and the sustainable development of all peoples.

The League of Historical Cities promises to convene a new, inspiring gathering of cities at Bad Ischl, Austria, where the 15th World Conference of Historical Cities will be held in 2016. See you there.

# Review of the 14<sup>th</sup> World Conference of the League of Historical Cities

## Yangzhou: Ecologically Harmonious Living, from the Past to the Future

## Kyoto International Environment Symposium

The City of Kyoto organized the Kyoto International Environment Symposium at the Kyoto International Conference Center on November 5, 2014, the day before the East Asia Regional Executive Committee annual meeting of ICLEI—Local Governments for Sustainability, of which Mr. Daisaku KADOKAWA, the Mayor of Kyoto, serves as the Chair. About 1000 participants, including local-government officials, researchers, and environmental-protection organizations from home and abroad, enjoyed fruitful discussions on the development of sustainable low-carbon cities through partnership in East Asia.

In the morning, the keynote speeches were given on the latest climate conditions based on the recent Assessment Report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), and on environmental policies in East Asia. In the afternoon, four parallel sessions were held under the themes “Industry and Technology,” “Lifestyle,” “Education” and “City Development.” The city officials and the members of environmental groups exchanged their views as to the advanced measures reported by the panelists. The following Plenary Session concluded with announcement of the Kyoto Declaration on Targeting Sustainable City Development through Partnership in East Asia. (See below.)

As the birthplace of the Kyoto Protocol, Kyoto will implement practical measures based on the “Kyoto Declaration” and make progress in sustainable urban designs through a closer city-to-city cooperation from East Asia to the rest of the world.

### Kyoto Declaration on Targeting Sustainable City Development through Partnership in East Asia

Today, at the Kyoto International Environment Symposium, held in the City of Kyoto, the birthplace of the Kyoto Protocol, we have affirmed the necessity of intensifying discussion and further strengthening cooperation on the realization of sustainable low-carbon city development in East Asia, through a partnership among local governments, universities and research institutes, industries, and civic organizations.

We are now facing climatic changes stemming from global warming, the loss of biological diversity, and changes in material cycles, in addition to steadily increasing global population and the concentration of populations in cities. The rapidly growing environmental burden arising from these issues potentially holds a serious threat to the continuation of human civilization. The causes underlying such unprecedented environmental and social problems occurring on a global scale are complex, involving various factors. Therefore, it is very difficult to find solutions for overcoming such issues through conventional measures.

Throughout today’s Symposium, we have focused on the wisdom and experience fostered in harmony with the environment in the East Asia region since ancient times, and mutually considered safe, comfortable and sustainable urban design. We have affirmed the great responsibility for enacting Co-Design and Co-Production for the future of humanity, and declare our commitment to cooperate closely in spurring prompt and substantial action towards our goals.

November 5, 2014  
City of Kyoto, Japan

City of Kyoto  
ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability  
Kyoto Prefectural Government  
The Research Institute for Humanity and Nature  
Advanced Scientific Technology & Management  
Research Institute of Kyoto  
NPO/NGO Kiko Network  
Kyoto Environmental Activities Association



# Report of Kyoto International Environment Symposium

held in Kyoto, Japan on Nov. 5, 2014

# Recruiting new members to the League of Historical Cities

Since the first Conference was held in Kyoto in 1987, the League of Historical Cities has helped share experiences to reconcile preservation and development in historical cities, and strengthen affiliations among member cities. After the 14th World Conference of Historical Cities in September 2014, the League welcomed three new member cities – Giza (Egypt), Shiraz (Iran), and Cuenca (Ecuador) – and now numbers 106 cities from 62 countries and regions.

To deepen mutual understanding by transcending national boundaries and to contribute to the purpose of the League's establishment, namely eternal world peace, we would like to have more members in the League. We would really appreciate it if you could help us with recruitment of new member cities, for example cities with which your city has a sister- or partner-city relationship. The procedure is as follows.

## <Application for Membership>

In order to apply for membership of the LHC, the following documents are required to be submitted to the Secretariat by both e-mail and post. Application is to be evaluated by the members of the board of directors, and the result will be sent several weeks later.

1. An official letter from the mayor of your city to the chairperson of the League, i.e. the Mayor of Kyoto
2. Application form (can be downloaded from the LHC website)
3. General information about your city
4. Information about policies and measures regarding preservation of the heritage in your city

\*Please note that all documents should be written in English.

## <Membership Fee>

Each Member City shall pay an annual membership fee of USD100.

## The 15th World Conference of Historical Cities

The League of Historical Cities holds biennial World Conferences, and the next will be held in Bad Ischl, Austria, in 2016.

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

Stadtamt Bad Ischl  
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Venue: Kongress&TheaterHaus



The 12th conference in Nara, Japan



The 13th Conference in Hue, Vietnam



The 14th Conference in Yangzhou, China

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