

知识与技能
Practice in
Knowledge & Skills



5.28
世遗漫谈
HeritAP Chat




World Heritage Contribution
to the Sustainable Development Goals



2026

世界遗产贡献可持续发展目标

World Heritage Contribution to Sustainable Development Goals

28th May 2026 13:00-18:30 (UTC+8) **OnLine** 

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Background

Heritage Asia-Pacific (HeritAP) is a network of heritage practitioners established and supported by WHITR-AP Shanghai. Grounded in the principle that practice is a vital source of knowledge, HeritAP advances technical exchange, mutual learning, cross-sector collaboration, and institutional connectivity to strengthen heritage conservation and management capacity across the Asia-Pacific region and beyond.

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (**SDGs**) are the core guidelines for global development efforts from 2015 to 2030. In 2015, UNESCO adopted the **Policy** on the Integration of a Sustainable Development Perspective into the Process of the World Heritage Convention was formulated to guide the conservation and management of World Heritage. The "Regional Framework **Action Plan** for Asia and the Pacific (2023 - 2030)" adopted by the World Heritage Committee considers good sustainable development cases as one of the performance indicators.

In addition, the **UNESCO Thematic Indicators for Culture** (Culture| 2030 Indicators) proposed a conceptual framework to measure and monitor the progress of culture's enabling contribution to the SDGs with four transversal thematic dimensions 1. Environment & Resilience; 2. Prosperity & Livelihoods; 3. Knowledge & Skills; 4. Inclusion & Participation.

In 2023, encouraged by UNESCO, WHITR - AP Shanghai launched the "World Heritage Contribution to Sustainable Development Goals" project (2023 - 2028) in the Asia - Pacific region. A steering group was established with representatives of relevant international heritage organizations, such as the Advisory Bodies, Category 2 Centers, etc.

The overarching aim of the project is to facilitate the dialogue between a range of viewpoints, identify Good Practices based on the four transversal thematic dimensions established by the 2030 Culture Indicators, and provide guidance to heritage practitioners to effectively contribute to sustainable development. The **overall goals** of the project are as follows:

- **Facilitate** the understanding of the 2015 **Policy** on Integration of a Sustainable Development Perspective into the Processes of the World Heritage Convention and contribute to the **implementation** of the Regional Framework Action Plan for Asia and the Pacific (2023-2030).
- **Create** appropriate **tools** for heritage practitioners to streamline sustainability and effectively harness the potential of heritage as a driver for sustainable development;
- **Disseminate** the experiences and lessons learned from good practices in World Heritage contribution to SDGs,
- **Promote** capacity development and information exchange to harness the benefits that engagement in sustainable development can deliver to properties.

The project includes multiple activities, including the recognition of Good Practices on how heritage conservation and management contribute to sustainable development.

Knowledge & Skills (2026)

The theme for the 2026 call for practices are "Knowledge & Skills". This thematic dimension provides a framework for evaluating the role of heritage in developing knowledge and skills, including **traditional knowledge, and in promoting cultural diversity**. It emphasizes the contribution of heritage in transmitting local values, knowledge, and skills, and fostering empowerment through education, training, processes, policies, and materials. The focus is on integrating heritage knowledge into primary, secondary, and tertiary education, as well as vocational training and to assess the commitment of public authorities and institutions in leveraging heritage knowledge to foster respect for cultural diversity, understanding of sustainable development, and transmission of values. Additionally, it prioritizes capacity building on cultural and natural heritage conservation and management, and promotes skills and competence in creative fields.

This thematic dimension also directly supports **UNESCO's Promoting Tangible – Intangible Synergies** at UNESCO Designated Sites in Asia-Pacific by generating and sharing integrated knowledge systems that treat built fabric, landscapes, and living practices as mutually reinforcing resources. By **embedding both tangible and intangible elements** in education, training, and policy tools, it equips practitioners to document, interpret, and safeguard sites holistically; facilitates the development of joint educational curricula that link craft techniques and traditional knowledge to conservation science and practice; and strengthens local capacity to manage heritage places as dynamic cultural-ecological systems.

For 2026 Call for Practices, we received a total of **87 project** applications from **25 countries** and regions, including 62 World Heritage properties, 17 sites on the Tentative List, and 8 other heritage categories. Following the initial evaluation of cases in April, the shortlisted cases will present their projects at the **Online HeritAP Chat on 28 May 2026**. The event will be broadcast internationally and will feature Q & A sessions with the expert panel. The panel will then make a final selection of the cases and, after the information has been verified and the data supplemented, representatives of the selected projects will be invited to the HeritAP Annual Meeting in November, where the 2026 Good Practices on World Heritage contributions to the SDGs in Knowledge and Skills will be announced.

HeritAP Chat on WH Contribution to SDGs: Knowledge & Skills 28th May 2026

Moderator

LI Hong

Project Director, WHITR-AP Shanghai

Video presentation of selected projects

13:00 - 16:00

1. A model for reviving living water heritage after disasters with local development and participatory governance
2. Restoration of Thim Lich Ohinga UNESCO-WHS Fallen Sections of the Walls
3. Inheritance and Development of the Overseas Chinese Culture in Kaiping Diaolou and Villages—A Case Study of the Cangdong Village Project and the Revitalization of Tangkou Town
4. Living Transmission of the Luo Family Wood-Firing Ceramic Technique and Community Co-development in the Wulong Karst World Natural Heritage Site
5. Rural Community Co-Creation Practice in Zhouzhuang Ancient Town, China: A Doctoral Team Pilot Project for Safeguarding Heritage Knowledge and Fostering Collaborative Innovation
6. Traditional Architecture in New Vibe: Sustainable Livelihood Practices at Quanzhou World Heritage Site Rooted in the Inheritance of Traditional Construction Knowledge and Craftsmanship
7. The Artistry at the Tip of the Needles: The Local Communities Enhance the Conservation and Restoration of the Guizhou Triassic Fossil Sites
8. DVOTIO4SDGs: "We celebrate the devotion of our ancestors by crafting their memory into sustainable futures."
9. Integration of Knowledge and Action: Confucian Cultural Heritage and Digital-Intelligent Education Innovation at the Three Confucian World Heritage Sites in Qufu
10. Community-Driven Preservation of Banyabindi Cultural Heritage through Knowledge Transfer and Skills Development
11. Project SETU (Skills, Education and Tangible-Intangible Heritage Unity) in the Santiniketan Cultural Landscape
12. Maasai Groundwater Knowledge and Skills Transmission in the Ngorongoro Conservation Area

HeritAP Chat on WH Contribution to SDGs: Knowledge & Skills 28th May 2026

Q&A Session

Moderator	Rohit JIGYASU Project Manager, ICCROM				
16:00 - 16:10	Syrian Arab Republic	Noréas de Hama	A Model for Reviving Living Water Heritage after Disasters with Local Development and Participatory Governance	Shereen Naddaf Tangible Heritage Program Manager Syrian Development Organization	
16:10 - 16:20	Kenya	Thimlich Ohinga Archaeological Site	Restoration of Thim Lich Ohinga UNESCO-WHS Fallen Sections of the Walls	Julias Juma Ogega Keeper of Antiquities, Sites and Monuments - Western Region National Museums of Kenya	
Moderator	LI Hong Project Director, WHITR-AP Shanghai				
16:20 - 16:30	China	Kaiping Diaolou and Villages	Inheritance and Development of the Overseas Chinese Culture in Kaiping Diaolou and Villages - A Case Study of the Cangdong Village Project and the Revitalization of Tangkou Town	Liu Huanchan Deputy Director, Kaiping Municipal Bureau of Culture, Radio, Television, Tourism and Sports, Guangdong, China	Lao Lifen Director Kaiping World Heritage Management Center
16:30 - 16:40	China	Temple and Cemetery of Confucius and the Kong Family Mansion in Qufu	Integration of Knowledge and Action: Confucian Cultural Heritage and Digital-Intelligent Education Innovation at the Three Confucian World Heritage Sites in Qufu	He Yuan Translator/Interpreter Nishan World Center for Confucian Studies(Secretariat of China Confucius Foundation)	

HeritAP Chat on WH Contribution to SDGs: Knowledge & Skills 28th May 2026

Q&A Session

Moderator	WANG Xinyuan Deputy Director, HIST			
16:40 - 16:50	China	South China Karst	Living Transmission of the Luo Family Wood-Firing Ceramic Technique and Community Co-development in the Wulong Karst World Natural Heritage Site	SHEN Lina Associate Research Fellow Institute of Karst Geology, Chinese Academy of Geological Sciences
Moderator	Carolina Castellanos Head, Research Unit, WHITR-AP Shanghai			
16:50 - 17:00	United Republic of Tanzania	Ngorongoro Conservation Area	Maasai Groundwater Knowledge and Skills Transmission in the Ngorongoro Conservation Area	Stephanie Zabriskie Founder and Executive Director Humanculture
17:00 - 17:10	China	Quanzhou: Emporium of the World in Song-Yuan China	Traditional Architecture in New Vibe: Sustainable Livelihood Practices at Quanzhou World Heritage Site Rooted in the Inheritance of Traditional Construction Knowledge and Craftsmanship	SU Zhiming Director, the World Heritage Department Quanzhou Cultural Relics Protection Center
Moderator	Hatthaya SIRIPHATTHANAKUN Centre Director, SEAMEO SPAFA			
17:10 - 17:20	Uganda	Rwenzori Mountains National Park	Community-Driven Preservation of Banyabindi Cultural Heritage through Knowledge Transfer and Skills Development	Bikansobera Patrick Amooti Programme Officer Banyabindi Cultural and Development Trust (BACDET)

HeritAP Chat on WH Contribution to SDGs: Knowledge & Skills 28th May 2026

Q&A Session

Moderator	Nobuko INABA Director of Mt. Fuji World Heritage Centre; Professor of University of Tsukuba			
17:20 - 17:30	China	The Ancient Waterfront Towns in the South of Yangtze River	Rural Community Co-Creation Practice in Zhouzhuang Ancient Town, China: A Doctoral Team Pilot Project for Safeguarding Heritage Knowledge and Fostering Collaborative Innovation	CHEN Chen Professor / Vice Dean College of Architecture and Urban Planning, Tongji University
17:30 - 17:40	China	Guizhou Triassic Fossil Site	The Artistry at the Tip of the Needles: The Local Communities Enhance the Conservation and Restoration of the Guizhou Triassic Fossil Sites	XIAO Shizhen Professor School of Karst Science, Guizhou Normal University
Moderator	Gamini WIJESURIYA Special Advisor, WHITR-AP Shanghai			
17:40 - 17:50	India	Santiniketan	Project SETU (Skills, Education and Tangible–Intangible Heritage Unity) in the Santiniketan Cultural Landscape	Sneha Bhattacharyya Secretary Contact Base
17:50 - 18:00	Colombia & Ecuador	Qhapaq Ñan, Andean Road System	DVOTIO4SDGs: "We celebrate the devotion of our ancestors by crafting their memory into sustainable futures."	Margarita Maria Sarmiento Lopez Creative Strategist, CEO, Entrepreneur DVOTIO SAS
18:00 - 18:10	Conclusion			



- **Name** : Rohit JIGYASU
- **Country** : India
- **Position** : Project Manager
- **Organization** : ICCROM

Rohit Jigyasu is a conservation architect and risk management professional from India, currently working at ICCROM as Programme Manager on sustainable urban and built Heritage conservation, disaster and climate risk management & post crisis recovery. Rohit served as UNESCO Chair holder professor at the Institute for Disaster Mitigation of Urban Cultural Heritage at Ritsumeikan University, Kyoto, Japan, where he was instrumental in developing and teaching International Training Course on Disaster Risk Management of Cultural Heritage. He was the elected President of ICOMOS-India from 2014-2018 and president of ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on Risk Preparedness (ICORP) from 2010-2019. Rohit served as the Elected Member of the Executive Committee of ICOMOS since 2011 and was its Vice President from 2017-2020. Before joining ICCROM, Rohit has been working with several national and international organizations such as UNESCO, UNDRR, Getty Conservation Institute and World Bank for consultancy, research and training on Disaster Risk Management of Cultural Heritage. He has undertaken post disaster assessments in India, Nepal, Bhutan and Japan. He worked on the updated policy document on climate action for world heritage adopted by UNESCO General Assembly in 2023 and is also the main author of the UNESCO Resource Manual on Managing Disaster Risks for World Heritage and the co-editor of recently published Routledge handbook on cultural heritage and disaster risk management and Routledge book on Good Practices for Disaster Risk Management of Cultural Heritage.



Shereen Naddaf is a Tangible Heritage Program Manager at the Syrian Development Organization, with over 12 years of professional experience in cultural heritage management, spanning both tangible and intangible heritage. She specializes in the integrated conservation of heritage and its role in sustainable development, with extensive experience in program design, strategic planning, and the implementation of large-scale heritage projects in post-crisis contexts. Since 2013, she has led and contributed to numerous national and international initiatives, including the preparation of UNESCO nomination files, the development of national inventories, and the design of heritage-based community development programs. She has also served as an international evaluator of intangible cultural heritage files in cooperation with UNESCO. Shereen has managed multidisciplinary teams and large-scale projects involving up to 60+ team members, and has led capacity-building programs targeting youth, artisans, and local communities across multiple regions in Syria. Her work focuses on linking heritage preservation with community resilience, livelihoods, and sustainable development, particularly in contexts affected by conflict and recovery.

- **Name** : Shereen Naddaf
- **Country** : Syria
- **Position** : Tangible Heritage Program Manager
- **Organization** : Syrian Development Organization



With more than 25 years of expertise in heritage education, interpretation, conservation, community participation, and museum display throughout Kenya, I've become a heritage specialist. Proven expertise in safeguarding heritage through participatory heritage conservation projects, site museum development, education and interpretations, and heritage leadership. Competent in heritage research, heritage policy development, and the creation of sustainable frameworks that strike a balance between public access and preservation. Expert at stakeholder engagement, intergenerational knowledge transfer, spearheading heritage projects, conservation techniques, and traditional knowledge on a national and worldwide scale.

- **Name :** Julias Juma Ogega
- **Country :** Kenya
- **Position :** Keeper of Antiquities, Sites & Monuments - Western Region
- **Organization :** National Museums of Kenya



- **Name** : Li Hong
- **Country** : China
- **Position** : Project Director
- **Organization** : WHITR-AP Shanghai

Ms. Li Hong is project director of WHITR-AP Shanghai and focal point of WHC and the Advisory Bodies. Her research interest is World Heritage management, especially in heritage tourism and heritage impact assessment. She is project manager for the UNESCO World Heritage and Sustainable Tourism Programme (WH+ST) – Chinese Pilot Studies. She is the coordinator of “HeritAP”, a network of Asia-Pacific Heritage Practitioners supported by WHITR-AP Shanghai. In 2023-2025, Ms. Li is the UNESCO designated mentor for the Mentorship Programme for African Heritage Professionals. In addition, Ms. Li provided consultation to the World Bank project on Guizhou Cultural and Natural Heritage Protection (2010-2017).

Ms. Li is also in charge of capacity building activities at WHITR-AP Shanghai, the regional workshop cooperated with UNESCO World Heritage Center, Advisory Bodies and State Parties, such as Impact Assessments for World Heritage (2012, 2014, 2016, 2018, 2021, 2023, 2025) and Management Planning for Cultural Heritage (2008, 2010), Regional World Heritage Workshop for Asia (2012) and Workshop on Environment/ Heritage Impact Assessments for the Pacific Island States (2017).



Ms Liu has been working in grassroots culture and tourism sectors for 15 years. She is currently Deputy Director of Kaiping Municipal Bureau of Culture, Radio, Television, Tourism and Sports. With rich experience in tourism planning, industry management and local tourism promotion, she has witnessed and participated in the rapid development of Kaiping's tourism industry. She has an in-depth understanding of local culture, tourism resources and industrial development.

■ **Name** : Liu Huanchan

■ **Country** : China

■ **Position** : Deputy Director

■ **Organization** : Kaiping Municipal Bureau of Culture, Radio, Television, Tourism and Sports, Guangdong, China



Lao Lifen, a native of Kaiping, Guangdong Province, currently serves as Director of Kaiping World Heritage Management Center. She has long been committed to the conservation and utilization of the World Cultural Heritage Kaiping Diaolou and Villages, as well as local practice in the development of cultural and tourism industries in Kaiping. She has organized and participated in a number of key projects, including the restoration of Mingshi Tower and Yinonglu in Zili Village, and the municipal cultural relics census of Kaiping.

- **Name** : Lao Lifen
- **Country** : China
- **Position** : Director
- **Organization** : Kaiping World Heritage Management Center



2000 -2004: graduated from the International Journalism department of Shanghai International Studies University and worked as an English teacher

2005-2024: worked in the Commerce Bureau of Jining as translator/interpreter, participating in organizing large-scale cultural and economic events such as the International Confucius Cultural Festival

2024 till now: work as a translator/interpreter with Nishan World Center for Confucian Studies, participating in organizing large-scale events such as Nishan Forum on World Civilizations, Confucius-Aristotle Symposium on 21st Century Ethics, etc..

- **Name** : He Yuan
- **Country** : China
- **Position** : Translator/Interpreter
- **Organization** : Nishan World Center for Confucian Studies(Secretariat of China Confucius Foundation)



- **Name** : WANG Xinyuan
- **Country** : China
- **Position** : Deputy Director
- **Organization** : HIST

Dr. WANG Xinyuan is a Professor at the Aerospace Information Research Institute, CAS. He also serves as Deputy Director of International Centre on Space Technologies for Natural and Cultural Heritage (HIST) under the Auspices of UNESCO, Chair of Digital Heritage Specialized Committee of China National Committee, International Society for Digital Earth (ISDE), Co-chair of the Heritage Working Group of the Digital Belt and Road Programme (DBAR), Member of International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), Executive Member of ICOMOS-China, Member of the World Heritage Expert Committee of the State Forestry and Grass Administration of China. Prof. Wang is engaged in the research of remote sensing archaeology and digital heritage conservation and application. He is one of the pioneers of the theory and practice of space archaeology. His current research work focuses on adapting Big Earth Data technologies to meet the SDG11.4 assessment needs along the Belt and Road initiatives. He has undertaken more than 50 scientific research projects including National Key Technology R&D Program, National key research and development, international cooperation projects, National Natural Science Foundation of China, and key projects of the State Administration of Cultural Heritage, and Strategic Priority Research Program of the CAS: Protection and development of natural and cultural heritage along the Belt and Road, etc. He has published More than 180 academic papers and 5 books and published "Context Environment Map of World Cultural Heritage Sites along the Silk Road".



Engaged in research on karst ecology, sustainable utilization of landscape resources, environmental remote sensing, and popular science and experiential education for a long time, she has presided over one special project of the National Natural Science Foundation and nine provincial and ministerial research projects. As a key member, she has participated in three projects of the National Science and Technology Support Program, two projects of the National Natural Science Foundation, two projects of the Guangxi Natural Science Foundation, four China Geological Survey projects, and more than ten other local research projects. In the past five years, she has participated as a backbone member in two major national projects.

- **Name** : Shen Lina
- **Country** : China
- **Position** : Associate Researcher
- **Organization** : China Academy of Geological Sciences, Institute of Karst Geology



- **Name** : Carolina Castellanos
- **Country** : Mexico
- **Position** : Head of Research Unit
- **Organization** : WHITR-AP Shanghai

Carolina CASTELLANOS (龙 淼 LONG Miao) is currently Head of Research Unit at WHITR-AP Shanghai. For the past 30 years, she has been serving as a consultant for UNESCO World Heritage Centre, ICCROM, ICOMOS, IUCN, the World Monuments Fund, Getty Conservation Institute and other international heritage organizations as well as national government agencies, covering a variety of issues from management system design to cultural heritage policymaking. She has presided over heritage planning projects, using heritage as the driving force and promoting factor of sustainable development, and carried out field protection projects around the world.

She served as World Heritage Advisor for ICOMOS for over a decade, focusing on the protection and management of World Heritage worldwide, and carried out several reactive monitoring and technical assistance missions for this purpose. At the World Heritage Centre, she was focal point for periodic reporting, and participated in the preparation of many World Heritage policy documents, such as Sustainable Development, Climate Change, review of statutory processes, global strategic assessments, etc. Carolina has carried out capacity-building activities related to heritage in different regions, focusing on the design of management systems and tools as well as the processes and concepts of the World Heritage Convention. At present, she is also an Adjunct Associate Professor of the Historic Preservation Program at the Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation at Columbia University in New York.



- **Name :** Stephanie Zabriskie
- **Country :** United States
- **Position :** Founder & Executive Director
- **Organization :** Humanculture

Stephanie Zabriskie is the Founder and Executive Director of Humanculture, an Indigenous-led international nonprofit organization operating across the Global South. Her work advances Indigenous and community-led systems that expand access to water, food, education, health services, economic autonomy, cultural preservation, and representation. Through Humanculture, she supports community-led systems across essential access, knowledge systems, ecology and land stewardship, arts and culture, humanitarian aid, and climate resilience. Her work is grounded in long-term partnerships with Indigenous leadership and local community structures. Since 2018, she has led sustained field engagement with Maasai communities within the Ngorongoro Conservation Area, Tanzania, documenting distributed groundwater access systems, Indigenous governance structures, and intergenerational knowledge transmission in low-infrastructure contexts under conditions of climate variability and constraint. Stephanie's work contributes to United Nations and international heritage platforms through applied field work, knowledge submissions, and research processes that connect community-governed systems with global policy discussions. Through Humanculture, she is a member of FAO, IPBES, and ICOMOS networks, maintains an active presence on UNDRR PreventionWeb, and participates as a registered IPLC member of IIFBES.



Su Zhiming, born in 1981, is a National Registered Urban and Rural Planner and Senior Engineer. He currently serves as Director of the World Heritage Department at Quanzhou Cultural Relics Conservation Center. He is also a Deputy to the 14th Fujian Provincial People's Congress, a Member of the Overseas Chinese, Taiwan, Foreign Affairs, Ethnic and Religious Affairs Committee of Fujian Provincial People's Congress, and a Member of the Standing Committee of Quanzhou Municipal Committee of the China Association for Promoting Democracy. With nearly 20 years of in-depth dedication to the fields of World Heritage Conservation and Urban-Rural Planning, he was a core key member in the inscription of Quanzhou: Emporium of the World in Song-Yuan China onto the World Heritage List and has been awarded the title of Advanced Individual for World Heritage Inscription Work. Planning projects he has presided over or participated in have won numerous national and provincial awards. During his tenure as a provincial people's congress deputy, he has submitted more than 20 professional proposals, effectively advancing the legislative process for world heritage protection in Fujian.

- **Name** : Su Zhiming
- **Country** : China
- **Position** : World Heritage Department Director
- **Organization** : Quanzhou Cultural Relics Conservation Center



Dr. Hatthaya SIRIPHATTHANAKUN started her career as a conservation landscape architect in Thailand's governmental agencies, particularly the Fine Arts Department, Ministry of Culture. She provided consultation and recommendations for conservation projects and coordinated several regional activities in collaboration with various international organisations. In 2015, Hatthaya Siriphatthanakun moved to Southeast Asian Regional Centre for Archaeology and Fine Arts (SEAMEO SPAFA). She is currently a Centre Director of SEAMEO SPAFA, taking the leadership to strengthen its programmes in archaeology, fine arts, and cultural heritage, and to build meaningful partnerships across the region. She holds an MA in Conservation Studies from University of York, UK, and PhD in Architecture from Chulalongkorn University, Thailand. Hatthaya was elected member of ICOMOS Board for the period of 2018-2020 and 2021-2023.

■ **Name** : Hatthaya SIRIPHATTHANAKUN

■ **Country** : Thailand

■ **Position** : Centre Director in Cultural Heritage Management SEAMEO SPAFA

■ **Organization** : SEAMEO Regional Centre for Archaeology and Fine Arts (SPAFA)



Patrick Bikansobera Amooti is a Public Health professional and Senior Clinical Officer working with Kasese District Local Government, Uganda. He serves as Program Officer at the Banyabindi Cultural and Development Trust (BACDET), where he leads initiatives focused on cultural heritage preservation, community empowerment, and inclusive development for marginalized ethnic groups. He holds both Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Public Health and Health Promotion from Uganda Martyrs University and is preparing to pursue a PhD in Public Health with a focus on health systems. Patrick has extensive experience in health service delivery, community engagement, and project implementation, including internationally supported programs such as YLACES. His work integrates public health practice with advocacy for social justice, particularly addressing the marginalization of the Banyabindi people in Western Uganda. He is actively engaged in policy advocacy, research, and legal processes aimed at promoting equity, representation, and protection of minority rights.

- **Name :** Bikansobera Patrick Amooti
- **Country :** Uganda
- **Position :** Programme Officer
- **Organization :** Banyabindi Cultural and Development Trust (BACDET)



Trained as a conservation architect and architectural historian; Dr. Nobuko INABA received her doctoral degree from the Tokyo Institute of Technology on the theme of the 19th century traditional architectural history of Japan dealing with the particular social phenomena of Europeanization, modernization and nationalism in that century. She gained her practical knowledge and experience in heritage policy development and management while serving in the Japanese government's Agency for Cultural Affairs and its affiliated research institute from 1991 to 2008 including the period from 2000 to 2002 while she worked for ICCROM seconded by Japan. From 2008 to 2020, she held the position of Professor of World Heritage Studies at the University of Tsukuba. Regarding the World Heritage Convention, since Japan ratified the Convention in 1992, she has been involved in the Convention's core activities as a member of the Japanese delegation to the World Heritage Committee sessions as well as a member / advisor of the Agency in charge of the nomination and conservation of World Heritage sites in Japan. Continuing her domestic and international advisory role in heritage conservation, she is now Professor Emeritus at the University of Tsukuba.

■ **Name** : Nobuko INABA

■ **Country** : Japan

■ **Position** : Emerit Professor, World Heritage Studies, Graduate School of Comprehensive Human Sciences, University of Tsukuba

■ **Organization** : University of Tsukuba



- **Name** : Chen Chen
- **Country** : China
- **Position** : Professor / Vice Dean
- **Organization** : College of Architecture and Urban Planning, Tongji University

Chen Chen, Vice Dean and Professor at the College of Architecture and Urban Planning, Tongji University; Deputy Chair of the Youth Working Committee, Urban Planning Society of China; Deputy Chair of the New-type Urbanization and Urban & Rural Planning Research Committee, Chinese Society for Urban Studies; Editorial Board Member of Cities, and Urban Planning Forum. Principal Investigator of two General Program projects funded by the National Natural Science Foundation of China and six provincial- or ministerial-level research projects. Author of over 100 academic papers as first or corresponding author, three monographs, and four books. Recognized as a CNKI Top 1% Highly Cited Scholar and CNKI High-Impact Scholar in both 2024 and 2025. Recent practice closely connected with the Tongji Rural Revitalization Doctoral Team, emphasizing a rural revitalization pathway led by young talents, supported by academic research, and oriented toward local needs. In Zhouzhuang Township, the Doctoral Team has been further embedded in Tongji University's long-term university-local collaboration with this historic Jiangnan water town. Continuous practice in heritage conservation, community co-creation, cultural tourism innovation, digital-intelligent planning, and local capacity building demonstrates a sustainable approach to rural revitalization and heritage-based regeneration that integrates academic research, talent cultivation, and place-based experimentation.



- **Name** : Xiao Shizhen
- **Country** : China
- **Position** : Professor
- **Organization** : School of Karst Science, Guizhou Normal University

Ms Shizhen XIAO, a Professor, Ph.D in School of Karst Science, Guizhou Normal University, China, is also a deputy secretary of the National Expert Committee on World Heritage in the National Forestry and Grassland Administration. She is a geographer interested especially in world natural heritage and karst research. She has 22 years experience on World Natural Heritage nomination, research, conservation and sustainable development. She was closely involved in the World Natural Heritage Nominations including the South China Karst, the China Danxia, Fanjingshan and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries along the Coast of Yellow Sea-Bohai Gulf of China. She was also invited to participate in the consultation for Hubei Shennongjia, Qinghai Hoh Xil and Badain Jaran Desert - Towers of Sand and Lakes WH nomination works. Besides, she was responsible for some studies related with WH sustainable development and management, including Environmental Impact Assessment of the Bing'an Reservoir Planned to be Built in the Buffer Zone of Chishui Danxia World Heritage of China Danxia, Environmental Impact Assessment of the Planned Guiyang-Nanning High-speed Railway that would cross the Buffer Zone of Libo Karst, State of Conservation of Wulingyuan, the Third Cycle of the Periodic Reporting of Wulingyuan, Fanjingshan, China Danxia etc.



Born in Sri Lanka, Dr. Gamini WIJESURIYA has gained recognition as a leading international specialist in World Heritage with over 40 years of experience. He initiated the ICCROM programme on people-centred approach to conservation and management of heritage which was an extension of his pioneering work on living heritage. This approach aims to place the people at the heart of the heritage discourse which has gained a standing worldwide.

Currently, he is a special Advisor to the Director of WHITRAP Shanghai and is a UNESCO facilitator for the Intangible Heritage capacity building programme. He has published extensively.

■ **Name** : Gamini WIJESURIYA

■ **Country** : Sri Lanka

■ **Position** : Special Advisor

■ **Organization** : World Heritage Institute of Training and Research for the Asia and Pacific (Shanghai) under the auspices of UNESCO



Sneha Bhattacharyya is the Secretary of Contact Base, a foundation working for over two decades at the intersection of culture and development. With over nine years of experience, her work focuses on strengthening the creative economy through cultural entrepreneurship, fostering inclusive growth, advancing women's agency, and enhancing livelihoods across rural and indigenous communities. She works closely with practitioners and collectives to build sustainable, community-led cultural enterprises and value chains. Sneha is a fellow of the European Union's residential programme on Culture and SDGs.

An alumna of Presidency University and Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), she is currently pursuing her PhD at the Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta, affiliated with Jadavpur University. Prior to joining Contact Base, she worked as a Research Executive at the Indian Institute of Management Calcutta. Sneha has authored and presented papers at several national and international platforms, and has contributed to publications with ICHCAP, UNESCO, Palgrave, and other forums.

■ **Name :** Sneha Bhattacharyya

■ **Country :** India

■ **Position :** Secretary

■ **Organization :** Contact Base



With 10+ years of experience bridging innovation, sustainable design, heritage, I lead AI-driven marketing strategies that transform cultural narratives into distinctive, contemporary brand experiences. As a multi-award-winning entrepreneur, I build high-value concepts where design, storytelling, sustainability, and strategy align with precision and purpose. My work across the cultural sector, and high-end retail redefines luxury through a conscious lens, preserving heritage while pioneering innovation. Since 2017, I have been actively engaged in advancing the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), integrating sustainability, transparency, and equity into every project I lead. I collaborate with visionaries seeking to merge creativity, culture, and technology into projects, brands, and spaces that endure and matter. Alongside this, I provide consulting services, project generation, and keynote speaking, empowering organizations and communities to embrace impact and change.

- **Name :** Margarita Maria Sarmiento Lopez
- **Country :** Colombia
- **Position :** Creative Strategist | CEO | Entrepreneur
- **Organization :** DVOTIO SAS

City and Country	Time Zone	New Chat Time
Syria, Damascus	UTC+3	08:00–13:30
China, Beijing	UTC+8	13:00–18:30
Kenya, Nairobi	UTC+3	08:00–13:30
Tanzania, Dodoma	UTC+3	08:00–13:30
Uganda, Kampala	UTC+3	08:00–13:30
India, New Delhi	UTC+5:30	10:30–16:00
Colombia, Bogotá	UTC-5	00:00–05:30
Italy, Rome	UTC+2	07:00–12:30
Japan, Tokyo	UTC+9	14:00–19:30
Thailand, Bangkok	UTC+7	12:00–17:30

For Public Viewers :

Online Live Streaming Platform (English Only)

