



## CALL FOR ABSTRACT



# ICOMOS THAILAND INTERNATIONAL & NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2014

## HISTORIC URBAN LANDSCAPES AND HERITAGE : Example, Approaches & Cultural Rights

### INTRODUCTION

*‘Tangible and intangible heritage are sources of social cohesion, factors of diversity and drivers of creativity, innovation and urban regeneration – we must do more to harness this power.’*

*– Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO at the World Urban Forum (Naples, 2012)*

The recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape was adopted on November 10, 2011 by UNESCO’s General Conference. The historic urban landscape approach moves beyond a singular focus on the preservation of the physical environment to encompass the entire human environment with all of its tangible and intangible qualities. It seeks to increase the sustainability of planning and design initiatives by taking into consideration the existing built environment, expressions of intangible heritage, cultural diversity, socio-economic and environmental factors along with local community values. Urban heritage constitutes an essential resource in enhancing the livability of urban areas, as it fosters economic development and social cohesion in a changing global environment. By actively engaging public, private and civic sectors, the city, and its complex, layered, and constantly shifting forms, can be more effectively preserved and celebrated.

Many cities around the world, especially cities in Asia, have grown up on top of their ancestral settlements, existing as continuums in time and space. Facing challenges posed by climate change, mass tourism, market exploitation, and rapid urbanization, these cities and their

intertwined layers of cultural, natural, and historical values are under threat. Vibrant, mixed-use areas that reflect a city's complex identity and evoke collective memories are in imminent danger of being destroyed and replaced by new development projects.

The ICOMOS Thailand International Conference 2013-2014 on Historic Urban Landscapes and Heritage: Examples, Approaches, & Rights is organized as a platform for scholars, researchers, and practitioners in the field of cultural heritage conservation to consider issues regarding the applicability of the historic urban landscape concept for Thailand, the rest of Asia, and the world; approaches for spreading awareness and putting the concept and its frameworks into practice; and strategies for developing collaborative, participatory methods with local communities that take cultural rights into account.

## **THEMES**

The conference will consider three main themes. Contributions on the following themes are welcomed:

### **1. Current Status of Historic Urban Landscapes in Asia and the World**

Before Historic Urban Landscape (HUL) approaches can be implemented, comprehensive assessments of a city's natural, cultural, and human resources must be undertaken. Systematic recording, historical research, and documentation are essential, especially in urban areas, where landscapes change on a daily basis. Which places can be considered as Historic Urban Landscapes in the region? What unique challenges arise in attempting to record and document Historic Urban Landscapes? This theme explores examples of cities where the Historic Urban Landscape approach may be applicable and relevant documentation work of both tangible and intangible heritage.

### **2. Approaches in Action**

The Historic Urban Landscape concept is relatively new in the field of cultural heritage preservation. What does it offer that previous models and frameworks lack? If managed properly within a HUL framework, urban heritage can act as a catalyst for socio-economic development through tourism, commercial use, and higher land and property values, thereby providing the revenues needed to pay for maintenance and restoration. Before this can be achieved, however, awareness must be raised about the concept, for which both general and context-specific implementation strategies must be developed. This theme investigates ideas for increasing knowledge on the concept and putting safeguarding plans into action.

### **3. Participatory Methods and the Historic Urban Landscapes Concept**

Successful and sustainable Historic Urban Landscape preservation efforts require collaboration across many stakeholder groups. Local voices and values that contribute to a city's identity and "sense of place" must be considered and integrated into safeguarding plans through participatory research, documentation, and management processes. The UNESCO Recommendation on the HUL sets forth four categories of tools

to apply to projects: civic engagement tools, knowledge and planning tools, regulatory systems, and financial tools. What role can the concept of “cultural rights” play within each of these categories to ensure that local inhabitants are included at every stage of implementation? This theme addresses the need for holistic approaches that situate local communities at their cores through examples of effective practices and proposals for future strategies.

## ABSTRACT

### Instructions for Submitting an Abstract

- Abstract for the proposed papers should range between 300 -500 words. (in English)
- It should be submitted in Microsoft Word and adobe PDF file electronically to E-mail : [admin@icomosthai.org](mailto:admin@icomosthai.org)

### Timeframe for papers Submission

Date	Procedures
1 April	Call for Abstract
<b>30 May</b>	<b>Deadline for abstract submission</b> <b>***All submitted abstract will be reviewed by the conference committee</b>
<b>1 July</b>	<b>Annoucement of abstract approval</b>
15 August	Deadline for <i>draft paper</i> submission
15 Oct	Annoucement of <i>draft paper</i> approval
3 Nov	Deadline for <i>full paper</i> submission