



WE ARE SITE MANAGERS INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

1-5 March 2024, Penang, Malaysia



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1. OBJECTIVES

World Heritage Site Managers are the frontliners of the UNESCO 1972 Convention with responsibilities to conserve, protect and safeguard the Outstanding Universal Values of respective World Heritage Sites. We Are Site Managers International Symposium aims to promote the understanding of the functions, responsibilities, challenges and needs of Site Managers, to international organizations, state parties and the larger heritage-related communities. Leading Site Managers from around the world will be invited to George Town, Malaysia to discuss, debate and deliver their experiences in the field, and thus contribute to achieving the following objectives:

- a) To identify and define the roles, commitments and contributions of Site Managers for the UNESCO World Heritage System.
- b) To achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals by engaging in an inclusive and meaningful community-based approach in the World Heritage Site Management through the "George Town Declaration".
- c) To facilitate opportunities for sharing of thought-provoking initiatives in all aspects of Site Managers' activities, including conservation, communication, development, education, best practices, innovative approaches, largest threats, and other day-to-day activities.
- d) To share the Site Managers' day-to-day needs, experiences, challenges, and opportunities with peers and stakeholders, thus creating international awareness and recognition of the function of Site Managers as the frontliners in World Heritage Site safeguarding and conservation. These experiences shall be incorporated and integrated as early as possible when key decision makers, including the World Heritage Centre of its advisory bodies, prepare capacity building courses, world heritage management guidelines or handbooks, or projects.
- e) To encourage dialogues between Site Managers with the international and national stakeholders on the perceptions and receptions of Site Managers in World Heritage Site Management, with the aim to reach pragmatic problem solving at site level.
- f) To create a more inclusive, supportive, pragmatic and integrated system at the local and international levels for Site Managers at UNESCO and its advisory bodies to effectively deliver the responsibilities in managing and conserving World Heritage Sites and in protecting the Outstanding Universal Value(s).
- g) To build a network of Site Managers.

2. EXPECTED OUTPUTS

- a) An international symposium of Site Managers, by the Site Managers, for the Site Managers, with support from the international communities.
- b) A publication with the title We Are Site Managers.
- c) A George Town Declaration.
- d) We Are Site Managers Network (WASM-Network).

3. SYMPOSIUM VENUE

Ballroom 1, Level 10, The Wembley-A St. Giles Hotel,

No. 183, Jalan Magazine, George Town, 10300, Pulau Pinang.

Phone number: +604-259 8000

Email: info.swpg@StGiles-Hotels.com

4. ACCESS TO SYMPOSIUM

Access to the symposium is open for participants who have been confirmed their registration by the secretariat. Accreditation badges are to be worn visibly at all times to gain access to the venue and must be presented upon request to security personnel. Accreditation badges are not transferable. Access to the session venue will be denied to any individual who uses the badge improperly.

Collection of the badge can be made at any of the following arrangements:

Date	Time	Venue
29 February 2024 HIGHLY RECOMMENDED	17:00-20:00	Wembley 4 Meeting Room, Level 9, The Wembley-A St. Giles Hotel.
1 March 2024	08:00-18:00	Ballroom 1, Level 10, The Wembley-A St. Giles Hotel.
3 March 2024	08:30-17:30	

5. ACCOMMODATION

- a) All speakers and moderators will be accommodated with a single room accommodation (with breakfast) for one individual at The Wembley-A St. Giles Hotel, Penang, No. 183, Jalan Magazine, George Town, 10300, Pulau Pinang. The default check-in is on 29 February 2024 (after 15:00) and check-out on 6 March 2024 (before 12:00).
- b) All participants are responsible for arranging their accommodation.

6. COMPLIMENTARY AIRPORT SHUTTLE

a) Complimentary shuttles from Penang International Airport to The Wembley-A St. Giles Hotel, Penang will be provided on 28 and 29 February 2024. Approach our secretariat with the following Welcoming Sign at the Arrival Hall. The drive takes about 40 minutes, but may be extended to 1.5 hours during peak hours. Should you encounter any complications or delays while traveling to Penang, please update the secretariat through WhatsApp.



- b) Complimentary shuttles from The Wembley-A St. Giles Hotel, Penang to the Penang International Airport will be provided on 5 March (after 17:00) and 6 March 2024 (whole day). The name list and schedule of the Airport Shuttle will be provided at the Symposium Venue.
- c) Participants who need the complimentary shuttles must inform the secretariat of their flight information (flight numbers and date) by 15 February 2024 to allow sufficient time for transportation arrangements. The secretariat will not be able to accommodate last-minute requests or changes.

7. TEMPERATURE AND WEATHER

The temperature in Penang during early March is expected to range between 32°C to 25°C. Dress suitably for a hot and humid environment. The days are predominantly sunny with periodic rainfall expected.

8. RECOMMENDED DRESS CODE

- a) Throughout the symposium: Business and professional attire. Shorts and sleeveless shirts are not suitable.
- b) Welcoming Dinner (1 March 2024): Batik or traditional clothes.
- c) Site Visit (2 March 2024): Smart casual summer clothing with long pants, lightweight, and good walking shoes. Please bring along a long-sleeved shirt that you can wear on top of your clothes for entering religious sites.

9. SHARING OF MATERIALS

Participants are encouraged to bring and share materials from their respective sites. A few tables will be prepared at the Symposium venue for complimentary use.

10. WHATSAPP GROUP

Please join the Symposium WhatsApp Group to facilitate communication with the organizers.



<https://chat.whatsapp.com/HnTMYVHRdfDEITFLMBsrRf>

11. SEND A POSTCARD FROM GEORGE TOWN

Complimentary postcards are provided to all participants. Drop off the postcard at the assigned box and we will send the postcards for you.



Congkak

12. CONGKAK CHAMPIONSHIP

Congkak is a traditional game often played as an indoor activity or as a competition in Malaysia. Players placed *buah* (game pieces) in the hollow perforated wooden planks. The main hole located at the left end of each player is the *rumah* (home), and the inline holes are *kampung* (village). Players start the game simultaneously by taking *buah* from the last *kampung* and place one at a time into subsequent *kampung* in a clockwise direction. The players can then choose any *kampung* to place the *buah*. The main goal is to put as many *buah* into the respective *rumah*. The player can "eat" the opponent's *kampung* if the last *buah* is located at the player's empty *kampung*. One's round ends when any *buah* stops in an empty *kampung*. Each player will continue the game until each *kampung* runs out of *buah*. A player with the most *buah* in their *rumah* takes the win. Come challenge our secretariat for this game. Winner of the game will receive a limited edition of GTWHI publication. One participant is limited to winning one gift during the symposium.



Chinggay

13. MEALS AND DIETARY PREFERENCES

Meals for participants will be catered according to the dietary preferences (such as halal, vegetarian and allergies) communicated in advance. Participants who wish to skip meals (in particular dinner) shall inform the secretariat in advance to avoid food wastage.

14. WIFI AND INTERNET CONNECTION

Complimentary Wi-Fi connections are available at the Penang International Airport and The Wembley-A St. Giles Hotel, Penang.

15. LOCAL SIM CARD

SIM cards with data connectivity can be purchased at the Penang International Airport.

16. ELECTRIC PLUGS

The standard voltage in Malaysia is 240 V 50 Hz. The AC socket is Type G.

17. E-HAILING SERVICE

The best way to explore George Town Historic City is on foot. Grab is one of the popular e-hailing services in town.

18. CREDIT CARD, CASH, E-WALLET

- a) Payment with credit cards is possible in hotels and some facilities. You may withdraw some cash at an ATM, especially while arriving at the Penang International Airports as there are more options.
- b) E-wallets such as GrabPay (<https://www.grab.com/my/download/>) or Touch 'n Go eWallet (<https://www.touchngo.com.my/>) are commonly acceptable in most places.

19. ENTRY TO MALAYSIA

- a) Visa: All participants are responsible to check <https://www.malaysia.gov.my/portal/subcategory/1543> if a visa is needed to enter Malaysia. The cost of a visa application is not reimbursable by the organizer.
- b) Malaysia Digital Arrival Card (MDAC): Effective from 1 January 2024, all foreign citizens traveling to Malaysia must complete the Malaysia Digital Arrival Card online (<https://imigresen-online.imi.gov.my/mdac/main>) before arrival.

20. TRAVEL INSURANCE

All participants are highly advised to purchase their travel insurance before traveling to Malaysia.

21. COVID-19 REGULATIONS

- a) From 1 August 2022, all travelers are allowed to enter Malaysia regardless of their COVID-19 vaccination status and there are no requirements for a pre-departure or on-arrival COVID-19 test. There are no quarantine orders related to COVID-19 enforced by the Malaysian Government upon arrival. For more info, visit mysafetravel.gov.my.
- b) Wearing a face mask indoors is optional. It is recommended for individuals exhibiting symptoms to wear a facemask to safeguard themselves and others. It is also recommended to wear a facemask in crowded places.

22. EMERGENCIES

- a) Please bring your specific medications in case of an allergic reaction.
- b) Do advise your emergency details with the secretariat.
- c) In case of an emergency and requiring assistance, you can reach out to the Malaysian Emergency Response Services by dialing 999.
- d) Secretariat contacts: ANG Ming Chee (angmingchee@gtwhi.com.my, +60164584909) or TING Siew Jing (secretariat@gtwhi.com.my, +60111603 3530).

23. PERSONAL DATA CONSENT

- a) Under Personal Data Protection Act 2010 (Act 709), the Organising Committee is committed to the protection of the participants' personal data and compliance with all applicable personal data protection laws and regulations in Malaysia.
- b) Photography and other image recordings will be taken by the official photographer and videographer, which later may be utilized as the output of the event, in formats that include but are not limited to photographs, videos and relevant publication media. Official press releases and photographs will be made available at GTWHI's website (<https://gtwhi.com.my/we-are-site-managers/>), Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/gtwhi>), and in the WhatsApp group. The hashtag we use are #WASM #GTWHI. Participants who wish not to be in any photography shall notify the secretariat immediately via email as soon as possible.
- c) Participants are allowed to take photographs in a moderate manner, and for personal use only. This symposium shall not be livestreamed. The use of drones is prohibited.

24. PROGRAMME

DAY 0 - THURSDAY, 29 FEBRUARY 2024

17:00 to **Registration**
20:00 Wembley 4 Meeting Room, Level 9, The Wembley-A St. Giles Hotel, Penang

DAY 1 - FRIDAY, 1 MARCH 2024

08:00 **Registration**
Ballroom 1, Level 10, The Wembley-A St. Giles Hotel, Penang

09:00 **SESSION 1: OPENING SESSION**

- 1) Welcoming Remarks by Ang Ming Chee, General Manager of George Town World Heritage Incorporated
- 2) Congratulatory Remarks by Moe Chiba, UNESCO Representative
- 3) Opening Remarks by Yang Amat Berhormat, Tuan Chow Kon Yeow, Chief Minister of Penang
- 4) Exchanges of Souvenirs
- 5) Photo Session

10:15 **SESSION 2: WE ARE SITE MANAGERS INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM: PURPOSES, NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES**

This panel discusses the opportunities of this symposium in addressing a better understanding of the roles of site managers in World Heritage Site Management and explores the challenges faced, resources needed, and opportunities in the local, regional and global context. It lays out the directions and expected outcomes of the symposium, including the George Town Declaration and the establishment of a World Heritage Site Managers Network.

Panelists:

- 1) Ang Ming Chee (General Manager, George Town World Heritage Incorporated, Malaysia)
- 2) Einar Á. Sæmundsen (Chairperson, Nordic World Heritage Association)
- 3) Fatma Twahir (Chairperson, African Site Managers Network)

Moderator: Abdulelah Al-Tokhais (Saudi Heritage Preservation Society, Head of Research and Development Center)

Questions and Answers

11:20 Coffee Break

11:30

SESSION 3: SITE MANAGERS AND THE WORLD HERITAGE SYSTEM

The speakers will share the challenges that they face while carrying out their daily tasks as Site Managers, including fitting the World Heritage System in the local context, as well as the interpretation of the role of a Site Manager in both international and local management systems.

FILLING THE GAP: ENHANCING ROLES OF WORLD HERITAGE SITE MANAGERS

Wei Qing (Director, ConserVision Consulting, China)

Despite being initially designated as pivotal in World Heritage Convention implementation, site managers are mentioned only seven times in each version of the Operational Guidelines since 2005. Unlike roles like stakeholders and local communities, where mentions have dynamically increased, this highlights a conceptual and rigid understanding of site managers' roles. There's a considerable gap between this conceptualized identity and their practical contributions. The article analyzes this phenomenon, suggesting necessary Operational Guidelines amendments to bridge this gap. It emphasizes the positive impact of site managers as a professional group in World Heritage Convention implementation.

THE FIFTH C IMPLEMENTED

Hege Agathe Bakke-Alisøy (World Heritage Coordinator, World Heritage Site of Bryggen, City of Bergen, Norway)

Site managers are placed in a challenging position between the World Heritage Convention with its Operational Guidelines and policy documents and local, as well as national, expectations of how the management system is best organised and structured. The local community is to be actively involved in the management of a World Heritage Site. How then to implement the fifth C, and thus the World Heritage Convention and its Operational Guidelines, into a local context? I wish to explore these challenges by discussing the management system at World Heritage Site Bryggen.

THE OFTEN MISUNDERSTOOD ROLE OF A SITE MANAGER

Nadya König-Lehrmann (Managing Director, Upper Middle Rhine Valley World Heritage Association, Germany)

The administration and management of a UNESCO World Heritage site places great demands on the management system and especially on the skills of a site manager. They are key figures in the system and must be true all-rounders with a wide range of qualities, personal strengths and communication skills. The tasks of managing a UNESCO site seem to be exotic and are often met with a lack of understanding. How can the activities of a Site Manager receive a better understanding by outsiders and also by the relevant government structures, departments and the decision-making bodies?

Moderator: Tan Chin Ling (Member of Penang State Heritage Council, Malaysia)

Questions and Answers

12:50 Lunch - Friday Prayers

14:00 **SESSION 4: GEORGE TOWN DECLARATION**

This session introduces the draft document of the George Town Declaration. It aims to collect feedback and generate discussion among the participants on the contents raised before finalization of the George Town Declaration document.

Moderator: Ang Ming Chee (General Manager, George Town World Heritage Incorporated, Malaysia)

14:30 Coffee Break

15:00 **SESSION 5: I SERVED AT AN ENDANGERED SITE**

This session invites Site Managers who are serving at World Heritage sites under threat to share their experiences in mitigating day-to-day challenges and their relationships with local stakeholders, state parties and international bodies.

**EFFORTS AND CHALLENGES IN MANAGING THE HEBRON/AL-KHALIL OLD TOWN
Nuha Dandis (Site Manager, Hebron/Al-Khalil Old Town, Palestine)**

The Hebron/Al-Khalil Old Town is one of the oldest living historic centres in the world, located in the southern part of Palestine. It constitutes a continuous fabric which was built around Al-Ibrahimi Mosque. Hebron has been under Israeli occupation since 1967, formalizing a severe negative impact on the authenticity and integrity of the town, as well as on its citizens. Therefore, it was inscribed as a World Heritage in Danger. I will present the experiment of the Hebron Rehabilitation Committee in managing and conserving the property, highlighting day-to-day challenges and exploring the approaches to involve the local community in its management.

TOMBS OF BUGANDA KINGS AT KASUBI FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT

Denis Lukwago (Site Manager/Conservator-Architect, Tombs of Buganda Kings at Kasubi, Republic of Uganda)

The year 2001 under Decision 25 COM X.A; The UNESCO World Heritage Committee inscribed the Tombs of Buganda Kings at Kasubi on the World Heritage List under criteria (i), (iii), (iv), and (vi): On the 16th of March 2010, this Property's main building, "Muzibu Azaala Mpanga", was gutted by fire and the Site devastatingly lost its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), and consequently the Committee Decision 34 COM 7B.53 recommended its inscription on the category of the Properties in danger until the adoption of the 45COM7A.25 accepting its inscription on the main list after ten years of implementing the various decisions.

15:00 **SESSION 5: I SERVED AT AN ENDANGERED SITE (cont'd)**

MAKLI, A LIVING NECROPOLIS: PAKISTAN'S MAGNIFICENT NECROPOLIS

Serfraz Nawaz (Assistant Archaeological Engineer, Makli Necropolis, Thatta, Pakistan)

Makli, located near Thatta in Sindh, Pakistan, is an extraordinary necropolis spread over an area of 912 acres in the region's rich cultural and historical heritage. Makli is home to a vast collection of uniquely designed mausoleums, tombs, and monuments, dating back to the 14th century. This UNESCO World Heritage property is a remarkable combination of various architectural styles, including Islamic, Persian, Central Asian, and Indian influences, reflecting the diversity of the Sindh region. The site offers a unique insight into the historical, artistic, and spiritual dimensions of the area, making it a destination of immense historical and cultural significance.

Moderator: Muhammad Hijas Bin Sahari (Built Environment and Management Manager, George Town World Heritage Incorporated, Malaysia)

Questions and Answers

16:20 Rest and refresh

17:30 Arrival of guests for Welcoming Dinner
Ballroom 2, Level 10, The Wembley-A St. Giles Hotel, Penang
Dress code: Batik or Traditional

18:00 **Welcoming Dinner**

- Welcoming Performance
- Welcoming Remarks
- Congratulatory Remarks
- Opening Remarks
- Welcoming Dinner with Cultural Performances

20:00 End of Welcoming Dinner

08:30 **Registration**

Lobby, The Wembley-A St. Giles Hotel, Penang

SESSION 6: EXPLORING GEORGE TOWN UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES

Guided site visits to various landmarks in the World Heritage Sites with insightful exploration of the history, buildings, and communities of these places.

- 1) Sia Boey Urban Archaeological Park
- 2) George Town World Heritage Incorporated (Site Manager office)
- 3) Armenian Park and Lacala Walk
- 4) Leong San Tong Khoo Kongsi
- 5) Hock Teik Cheng Sin
- 6) Masjid Melayu Lebuah Acheh
- 7) Seh Teik Tong Cheah Kongsi
- 8) Beach Street Central Fire Station
- 9) Little India
- 10) Esplanade
- 11) Town Hall

12:30 Lunch

13:30 **TREE PLANTING CEREMONY***

Participants will be invited to collectively plant a Tanjong Tree (Mimusops Elengi) as support to the Penang Nature Based Climate Adaptation Program.

* Details will be announced during the Symposium.

14:00 **SESSION 7: SITE MANAGEMENT CHALLENGES AND ISSUES**

This session provides opportunities for the site managers to share the challenges and issues they faced in their respective sites. This session is the platform to listen, hear and provide peer support for the site managers.

Moderators:

- 1) Quah Swee Leang (Communications and Collaborations Acting Manager, George Town World Heritage Incorporated, Malaysia)
- 2) Hege Agathe Bakke-Alisøy (World Heritage Coordinator, City of Bergen, Norway)
- 3) Juliana Strogan (World Heritage Coordinator, Rjukan-Notodden Industrial Heritage site, Norway)
- 4) Nadya König-Lehrmann (Managing Director, Upper Middle Rhine Valley World Heritage Association, Germany)

DAY 2 - SATURDAY, 2 MARCH 2024 (cont'd)

17:00 Dinner

18:00 Back to hotel (on foot or by bus)

19:00 End of Day 2



Historic City of George Town, part of Historic Cities of the Straits of Malacca, World Heritage since 2008
(Photo Credit: George Town World Heritage Incorporated)

08:30 **Registration**
Ballroom 1, Level 10, The Wembley-A St. Giles Hotel, Penang

09:00 **SESSION 8: SITE MANAGERS IN ASIA**
This session invites site managers from Asia region to share their Site Managers setup, institutional arrangement, working processes, opportunities and challenges faced.

CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE SACRED ISLAND OF OKINOSHIMA AND ASSOCIATED SITES IN THE MUNAKATA REGION

Miki Okadera (Assistant Counsellor, World Heritage Division, Fukuoka Prefectural Government, Japan)

The Sacred Island of Okinoshima and Associated Sites in the Munakata Region is a Japanese World Heritage Site, with shrines and burial mounds as monuments with rich historical background. It is also a property of ongoing religious beliefs, and the involvement of people is essential for its preservation and management. Its property area includes a vast sea area and three islands within the property area, which contain many natural elements. By introducing this case, I would like to think about the role of the Site Manager and the conservation management of the World Heritage Site.

BRINGING COSMOLOGICAL AXIS TO THE WORLD: MANAGING CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Dian Lakshmi Pratiwi (Head of Office, Cultural Office of Yogyakarta Province, The Cosmological Axis of Yogyakarta and its Historic Landmarks, Indonesia)

Yogyakarta is a melting pot of cultures which are derived from interchange between belief systems and values. One of its legacies is the placement of the landmarks along the Cosmological Axis which was designed to manifest the philosophical thought of human life. To preserve this legacy to the world, The Cosmological Axis of Yogyakarta and its Historic Landmarks submitted as UNESCO World Heritage and inscribed in 2023. It is located in the downtown area and has to deal with development, environmental, sustainable tourism and community pressure. It is also located under the territory of 3 different governments. Hence, the Management Unit has to cooperate with these governments to preserve this World Cultural Heritage.

09:00 **SESSION 8: SITE MANAGERS IN ASIA (cont'd)**

QUANZHOU WORLD HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND ITS COMMUNITY-BASED PRACTICE

Su Zhiming (Deputy Director, Quanzhou Maritime Silk Road World Heritage Nomination Center) and Shang Jin (Quanzhou City Cultural Promotion Ambassador, China)

On 25 July 2021, "Quanzhou: Emporium of the World in Song-Yuan China" was inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List, marking Quanzhou's entry into the world heritage cities community. The challenge then is how to further protect and transmit Quanzhou's world cultural heritage, especially considering the widespread distribution of 22 heritage sites throughout the city. Quanzhou has drawn its bottom line for heritage protection, and committed itself to the improvement of quality of life. Starting from the community, the city has issued "Codes for Care and Protection of Heritage", improved public discussion mechanisms for heritage protection, and encouraged the general public to safeguard, transmit, and interpret the world heritage collectively. All of these efforts contribute to Quanzhou's exploration of a model for community-based practice of World Heritage conservation.

GEORGE TOWN WORLD HERITAGE INCORPORATED AND WORLD HERITAGE SITE MANAGEMENT

Ang Ming Chee and Ting Siew Jing (George Town World Heritage Incorporated, Malaysia)

George Town Heritage City has been inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 2008. As part of a serial site with the Melaka Heritage City, George Town World Heritage Incorporated (GTWHI) was established as a Site Manager by the State Government of Penang. Functions as a Government Linked Company, and registered as a Company Limited By Guarantee in Malaysia, this presentation details the institutional design of the site management agency. I shall also share the management strategies, activities conducted, challenges faced and opportunities in World Heritage Site Management of this urban and multicultural site.

Moderator: Jean Wee (Director, Preservation of Sites & Monuments, National Heritage Board, Singapore)

Questions and Answers

10:40 Coffee Break

11:00

SESSION 9: INSTITUTIONAL OF THE SITE MANAGERS IN AFRICA

This session invites site managers from Africa to share their Site Managers setup, institutional arrangement, working processes, opportunities and challenges faced.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A SITE MANAGER

Fatma Twahir (Principal Curator, Fort Jesus World Heritage Site, Mombasa, Kenya)

A site manager is responsible for the sustainable conservation and interpretation of his heritage attributes, being creative in remaining current and relevant. This involves management of allocated resources, prioritizing value for money in enhancing revenue generation. This is through keen staff coordination and expertise, capacity building, motivating and maximizing output potential. Over and above all, is the periodic reporting to higher agencies, keeping up with performance contracting while ensuring operational guidelines and management plans are still relevant. Locally the link with the community and relevance to youth is paramount. So, how many hats shall a site manager wear?

MANAGING WORLD HERITAGE: A SOUTHERN AFRICAN PERSPECTIVE

Mags Pillay (Director, Fossil Hominid Sites of South Africa: Cradle of Humankind World Heritage Site Component, South Africa)

The institutional arrangements for the management of World Heritage properties the world over are often diverse and varied. How do sites function? How are site management plans developed and managed? What funding mechanisms are in place to ensure that authorities of sites are equipped with adequate resources to be able to safeguard the protection of the outstanding universal value of a site? A case study of a South African-inscribed World Heritage site will be explored to shed light on some of the challenges and opportunities that authorities of sites face in a Southern African context.

AN OVERVIEW OF THE SENEGAMBIA MEGALITHIC CIRCLES STONES

Seydou Nourou Kane (Manager, Stone Circles of Senegambia, Senegal)

Listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2006, the Megalithic Circles of Senegambia constitute a cross-border asset between Senegal and the Gambia. Spread over an area 350 km long and 100 km wide, a total of 1053 Circles on 1987 sites are today inventoried, four of which have been registered. These monuments form tombs which would have been used between the 3rd century BC and the 16th century AD. The large quantity of Circles is a unique manifestation of construction and funerary practices that lasted over a millennium over a wide geographical area, reflecting a productive and sophisticated society.

11:00 **SESSION 9: INSTITUTIONAL OF THE SITE MANAGERS IN AFRICA (cont'd)**

NAVIGATING ESTABLISHED QUAGMIRES: TOWARDS EFFECTIVE SITE MANAGEMENT IN GHANA

Natalyn Oye Addo (Conservator of Monuments/ Site Manager, Forts and Castles Volta, Greater Accra, Central and Western Regions, Ghana)

The interpretation of the site manager's role in the World Heritage System varies. Nevertheless, adherence to the 1972 Convention is a common expectation for managing World Heritage Sites. This paper delves into the budding role of the site manager for the Forts and Castles Volta, Greater Accra, Central, and Western Regions World Heritage Property in Ghana, focusing on the position within local and international frameworks. It investigates the dynamics between the site manager and stakeholders, evaluates challenges, and suggests context-specific strategies for effective management in the future.

Moderator: Nadya König-Lehrmann (Managing Director, Upper Middle Rhine Valley World Heritage Association, Germany)

Questions and Answers

12:40 **Group photo**

13:00 Lunch

14:00 **SESSION 10: INSTITUTIONAL OF THE SITE MANAGERS IN EUROPE**

This session invites site managers from Europe to share their Site Managers setup, institutional arrangement, working processes, opportunities and challenges faced.

CO-MANAGEMENT, CONSENSUS OR CONFLICTS? DIFFERENT WORLD-VIEWS UPON MANAGEMENT

Åsa Susanna Margaretha Nordin (Site Manager, Laponia, Sweden)

Building a new management organization for a world heritage site, where there is no stated model for how it should be done, is a challenge; when the management of protected areas should be decentralized to a non-profit association. It was the interests of widely different ethnic groups that had to be united and sometimes it went smoothly and sometimes the whole organization was toppling because of different cultural backgrounds, different worldviews and different ideas how to interpret the management plan, etc.

CHALLENGES IN MANAGING THE WORLD HERITAGE 'HERITAGE OF MERCURY. ALMADÉN AND IDRIJA'

Tatjana Dizdarević (Director, Idrija Mercury Heritage Management Centre Slovenia)

To successfully implement the integrated management of UNESCO's 'Heritage of Mercury. Almadén and Idrija', Spain and Slovenia established in 2013 the International Management Committee which, in line with the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the Convention Concerning the Protection of World Heritage, acts as a coordinating body and manages the otherwise physically separated parts of the World Heritage property. The committee together with its members from various institutions represents a platform for the exchange of knowledge, experience and ideas. This can be seen in the numerous examples of cooperation on expert, scientific research, project and even promotional levels.

SITE MANAGER OF A COMPLEX PROPERTY IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

Vít Šnajdr (Site Manager, Kutná Hora: Historical Town Centre with the Church of St Barbara and the Cathedral of Our Lady at Sedlec, Czech Republic)

The lecture includes a brief introduction of the property, discussing its diversity and complexity with regard to its management. Five years of experience as a site manager in Kutná Hora will be presented. Emphasis will be placed on the development of this function in terms of municipality. It will point out the difficult position of the site manager in a property with around six hundred owners. Another issue to be commented on will be the absence of the institute of site manager in the legal system of the Czech Republic and the difficulties arising from this.

14:00 **SESSION 10: INSTITUTIONAL OF THE SITE MANAGERS IN EUROPE (cont'd)**

Management of World Heritage Sites in Russia

Artem Silkin (Director, Town-Island of Sviyazhsk Museum-Reserve, Russia)

Several dozen Russian cultural and natural heritage sites are managed in different ways. Russian legislation does not have a special section dedicated to World Heritage sites, which gives rise to a variety of options for managing sites. For single or natural objects, the managers, as a rule, are museum-reserves on whose territories the objects are located; for cities - special government bodies. A separate category of objects are objects with a religious component. The process of creating the Russian Association of World Heritage Site Managers is currently underway.

Moderator: Einar Á. Sæmundsen (Chairperson, Nordic World Heritage Association)

Questions and Answers

15:40 Coffee Break

16:00 **SESSION 11: I WAS A SITE MANAGER**

This session invites individuals who used to serve as Site Managers to share their experiences, gains and losses after moving to a new position, reflecting on how the past experiences have helped in their roles and what could have been done in their previous roles as Site Managers.

POLITICS, WORLD HERITAGE AND SITE MANAGERS: BEYOND THE CONSERVATION ENCLAVE

Pascall Taruvinga (Head of Department Anthropology, Rhodes University, South Africa)

Managing World Heritage sites now demands capacities and mindsets beyond conservation itself as different value propositions are emerging in the highly politicized context of these properties. Heritage is first and foremost local before becoming universal, implying it has varied meanings and value propositions to different constituencies, which often creates 'political minefields' for site managers. This paper explores the site manager's perspective on these issues in Africa and advocates building "bridges" connecting local and universal value propositions of World Heritage. These perspectives draw from past experiences as a site manager. Site managers cannot remain in the conservation enclave, nor continue theorizing stakeholder and their broader aspirations at World Heritage sites.

FROM FRYING PAN INTO FIRE: FROM SITE MANAGER TO CONSULTANT

Letícia Maria Pereira Leitão (Cultural and Natural Heritage Consultant, Lausanne, Switzerland)

That Monday morning, I cried. The roof element that I considered a masterpiece of craftsmanship was forever gone and I knew the legal penalties would not be enforced because of lack of political will. Soon after I resigned from being the manager of the WH City of Angra do Heroísmo, in the Azores Islands (Portugal). I didn't know what I was going to do next but life had other plans: from Angra, I went to work at ICCROM and later with IUCN and ICOMOS. Twenty years later, I still use my past experience as a site manager as a filter for my work as an international consultant.

16:00 **SESSION 11: I WAS A SITE MANAGER (cont'd)**

IMPLEMENTING THE CAPACITY-BUILDING PROGRAMME FOR SITE MANAGERS: INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL

Hyein Oh (Programme Specialist, International Centre for the Interpretation and Presentation of World Heritage Sites under the auspices of UNESCO, UNESCO-WHIPIC)

This presentation compares my previous experience as a site manager with my current role as a Programme Specialist at a UNESCO Category 2 Centre and emphasizes the significance of capacity-building for site managers. Based on the implementation of capacity-building programmes in Korea and Africa, it is evident that site managers are one of the key stakeholders with both the ability and willingness to contribute to conservation efforts. If all stakeholders acknowledge the significance of heritage values and participate in the heritage meaning-making process, site managers will be able to connect with each other, develop mutual understanding and safeguard our heritage.

MULTI-TASKING AS A SITE MANAGER AT CHURCHES AND CONVENTS, OLD GOA, INDIA

Nizamuddin Taher (Archaeologist and Heritage Conservator, former Site Manager and presently advisor to Govt and Corporates on Heritage Matters, India)

The World Heritage Property at Old Goa is also a Protected Monument of India. As per the policy, experienced Resource Personals are posted at the site as Site Managers. Their duty profile apart from Management also includes Administration, Conservation, Curatorial and Archaeological Research, in which, Conflict Resolution and Networking amongst the Stakeholders being a major task. Hence, challenges faced to sustain the OUV would be communicated including Disaster Management i.e. Fire that happened at the Property. These would be elaborated through a Paper submission and an illustrated presentation. Including, the Archeological Research conducted at the site, leading to the discovery of the relics of the St Ketevan of Georgia. The same was handed over to their Govt.

Moderator: Moe Chiba (Programme Specialist for Culture, UNESCO Jakarta)

Questions and Answers

17:40 End of Day 3

18:00 Dinner

08:30

Registration

Ballroom 1, Level 10, The Wembley-A St. Giles Hotel, Penang

09:00

SESSION 12: COMPETENCIES, CAPACITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES

In this session, the speakers will share insights on enhancing the competencies and capacities of a Site Manager while introducing the potential opportunities.

MANAGING COMPLEXITY: SITE MANAGEMENT IN TIMES OF DYNAMIC PROCESSES OF CHANGE

Matthias Ripp (Site Manager, Old Town of Regensburg with Stadtamhof, Germany)

The article applies insights from multiple disciplines to urban environment studies and advocates for a systemic understanding of cultural heritage as a prerequisite for sustainable and resilient adaptation to current challenges. It also contributes to a body of knowledge on what skills cultural heritage professionals need to be competent and confident in their daily work. The case study provides some valuable examples from Regensburg of Germany by taking an integrated and holistic approach that views the city as a multi-layered system in cultural heritage management.

SITE MANAGERS' LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT SKILLS WITHIN WORLD HERITAGE FRAMEWORKS

Juliana Strogan (World Heritage Coordinator, Rjukan-Notodden Industrial Heritage, Norway)

World Heritage site managers must possess a diverse skill set to effectively oversee and preserve cultural and natural treasures in line with the World Heritage Convention. This article delves into crucial skills, competencies, and leadership styles aligned with global World Heritage frameworks. Examining key international documents, including the World Heritage Convention and the World Heritage and Sustainable Development Policy, it emphasizes embedding their principles into site management practices. Acknowledging the impact of technology, digital literacy is crucial for data management, but resource constraints pose challenges. Soft skills like diplomacy and design thinking are pivotal for addressing conflicts and crafting sustainable solutions. Ultimately, site managers must blend technical proficiency, diplomatic acumen, and innovative thinking to safeguard World Heritage in a changing world.

09:00 **SESSION 12: COMPETENCIES, CAPACITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES (cont'd)**

LAKE BAIKAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Irina Aiurzanaeva (Environmental education specialist, Lake Baikal, Federal State Establishment "Zapovednoye Podlemorye", Russia)

Lake Baikal is the deepest lake in the world. It holds 20% of the freshwater of the whole planet. Lake Baikal is a unique natural and cultural heritage site. Around Baikal there are physical remains of our past – buildings, landscapes, old cities, and archaeological sites – and the intangible traditions of indigenous peoples. National parks, nature reserves and sanctuaries preserve its unique flora and fauna and provide outdoor educational activities for children and adults. Environmental education can raise awareness of issues impacting the environment upon which we all depend, as well as actions we can take to improve and sustain it.

IMPLEMENTING THE OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES IN A HISTORIC URBAN CONTEXT

Natasha Kheddoo-Ramcharitar (Assistant to World Heritage Site Manager, Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Property, Mauritius)

Considered a vital tool for the protection and conservation of World Heritage Properties, the Operational Guidelines are of paramount importance for site managers who have a major and complex responsibility to ensure that any changes in the surroundings of the property do not have any negative impact on its Outstanding Universal Value. The case study of the Aapravasi Ghat will delve into the experiences of the heritage manager responsible for the management and monitoring of the Buffer Zone of the site, particularly when dealing with development pressures and implementation of the 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape.

Moderator: Hege Agathe Bakke-Alisøy (World Heritage Coordinator, City of Bergen, Norway)

Questions and Answers

10:40 Coffee Break

11:00 **SESSION 13: RESOURCES FOR SITE MANAGERS: DISASTER RISK PREPAREDNESS AND DEALING WITH EMERGENCIES**

This session invites speakers from different international organizations to share their experiences and efforts in combating the natural and man-made disasters in heritage sites worldwide.

ENHANCING THE CAPACITY BUILDING IN RISK MANAGEMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE
Lata Shakya (Co-chair Holder for the UNESCO Chair Programme on Cultural Heritage and Risk Management, Institute of Disaster Mitigation for Urban Cultural Heritage, Ritsumeikan University, Japan)

In recent years, escalating climate change and conflicts have intensified global disasters. Ritsumeikan University's UNESCO Chair on Cultural Heritage and Risk Management program seeks to boost capacity through an International Training Course (ITC) for vital disaster risk management plans, essential for cultural heritage preservation. From its start in 2006 until 2023, the ITC has trained 193 professionals from over 75 countries, fostering a distinctive ITC family network. This presentation will emphasize the significance of networking in capacity-building programs, focusing on the course's evolution in addressing the challenges of cultural heritage protection.

OWHC EMERGENCY PROGRAMME FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL AND MAN- MADE DISASTERS
David Johnson (OWHC Consultant Architect and Expert in Post-War Damage Assessment and Reconstruction)

An introduction to the 'Emergency Programme' being developed by the OWHC for the management of natural and man made disasters experienced through armed conflict, flood, fire, earthquake, and other extreme environmental situations. The programme aims first to assist member cities and their site managers to identify the risks that particularly affect them and then to explore methods of prevention, reaction and the longer term management of those risks. The process is being developed through interview and site workshops with cities who have experienced crisis situations, and by testing the methodology in Pilot Projects in representative cities.

ALIPH'S SUPPORT TO HERITAGE SITES IN EMERGENCIES
Elke Selter (Programs Director, International Alliance for the Protection of Heritage in Conflict Areas, ALIPH)

The ALIPH Foundation was created as an international organization, based in Switzerland, with the aim to provide rapid support to heritage sites in emergencies. This presentation will introduce the participants to the work of ALIPH, the ways in which ALIPH can support their work, and how ALIPH support can be accessed.

Moderator: Ng Boon Nee (Cultural Heritage Research and Development Manager, George Town World Heritage Incorporated, Malaysia)

Questions and Answers

12:20 Lunch

14:00 **SESSION 14: RESOURCES FOR SITE MANAGERS: THE C2C AND RELATED ORGANIZATION**

This session invites representatives from UNESCO Category 2 Center and related organization to share their works, researches and potential collaboration opportunities with Site Managers worldwide.

RESOURCES FOR SITE MANAGERS IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION: CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMMES BUILT ON JAPANESE EXPERIENCES

Wakiya Kayoko and Tamar Meladze (Cultural Heritage Protection Cooperation Office, Asia-Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO, ACCU Nara)

Every year since 2000, the Cultural Heritage Protection Cooperation Office, Asia-Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO (ACCU Nara) has been organizing fully funded training courses targeting young and mid-career site managers, architects, conservators, archaeologists, and museum curators engaged in cultural heritage protection in the Asia-Pacific region. Either by inviting the participants in Japan or sending the Japanese experts to target countries, in the past 24 years, ACCU has been providing opportunities for heritage practitioners to expand their knowledge, encourage questions and new ideas, and establish regional networks through engaging in open dialogues with Japanese experts and each other. Our presentation will share various collaboration and capacity-building opportunities of ACCU for the site manager communities and heritage professionals from the Asia-Pacific countries.

INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE PERSPECTIVES FOR HERITAGE MANAGEMENT: INTRODUCING INITIATIVES OF IRCI

Tsuji Takashi and Nojima Yoko (International Research Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region, IRCI)

The purpose of this presentation is to examine effective safeguarding of cultural heritage, by emphasizing the importance of 'intangible' aspects of heritage through introducing the initiatives by IRCI. Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) is a relatively recent concept that has been promoted by UNESCO through the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. This presentation will highlight the relationship among ICH, local communities, and relevant actors, and advocate the importance of ICH in maintaining and managing heritage landscape in sustainable manners.

Moderator: Yeo Kirk Siang (Senior Director, Heritage Policy, National Heritage Board, Singapore)

Questions and Answers

15:20 Coffee Break

15:50 **SESSION 15: RESOURCES FOR SITE MANAGERS: SITE MANAGERS AND THE C2C**

HERITAGE INTERPRETATION AND PRESENTATION IN YOUR HAND

Sojeong Kang and Namwoong Kim (International Centre for the Interpretation and Presentation of World Heritage Sites under the auspices of UNESCO, UNESCO-WHIPIC)

It aims to explore the growing importance of the interpretation and presentation of heritage sites with new approaches to understanding those concepts and the roles of site managers in their processes. By doing so, it provides some implications for site managers to improve their management process with new concepts and approaches to heritage interpretation and presentation. Also, it deals with how heritage interpretation and presentation can be applied to the World Heritage sites with specific considerations and understanding on the World Heritage system, as communication methods for the importance of heritage for 'all the people' stated in World Heritage Convention (1972).

SPACE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SAFEGUARDING WORLD HERITAGE

Wang Xinyuan and Luo Lei (International Centre on Space Technologies for Natural and Cultural Heritage under the auspices of UNESCO)

Our natural and cultural heritage are both irreplaceable sources of life and inspiration. For over a decade since its establishment in 2011, HIST has played a role in assisting UNESCO and its Member States in monitoring and conservation of UNESCO-designated sites. The presentation will include 3 parts: firstly, it will give a brief introduction to HIST; secondly, it is about the roles of space technologies for the conservation of world heritage sites at HIST. Lastly, it is about the Prospects of space information technology safeguarding world heritage in the future.

Moderator: Cho In-Souk (Principal, DaaRee Architect and Associates, South Korea)

Questions and Answers

17:10 End of Day 4

18:00 Dinner

08:30 **Registration**
Ballroom 1, Level 10, The Wembley-A St. Giles Hotel, Penang

09:00 **SESSION 16: RESOURCES FOR SITE MANAGERS: SITE MANAGERS AND THE WORLD HERITAGE SYSTEM**

This session invites representatives from the World Heritage Centre and its advisory bodies to share their works, researches and potential collaboration opportunities with Site Managers worldwide.

IMPLEMENTATION OF REGIONAL FRAMEWORK ACTION PLAN FOR THE ASIA AND PACIFIC REGION (2022-2030)

Himalchuli Gurung (Chief of Asia and the Pacific Unit, World Heritage Centre, UNESCO, Paris)

The World Heritage Committee, at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023) examined the Third Cycle Periodic Report for Asia and the Pacific and adopted the Regional Framework Action Plan for Asia and the Pacific (2023-2030). The World Heritage Committee encouraged all States Parties to widely disseminate the main outcomes of the Periodic Reporting exercise in the region among all relevant World Heritage stakeholders. The Committee also encouraged States Parties to appropriate the Regional Framework Action Plan, integrate it into national and sub-regional heritage policies and strategies, and ensure its implementation. States Parties are therefore invited to initiate or further pursue actions and activities that contribute to the priorities highlighted in this Regional Framework Action Plan, which will be the guiding strategic document for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention in the region for the coming seven or more years.

HOW CAN THE WORLD HERITAGE LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME BE USEFUL FOR SITES AND SITE MANAGERS?

Sarah Court (Independent heritage specialist)

The World Heritage Leadership (WHL) programme is a partnership between ICCROM, IUCN and the Norwegian Ministry of Climate and the Environment in collaboration with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS. It is a capacity-building programme, aiming to improve conservation and management practices for culture, nature and people. The programme adopts a wider view of the totality of conservation practice. With knowledge resources on management, management effectiveness assessment, disaster risk management, and impact assessment, the programme can provide technical assistance in building the capacity of your site management staff and community of people you work with across different institutions and authorities. From connecting individual professionals as participants to courses, the Programme also designs and implements tailor made training programs for sites, institutions and national and regional systems, creating a learning network of heritage professionals.

09:00 **SESSION 16: RESOURCES FOR SITE MANAGERS: SITE MANAGERS AND THE WORLD HERITAGE SYSTEM (cont'd)**

ICOMOS CHARTERS FOR CULTURAL HERITAGE PROFESSIONALS

Sharif Shams Imon (Department of Architecture, North South University, Dhaka, Bangladesh/President, ICOMOS Bangladesh)

The quality of conservation decisions depends heavily on the principles on which they are based. Among the sources of such principles, the Venice Charter of 1964 has long been the most influential one. However, over the last five decades, ICOMOS has developed various other "charters and other doctrinal texts" covering a wide range of conservation topics and issues reflecting the collective values of global and regional heritage professionals. These texts also reflect the evolution of shared thoughts as new charters are added or the existing ones are revised. This talk presents an overview of the ICOMOS Charters and discusses how heritage professionals, including site managers, can make use them to enhance their conservation decision-making.

Moderator: Ang Ming Chee (General Manager, George Town World Heritage Incorporated, Malaysia)

Questions and Answers

10:20 Coffee Break

10:50 **SESSION 17: POLITICS OF WORLD HERITAGE SITES**

This session invites speakers to share their survival stories, on their most difficult challenges, and the mitigation or survival notes they have developed to overcome.

PROTECTION OF WORLD HERITAGE AS A POLITICAL TOOL FOR DEVELOPMENT

Karl Anders Karlsson (Manager-Public Officer, Vega Municipality, Vegaøyen-The Vega Archipelago, Norway)

World Heritage affects both change and development and World Heritage must take the lead and show the way. But are we robust enough politically? Do we understand the responsibility and are we given enough funding to manage the challenge? The protection of World Heritage is threatened in many ways. Threats that are both long- and short-term. Threats directly and indirectly caused by political decisions. Handing over World Heritage, in better condition, to our next generations takes political bravery. We just need to agree on how brave!

QHAPAQ ÑAN: ANDEAN ROAD SYSTEM AT THE CROSSROADS BETWEEN CONSERVATION AND POLITICAL CHALLENGES

Diego Sberna (Site Manager, Qhapaq Ñan - Andean Road System, World Heritage Site, Argentina).

In Argentina, the holistic management and conservation of a World Heritage site is usually a complex matter, especially when it comes to obtaining funds for its implementation in a country on the verge of economic hyperinflation. However, participatory management mechanisms with the local community (farmers and indigenous peoples) allowed us to overcome these inconveniences to guarantee the protection of a property such as the Qhapaq Ñan - Andean Road System inscribed on the World Heritage list since 21 June 2014. The conservation and political challenges are constant, but the effort is worth it to preserve its OUV for future generations but also in memory of our ancestors.

THE CHANGING ROLE OF VOLUNTEERS IN HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT

Fatiha Babuly (Founder and CEO, Perceive Research and Design, Bangladesh)

Oftentimes we heard that heritage sites lack resources such as staff, experts, space, funds and so on. Some of them require a big budget, planning and a long time to implement. But there are also some that can be resolved by innovative alliances, co-creation and small interventions at a time. One such alternative can be creating a platform for heritage fellows where they can volunteer their time or expertise to improve site management as an extended part of the existing system or reinventing the system. As the research organization Perceive has started to bring together local and international participants to work on heritage sites and compile the outcomes for the Ministry of Cultural Affairs in Bangladesh.

Moderator: Shaiful Idzwan Shahidan (Assistant Secretary General 2022-2024, Malaysian National Committee of ICOMOS)

Questions and Answers

12:10 Lunch

13:30 **SESSION 18: SITE MANAGEMENT WITH YOUTH AND FOR THE FUTURE**

The speakers will share how they educate the younger generation about cultural heritage and train future heritage professionals through fun and creative programmes.

CULTURE-INSPIRED BOARD GAMES

Goh Choon Ean (Director, LUMA Creative Studio, Malaysia)

Board games have in recent times been a gateway to learning about many different topics including culture and heritage. Through the examples of her two board games inspired by George Town's five-foot ways and wet markets, Kaki Lima (2019) and Bansan (2023), Goh Choon Ean shares her thoughts about how documentation using board game creation can play a significant role in communicating cultural heritage with a wider audience.

INTERPRETATION AS A MANAGEMENT TOOL FOR WORLD HERITAGE SITES

Chloé Campo (Director, French World Heritage Sites Association, France)

One of the major challenges faced by site managers is transmitting the values of their sites and the reasons why they have been deemed worthy of inclusion on UNESCO's World Heritage List. Generating emotion is just as important as being accurate, and it is by managing to explain in a way that everyone can understand why our properties are exceptional and universal while making the inhabitants, visitors and our institutions active and aware players in preserving our sites. We invite you to discover the somewhat original path French World Heritage properties have chosen to follow in this area.

ENHANCING MANAGEMENT OF EGYPTIAN CULTURAL HERITAGE: A CAPACITY-BUILDING PROGRAM, "BENAA"

Reham Zaky (Inspector of Antiquities, Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, Egypt)

"Benea" was initiated in 2023 as a training program tailored for early to mid-career employees within the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, independent scholars, and university staff. Its core focus lies in enriching their understanding of heritage management, specifically concerning cultural heritage sites. The program concentrates on past and ongoing projects in Egypt, featuring contributions from both Egyptians and international experts who share their projects and insights. I will present the "Benea" training program's primary objectives, methodology employed, and the anticipated short and long-term impacts. It will also explore the potential future opportunities that such a training program may offer.

Moderator: Juliana Strogan (World Heritage Coordinator, Rjukan-Notodden Industrial Heritage site, Norway)

Questions and Answers

DAY 5 - TUESDAY, 5 MARCH 2024 (cont'd)

14:50 Coffee Break

15:20 **SESSION 19: THE GEORGE TOWN DECLARATION AND THE WAY FORWARD**

This is a concluding session where panelists of the first session will share their thoughts on future plannings that Site Managers can accomplish based on the sharings by Site Managers, international organizations, advisory bodies and Category 2 Centers throughout the symposium.

Rapporteur Reporting

1) Sarah Court (Symposium Rapporteur)

Panelists:

- 1) Ang Ming Chee (General Manager, George Town World Heritage Incorporated, Malaysia)
- 2) Einar Á. Sæmundsen (Chairperson, Nordic World Heritage Association)
- 3) Fatma Twahir (Chairperson, African Site Managers Network)

Moderator: Abdulelah Al-Tokhais (Saudi Heritage Preservation Society, Head of Research and Development Center)

Questions and Answers Session

16:50 **SESSION 20: CLOSING SESSION**

Closing Remarks and The Way Forward

17:00 End of symposium

18:00 Dinner

25. SPEAKERS AND MODERATORS PROFILE



Abdulelah Al-Tokhais

*Saudi Heritage Preservation Society, Head of Research and Development Center
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Abdulelah Al-Tokhais is an Assistant Professor at King Saud University in the College of Tourism and Archaeology and serves as the Director of the Research and Development Center at the Saudi Heritage Preservation Society. He has wide national and international work experience in his areas of expertise that are within the nexus of natural and cultural heritage, tourism, planning and policy, and development. His research and practices use “People-Centered Approaches” as a framework and tool for the Conservation and Development of Nature and Culture which is essential for managing diverse heritage values and resources.



Ang Ming Chee

*General Manager, George Town World Heritage Incorporated, Malaysia
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Ang is the General Manager of George Town World Heritage Incorporated and a UNESCO-accredited facilitator of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. Born and raised in the inner city of George Town, she carries her duties with much passion and fervor. Qualified with a Doctoral Degree in Political Science from National University of Singapore (2011) and a Master of International Studies from Uppsala University, Sweden (2002), she specialized in resource mobilization, policy making, project management and risk assessment. As an alumni of Institute of Disaster Mitigation for Urban Cultural Heritage, Ritsumeikan University, Japan, she has incorporated built conservation, with elements of disaster risk reduction and intangible cultural heritage safeguarding to create a sustainable heritage city for the people who live in, work in and use George Town.



Artem Silkin

*Director, Town-Island of Sviyazhsk Museum-Reserve, Russia
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Artem Silkin has been the Director of State Museum-Reserve “Town-Island of Sviyazhsk”--the Management Unit of Uspensky Cathedral and Monastery of Town-Island of Sviyazhsk World Heritage Site since 2009. He is one of the co-founder of the Fund for the support of contemporary art of the Republic of Tatarstan “Living City”. Artem has a Master of Biochemistry, a Master of Civil Law, and a Bachelor of Marketing from Kazan Federal University. He has authored more than 50 concepts for permanent expositions and exhibitions, scripts for events in the field of culture. Artem is a member of the Presidium of the Russian Committee of ICOM, and a Member of the Russian ICOMOS Committee. Artem’s hobbies are theater and fairy tales.



Åsa Nordin

Site Manager, Laponia, Sweden
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Åsa Nordin is the site manager for the WH Laponia in northern Sweden. She has been that since 2012 when the management organization was established. She has been building up the organization by combining methodologies from the “Western” world with indigenous traditional knowledge and also developed new working methodologies. She has a PhD exam in Sami culture and history and has been working as a researcher. She is also a Sami person and from the Laponia-area.



Chloé Campo

Director, French World Heritage Sites Association, France
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Chloé Campo-de Montauzon was born in France in 1974. She holds post-graduate degrees in Politics and Urban Planning and a Master of Business Administration. Chloé became involved with World Heritage issues when she joined the Asia-Pacific Region Unit of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre in 1998. Afterwards, she joined the town planning Agency of Chinon, a small historic city of the Loire Valley, to work on the implementation of the management plan of Luang Prabang, Laos. She joined the Loire Valley management structure in 2002 when it was set up following the listing of this cultural landscape, first as technical advisor, and then as general secretary (2012-2016). From 2010 onwards, she has been the Director of the French World Heritage Sites Association, a network that gathers the managers of the 52 French properties inscribed on the World Heritage List.



Cho In-Souk

Principal, DaaRee Architect and Associates, South Korea
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Cho In-Souk is an Expert member of ICOMOS International Wood Committee. She served three terms as a Vice-president of ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on the Analysis and Restoration of Structures of Architectural Heritage. She used to be an International Co-director of the UIA Work Program for Heritage and Cultural Identity (2014-2021). She is the Principal and Architect to DaaRee Architects and Associates, Seoul Korea. She is also an APEC Architect, a Commissioner for the Cultural Heritage Repair Technology Committee of Korea (2021-2024), and she has also taught Architectural History, Design, Design studio, Hanok and traditional culture. She was awarded one of the Ten UIA Women in Architecture (2021), and received the Prime Minister’s Citation Medal for devoting Architect on Architecture Day 2014 Korea. She has been assigned to work as an expert and advising architect for Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (2005-2006) and the Afrasiab Museum of Samarkand, Uzbekistan (2023-ongoing).



David Johnson

Consultant, Organization of World Heritage Cities (OWHC)
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David Johnson is a conservation architect and expert in post-war damage assessment and reconstruction processes. He has worked with the Council of Europe in the Balkans and the Caucasus to assist with the recording, assessment and redevelopment of historic monuments and sites which have been damaged during conflict and is presently preparing the 'Assistance Program in case of Emergencies' for the OWHC. He has a particular interest in the reuse of historic buildings for sustainable and economically viable purposes. He heads the London-based architectural practice of Dannatt, Johnson Architects whose work includes historic building work and new building design.



Denis Lukwago

Site Manager/Conservator-Architect, Tombs of Buganda Kings at Kasubi, Republic of Uganda
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Denis Lukwago is a Conservator-Architect at the Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities. His principal obligation is to conserve, preserve and protect the cultural heritage sites in the entire Country. He holds an Ordinary Diploma in Architecture and Draughtsmanship, a Bachelor's degree in Architecture and is currently pursuing a Master of Architecture at Makerere University in Uganda. He has worked with the Ministry for over four years and as the Site Manager, essentially focused on the removal of the Tombs of Buganda Kings at Kasubi World Heritage Property from the Danger List by ensuring the implementation of the Committee decisions.



Dian Lakshmi Pratiwi

Head of Office, Cultural Office of Yogyakarta Province, The Cosmological Axis of Yogyakarta and its Historic Landmarks, Indonesia
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Dian Lakshmi Pratiwi, the head of the Cultural office of the special region of Yogyakarta Indonesia, was born in Malang East Java on 9 December 1972 and graduated from Gadjah Mada University majoring in Archaeology both for her undergraduate study and master degree. Almost all of her career is related to preservation and conservation of Yogyakarta heritage buildings and areas. The most profound work she has done recently is the success of The Cosmological Axis of Yogyakarta and its Historic Landmarks inscribed as UNESCO World Heritage Lists in 2023. With her thought and strategies, she undoubtedly will work hard for the sustainability of Jogja Heritage Area.

**Diego Sberna**

Site Manager, Qhapaq Ñan - Andean Road System, World Heritage Site, Argentina
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Diego Sberna is an Anthropologist, Mountaineer and Scientific Diver. He has a degree from the University of Paris VIII and a Master of Science from the High School of Social Sciences of Paris (EHESS, France), a Specialization in Sustainable Tourism (UNSa, Argentina), an MBA in Environmental Administration (IIFA, Spain) and, at present, he is a PhD candidate in Social Sciences with orientation in Geography (UNT, Argentina). He is the Site Manager of the Qhapaq Ñan – Andean Road System – World Heritage and the Coordinator of the Provincial Committee of Fight against Illicit Trafficking of Cultural Properties of the Secretariat of Culture, Salta Government, Argentina. Also, Mr. Sberna is a member of ICOMOS Argentina and IUCN South America, and an international consultant in holistic management and conservation of World Heritage Sites with a special focus on Cultural Landscape and Archaeological Heritage.

**Einar Á. Sæmundsen**

Chairperson, Nordic World Heritage Association
einar.a.e.saemundsen@thingvellir.is

Einar Á. Sæmundsen is the director of Thingvellir National Park, Iceland (WH 2004) since 2017. Amongst job duties and responsibilities, are day-to-day management, finances, construction and planning management, management planning and other duties. The Chair of the Nordic World Heritage Association since 2020 and a board member since 2016. Holds a Master of Landscape Architecture degree from the University of Minnesota as well as Bachelor of Science in Geography from the University of Iceland as well as diploma degree in public administration from the University of Iceland.

**Elke Selter**

Programs Director, International Alliance for the Protection of Heritage in Conflict Areas (ALIPH)
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Elke Selter is the Programs Director of ALIPH – the International alliance for the protection of heritage in conflict areas. Dr. Selter has a background in heritage conservation and holds a PhD in Politics and International Studies (SOAS, University of London) with research focusing on the international community's response to heritage affected by armed conflicts. Prior to joining ALIPH, Dr. Selter has worked for about 20 years with various agencies of the United Nations (UNESCO, UNDP and UNOPS) in field duty stations affected by conflict or disaster.



Fatiha Babuly

Founder and CEO, Perceive Research and Design, Bangladesh
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Fatiha is the founder and CEO of PERCEIVE; a research organization working to apprehend, reveal and re-invent rural, peri-urban and urban phenomenon by interacting with a wide spectrum of stakeholders from Bangladesh and overseas. Her diversified interest lies in architectural design with alternative materials, heritage documentation, conservation management and cultural mapping. Apart from her regular work, she organizes the World Heritage Volunteers program and runs a fellowship to develop leadership in the field of heritage management. Fatiha has experience in coordinating projects with Prince Claus Fund, Netherland, Queen's University, Belfast and some other international organizations. She is an ACUMEN fellow, member of ICOMOS Bangladesh and SDGWG.



Fatma Twahir

Chairperson, African Site Managers Network
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Fatma Twahir is the Principal Curator of Fort Jesus World Heritage site. She holds a Bachelor's degree in architecture and an MSc in Environmental Engineering. Fatma is also an accomplished Lead Environmental Expert registered by National Environmental Management Authority of Kenya (NEMA) and a trained Conservationist in Built Heritage and Disaster Risk Management in Built Heritage and Disaster Risk Management having been involved in rehabilitation and reuse historic buildings and sites as well as capacity building in risk management locally, regionally and internationally. She is also currently the chairperson of the African Site Managers Network.



Goh Choon Ean

Director & Producer, LUMA Creative Studio, Malaysia
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Alongside thirty-odd years of conceptualizing, capturing, and creating still and moving images, Choon Ean has channeled her efforts into supporting arts and culture in Malaysia. This includes providing audio-visual documentation, programming arts education workshops, and designing culture-inspired tabletop games. Her first published board game, Kaki Lima (2019) highlights accessibility and community-ownership of George Town's five-foot ways, while Bansan (2023) simulates the social interactions unique to local wet markets. She currently runs the LUMA creative studio in Penang, through which she continues seeking out projects and collaborations that spur people on to live life fully and bring positive change to their communities.



Hege Agathe Bakke-Alisøy

World Heritage Coordinator, World Heritage Site of Bryggen, City of Bergen, Norway
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Experienced Cultural Heritage Manager versed in all aspects as Site manager from community involvement to academic discourse. International experience from archaeological projects and within the field of World Heritage. Work experiences include advisor at the Agency of Cultural Heritage Management, City of Bergen, Senior Archaeologist at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology, and as World Heritage Coordinator for the property Bryggen since 2016. Hege has been involved in various activities within the World Heritage Leadership Program, Site Managers Forums, courses on impact assessment, the World Heritage Leadership Forum in Bergen 2022, and Training of Trainers.



Himalchuli Gurung

Chief of Asia and the Pacific Unit, World Heritage Centre, UNESCO, Paris
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Himalchuli Gurung, a trained architect, is the Chief of Asia and the Pacific Unit, World Heritage Centre at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris since 2022. Prior to this, for over two decades she served as Culture Programme Specialist in various UNESCO Offices in Nepal (2000-2004), Indonesia (2004-2008), Jamaica (2008-2015) and China (2015-2022), in the promotion of culture for sustainable development through the implementation of integrated operational projects aimed at the preservation of tangible and intangible heritage, the promotion of diversity of cultural expressions and intercultural dialogue. She represented UNESCO on the Governing Boards of the UNESCO Category 2 Centres in the field of intangible cultural heritage in China, Japan and Republic of Korea (2016-2022). Her career with the United Nations started in 1998 as a United Nations Volunteer for the International Safeguarding Campaign for the Kathmandu Valley World Heritage Site in Nepal (1998-2000).



Hyein Oh

Programme Specialist, International Centre for the Interpretation and Presentation of World Heritage Sites under the auspices of UNESCO (UNESCO-WHIPIC)
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Hyein Oh, a programme specialist at UNESCO WHIPIC, was responsible for facilitating International and national capacity-building programmes for heritage interpretation. She currently focuses on cooperation among C2Cs. She previously worked as a site manager at Seowon, Korean Neo-confucian Academies which was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2019. While there, she implemented integrated conservation and management projects for serial properties such as developing the mobile monitoring systems. She also managed the 3rd Periodic Reporting and published Seowon Periodic Reporting manual for site managers. She received degrees on MA World Heritage and BA public administration. Her research interests are World Heritage interpretation, Capacity-building and Cultural Landscape.



Irina Aiurzanaeva

Environmental education specialist, Lake Baikal, Federal State Establishment "Zapovednoye Podlemorye", Russia
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Irina Aiurzanaeva works as an environmental education specialist at "Zapovednoye Podlemorye" protected area which is on the north-east of Lake Baikal. She is studying at the Master Program in World Heritage Studies. Main research interests are protection of cultural and natural heritage, heritage interpretation, and Baikal indigenous people. She is pursuing international collaboration in heritage management. Her motto is "Cherish the Past ... embrace the Future".



Jean Wee

Director, Preservation of Sites and Monuments, National Heritage Board, Singapore
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Jean Wee was part of the team that worked on the inscription of Singapore Botanic Gardens as the country's inaugural UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2015. In her role, she also oversees the management and restoration of Singapore's national monuments in accordance with the Preservation of Monuments Act. She has contributed actively to preservation policy as well as programmes that support preservation in Singapore. She also served in design competition juries, including the URA Architectural Heritage Award and was a Governing Board member of SPAFA. She co-authored and edited *Connections: History and Architecture, City Hall and Supreme Court* as well as *Decoration and Symbolism in Chinese Architecture*. Prior to this, she was a programmer and curator at the Singapore Art Museum and helped to set up the Baba House under the NUS Museum of the National University of Singapore.



Juliana Strogan

World Heritage Coordinator, Rjukan-Notodden Industrial Heritage, Norway
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Juliana Strogan is an international World Heritage professional currently working in Norway. She is the World Heritage coordinator of Rjukan Notodden Industrial Heritage site, Norway's last inscribed UNESCO World Heritage Site. She oversees the management and development of the site, and reports to the State Party and UNESCO World Heritage Committee. She has a master's degree in World Heritage and Cultural projects for Development, and a bachelor's degree in Conservation and Restoration. She has more than 20 years of experience in working with World Heritage sites in Europe. She uses her skills to create sustainable and beneficial projects for the site and the local community.



Karl Anders Karlsson

Site Manager, The Vega Archipelago, Norway
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Public officer/Site manager. Been involved in World Heritage management for 10 years. Responsible for a Heritage Impact Assessment for our World Heritage property in 2020-2022. Participated at the ICCROM PNC22 in South Korea.

My values: Culture as a vital part of sustainable development.

«No one puts people in a corner!» We manage World Heritage for the people of both today and tomorrow. The people in our societies must be put on the front row.



Lata Shakya

Co-chair Holder for the UNESCO chair programme on Cultural Heritage and Risk Management, Institute of Disaster Mitigation for Urban Cultural Heritage (R-DMUCH), Ritsumeikan University, Japan
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Dr. Lata Shakya is an associate professor and a UNESCO Co-Chair holder at the Institute of Disaster Mitigation for Urban Cultural Heritage, Ritsumeikan University (R-DMUCH). Since 2020, she has been coordinating the International Training Course (ITC) on Disaster Risk Management of Cultural Heritage. Currently, her research focuses on community-based post-disaster response and recovery in historic cities. She is a co-editor of the recently published book 'Good Practices for Disaster Risk Management of Cultural Heritage.' Additionally, she has contributed as a coauthor and coordinator for the book 'The Memory of the 2015 Nepal Earthquake: The Experience of Local Residents Utilizing Traditional Resources in UNESCO World Heritage Site.'



Letícia Maria Pereira Leitão

Cultural and Natural Heritage Consultant, Lausanne, Switzerland

Letícia Leitão is an independent consultant working with cultural and natural heritage. She has coordinated several projects for IUCN, ICCROM and ICOMOS on capacity building and interlinkages between nature and culture. She is a regular collaborator to the IUCN/ICCROM World Heritage Leadership Programme. Recently, she coordinated the development of the Enhancing our Heritage Toolkit 2.0, a management effectiveness methodology for World Heritage properties. She holds a PhD from the University of Edinburgh, where her research focused on the protection of World Heritage settlements and their surroundings. She also holds an Executive Master in Public Administration with the London School of Economics.



Luo Lei

Head of First Research Department, International Centre on Space Technologies for Natural and Cultural Heritage under the auspices of UNESCO (HIST)
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Luo Lei is an associate professor at the International Centre on Space Technologies for Natural and Cultural Heritage (HIST) under the Auspices of UNESCO, the International Research Center of Big Data for Sustainable Development Goals, Aerospace Information Research Institute, Chinese Academy of Sciences. His research interest includes cultural and natural heritage and sustainability, remote sensing of biodiversity and conservation, and remote sensing archaeology. His work also focuses on adopting multidisciplinary approaches to meet the needs of scientific monitoring and evaluation of the heritage-related Sustainable Development Goals.



Mags Pillay

Director, Fossil Hominid Sites of South Africa: Cradle of Humankind World Heritage Site component, South Africa
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Mags Pillay is a World Heritage practitioner and site manager from Johannesburg, South Africa. He has over 15 years of experience in World Heritage management. He is currently the Site Manager for a component of the Fossil Hominid Sites of South Africa popularly known as the Cradle of Humankind World Heritage Site - a property that is famous for the discovery of ancient human fossils or hominids. This has exposed him to World Heritage management at a local and international level. He holds a Master's Degree in Human Geography from the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg.

**Matthias Ripp**

Site Manager, Old Town of Regensburg with Stadtamhof, Germany
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A senior-level Heritage Manager with 20 years of success in heritage-based integrated urban development, heritage governance, heritage management and heritage communication, project development and strategic coordination of policies in an international environment. His core competencies are in the field of governance, integrated urban development, coaching and training and the communication of cultural heritage. Matthias has worked on four continents and all around Europe either involved in heritage projects, as a lecturer, facilitator, trainer or consultant. Among the institutions he worked with or for are: UNESCO, ICOMOS, OWHC, European Commission, Council of Europe, Committee of the Regions, National UNESCO Commissions, EHHF, Eurocities, ISG, URBACT, National, Regional and Local Governments and NGOs. He is a professional skilled in management, especially leadership and moderation of integrated Working Groups as well as consulting, building history, urbanism, social planning and tourism and personal coaching.

**Miki Okadera**

Assistant Counsellor, World Heritage Division, Fukuoka Prefectural Government, Japan
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Miki Okadera has a bachelor in archaeology and a master in the same field. Both of her degrees were achieved in Waseda University. She is currently employed as associate counsellor at the World Heritage Division for the Fukuoka Prefectural Government. She is in charge of the management, conservation, presentation and interpretation of the World Heritage Site; the Sacred islands of Okinoshima and Associated Sites in the Munakata Region. She has been directly involved with World Heritage for over 15 years, through the nomination process in World Heritage.

**Moe Chiba**

Section Chief and Programme Specialist for Culture, UNESCO Office in Jakarta
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Moe Chiba is currently the Chief of the Culture Unit at UNESCO Jakarta, overseeing activities in Indonesia, the Philippines, Malaysia, and Timor Leste since 2018. Her UNESCO journey began in 2000 at headquarters, initially in the Division of Creative Industry and later in the Division of Cultural Policies. In 2006, she moved to UNESCO New Delhi, focusing on integrating culture into development. Chiba's expertise spans heritage-based urban development, rural livelihood, and promoting disability inclusion in cultural activities. In Jakarta, she manages projects like cultural landscape management, heritage disaster risk reduction, artists' rights protection, and the promotion of young cultural entrepreneurs.



Muhammad Hijas Sahari

Built Environment and Management Manager, George Town World Heritage Incorporated, Malaysia
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Hijas currently serves as Department of Built Environment and Management (BEAM) Manager at George Town World Heritage Incorporated. Hijas also is a Registered Conservator with the Department of National Heritage, Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture Malaysia. His works mainly to manage and safeguard the tangible and intangible attributes of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the George Town UNESCO World Heritage Site that includes conserving and repairing of heritage buildings, providing technical support on heritage related matters and enhancing the integration of the sustainable development in the historical urban setting with the socio-culture-economic well-being of the local community.



Nadya König-Lehrmann

Managing Director, Upper Middle Rhine Valley World Heritage Association, Germany
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Nadya König-Lehrmann has a degree in engineering and architecture. She gained her first professional experience as a project manager with a focus on project development, conversion, regional development and project management. She has been working for the Upper Middle Rhine Valley World Heritage Association since 2008 and since 2011, she has been the responsible Site Manager for the UNESCO-recognized cultural landscape. As the link between the inhabitants of the region, the 59 authorities, the state ministries and the requirements of UNESCO, she takes care of all matters relating to the World Heritage Site. The focus is on the preservation and conservation of the UNESCO site. However, the sustainable development of the region must also be managed and coordinated in order to preserve the evolving cultural landscape as a lively World Heritage Site. She and her team assist and support the various stakeholders and municipalities.



Namwoong Kim

Programme Specialist, International Centre for the Interpretation and Presentation of World Heritage Sites under the auspices of UNESCO (UNESCO-WHIPIC)
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BA in Folklore, MA in World Heritage Studies. Studied Folklore in Korea he observed and documented folklife of local communities. He was an intern at the Smithsonian Center for Cultural Heritage and Folklife in 2015. During his graduate study at Brandenburg Technical University in Germany, he obtained a body of knowledge on World Heritage and its international mechanism with UNESCO. Also, he was a DAAD scholarship recipient for 'Heritage in Conflict' program at Helwan University, Egypt in 2018. Currently, he is a program specialist at the Research Office of WHIPIC, responsible for Developing Principles for heritage interpretation and presentation.



Natalyn Oye Addo

Conservator of Monuments/ Site Manager, Forts and Castles Volta, Greater Accra, Central and Western Regions, Ghana
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Natalyn Oye Addo, a Conservator at Ghana Museums and Monuments Board, became the Site Manager for the Forts and Castles World Heritage Property in 2019. Actively engaged in preserving cultural heritage, she contributes to the Africa Site Managers Network and holds membership in the Ghana Institute of Architects. Natalyn played a pivotal role in crafting an integrated management plan for Ghana's Forts and Castles World Heritage Property.



Natasha Kheddoo-Ramcharitar

Assistant to World Heritage Site Manager, Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Property, Mauritius
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Natasha Kheddoo-Ramcharitar is specialized in the management and monitoring of historic urban landscape, with 15 years of experience in conducting condition assessment of built heritage in an urban context. In addition to a Master Degree in Heritage Management, she has acquired several intensive trainings from ICCROM. She has as main responsibility to evaluate and monitor development projects in the Buffer Zone of the Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Property. Further, she has assisted ICOMOS in drafting desk review for nomination dossier submitted to UNESCO for inscription. In 2023, she acted as local resource person for capacity building programme in Heritage Impact Assessment organized by UNESCO. Her expertise in heritage and conservation is regularly solicited by the University of Mauritius as part time lecturer.



Ng Boon Nee

Cultural Heritage Research and Development Manager, George Town World Heritage Incorporated, Malaysia
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Ng Boon Nee is the Manager of the Department of Cultural Heritage Research and Development with George Town World Heritage Incorporated. Her current duties primarily focus on the database management and disaster risk management programme for the George Town UNESCO World Heritage Site. Besides establishing an online database based on the data collected in past and current projects, her forte in project management is also put to great use when organizing community workshops on cultural heritage disaster risk management. The workshop equipped the local community with the capability to fight disasters such as fire and flood in times of need.

**Nizamuddin Taher**

Archaeologist and Heritage Conservator, former Site Manager and presently advisor to Govt and Corporates on Heritage Matters, India
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Nizamuddin Taher, former Director of Archaeological Survey of India is an Archaeologist by training and Heritage Conservator through experience. During his Professional Career spanning over three decades. He serves as a Site Manager of four World Heritage Properties in India. Apart from carrying out Research and Excavations in India. Post retirement, he is engaged in sharing experience with the Community and Private Corporates on Heritage related matters. Further, he is engaged teaching the teachers and also Advisor to govt agencies and Institutions on Conservation. He has been conferred Doctor Honoris Causa by Caucasus International University, Tbilisi, Georgia in 2017, for discovery of the sacred relics of Martyred Queen Ketevan of Georgia.

**Nojima Yoko**

Head of Research Section, International Research Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region (IRCI), Japan
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Yoko Nojima is an archaeologist and a heritage researcher having experiences working in the Pacific and Southeast Asia. She earned her PhD in Anthropology from the University of Hawaii at Manoa in 2008. She started working in the field of intangible cultural heritage (ICH) when came to the International Research Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region (IRCI) as an associate fellow in 2014, where she undertook a series of research activities focusing on ICH and natural hazards. She is the Head of Research Section of IRCI since 2021 and leading research projects for safeguarding ICH.

**Nuha Dandis**

Site Manager, Hebron/Al-Khalil Old Town, Palestine
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Experienced architect specializing in cultural heritage conservation and management. Site Manager of the World Heritage Property Hebron/Al-Khalil Old Town since 2017. Holds a Master's degree in Maintenance and Restoration of Historical Buildings from Al-Quds University (Palestine) and a Bachelor's degree in Architecture from Jordan University of Science and Technology (Jordan). Author of Publications on traditional architecture and archaeology of architecture. Contributed to developing the nomination dossier and the management plan for the WHP Hebron/Al-Khalil Old Town. Administrative member in ICOMOS Palestine.



Pascall Taruvinga

Head of Department Anthropology, Rhodes University, South Africa
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Holds a PhD in Archaeology from University of Cape Town (South Africa) with specialization in World Heritage, Stakeholders and Sustainable Development. Has over twenty-five years of experience in heritage management in various senior and executive positions and currently, Head of Department of Anthropology (Rhodes University, South Africa). Has experience in museums, world heritage sites, archives, partnership programmes, human resources and financial management, administration and leadership. Worked in Zimbabwe, Kenya, South Africa, and worked with African governments, UNESCO, Advisory Bodies, and the African World Heritage Fund. Has over 23 referred articles, 15 newsletters and online media publications, and two books.



Quah Swee Leang (Vick)

Communications and Collaborations Acting Manager, George Town World Heritage Incorporated, Malaysia
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Vick Quah, the Acting Manager, Department of Communications and Collaborations for George Town World Heritage Incorporated. His work in the Communications Department consists of active interaction with the stakeholders within George Town Heritage City. Being one of the key officers in charge of the annual George Town Heritage Celebrations, Vick constantly interacts with stakeholders to make sure activities that cater to the 20,000+ participants go according to plan. Vick also carries out educational programmes such as talks and site visits, to empower stakeholders with knowledge about George Town UNESCO World Heritage Site, while promoting awareness of the Outstanding Universal Values.



Reham Zaky

Inspector of Antiquities, Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, Egypt
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An archaeologist and specialist in cultural heritage management with a Bachelor's degree in Egyptology from Cairo University's Faculty of Archaeology. pursued Master's and Ph.D. in Ancient History at the Faculty of Postgraduate African Studies, also at Cairo University. Currently, employed by the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities in Egypt, where I have been involved in various archaeological projects spanning across notable sites such as the Giza Plateau, Memphis, Saqqara, Abusir, the Western Bank in Luxor, and Abydos. Participated in several projects like the Giza Plateau Mapping Project, Memphis Site and Community Development Project, Al-Shawaf in southern Saqqara, Sahure Pyramidal Complex in Abusir, and Abusir Northern Saqqara. Received training from organizations such as UNESCO Cairo Office, ICCROM (PNC23), and the Cultural Heritage Management Organization in Greece.



Sarah Court

Independent heritage specialist
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Sarah Court is a heritage practitioner whose professional experience was strongly influenced by two decades with the Herculaneum Conservation Project (Italy), where she was involved in strategic planning and coordinated initiatives to involve both the local and international communities. She continues to support management teams at different heritage places with planning, community partnership and impact assessment. She is ICCROM's Focal Point for Participatory Approaches and Impact Assessment and she is also part of the core team delivering the World Heritage Leadership programme.



Serfraz Nawaz

Assistant Archaeological Engineer, Makli Necropolis, Thatta, Pakistan
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Serfraz Nawaz Jatoi (M.sc) Master in Archaeology from Shah Abdul Latif University Khairpur. I am working with the Culture, Tourism Antiquities Department presently posted as an Assistant Archaeological Engineer (acting Site Manager) at the Makli Necropolis World Heritage property. I was influential in protecting the site during and after the devastating 2022 monsoon floods and later the wildfires. Together with experts I developed the 1st Management Plan and successfully kept the property of the Danger List working closely with the Reactive Monitoring Mission and UNESCO. I received an archaeological and conservation training scholarship from France in 2014, and a two-month Stone Conservation course from ICCROM in Mexico in 2018. I then followed this with additional online training. I am responsible for the conservation, preservation and maintenance of the World Heritage property as well as other monuments. I also participated in UNESCO on-site management training and DRR. I also have a number of international academic publications.



Seydou Nourou Kane

Manager, Stone Circles of Senegambia, Senegal
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I am the head of the Underwater Heritage Division associated with the "Stone circles of Senegambia" World Heritage property. I studied in Canada, Senegal, Benin, France, and China, resulting in a vast academic background in marketing, communication, management, cultural heritage restoration and intangible heritage. I have professional experience ranging from being a Site Manager to a research officer, where I was involved in archive and documentation management as well as historical and iconographic research. I am the National Focal Point of Senegal for the 1970 and 1972 Conventions, facilitating the African Site Managers Network in West Africa.



Sharif Shams Imon

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President, ICOMOS Bangladesh)*

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With over 27 years of teaching and professional experience, Dr Imon is a professor of architecture at the North South University, Bangladesh and the president of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) Bangladesh. He is also an expert member of the International Committee of Historic Towns and Villages (CIVVIH) and the ICOMOS International Cultural Tourism Committee (ICTC) and has conducted UNESCO World Heritage advisory, technical evaluation, reactive monitoring, and impact assessment missions internationally. He has taught at universities in Bangladesh, Hong Kong, Macao and Thailand and has been a consultant in ICCROM, ICOMOS, UNESCO, UNESCAP, and government heritage capacity-building projects in over 17 countries.



Shaiful Idzwan Shahidan

Assistant Secretary General 2022-2024, Malaysian National Committee of ICOMOS

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Shaiful Shahidan is an Assistant Hon. Secretary of ICOMOS Malaysia. He received the Erasmus Mundus Scholarship from the European Commission and has spent several years training in field archaeology in Europe and Southeast Asia. He was also one of the expert panels for the Lenggong Valley dossier preparation before its inscription into the UNESCO World Heritage Site. For the past 15 years, he has been involved in archaeological research in Peninsular Malaysia and East Malaysia, covering extensive research and analysis. His current work focuses on consultancy field archaeological projects in a Neolithic site of Guar Kepah and key sites within the George Town World Heritage Sites, including Fort Cornwallis and Sia Boey.



Sojeong Kang

Programme Specialist, International Centre for the Interpretation and Presentation of World Heritage Sites under the auspices of UNESCO (UNESCO-WHIPIC)

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Sojeong Kang, a programme specialist of UNESCO WHIPIC, is currently leading the capacity building programmes on heritage interpretation and presentation, both in the national and international level. She had been also in charge of a research project for Definition and Concepts of heritage interpretation and presentation. She received degrees on MA World Heritage and BA Cultural Heritage Management, and has various experiences on World Heritage-related projects, including Heritage Impact Assessment and capacity building programmes for disaster risk management. Her research interests focus on heritage interpretation, World Heritage, Capacity building, and heritage management system.



Su Zhiming

Deputy Director, Quanzhou Maritime Silk Road World Heritage Nomination Center, China

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Mr Su Zhiming is the Deputy Director of the Quanzhou Maritime Silk Road World Heritage Nomination Center. Mr Su, a certified Senior Engineer, has been engaged in the conservation and management of historic and cultural cities and cultural heritage for a long time, participated in various preparations of technical materials including the 2019 World Heritage Nomination Dossier, and has a deep feeling and understanding of the conservation and management, historical research, interpretation and presentation of Quanzhou Historic and Cultural City and World Cultural Heritage. In 2023, he was commended as an Outstanding Individual in Quanzhou's World Heritage Nomination.



Tamar Meladze

Director, International Cooperation Division, International Cooperation Division, Cultural Heritage Protection Cooperation Office, Asia-Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO (ACCU Nara)

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Originally from Georgia and with a background in archaeology, Tamar Meladze holds a PhD in World Heritage Studies from the University of Tsukuba, Japan. In 2021 she joined the International Cooperation Division, Cultural Heritage Protection Cooperation Office, Asia-Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO (ACCU). In this role she helps organize a range of programs and training courses aimed at promoting international cooperation and professional capacity building in the cultural heritage protection in the Asia-Pacific region.



Tan Chin Ling

Member of Penang State Heritage Council

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Tan Chin Ling with PhD in Building Conservation is a Registered Conservator, Vice President (Asia) of ICOMOS CIF and Executive Board Member of ICOMOS Malaysia. He has been appointed member of the Penang State Heritage Council and Chairman of the Penang State Cultural Built Heritage Expert Committee (Built Environment). He set up the Ori Green Design Studio in 2010 which has been involved in many heritage conservation projects in Malaysia. His research interest is scientific tests in heritage building conservation.



Tatjana Dizdarević

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Tatjana Dizdarević, a mining engineer by profession is the director of Idrija Mercury Heritage Management Centre established by the Government of Slovenia as a public institute for the purpose for ensuring the integrated and sustainable management of cultural heritage and natural values related to the Idrija mercury deposit in Idrija. She participated in a working group for preparation of the nomination "Heritage of Mercury. Almadén and Idrija on UNESCO WHL until its entry in 2012 and is a member of the National and International Coordinating Committee of the World Heritage transnational serial property. She has been appointed Site Manager of the Idrija World Heritage Site for ten years.



Ting Siew Jing

Built Environment and Management Officer, George Town World Heritage Incorporated, Malaysia
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Siew Jing developed a passion for cultural heritage during her industrial placement at an architectural conservation firm while pursuing her Bachelor's degree in Building Surveying. Upon graduation, she joined the field of heritage conservation for several years before earning a Master's degree in Sustainable Heritage at University College London, where she was exposed to conservation practices in England in the context of museums, collections, heritage buildings and historic landscapes. Currently, as a Built Environment and Management Officer at GTWHI, Siew Jing utilizes her experience in architectural conservation and strategic thinking skills to protect and preserve cultural heritage while ensuring its sustainability.



Tsuji Takashi

Associate Fellow, International Research Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region (IRCI), Japan
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Takashi Tsuji is a Japanese ecological anthropologist and senior regional geographer and certified social researcher researching mainly in the Philippines, Lao PDR, Indonesia of Southeast Asia. He is also editor of "Biostory" in Japan and "SPJRD" in the Philippines. He has mainly studied the subsistence activities and social changes of the indigenous people in Palawan Island, and fishers on Mactan Island in the Philippines, water buffalo milk use and lactose intolerance in Southeast Asia, and animal folktales in the Philippines. He is currently working for the Historical City of Vigan in the Philippines designated as World Cultural Heritage by UNESCO.



Vít Šnajdr

Site Manager, Kutná Hora: Historical Town Centre with the Church of St Barbara and the Cathedral of Our Lady at Sedlec, Czech Republic
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I was born in and live in Kutná Hora, I am married and have three grown-up children. I graduated from the Faculty of Science and Pedagogy of Charles University and I have been in education all my life, I have been an educator, teacher and school principal. From 2018 to 2022, I was elected Deputy Mayor of Kutná Hora, and my responsibilities included education, sports, monument care and other areas. At the same time, since 2018 I have been acting as the site manager of Kutná Hora. History is my favourite hobby, I am fascinated by the history of Kutná Hora and the Bohemian Kingdom.



Wakiya Kayoko

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WAKIYA Kayoko, Master in Arts (Archaeology), is Deputy Director of Programme Operation Department, ACCU Nara. She was Archaeological researcher of municipal government in Fukuoka, Japan from 2002-2009 and implemented various excavation projects and museum education activities. She also worked as a conservator for wooden objects. She joined ACCU Nara in 2012, responsible for international capacity building programmes for the conservation and management of cultural heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region.



Wang Xinyuan

Deputy Director, International Centre on Space Technologies for Natural and Cultural Heritage under the auspices of UNESCO (HIST)
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Wang Xinyuan is a Professor at the Aerospace Information Research Institute, CAS. He is also serving as Deputy Director of International Centre on Space Technologies for Natural and Cultural Heritage (HIST) under the Auspices of UNESCO, Co-Chair of the Heritage Working Group of the Digital Belt and Road Project (DBAR), Executive Member of ICOMOS-China, and Member of the World Heritage Expert Committee of the State Forestry and Grass Administration of China. He is engaged in the research of remote sensing archaeology and digital heritage conservation. He published more than 200 papers, and 6 books.



Wei Qing

Director, ConserVision Consulting, China

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Qing, a Tsinghua University School of Architecture graduate, specializes in World Heritage and cultural heritage conservation management. He contributed to organizing the 4th World Heritage Site Managers Forum and participated in statistical research and action plan preparation for the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting in Asia-Pacific. With over ten completed conservation management plans for various Chinese cultural heritage sites, he facilitated Kulangsu's World Heritage nomination from 2009 to 2017. Currently, Qing provides decision-making consulting and capacity-building support for cultural heritage conservation management.



Yeo Kirk Siang

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Yeo Kirk Siang is the Senior Director of Heritage Policy at the National Heritage Board (NHB). He oversees the work of two divisions (Heritage Policy and Research, and the Preservation of Sites and Monuments), which are collectively involved in the research, regulation, policy and strategic planning concerning Singapore's built heritage, archaeology, and intangible cultural heritage. Kirk Siang is currently a member of the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage Evaluation Body, a board member of the Southeast Asian Regional Centre for Archaeology and Fine Arts (SEAMEO-SPAFA) and is involved in other advisory panels and committees in various government agencies.

26. ORGANIZING COMMITTEES AND PARTNERS

Organizer

George Town World Heritage Incorporated, Malaysia

(Site Manager for Historic City of George Town, part of Historic Cities of the Straits of Malacca, World Heritage since 2008)

Partners

- African Site Managers Network
- African World Heritage Fund
- Association des biens français du patrimoine mondial
- Cultural Heritage Protection Cooperation Office, Asia-Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO (ACCU Nara)
- Beach Street Central Fire Station
- Chinese National Committee for the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS China)
- City Council of Penang Island (MBPP)
- City of Bergen
- ConserVision Consulting Co. Ltd
- CUDHg Idrija (Idrija Mercury Heritage Management Centre).
- Government of Yogyakarta
- Hebron Rehabilitation Committee
- Hock Teik Cheng Sin Temple
- International Alliance for the Protection of Heritage in Conflict Areas (ALIPH)
- International Centre for the Interpretation and Presentation of World Heritage Sites under the auspices of UNESCO (UNESCO-WHIPIC)
- International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM)
- International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS)
- Institute of Disaster Mitigation for Urban Cultural Heritage, Ritsumeikan University (DMUCH)
- International Centre on Space Technologies for Natural and Cultural Heritage under the auspices of UNESCO (HIST)
- International Research Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region under the auspices of UNESCO (IRCI)
- Jabatan Muzium Sarawak, Malaysia
- Leong San Tong Khoo Kongsi
- Malaysian National Commission For Unesco (NATCOM)
- National Heritage Board, Singapore (NHB)
- Nordic World Heritage Association
- Organization of World Heritage Cities (OWHC)
- Qaryah Masjid Melayu Lebuah Aceh
- Penang Global Tourism
- Seh Tek Tong Cheah Kongsi
- Telemark County Council, Norway
- The Sacred Island of Okinoshima and Associated Sites in the Munakata Region
- The Wembley-A St. Giles Hotel, Penang
- TLM Event Sdn Bhd
- Upper Middle Rhine Valley World Heritage Association
- World Heritage Watch

24. ORGANIZING COMMITTEES AND PARTNERS (cont'd)

Steering Committee

Ang Ming Chee
Hege Agathe Bakke-Alisøy
Juliana Strogan
Nadya König-Lehrmann

Symposium Director

Ang Ming Chee

Lead Secretary

Ting Siew Jing

Rapporteur Team

Sarah Court
Ng Xin Yi
Ng Boon Nee

Registration Team

Nur Hidayah Jaafar
Amelina Zainudin (Table Tag/Badge)
Chua Yi Qin (Goodie Bag)
Yeap Lee Hua (T-Shirt)
Razan Rosman
Shirlene Shee Jing Heng
Siti Norhaida Abd Rahman
Tan Khai Li
Zahari Mohd Dahalan

Accommodation

Ng Boon Nee
Muhammad Luqman Mohamad Shukri

Finance and Payments

Amy Goh Seok Hong
Flora Choo Pang Lan

Site Visit

Vick Quah Swee Leang
Muhammad Hijas Sahari
Wan Muhammad Syazwan Mohd Ezani
Chuah Ai Kheng

Transportation

Teng Huey Chuin
Jensen Ng Wei Chuan

Stage and Program

Low Zhi Kai (Stage Manager)
Wind Tan Chun Feng (Stage Crew)
Connie Chan Mern Ye (Presentation Coordinator)
Skye Gan Cheng Huat (IT)
Nicholas Ong Kang Ning (Master of Ceremony)
Isabelle Oon (Master of Ceremony)
Nisa Amalia binti Mukhtar (Welcoming Dinner Programmer)

Action Team

Jack Wong Kee Sheng
Lim Chun Shen
Koay Chin Hao

Publicist

Vick Quah Swee Leang
Connie Chan Mern Ye

Videographer

Q Film Studio

Photographer

Adpix Studio

Booklet Designer

Lau Su Lin

Console Team

MFP Maju Insaf Resources

Wembley Hotel Liaison

Ammar Afandi Abd Mutalib



Team GTWHI at Penang Hill
(Photo Credit: George Town World Heritage Incorporated)

Organizers



Partners





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