



# ASIAN FORGOTTEN HERITAGE:

มรดกวัฒนธรรมเอเชียที่ถูกลืม:  
รู้ รักษา สืบสาน

PERCEPTION,  
PRESERVATION  
AND PRESENTATION

Chiang Mai, Thailand  
October 15 – 16, 2013

ICOMOS THAILAND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 2013



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Historic buildings and places in Asia and elsewhere have been forgotten by a number of reasons. It is the lack of documentation and understanding of the architecture value as in the case of industrial heritage. Architecture and places are forgotten not only because the misconception of what is valuable but also because they are perceived as ordinary as in the case of modern architecture and vernacular architecture. The survival of the heritage is often threatened by rapid economic expansion and social transformation. While important landmarks were saved, the vernacular and less recognized buildings which provide an urban or a rural community its unique character have received little attention. They are in imminent danger of being destroyed and replaced by new development projects.

*ICOMOS Thailand International Conference 2012-2013 on Asian Forgotten Heritage: Perception, Preservation and Presentation* is organized as a platform for scholars, researchers and practitioners in the field of cultural heritage conservation to re-examine the issues regarding our forgotten heritage, the assessment and safeguarding of its values and the management of these irreplaceable resources.

### THEMES

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

#### 1. Documentation and recording of forgotten heritage

Recording and documentation is a fundamental step towards the conservation of disappearing heritage. Systematic recording, historical research and documentation are essential especially when the value of the heritage is not universally recognized. This theme, therefore, explores concept of inventory and various approaches and methodologies in documenting these heritages as well as the utilisation of the recorded materials.

#### 2. Concept and practice of the heritage conservation

The theme critically examines the challenges in striking a balance between the conservation of heritage value and the potential of the forgotten heritage to serve modern demand; the pressing problems and threats to the survival of the heritage; the emergency



strategies and interventions which can protect and ensure its longevity and the presentation of its values, both tangible and intangible, through conservation effort.

### **3. Conservation of historic community**

Many of the important sites of cultural significance in Asia are continuously inhabited. Throughout generations, these communities have evolved and changed. Most are under threat due to rapid expansion of urban development. The theme shall address the challenges and opportunities in conservation of urban and rural communities; the possible approaches to community conservation which encompasses physical elements of the communities as well as the consideration of their socio-economic and intangible cultural aspects; the management system that recognize the need for community involvement; traditional practices and indigenous knowledge in safeguarding historic community.

ASIAN  มรดกวัฒนธรรมเอเชียที่ถูกลืม:  
FORGOTTEN รู้ รักษา สืบสาน  
HERITAGE: PERCEPTION,  
PRESERVATION  
AND PRESENTATION

**KEYNOTE**

## Curriculum Vitae

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### Alice Ru Hwa CHIU

Secretary General, Institute of Historical Resources Management, Taiwan



台灣歷史資源經理學會  
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As a pioneer in heritage conservation, Ms. Chiu started the Yaoshan Cultural Foundation in 1986, and acted as executive director for the following 18 years. As an NGO, she takes credit for the conservation of many heritage and historical buildings, even historical settlements, from excavator backhoe throughout Taiwan; she challenges the policy and regulations by bringing in new visions and concepts from the international community; and she conducts training courses, workshops, seminars to train conservationists besides the institutional education system.

Ms. Chiu has been an advisor to Taipei Mayors since 1996, also serves on various committees and boards for the central and local governments for planning, implementation and assessment on urban, cultural and educational issues. She's lead many researches, enforced various heritage law and urban design regulations as well as organized international symposiums and workshops.

As catalyst for several social movements to promote bottom – up community involvement, she is deeply involved in community empowerment programs in Taiwan and many Asian countries.

Founder of 【AWPNUC】Asia West Pacific Network on Urban Conservation in 1992 and 【IFSAH】International Field School on Asian Heritage in 2002.



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Mar. 1984 Assistant Professor (1984~1988), Associate Professor (1988~1993), and  
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 May 2013 Chair, World Heritage Subcommittee, National Cultural Heritage Committee,  
 May 2015 Cultural Heritage Administration of Korea  
 Sep. 2012 Member of Geo-Park Committee, Ministry of Environment  
 Jan. 2012 President, ICOMOS-Korea(Cooperation)  
 Apr. 2011 a member of World Heritage Committee (Historic Village & Silla Relics  
 divisions) for Gyeong-sang-buk-do(province), Korea  
 Oct. 2010 a member of Operational Advisory Committee for Seoul Museum of History, Korea  
 Mar. 2010 a member of Place Names Committee of Seoul Metropolitan, Korea  
 Jan. 2010 a member of National Place Names Committee, Ministry of Land, Transport and  
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 May 2010 a member of Review Boards for Division of Social Science, Directorate for the  
 Humanities and Social Sciences, National Research Fund of Korea  
 Oct. 2009 a member of World Heritage Working Group, ICOMOS International  
 Apr. 2009 a member of World Heritage Subcommittee, National Cultural Heritage Committee,



**LOCAL HERITAGE – LOCAL AUTHORITY: MANAGING IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE**  
**Sub-theme #3: Conservation of historic community**

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**ABSTRACT** (max. 200 words)

Recently, cultural resources conservation movement in Thailand has been awakened. In consequence of the decentralization and devolution of political and economic power, the authority in managing local resources has been transferred from central government agencies to local governments. The local organizations began to play an important role in managing their own cultural resources.

One serious issue on Cultural Resources Management in Thailand is the lack of a specific protective measure for historic districts. The gap between central-local government and the community is increasing and cultural resources allocation has become a serious problem. Consequently, it causes physical destruction, damage, or alteration of the cultural identity where the sense of place had existed. The paper attempts to reveal what is actually happening on the local heritage and its local authority in managing its own resources. Analyzing model and guideline of protective measures on local community is central to articulate and maintain social-cultural-economic values, in particular a role for local authority on a micro level which seemingly is a place of nowhere. However, several researches have mentioned the conservation and evaluation of several areas, thus this paper does not contain an in-depth survey for each case. Only outstanding cases will be selected and analyzed based on secondary data collection.

**KEYWORDS** (3-5 words)

Heritage Management, Historic District, Public Policy, Local Authority, Public Participation

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\* The paper is the first part of a research series "Bridge the Gap between Local Governments and Communities" which is granted a financial support from SUMITOMO foundation in fiscal year 2012. The paper attempts to reveal the existing condition of public participatory issues in Thailand and to set up a list of critical questions and criteria for further data collection.





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