



## **WORKSHOP PROPOSAL FOR THE 5th ASEM CULTURE MINISTERS MEETING**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Cities, in this ever-complex world, possess an enticement that attracts millions of people, placing tremendous demographic, social and economic pressures and inevitably changing the attitude, view, behavior and perception of the residents on the city and vice versa. These changes have been considered as a threat to the very existence of historic urban landscape which has become an integral part of the history, culture and identity of the community living within them. Historic urban landscape that contains priceless cultural values can raise the communities' awareness of their common history, common destiny and even common future. The growing concerns of losing these historical urban landscapes and their important values as the result of modern urban planning, has prompted many cultural and social observers to take necessary actions in order to save the cultural heritage.

Since 1960's, many efforts have been conducted at local, regional, or international level to protect and to preserve historic urban landscapes. Various conventions, declarations and charters were adopted to increase the protection and preservation of cultural heritages, such as *UNESCO Recommendation concerning the Preservation of Cultural Property endangered by Public and Private Works* (1968); *Declaration of Amsterdam* (Congress on the European Architectural Architecture, 1975); *UNESCO Recommendation concerning the Safeguarding and Contemporary Role of Historic Areas* (1976); and *ICOMOS Charter for the Conservation of Historic Towns and Urban Areas* (Washington Charter, 1987). The world's awareness toward the preservation of the historic urban landscape was further strengthened by the establishment of the Organization of World Heritage Cities in 1993 and the *League of Historical Cities* in 1994. Though such efforts have contributed positively toward the preservation of the historic urban landscape, more measures needs to be instilled. The complexities of the problems encountered in the preservation of the historic urban



landscape have become more complex, while the ways of the society of looking at issues have changed.

This situation has encouraged many to re-examine various ways to observe, approach and the techniques to manage conservation. The experts meeting in Vienna on May 2005 has produced *Vienna Memorandum on World Heritage and Contemporary Architecture – Managing the Historic Urban Landscape* which was adopted by the UNESCO (September, 2005) as *Declaration on the Conservation of Historic Urban Landscape* (Vienna Declaration, 2005). The declaration emphasized that decision makers and the urban development planners should have a complete vision of the future and involve all stakeholders in dialogue before taking decisions. The policies on urban planning and management should consider the conservation of historic urban landscape in order to ensure that the authenticity and integrity of historic urban landscape remain intact. Urban conservation should be conducted by improving the quality of life and by maximizing the potential of these areas. This would be best achieved through the increase of the condition of the areas as a place of living, working, creating and adapting without compromising their important values. UNESCO has urged all countries to seek the possibility to implement the principles of Vienna Declaration in every policy on urban development.

However, the implementation of the principles above is not easy. Every historic urban area and urban landscape has its own characteristics and problems. The initiative to discuss and elaborate the principles of conservation has been conducted through a number of meetings such as in Jerusalem (January, 2006), Saint-Petersburg, Russia (January, 2007), Olinda, Brazil (November, 2007) and Budapest, Hungary (November 2008). The meetings acknowledged that countries with big cities often encounter problems on managing historic urban landscape which contain cultural heritages. In addition, development pressures which are strongly felt by many developing countries have become one of the issues that may endanger the conservation of heritage cities. Thus, conservation experts and observers view “*conserving historic urban environments*



*is currently one of the most universally urgent and challenging heritage conservation issues” (Getty Conservation Institute, 2009).*

Various issues encountered in the effort of conserving historic urban landscape and landscapes are as follows.

- **Demographic Pressure.** The significant increase of population living in the city will increase the need for more settlement areas. This may put more pressure to historic urban landscape, as developers and city planners will view the areas as an obstacle for development, and propose the redevelopment and demolition of many parts of historic cities.
- **Development Pressure.** The pressure of development by sacrificing historic urban landscape is certainly ignoring the important values of the areas. In order to manage the problems of traffic facilities, office building and housing area, commercial areas, as well as amusement and recreation centres and tourism facilities, planners generally accommodate the pressure to replace old buildings in heritage areas. Planners tend to ignore the need to preserve historic urban landscape and to apply the principle of sustainable development in developing heritage areas.
- **Demand of Change.** The pressure to change is encouraged by rapid increase of population and the limited land and the desire to provide appropriate settlement in accordance with economic development. The human settlement strategy which is reflected in the social and political structure will certainly be materialised in accordance with the social structure changing of the society and by maximising the land space and new architecture development. This strategy is a manifestation of a point of view that perceives “modernization,” as a better step rather than applying an “adaptive reuse” of the existing built-in cultural heritage.
- **Negligence and Ignorance.** The situation above is worsened by the lack of policy to facilitate a sustainable use of heritage assets as well the low of appreciation on the potential traditional and cultural heritage in helping to increase social welfare. There is even an assumption of deliberate negligence of the elements of historic urban landscape in urban planning which results in the



tendency to demolish rather than preserving old historical buildings. It is also assumed that many high ranking officers could not fully comprehend the benefits of having Historic Urban Landscape-based resource development strategy. The lack of skills in applying good governance in the management of cultural heritage is perceived as one of the factor to the negligence. While, in reality, some views that the historic urban landscape could be an important resource of community welfare, and could be part of the efforts for poverty alleviation through the development of cultural tourism or any other creative economic activities.

- **Threat of Disaster.** In recent decades, it is realized that disasters, whether it is a man-made disasters (i.e. wars and arms conflicts) or natural disasters (tsunami, earthquake, flood, earth movement, volcano eruption) are far beyond expectation and may cause an adverse impact. Efforts to anticipate disaster, to reduce the resulted impacts, post-crisis management become very important. However, policies, strategies, and guidance in implementing risk management and disaster preparedness have not been developed properly.

It is under these circumstances that Indonesia would like to propose "***Managing Heritage Cities for a Sustainable Future***" as the main theme for the 5<sup>th</sup> ASEM Culture Ministers Meeting, in Yogyakarta, 2012. The meeting will consist of workshops which will discuss various issues related to conservation and management of urban landscape.

This proposal is a reflection of Indonesia's commitment to the conservation and management of historic urban landscape previously proposed at the 4<sup>th</sup> ASEM CMM in Poznan, Poland, 2010. During the meeting Indonesia stated the importance of taking concrete steps by implementing the principles of sustainable management on historic urban landscape and their environment.

The 5<sup>th</sup> ASEM CMMis hoped to provide ASEM Partners with a forum to discuss and design a plan of action directed at (a) identifying and solving various existing



problems and (b) identifying the utilisation of historic urban landscape with sustainable management. The Meeting will be divided into 4 (four) workshops:

- **Strengthening Good Governance of Heritage Cities**
- **Historic Urban landscapes: Responding to the Challenges and Disasters (Indonesia)**
- **Heritage Cities as Generators of Creative Economy (Indonesia)**
- **Promoting Heritage Cities for Building Cross-cultural Understanding**

This workshop is also expected to contribute ideas on concrete steps and bring together experts from different disciplines to discuss and design relevant agenda to be implemented in improving the performance of "sustainable management of historic urban landscapes" today and in future times.

Historic urban landscape can be interpreted as follows:

- elements of cities which have historical values (vernacular architecture and groups of old buildings)
- urban and sub-urban areas, as well as the associated rural and natural environment
- geomorphology which is part of the urban concerned (cultural landscape) and more recently developed cities of the which have significant cultural, historical, and/ or social values
- intangible aspects of the historic urban landscape.

## **THE WORKSHOPS**

### **I. Workshop : Strengthening Good Governance of Heritage Cities**

Successful conservation of heritage cities can only be attained through good governance-based management. However, the concept and implementation of such good governance-based management of heritage cities is not widely comprehended. The implementation of the principles of good governance in the



management of heritage cities are necessary, especially in the planning process and setting up partnership between public, government, and private sectors.

This workshop is aimed to explore and discuss the implementation of the principles of good-governance in managing heritage cities, establishing synergetic networking among stakeholders to support sustainable conservation of heritage cities, and formulation and implementation of heritage city management regulations. Participants are expected to share experiences and best practises on how urban planning is used as a powerful instrument for managing sustainable heritage cities, and how ASEM state members and societies can work together to support capacity building in strengthening good governance in heritage cities management.

**Projected Output :** Documentation of best practices in the implementation of principles of good-governance, multilateral capacity building programmes for planners, conservationists, and government officials on good governance especially in the area of heritage cities management

## **II. Workshop : Conserving Historic Urban landscapes in Response to the Challenges and Disasters (Indonesia)**

Historic urban area and its surrounding environment are indeed a cultural landscape which need to be conserved sustainably. However, there has been various perspectives on how to conserve the authenticity and integrity of the cultural landscape. This stems from the different standpoints among the societies in the values of cultural landscape that make conservation of cultural landscapes problematic.

Major challenges in faced in conserving cultural landscape includes the development of new constructions to accomodate sociocultural and economic changes as well as pressures from demographic development, and disasters, both natural disaster (earthquakes, landslides, tsunami, tornados, volcano eruption) as well as human-induced disaster (war, ethnic or religious conflicts). In



addition, historic urban landscape are often threatened by person or group of people (such as property speculators, construction enterprises, and even government officials), who repudiate conservation unless it benefits them. They generally prefer to demolish and construct new buildings rather than conserving historic urban landscape.

This workshop may address some crucial problems which includes how the tangible and intangible values of historic urban landscapes should be comprehensively and cohesively conserved, how to measure and technically conserve the authenticity and integrity of a historic urban landscape, and how to establish integrated policy and planning of a vast historic urban landscape. Regarding the aspects of disaster, this workshop will discuss and share experiences in the identification of disaster risk, how to prepare disaster-risk management at cultural landscape level, and heritage emergency response and recovery.

**Projected output** : Guidelines for assessing and monitoring the authenticity and integrity of cultural landscape. Documentation of best practices in sustainable management of cultural landscape. Guidelines on the Risk and Disaster Management of Historic Urban Landscape. Promoting and strengthening in sharing best practices in sustainable management of cultural landscape. Capacity building on conservation management of cultural landscape.

### **III. Workshop : Heritage Cities as Generators of Creative Economy (Indonesia)**

One of the important measures in conserving the value of heritage cities is to enhance the quality of the community that lives within. This implies that sustainable management of heritage cities should encompass both technical-physical approaches as well as socio-cultural approaches based on in-depth community studies. Rehabilitation and new development within historic urban



landscape should be based on the values and potentials of the historic areas in order to improve the community's life. Revitalization of historic urban landscape should be aimed at increasing the people's welfare. This can be accomplished if the management of historic urban landscape or heritage cities is also aimed at generating added-values, both socio-cultural and economical, without forfeiting its original values. In some countries, historic urban landscape have been developed as a source for creative economy (sometimes called as "creative city") or cultural-tourism which have been proved to bring added benefits to the society at large. However, most city governments are not aware of this potentials and are reluctant to invest in such a manner. Hence, this workshop is addressed to share good practices in developing heritage cities to create added-values for heritage cities and generate higher incomes for the community lives in the areas.

This workshop is aimed to discuss on how historic urban landscape can be conserved and developed to enhance the quality of life of the society and to generate higher income for the community, how young generation (critical generation) as agent of change can be involved in reinventing and developing heritage cities to become creative cities, how to promote economic investment in heritage cities without sacrificing the cultural and historical values, how the community can be involved and benefit from the management of heritage cities, how ASEM Partners can work together and create networking to facilitate share of knowledge and skills in developing creative economy in the framework the sustainable heritage city management.

**Projected output :**

- To establish a network and to develop communication by sharing knowledge and experience on the issue of revitalization of heritage urban area through the possibility of generating creative economy.
- To selectively map local creative small and medium enterprises in art, design, and lifestyles, that can be inserted to give a new lease of life in revitalizing a heritage city.



- To develop an urban planning strategy and guidelines in improving the quality of life in heritage urban area through the development of infrastructure and accessibility for creative economy to flourish.

#### **IV. Workshop : Promoting Heritage Cities for Building Cross Cultural Understanding**

Heritage City is created over generations. Each generations contributes to the shaping of the city and adds tangible and intangible aspects that makes each heritage city unique. In addition, a heritage city is generally a place of interactions between communities with diverse cultural backgrounds which results in a colourful heritage city. As vestiges of various cultural interactions in the past and present, heritage cities are valuable record of cultural history that document processes and events which are important to learn. On the other hand, as a result of colonialism and migrations in the past, shared tradition and cultures often raise problems among recently emerging nations. Therefore, thorough studies on heritage cities may contribute significantly to cross cultural understanding.

The main focus of this workshop is to explore the potentials of heritage city studies and management to enhance mutual and cross cultural understanding among the nations, especially those who shared common history.

**Projected output** : Documentation of past and on-going studies or researches on heritage cities as sources for cultural interactions and cross cultural understandings. Exchange programmes, bilaterally or multilaterally, in promoting heritage cities for building cross cultural understandings. Establishment of a forum for scholars from ASEM countries to facilitate the study and management of heritage cities in order to enhance cross cultural understandings.