



# In-heritance

for the Future of Our Cities

Vol. No. 1 Issue No. 1 December 2008



## Director's Message

**Dear Friends,**

It gives me great pleasure to launch the first issue of In-heritance, the Indian Heritage Cities Network Newsletter. As you may recall, the Indian Heritage Cities Network was founded in September 2006 at an international conference held in Jaipur. Established with the endorsement of the Ministry of Urban Development, Government of India, the Network now comprises twenty Indian member cities, seven French city and regional partners, several universities and institutional members and a number of NGO partners, with many more Indian and European cities, regions and universities, expressing interest in joining us. The Network provides a platform for sharing experience and expertise for the sustainable socio-economic and cultural development of India's historic cities.

Through this newsletter our aim is to exchange information, present best practices, highlight events, give different perspectives in addressing the challenges related to the preservation, management and sustainable use of urban heritage in India while supporting the legitimate quest by India's historic cities to be equipped with contemporary services. It aims to serve as a platform where the elected officials, city managers, technical experts and the citizens can think together of ways to "humanize the city" in the face of rapid changes in India's urban environment.

In-heritance will reflect the activities and efforts of the Indian Heritage Cities Network, those of its secretariat but especially of the IHCN members to generate awareness by highlighting the heritage-based, sustainable urban development initiatives undertaken by the urban authorities, institutions, NGOs and individuals. For future issues of this newsletter, we are counting on your contributions. We would like you to tell us about the challenges being faced by your city in protecting and enhancing its urban heritage and in improving the quality of life in the historic centres of your cities, your activities and achievements as well as plans for the future.

In-heritance is a newsletter *by* and *for* our members and available to anyone interested in the subject. It will appear 4 times per year and will be published in print, as well as on our web-page [www.ihcn.in](http://www.ihcn.in).

Let me take the opportunity in this first In-heritance newsletter, to thank all our members, technical partners, consultants and friends for their great interest and most generous support of the Indian Heritage Cities Network during its first two years of operation. It was only with and because of you that we were able to create a number of promising programmes and activities. This first newsletter shall therefore also be a celebration of your contributions. My colleagues at UNESCO join me in conveying to you, our gratitude and express our confidence in the promising future of the path we have jointly embarked upon.

With the establishment of the IHCN as a society under Indian law, and becoming an independent legal entity, UNESCO looks forward to the growth of IHCN into a nation-wide platform for solution exchange, a clearing house of information and best practices, and focal point for international cooperation between cities and regions throughout the world committed to making heritage and creativity, the backbone of people-centred cities.

I am happy and proud to present the first edition of In-heritance. I look forward to your comments and future contributions to make this newsletter our joint endeavour.

Minja Yang  
Director and UNESCO Representative

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# News from the Secretariat

## Change of Name

The Network of Indian Cities of Living Heritage has been renamed as Indian Heritage Cities Network, or in brief, IHCN.

The new, shorter name seems easier to remember and use. The 'Living' part of our heritage, the crafts, dances, festivals and other living expressions of people's culture, no longer explicitly mentioned in the Network's name, nevertheless still remain a key concern to IHCN and its activities.

## We launch our own Website!

It is a key mandate of the Indian Heritage Cities Network to share with you, our members, information, knowledge and news of initiatives, events and activities relevant to the heritage-based development of Indian cities and to give you a platform to exchange ideas, disseminate the results of your achievements, discuss your challenges and seek fellow members' advice.

For this purpose, we are happy to present to you our newly developed website to be found under: [www.heritagecitiesindia.in](http://www.heritagecitiesindia.in) and [www.ihcn.in](http://www.ihcn.in).

The website will from now on be one of our main tools to communicate with you, our members and shall also

become the main platform of exchange between all of you, the members of the Network. On the website you will find all the information about the Network's activities and events, detailed profiles of all member cities, institutions and NGO's, links to relevant government programmes, a wealth of information on every aspect of heritage-based development, international conferences and much more. The website will provide you with an online discussion forum to address questions on heritage conservation, development and current issues of urban planning.

Please log on! Send your comments! Send information about your activities, challenges, achievements, and start using this platform for the benefit of your city!

WEBSITE

## In-sight

The IHCN was founded two years ago as a UNESCO programme with the endorsement of the Ministry of Urban Development, Government of India. The first two years of operation were financed under the UNESCO regular budget as well as the France-UNESCO Cooperation Agreement for Heritage, which gave substantial financial support to the running of the IHCN Secretariat and its programmes. A few sponsors, such as DFID, the Department for International Development of the Government of the United Kingdom, and *Maison des Indes*, a Paris based travel agency, have also contributed to the Network's programmes. Last but not least, the Network could not have operated without the substantial contribution of experts from India and abroad who offered IHCN their expertise free of charge.

We are currently in the process of establishing a more independent, institutional base for the IHCN operations and management. This includes raising membership fees and

finding sponsors, in order to run the Secretariat independently from UNESCO's regular budget, and to develop a more solid financial base for our programmes and the technical assistance provided to our member cities. It also includes the foundation of a society under Indian law, with a governing council, and an advisory panel. The details of this development will be shared with you at the IHCN Biennial Conference to be held in Hyderabad from 18 – 20 December 2008 (see also Upcoming Events).

The membership base of the IHCN has been growing substantially in recent months. The latest city members to join the Network are Indore, Jabalpur, Mysore and Chamba, while the process of signing up is underway for Hyderabad, Junagarh and Kurukshetra. In addition to our French partners, Spanish cities and regions have also expressed interest in supporting the IHCN.

Not only have important heritage cities signed up to the Network's goals, but also major Indian urban institutions have decided to make heritage-based development part of their mandate and programmes and have thus joined the IHCN. This includes, to name just a few, the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA); the Centre for Environmental Planning and Technology (CEPT); the Association of Municipalities and Development Authorities (AMDA); and the All India Institute of Local Self Governance (AIIISG). Others, such as HUDCO, the India Habitat Centre, and the ASCI have also expressed their interest in working with us for our member cities. The processing of membership for NGOs and international partners is also ongoing.

For the list of members please refer to the last page of this newsletter.

IHCN



# Upcoming Events

## IHCN Second Biennial Conference

All members of the IHCN are cordially invited to participate in the Second Biennial Conference to be held in Hyderabad, from 18 – 20 December 2008. The conference will be divided into two main parts:

1) Cities' Workshop to present the activities of the IHCN and our members, partnerships, projects, etc. and to develop jointly the strategy for the 2009/10 programme of the IHCN

2) Seminar on 'Integrating Heritage

in Urban Planning Initiatives in India' to promote the use of planning tools for heritage protection, and introduce government schemes, UNESCO programmes, expert views and key programmes in the cities.

The conference is being jointly organized by UNESCO, the Government of Andhra Pradesh through the Andhra Pradesh Tourism Corporation and the Department of Archaeology and Museums. We expect participants from national, state and local government, mayors and executives

of urban local bodies; technical staff from member cities; institutional and university partners, as well as national and international experts on heritage conservation and urban development.

The tentative programme and participation form can be received from the IHCN Secretariat.

CONFERENCE

# Review of Events

## Fourth World Urban Forum: Nanjing, China

UNESCO and UN-HABITAT jointly organized the Fourth World Urban Forum (WUF4). This mega event on *Harmonious Urbanization: The Challenge of Balanced Territorial Development* was hosted by the Government of China and held in the ancient city of Nanjing from 3 - 7 November 2008. UNESCO, New Delhi was supporting two training programmes: *Approaching Urban Water Management: Addressing the Governance Challenge* (International Hydrology Programme); and *How Local Authorities Can Enhance a Social and a Human Approach to Urban Revitalization in Historic Districts* (Social and Human Science Sector). A representative of IHCN travelled to Nanjing and will be sharing the results of this event with you.

The WUF4 was attended by a wide range of partners, from non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations, urban professionals and academics to governments, local authorities and national and international

associations of local governments. It provided a common platform to discuss urban issues in formal and informal ways and come up with action-oriented proposals to create sustainable cities. The World Urban Forum was established by the United Nations to examine one of the most pressing issues facing the world today: rapid urbanization and its impact on communities, cities, economies and policies. For details please see: [www.unhabitat.org/categories](http://www.unhabitat.org/categories).

## Chandigarh: 'Management of Historic Urban Landscapes of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century'

On 18-21 December 2007 the Chandigarh Tourism Department in cooperation with the Chandigarh City Administration of Chandigarh, the Archaeological Survey of India, Chandigarh School of Architecture as well as UNESCO and IHCN organized a workshop on 'Management of Historic Urban Landscapes of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century'. The workshop presented four case studies of 20<sup>th</sup> century cities

from across the world : Tel Aviv (Israel), Brasilia (Brazil), Le Havre (France) and Chandigarh (India), all of which bear the marvellous architectural imprints of Le Corbusier, one of the greatest architects of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The technical sessions included discussions on issues of urban heritage, methods for conservation of city heritage and the process for becoming a World Heritage City. The workshop concluded with the Chandigarh City Administration signing the charter of the IHCN membership.

CONFERENCE

CONFERENCE



# Technical Programmes

## Summary of Activities

During the first two years of its existence, the IHCN has undertaken a number of missions to its member cities, developed programmes and sent experts to assist the cities in addressing various aspects of their heritage-based development. We have held meetings with government officials at centre, state and district levels to develop support for our member cities and UNESCO has extended its international network to find city, regional and institutional partners to support our IHCN programmes and the member cities.

Initiatives were undertaken in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Jammu and Kashmir, Chandigarh and Uttar Pradesh. The activities described on the next pages are not exhaustive, but give an idea of the type of activities that have taken place and the resulting publications. For more information on these and further activities please consult the Newsletter on our webpage [www.ihcn.in](http://www.ihcn.in) on a regular basis.

## JNNURM Toolkit Review

UNESCO and the IHCN have developed a project with the Ministry of Urban Development to review the existing City Development Plan (CDP) toolkits and propose how to best adapt them to the heritage context. A second part of the project will consist in developing a toolkit for heritage Detailed Project Reports (DPR). Finally, four case studies of member cities will serve to inform the practicalities of these toolkits. The project will end with a consultative workshop in spring 2009.

## Udaipur CDP Review & Recommendations

A first pilot study of a CDP (City Development Plan) review was carried

out in Udaipur last year. Udaipur CDP Review & Recommendations is the outcome of a cooperation agreement between the Udaipur Municipal Council, the Maharana of Mewar Charitable Foundation and UNESCO for the development of a sustainable agenda to preserve the living heritage of Udaipur. The report has been prepared by Dr Shikha Jain of DRONAH, consulting expert for UNESCO and Mr Etienne Bergdolt, UNESCO expert and conservation architect / planner from the Government of France in close collaboration with the UNESCO New Delhi Office.

The report gives a critical view of the CDP while highlighting a strategy for the city of Udaipur and its urban development.

## Traditional Knowledge and Green Housing

UNESCO and the German Technical Cooperation GTZ have launched a joint project on how to merge the traditional building techniques and modern technological innovation for the development of environmentally and culturally sustainable, "green" low-cost housing in rural and urban India. The project is to be carried out in three phases, starting with a background study on existing research and experience and the selection of a few case studies. Phase Two will consist of the development of pilot 'green' housing schemes, some of which shall be executed in Phase Three.

## Cooperation with DFID

It is a great pleasure to announce the newly formed collaboration with DFID and the Government of Madhya Pradesh. DFID has broadened its programme activities to incorporate urban heritage enhancement in its

five Madhya Pradesh focus cities: Bhopal, Gwalior, Indore, Jabalpur and Ujjain; all of which are members of our Indian Heritage Cities Network. The first tangible outcome of our collaboration was DFID and the Government of Madhya Pradesh's generous support which enabled five Mayors (including Maheswar) and two Municipal Commissioners to participate in the IHCN study tour to France in September 2008.

## Master Plans and Heritage

Having supported as a pilot project, since the year 2000, the elaboration of an Integrated Management Plan of the Hampi World Heritage Site in Karnataka, and the incorporation of the strategy into a "heritage-friendly" Master Plan of Hampi World Heritage Site, UNESCO is currently assisting the municipal authorities of Kochi in integrating heritage as a major element in the Regional Development Plan. A team of Indian and international experts, financed by a generous contribution to UNESCO by the Netherlands Government, a conservation framework will be developed, in coordination with the local planning authority and the heritage cell. Initial results will be presented at the Second Biennial Conference in Hyderabad on 20 December 2008.

## Heritage Tourism

In support of the Indian Government's efforts to link tourism with local empowerment, UNESCO is working on several programmes and technical missions. The key programme, promoting the concept of the Indian Heritage Passport Programme, was launched in September 2006, with the endorsement of the Union Ministry of Tourism and Culture.

The Heritage Passport Programme

COOPERATION

PLANNING

IHCN

GREEN HOUSING

is a means to market quality tourism destinations, facilities and initiatives which encourage the holistic protection and promotion of local cultural and natural heritage, the education of travellers and concern for the local environment and generation of local employment. Only those tourism destinations and facilities complying with some of the above mentioned criteria will be promoted under the Heritage Passport Label. The states participating in the pilot phase and itineraries under development include : Madhya Pradesh - Maheshwari ; Karnataka - Routes of Hoysala Kings, Hassan districts ; Rajasthan : Shekawati ; Tamil Nadu - Heritage of Chettinad and finally West Bengal, which has yet to determine a pilot itinerary.

A second initiative to create good practices in heritage-based, sustainable tourism is the Government of Karnataka's programme for a tourism strategy for the Hampi World Heritage Site. An international call for tender resulted in the selection of a team of Indian and Italian experts, who will start their work on the tourism strategy shortly. An expert panel is monitoring the progress of the strategy. The team will set up an office on site and will closely work with the Hampi World Heritage Area Management Authority (HWHAMA), and the local

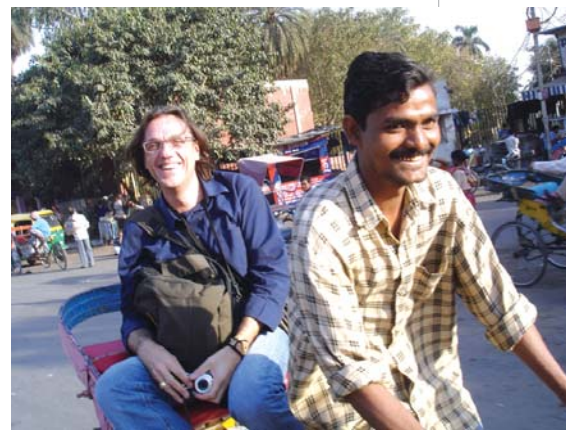
Panchayat. For more information please contact the Managing Director, Karnataka Tourism at Bangalore.

The Director of UNESCO New Delhi Office is also serving as the Chair of the Heritage Core Group of the Tourism Committee of the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII), enabling UNESCO to feed into the IHCN, the tourism industries concern over heritage enhancement.

And finally, in order to discuss all existing initiatives and to bring the experience gained and lessons learned to a higher level and share the best practices with the global tourism constituency, UNESCO (New Delhi Office and the World Heritage Centre) will be organizing an International Experts Meeting on World Heritage and Sustainable Tourism in March 2009 in India. This meeting aims to develop practical methodologies in implementing international chartres and standards on sustainable tourism by moving theory into practice. UNESCO is currently looking for a venue in a cultural or ecological tourism destination in India and a generous co-financing partner to host some 30 international and national experts. More details will be shared with you on [www.ihcn.in](http://www.ihcn.in).



*Panchayat consultation for the Hampi World Heritage Master Plan*



HERITAGE TOURISM

CAPACITY BUILDING

## Education and Capacity Building

### Heritage Documentation

IHCN and UNESCO have embarked on a collaboration with the Council of Architects, CoA and its academic unit, the National Institute for Advanced Studies in Architecture (NIASA). The aim of the collaboration is the development of courses in heritage related areas for the Faculty of Architecture. The first course is currently being developed under the

guidance of a competent expert team under the leadership of the School of Architecture at CEPT, which will begin with a focus on the documentation of architectural structures.

### IHCN Capacity Building Programme 2009

A comprehensive programme for capacity building of urban local

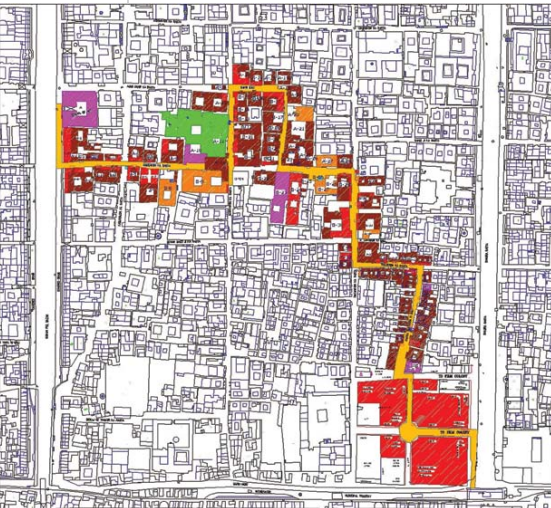
bodies is currently being developed by IHCN, UNESCO, and our partner institutions. A first draft will be presented at the Second Biennial Conference in Hyderabad on 18 December, adapted and nourished by the needs of our member cities. The final programme will be published in January 2009 on [www.ihcn.in](http://www.ihcn.in).

# City Reports

## Jaipur: Heritage Walk

The Jaipur Heritage Walk was launched in 2001 and is currently under revision and extension. The heritage walk has been conceptualised to ensure that conservation and restoration can happen at a pace set by the local inhabitants. The Jaipur Virasat Foundation (JVF) in partnership with DRONAH (Development & Research Organization for Nature, Arts & Heritage) developed the walk for the Jaipur Municipal Corporation.

This heritage walk goes through the inner lanes of the Chowkri Modikhana of the walled city area and will be conducted daily by local residents. A number of ancillary



Mapping of destinations in the Heritage Walk



Jaipur Heritage Walk : Chowkri Modikhana Local Metal crafts (*thatera*) are still practiced in Chowkri Modikhana

projects are envisaged to support economic regeneration of the area. These are a crafts museum for the local craftsmen (*thateras*), local cafes, bed and bath facilities, a heritage house, a solid waste project with community participation as well as privately initiated interventions such as a bed & bath cluster, a cafe and a house of heritage.

The Chowkri Modikhana Heritage Walk Exhibition held during the Rajasthan Festival from 25<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> March 2008 showcased various conceptual proposals and design solutions generated in collaboration with international institutions including the Urban Planning Department of the Oxford Brookes University, UK and inputs from the local residents. Ms. Minja Yang, Director and Representative, UNESCO India Office and Dr. Fekhri Hassan, Petrie Professor of Archaeology at University College, London were impressed with the documentation when visiting the exhibition in March 2008. They suggested that a long term calendar of cultural activities and a programme for sustained participation should be outlined.

## Srinagar: Shree Pratap Singh Museum

The Shree Pratap Singh Museum in Srinagar houses a very precious and rare collection of decorative arts, crafts, papier mache, artefacts, metal ware, textiles and manuscripts. Its priceless collection has been acquired over more than a century. Unfortunately bad storage, non-existent conservation practices, lack of care, possible damage due to faulty electrical wiring, poor display and exposure to dirt and dust pose a grave threat to the collection. Recognizing the importance of this museum and its relevance to Kashmiri

history and culture, INTACH, Jammu and Kashmir Chapter, with the support of UNESCO, critically examined the present conditions and the scope for upgrading facilities at site. The project is envisaged to initiate corrective action that would help conserve the Shree Pratap Singh Museum, making it a centre of knowledge, education and above all, representative of the glorious past of Kashmir. Jammu and Kashmir State Government and UNESCO have submitted the project proposal to the Union Ministry of Culture and Tourism for financial support.

## Ahmedabad: Legislation and Activities

Concerned with the decay and deterioration of its city's heritage, Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) in association with Conservation and Research of Urban Traditional Architecture (CRUTA) Foundation set up a heritage cell within the municipal corporation. Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation is the first local self-government body in India which has taken the initiative to devise a heritage programme and implement a comprehensive plan for the conservation and revitalization of the old city.

Over 15,000 heritage properties of exceptional value have been identified and listed. Repair and restoration of heritage structures have been carried out including those of privately owned residential buildings. The specially designed heritage walk through the historic core of the old city has helped to strengthen pride and sense of belonging amongst the local communities. A ten-year collaboration with the French Government and the AMC facilitated the listing of the heritage properties and in producing the vital document

MUSEUM

AWARENESS



*Akha Bhagat Chowk after restoration*

'Recommendations for the Conservation and Revitalization of the Walled City of Ahmedabad'.

A set of heritage regulations were framed to be incorporated and sanctioned under the Gujarat Town Planning and Urban Development Act 1976, by adapting the General Development Control Regulations for the institutional involvement (confirmatory gazette notification in PART-IV –B of the Gujarat Government Gazette, extraordinary, dated September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2007). The said heritage regulations are applicable within the jurisdiction of Ahmedabad Urban Development Area containing all the listed heritage buildings, precincts and natural features.

The process of verifying the listing of heritage properties in order to be notified and the appointment of a heritage committee is now being pursued. Already the heritage regulations in place and preservation and up-gradation programmes are showing tangible results and we are very optimistic about the future of the past in Ahmedabad.

The following heritage conservation activities have been carried out in Ahmedabad :

- Restoration of the collapsed 15<sup>th</sup> century city wall in Khanpur by the Heritage Department of Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation.
- Restoration of *Chabutaras* (Bird

Feeder structures built in wood and stone with intricate carving and art work) at Pakhali-ni-pole and Khara Kuvani Pole.

- Upgrading of the *chowk* (square) around the memorial of poet seer Akha Bhagat with a platform and ancient well, by providing stone paving and lighting.

### Bhopal: Heritage Walks

The Living Heritage Alliance along with Education Edge has since November 2007, been organizing heritage walks for the school children in Bhopal. The inaugural walk was attended by 200 students accompanied by their teachers. Part 1 of the heritage walk began at the 11<sup>th</sup> century dam built by King Bhoj and proceeded into the 19<sup>th</sup> century Royal Enclave and onto the historic four square *chowk* of the city. It then passed through some typical residential and commercial areas with remarkable architectural

features leading up to the centre of the square at Jama Masjid and then finally moved outside to reach the periphery of the *chowk*. A quiz with attractive prizes at the end of each part of the walk added to the students' enjoyment of the day. Following the success of heritage walks, many more schools are now registering for them, and the concept seems to be catching on well in becoming a regular activity.

HERITAGE WALK

### Jodhpur: Festival

Jodhpur RIFF (Rajasthan International Folk Festival) is a partnership project involving the Mehrangarh Museum Trust (MMT) and Jaipur Virasat Foundation (JVF), both of which promote a wider rural development agenda through heritage preservation and cultural celebration.

The Jodhpur RIFF, supported by UNESCO as a peoples' platform for creativity, highlights the region's important cultural assets – the singers, dancers, instrumentalists and storytellers of more than 15 Rajasthani folk communities, many unknown to the outside world. Joining them will be performing artists of national and international standing, making the Jodhpur RIFF a unique combination of local and world music. The Jodhpur RIFF was inaugurated last year in October and received international critical acclaim for being one of the best events in the world music calendar. The festival



*Heritage Walk: Bhopal School children participating in the Heritage Walk*

is being conceived as an annual event that will take place every year at the time of *Sharad Poornima* (the brightest night of the full moon in the Vedic calendar) at Jodhpur.

Following the tragic event which occurred at Jodhpur's Chamunda Devi temple on 30 September 2008 (which marked the beginning of the nine day festival of Navratri), the Jodhpur RIFF was cancelled as a sign of respect for the pilgrims who lost their lives or were injured in the stampede, their families and the citizens of Jodhpur city. The next festival will be taking place early next year in 2009. Please see the website for further information ([www.jodhpurfolkfestival.org](http://www.jodhpurfolkfestival.org)). A tour to France of a selected group of rural musicians promoted by Jodhpur RIFF is under discussions between UNESCO and the Association of Centres for Cultural Encounter, a federation of over 40 centres around the world with the majority being in France.

### Revive Chettinad Heritage Campaign

As a result of an initiative by Arche-S (Architecture and Heritage Safeguard) and the recently revived Chettinad Society, the state and district authorities have joined hands with UNESCO to create a pilot programme for the preservation of the Chettinad heritage region. The programme started in 2007 with an international workshop where an action plan was drawn up. A partnership between Anna University, Chennai and the national conservation university of France, *Ecole de Chaillot* in Paris, is supporting the initiative through student workshops documenting buildings and areas of Chettinad.

A key event was the seminar on "Planning and Management of Built Heritage in Chettinad" held from 21 to 23 January 2008 in Chennai, jointly organized by the above mentioned partners, for administrators and



*Heritage House, Chettinad*

technical staff, planners, architects and other professionals active in the field of the planning, protection, conservation and management of built heritage in India. The awareness raising seminar was followed by a 10-day international student workshop to survey and develop planning ideas for two villages in Chettinad.

The current activities for Chettinad focus on the development of a Chettinad Heritage House, its restoration and the establishment of a team of advisors working under the DC Sivaganga, supporting the region in its conservation efforts. A "decentralized cooperation" programme between the State of Tamil Nadu and the Region Centre in France, supported by the French Ministry of External Affairs and the Ministry of Culture will further support the Revive Chettinad Heritage Campaign.

### Gwalior: Indo-French Workshop

An Indo-French workshop to document and analyse the living architectural heritage of Gwalior was organized from 11 to 23 February 2008 at Gwalior. The event was organized by the Living Heritage Alliance in partnership with the Schools of Architecture, Paris-Belleville, Strasbourg and Nagpur along with the support of the Gwalior

Municipal Corporation, Gwalior Administration and Madhya Pradesh Tourism. The workshop aimed at reviving the embedded wisdom of the built and landscape heritage of Gwalior and integrating this with the city's natural and built heritage for its future development works. Buildings and places of heritage value were documented by way of measured drawings and analysis at the workshop and the findings were later showcased at an exhibition in KalaVithika, Gwalior on 22 February 2008). The workshop was formally opened by the Honourable Mrs. Yashodhara Raje Scindia, the Minister for Sports, Tourism and Youth Welfare, Madhya Pradesh Government.

### Maheshwar: Partnerships Meeting

Maheshwar Partnerships is a venture of the Living Heritage Alliance,



*Participants at the Indo French Gwalior Exhibition*

a Bhopal-based association which was formed with the objective of developing the City of Maheshwar as



*Maheshwar Partnership Meeting, 15 Dec. 2007*

an ideal city which integrates its urban landscape with its architectural heritage. Two major achievements of the partnership have been the

ongoing Bazaar Square Project and the vehicular restrictions on the ghats.

Ms Minja Yang, Director and UNESCO Representative addressed the meeting of the Maheshwar Partnerships held at Maheshwar on 15 Dec. 2007. The meeting focussed on the involvement of stakeholders and locals in the city's heritage issues. It was attended by all the members of the Maheshwar Partnerships: Mr. Richard Holkar of the Holkar Dynasty of the erstwhile Indore State; Mr. Bakshiram Yadav, Panchayat President of Maheshwar town; Mr. Rajendra Jain, President of the Business Community; Mr Nitin Raje and Ms Savita Raje, architects from Living Heritage Alliance. Ms Yang also briefed the Maheshwar Partnerships about

the nature and activities of the UNESCO-led Indian Heritage Cities Network which led to a formal



*Maheshwar Partnership event-Ms Yang with children, during the Heritage Walk using a traditional weight lifting device*

declaration by Maheshwar to join IHCN.

## Awards

### Student Award for Documentation

A collaboration with the National Association of Students of Architecture, NASA was started in 2007.

Every year, thousands of students study historic buildings, precincts and landscapes and document them for a competition called the *Louis Kahn Trophy*. The results are presented at NASA's Annual Convention where a jury selects the best entries. Many of the studies are of great quality and could, if shared, enhance knowledge and create a basis for heritage related projects and planning for the cities and their administrative organizations.

UNESCO, at the invitation of NASA, has taken on the sponsorship of the Louis Kahn Trophy with three main goals: a) To improve among students and faculty, the understanding of documentation as an important tool for historic research, heritage conservation and adaptive reuse of historic buildings and precincts; b) to make the entries for the trophy more relevant to

research, conservation and the building process; and c) to select the best entries for the trophy and publish them on the IHCN webpage. Our member cities can then contact the authors, negotiate the use of the valuable documentation data and even engage students for further documentation work.

DOCUMENTATION

### UNESCO Heritage Award for Leh, Pondicherry and Goa

The UNESCO Asia Pacific Heritage Awards of Excellence in 2006, has been won by the Municipality of Leh and the Tibet Heritage Fund for the restoration of a street in the old town of Leh, Ladakh. In 2007 the prestigious prize went to Ladakh again, this time for conservation of the Maitreya Temples in Basgo by the Basgo Welfare Committee.

In 2008, the UNESCO Asia Pacific Heritage Award was received by Pondicherry for the restoration of Vysial Street. The restoration project was achieved by the municipal government, conservation experts

and most importantly, local residents in cooperation with one another. An honourable mention was made for the restoration of the Archepiscopal Palace in Goa and the Craigie Burn Bungalow in Matheran.

The UNESCO Asia-Pacific Heritage Awards for Culture Heritage Conservation, managed by UNESCO Regional Office for Asia-Pacific based in Bangkok was established to recognize the achievement of individuals and organizations, within the private sector and public-private initiatives, in successfully restoring structures of heritage value in the region.



*Maitreya Temple, Ladakh*

# International Exchange & Partnership

## Indian Mayors' Study Tour to France

A study tour to France for a delegation of 20 Indian officials comprising 14 Mayors and their senior administrators from member cities of the Indian Heritage Cities Network, took place from 26 September until 3 October 2008. The delegation was led by Ms Minja Yang, Director UNESCO New Delhi, accompanied by a team of Indian experts on urban heritage. The event



*INTACH Varanasi Students Exchange Programme; Opening of the Maison du fleuve Rhone : Mr. Jacky Vieux, Director MDFR, Mr. Navneet Raman Convenor, INTACH Varanasi Chapter, Mrs. Carine Vieux, Mr. A. Micoud, President MDFR*

was jointly organized by IHCN and our French partner organization, the Association Nationale des Villes et Pays d'Art et d'Histoire (ANVPAH), supported by the Government of France, the Department for International Development of the UK Government (DFID), UNESCO, and a number of French local authorities. The participants travelled from Paris to the historic cities of Rennes, Tours, La Rochelle, and Bordeaux, where they had the opportunity to discuss and share information about the emerging challenges of Indian urbanization with their French counterparts. The study tour focussed on questions of how to link heritage preservation to urban development and make heritage a driving force for the economic and social improvement of a city or town. The study tour also

**STUDY TOUR**

facilitated city-to-city partnership and bilateral cooperation between Indian and French cities and regions.

## Arles (France): International Seminar on Valorisation of Heritage in Mediterranean Cities

Dr Savita Raje, President of Living Heritage Alliance (Bhopal) and Ms Minja Yang, Director of the UNESCO New Delhi Office were invited to this international city managers' seminar held on 18-19 September 2008 in Arles to make a presentation of the challenges faced by India's many heritage cities and to present the Indian Heritage Cities Network (IHCN). Organized by AVEC, the Alliance of European Cultural Cities, an association of municipal authorities and experts, currently presided by the Vice Mayor of Arles, Mr Christian Mourisad, the occasion gave the IHCN representatives an excellent opportunity to understand how the cities of the Mediterranean region including many in the developing world are coping with growing need for housing and the problems of car-jammed cities. Several historic cities of Morocco and Algeria expressed interest in a south-south cooperation with Indian cities in exchanging heritage-based urban development strategies to avoid the pit-fall of historic centres becoming oases of tourism and in keeping the hub of a nation's cultural achievements accessible to and affordable for the citizens, while promoting cultural tourism for employment generation and contemporary cultural creativity based on the wealth of their heritage.

**CONFERENCE**

## INTACH Varanasi & House of River Rhone, Lyon France

In continuation of an official visit by a French delegation to Varanasi in

February 2007, INTACH Varanasi Chapter has started a collaboration with the House of River Rhone (Maison du Fleuve Rhone - MdFR), Lyon, France. The first activity under this collaboration is the "Tell Me a River" project initiated by MdFR. It involves 30 students from Lyon and Varanasi to study their city's river, the Rhone and the Ganga respectively with reference to its economic, social, geographical, political, environmental and spiritual aspects. To begin with, during the first 9 months, students study their own city's river and upload information on the MdFR website. The next 9 months involves a study of the partner city's river through the material uploaded on the website and an interaction via the internet with their counterparts. Finally, there is also a plan for the students on both sides to travel and experience the other river, first hand.

**EDUCATION**



*Participants in the Mayors' Study Tour to France*

## Links

<a href="http://www.ihcn.in">www.ihcn.in</a>	Indian Heritage Cities Network
<a href="http://www.unesco.org/new/delhi">http://www.unesco.org/new/delhi</a>	UNESCO New Delhi
<a href="http://asi.nic.in/">http://asi.nic.in/</a>	Archaeological Survey of India
<a href="http://urbanindia.nic.in/moud/moud.htm">http://urbanindia.nic.in/moud/moud.htm</a>	Ministry of Urban Development, Government of India (MoUD)
<a href="http://jnnurm.nic.in/">http://jnnurm.nic.in/</a>	JNNURM
<a href="http://www.wuf4.com">www.wuf4.com</a>	Fourth World Urban Forum

## Publications

**Power of Creativity for Sustainable Development Vol.1 (UNESCO New Delhi and National Institute for Fashion Technology).** Offers insights into rural ways of life and shows urban readers that the traditional and modern are not mutually exclusive. The magazine focuses on six areas: designers and artisans, innovative technologies, tourism, intangible heritage, creative industries and urban planning and conservation.

**Power of Creativity for Sustainable Development Vol.2 (UNESCO New Delhi and Parzor Foundation).** The second issue of Power of Creativity Magazine is a tribute to the effort of some devoted individuals in reviving the otherwise lost cultural traditions of India and also commemorates nearly 10 years of collaboration between UNESCO and PARZOR, with a special focus on Parsi Culture.

**Context: built, living and natural, Volume V, Issue 1 2008 (Journal of the Development and Research Organisation for Nature, Arts and Heritage, DRONAH).** Presents the history and town planning traditions through centuries and aligns them with the recent efforts in urban conservation. Among the articles of this issue is one on UNESCO Cultural Conventions for Sustainable Urban Development which summarizes the role of the international treaties and recommendations on culture adopted by the world's governments as tools for urban development.

## Members - Indian Cities

- |                   |               |                 |
|-------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 1. Ahmedabad      | 8. Gwalior    | 15. Mysore      |
| 2. Bharatpur      | 9. Indore     | 16. Pondicherry |
| 3. Bhopal         | 10. Jabalpur  | 17. Srinagar    |
| 4. Burhanpur      | 11. Jaipur    | 18. Udaipur     |
| 5. Chamba         | 12. Jodhpur   | 19. Ujjain      |
| 6. Chandigarh     | 13. Leh       | 20. Varanasi    |
| 7. Cochin / Kochi | 14. Maheshwar |                 |

## International Cities and Regions

1. Aix-en-Provence
2. Bordeaux
3. Region Centre
4. Chinon
5. La Rochelle
6. Nancy
7. Rennes

## Institutions

1. All India Institutes for Local Self Government, AILSG, Mumbai
2. Association of Municipalities and Development Authorities, AMDA, New Delhi
3. CEPT University, Ahmedabad
4. National Institute of Urban Affairs, NIUA, New Delhi

## NGOs / Individuals

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. ArcHe-S Architectural Heritage Safeguard, Marseille and Chennai  | 9. INTACH Pondicherry Chapter                    |
| 2. Architecture and Development, Paris  | 10. INTACH Srinagar Chapter                      |
| 3. Association Nationale des Villes et Pays d'Art et d'Histoire (French Association for Cities and Regions of Art and History) (ANVPAH) | 11. INTACH Varanasi                              |
| 4. C-Hed, Cochin  | 12. Jaipur Archaeology and Museum Department     |
| 5. CII, Jaipur  | 13. Jaipur – Help in Suffering (HIS)             |
| 6. DRONAH, New Delhi  | 14. Jaipur Sangar Vidaya Sabha Trust, Jaipur     |
| 7. FICCI Rajasthan, Jaipur  | 15. Jaipur Virasat Foundation, Jaipur            |
| 8. Friends of Vrindawan   | 16. Living Heritage Alliance, Bhopal             |
|   | 17. Lupin Research Foundation, Bharatpur         |
|   | 18. Rajasthan Institute of Heritage Conservation |
|   | 19. Tibet Heritage Fund, Leh                     |

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