



The World Heritage Institute of Training and Research for the Asia and the Pacific Region under the auspices of UNESCO



ICOMOS SRI LANKA
INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON MONUMENTS AND SITES

**International Symposium on
World Heritage Properties, Programmes and People
in the Asia–Pacific Region**
Inaugural Event of HeritAP: A Network of Heritage Practitioners
**7-8 December 2019, Cinnamon Lakeside Hotel,
Colombo, Sri Lanka**

Introduction

HERITAGE ASIA–PACIFIC (HeritAP) is a network created by World Heritage Institute for Training in the Asia and Pacific Region, Shanghai Center (WHITRAP Shanghai) to foster the sharing of knowledge and experiences among individuals and institutions engaged in heritage activities in the Asia–Pacific Region. HeritAP aims to: encourage the exchange of knowledge about the rich heritage of the Asia-Pacific Region and its conservation and management; facilitate the movement of heritage practitioners within the Asia-Pacific Region; act as a platform or voice in promoting matters related to heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region at national and regional levels; celebrate and promote the heritage of the region through such events as the 'Asia–Pacific Heritage Day'; foster collaboration between individuals, institutions and countries; recognize and reward contributions made by network members to the heritage sector. The network will be facilitated through a dedicated web page; newsletter; publications; digital platforms, including access to lectures and webinars; regular meetings arranged for and by network members; and opportunities for professional travel around the region. HeritAP's inaugural event will take place in November 2019 in Sri Lanka organized by WHITRAP Shanghai in partnership with ICOMOS Sri Lanka. Designed as a symposium, this will be a first opportunity to promote the network and to celebrate the establishment of the Membership Directory of the network.

Symposium

Asia-Pacific region has the second-highest number of World Heritage *Properties* (258 in total). The region has developed a substantial number of *Programmes* at national and regional levels to promote and support different aspects of World Heritage. It has also produced a substantial number of eminent *People*, who have contributed to World Heritage system in numerous ways over the past decades. In recognition of WHITRAP's own mission to support the protection of World Heritage, it is proposed that HeritAP's first meeting be a symposium devoted to *Properties, Programmes and People* connected to World Heritage in the region. Selected network members from the Asia-Pacific region will be invited to share their experiences and

their achievements. Participants will also discuss the future activities of HeritAP, including the first of what is expected to be organized as a key annual event starting from 2020.

Symposium outcomes/outputs:

1. Launch of the HeritAP network Membership Directory;
2. Reflections on Properties, Programmes and People related to World Heritage in the Asia–Pacific region;
3. Shaping of a strategy for future of activities of HeritAP, including the first annual event to be held in 2020
4. Recognition and celebration of the work of people from the region.

ICOMOS Sri Lanka take pride in partnering with WHITRAP Shanghai in organizing this first ever event in Sri Lanka. It is expected that 30 to 35 international heritage sector practitioners and academics will participate in this event. ICOMOS Sri Lanka also expects to provide opportunities for Sri Lankan practitioners and academics involved with the heritage sector ***to participate in this symposium on 7th and 8th of December 2019*** with the view of sharing their knowledge and to be part of a larger professional network related to World Heritage in Asia and the Pacific. ***If you are interested in participating in this symposium, please send the duly filled application form (attached to this mail) to icomos.srilanka@gmail.com not later than 19th of November 2019.*** As there are only limited number of seats available, after a selection process, we will inform by mail of your selection and send an invitation letter, enabling your participation at this symposium. ***In the selection process, priority will be given to the Members of ICOMOS Sri Lanka, University Academics, and heritage practitioners in both state and private sector institutions. Please note that no fee will be charged for participation at this symposium, but accommodation will not be provided for the local participants during the symposium.***

Dr.Nilan Cooray/ Archt. Sagara Jayasinghe

Joint Secretaries

ICOMOS Sri Lanka

10th November 2019.