

The culture and people of Tibet have long been a source of fascination as well as inspiration around the globe. In modern times, the Tibetans have faced their share of difficulties in maintaining their ancient heritage in an adequate and dignified way.

With financial support from the European Commission, a program to investigate the issues of sustainable preservation of the heritage of Tibet seeks to evaluate adequate methodologies to preserve aspects such as Tibet's ancient architecture, its traditional cities and its monastic art was launched. This was the initiative of ASIA Onlus, the Association for International Solidarity in Asia, a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) founded in December 1988 through the determination and the commitment of a group of scholars of Tibetan culture; in cooperation with Tibet Heritage Fund and Ciscene. Activities launched under this program include seminars and exhibitions in Italy and Germany, and publications of the results.

In June 18-22 2007, three seminars were held in Napoli, Torino and Roma, addressing the same topic. The papers presented gave an overview of Buddhist and Tibetan architecture in the region (Napoli); of the need for and examples of sustainable interventions in architectural design, architectural conservation, urban planning and financial investment in the region (Torino); and examples of successful interventions in Buddhist wall-painting conservation (Roma).

To bring these topics to a conclusion, THF and ASIA are organizing an international conference in Berlin from December 4-6 2007. This will be a forum to discuss and define parameters and strategies for intervention in the Himalayan areas, addressed to experts working in the fields, policy makers, donor institutions and the general public. An additional intention is to provide ideas for expansion of existing EU-Asia cooperation in the field of cultural heritage and sustainable development of historic cities. The first day, held at University of Technology, focuses on themes related to architecture and planning. The second day, held at Humboldt University, focuses on the relation between Tibetan material culture and development.

Moreover, an exhibition will be held as part of this European project:

Exploding City Lhasa: Urban Development on the Roof of the World, shown in the foyer of the Main Building, Humboldt University, Unter den Linden 6, Berlin.

In Cooperation with:



THF

TIBET HERITAGE FUND (THF) is an international non-profit organization working in international cooperation for sustainable development of towns and settlements in Asia, urban conservation and rehabilitation, housing and water and sanitation projects. THF is also engaged in education and vocational training for disadvantaged communities, particularly within the Tibetan cultural realm; mural conservation and training of local mural restorers; cultural exchange projects and academic research and teaching. THF's projects have won a UNESCO Heritage Award and a UN Habitat Dubai Best Practice Award.

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ASIA Onlus

Asia Onlus has been active in Tibet since 1993, working to spread the knowledge of different aspects of the Tibetan culture and to awaken the Western public to the dangerous risks which Tibet faces nowadays. ASIA Onlus commitment to implement projects which aim at preserving the Tibetan architectural and cultural heritage started in 1999.

From 1999 until today, ASIA has worked in the remotest areas of Tibet and, using local materials and bioclimatic and energy saving techniques, has built schools and hospitals, ancient Buddhist and Bonpo monastic colleges, has restored temples and has preserved mural paintings and ancient manuscripts.

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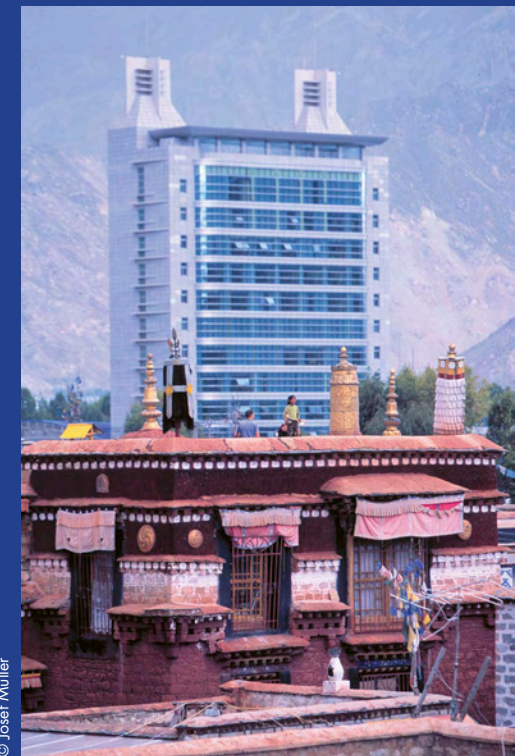
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Exploding Cities: Tibetisches Kulturerbe und nachhaltige Stadtentwicklung in Asien

CULTURAL HERITAGE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF HISTORICAL CITIES IN ASIA *Safeguarding traditions and ancient knowledge to promote development*



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INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

Technische Universität Berlin
Humboldt Universität zu Berlin

4.12. - 5.12. 2007

CULTURAL HERITAGE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF HISTORICAL CITIES IN THE HIMALAYAS

1st Day: Tuesday December 4th, 2007
University of Technology, Faculty VI,
Ernst-Reuter-Platz, Straße des 17. Juni 135,
Room A111

- 11.00: Opening Address: Prof. Peter Herrle (TU) and André Alexander (THF and TU)
- 11.15: Changing Ladakh - Observations 1976 and 2007 — Prof. Peter Herrle (TU Berlin)
- 12.00: Sustainable Design with Local Technologies in Developmental Context —Dr. Kere (Burkina Faso; TU Berlin)
- 12.45: Himalayan Cities in Need: Best and Worst Practice in Urban Development —Andre Alexander (THF und TU Berlin)
- 13.30: Lunch break
- 14.30: Modern Tibetan Architecture in Exile —Tenzin Nyandak (New Delhi School of Architecture and Planning)
- 15.15: Do the Wrong Thing. Some Remarks on the Architectural History of the Former Sacred Compound of Nyarma and Current Construction Activities —Dr. Gerald Kozicz (TU Graz)
- 16.00: Coffee/Tea Break
- 16.15: New Settlements in Qinghai in the Area of the Three River Sources —Jarmila Ptackova (HU Berlin)
- 17.00: Western Techniques of Restoration Developed in a Tibetan Environment —Luigi Fieni (John Sanday Associates Pvt Ltd, Kathmandu)
- 18.00: Dinner
- 20.00: Die Wandmalerien von Tholing (Slideshow) —Isabel & Balz Baechi-Stiftung at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Institut für Asien- und Afrikawissenschaften, Zentralasienseminar, Invalidenstrasse 118, (S Nordbahnhof/U Zinnowitzer Str.) 5. Level, Room 507

SAFEGUARDING TRADITIONS AND ANCIENT KNOWLEDGE TO PROMOTE DEVELOPMENT

2nd Day: Wednesday December 5th, 2007
Humboldt University, Main Building, Unter den Linden 6, Senatssaal

- 10.00: Opening Address —Prof. Dr. Toni Huber (Central Asian Seminar, HU Berlin)
- 10.15: From Temple to Commodity: Tibetan Monasteries and Chinese Tourism —Dr. Mona Schrepf (HU Berlin)
- 11.00: Coffee/Tea Break
- 11.15: The New Railway for Tibet: Some Impacts —Stefania Giannetti (HU Berlin)
- 12.00: The Snake Temple behind the Potala - Problems of Conservation —Erberto Lo Bue (Università di Bologna)
- 12.45: Lunch break
- 14.00: Restoring Iconographic Content: Experience from Romania and Ladakh —Anca Nicolaescu (Bucuresti)
- 14.45: Conservation of Tibetan Mural Paintings: the Case of Galenteng —Sara Scioscia, Giulia Cervi (ASIA Onlus)
- 15.30: Controlling Rivers and Mountains in Central Tibet: The New Shortcut from Lhasa to Gongkar Airport and its Consequences for Local Residents —Diana Altner (HU Berlin)
- 16.15: Coffee/Tea Break
- 16.45: The Evolution in Reglementation of Cultural Heritage in the Tibetan Regions of the PRC (1991-2007) —Heather Stoddard (CNRS Paris)
- 17.30: Restoring Buddhist Mural Paintings: the Cooperation of the FH Erfurt University of Applied Sciences in Ladakh —Prof. Landmann and Jovana Glass (TFH Erfurt)
- 19.30: Dinner

EXPLODING CITY LHASA: URBAN DEVELOPMENT ON THE ROOF OF THE WORLD

Exhibition, 26.11. - 7.12. 2007
Humboldt University, Main Building,
Unter den Linden 6, Foyer

The exhibition traces the origins of Buddhist architecture, the history of Lhasa and recent urban development of Lhasa over a course of two thousand years. Illustrated with photos, architectural drawings and maps from the archives of Tibet Heritage Fund. Entrance is free of charge.



Top: traditional Tibetan depiction of Lhasa (THF).
 Center: aerial view of modern Lhasa (J. Müller).
 Below: Lhasa Jokhang temple and Barkor Street (THF).

