

TIBET HERITAGE FUND 2007 ANNUAL REPORT

建築文化遺產基金會 2007 年度報告

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Introduction



Tibet Heritage Fund in 2007

This year, we had several reasons to celebrate. First, towards the end of 1996 was the tenth anniversary of the founding of THF, as the follow-up to the earlier "Lhasa Archive Project". Then we successfully concluded a four-year long project in Mongolia, during the course of which we restored an 18th century monastery, established a brick-and-tile manufacture, and brought some measure of economic development to a deprived village in the Gobi desert.

Then we returned to a subject that deeply concerns us, namely how modernization and globalization, or politics and money, affect people living in traditional settlements and historic cities. This brought us from Mongolia and Tibet to Beijing, Southeast Asia, Japan and finally back to Europe, where we participated in organizing conferences, lectures and exhibitions about this topic.

Finally, we found that we were a late recipient of the United Nations Habitat 2006 Dubai Award for Best Practice for the Improvement of the Living Environment.

About Tibet Heritage Fund

TIBET HERITAGE FUND (THF) is an international non-profit organization engaged in the field of international cooperation. We work for sustainable development of communities, often but not exclusively within the Tibetan cultural realm.

Projects such as rehabilitation of traditional settlements and restoration of historic monuments are designed to primarily benefit the local residents. Communities, local governments and institutions are important counterparts. THF runs a large vocational training program to build up local capacities, create economic opportunities and to keep traditional building skills and crafts alive. In historic settlements and cities we carry out social surveys and develop rehabilitation proposals. We also research and document traditional Tibetan building technology.

The Tibetan Cultural Realm

Since over a thousand years, Tibetan culture has spread over the entire Himalayan regions, and had a profound effect on Chinese emperors and Mongolian conquerors. In the past, artisans, spiritual masters, pilgrims and traders would travel widely across the Himalayan plateau and adjacent regions. Borders had little meaning for them. The events of the 20th century has led to new borders being drawn, and ancient borders, that for centuries have marked little more than local taxation base, have become impregnable walls separating communities. This is depriving Himalayan culture of its established dynamics.

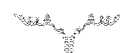
As a result of the advent of modernity, many historic monuments, sites and settlements have disappeared, and traditional skills are in decline. Yet these historic monuments and settlements, and the skills that created them, hold an enormous potential to the future welfare of the people on the plateau. It seems a tragic waste to let all this slip away, so that once-unique Himalayan towns and settlements end up looking like towns anywhere else in Asia. However, it is always dangerous to romanticize, and the inhabitants of the Tibetan cultural realm have legitimate aspirations to reach the same level of comfort and economic progress as people elsewhere. THF assists local communities to find an individual balance that suits them, between tradition and modernity, village life and globalization.

THF's projects are therefore aimed at generating employment and other opportunities for people to improve their livelihoods.

Currently we are working in three countries, bringing masons from Lhasa, carpenters from Amdo, savings groups from Ladakh and painters from Mongolia together to learn from each other.

The aims portrayed here, and the communities that we work with, need continued support.

Thanks to all our supporters and donors.



Map of THF Project Sites

ལས་གཞི་གནས་སའི་ས་ཁ།



THF is not responsible for depictions of international borders

1. CHINA PROGRAMME

1.1 Qinghai Programme

1.1.1 Nangra Serkhang

Location: Jentsa County, Huangnan Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Qinghai Province.

Duration 2006- on-going

Budget in 2007: € 45,247.06

Serkhang monastery in Jentsa, central Qinghai, was founded in the 14th century by one of the teachers of Tsongkapa, lama Choeje Dondup Rinchen (*Chos rje Don grub rin chen*). In the 18th century it was expanded to its present size of ten historic buildings within a walled compound. Today it is one of the oldest functioning monasteries in the Amdo-Qinghai area. Unlike most other monasteries, Serkhang is collectively owned by the eight local villages of Nangra.



Clockwise from top right: view of Serkhang with Yellow River in back; site plan (THF); inside view of the complex; villagers during festival in the Yul-lhakhang.



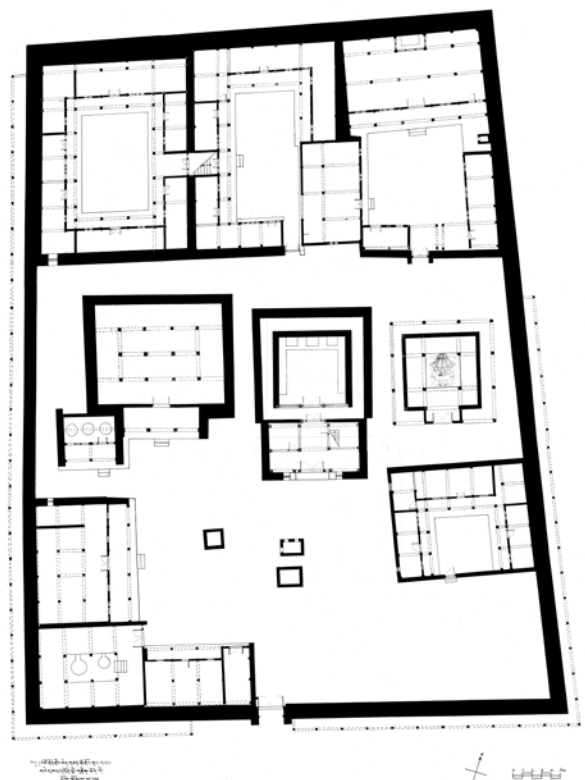
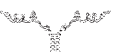
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སྤང་རའི་གསེར་ཁང་།



The villagers are responsible for maintenance and organization and caretaker monks to live in the compound.

After the Cultural Revolution, the local people carried out a first restoration to enable religious services. More recently the villagers and the local Religious Affairs Bureau requested THF to help restore the entire complex. In 2007, THF began work on two buildings in the complex while discussing and developing the restoration plan with the local community.



Nangra Serkhang

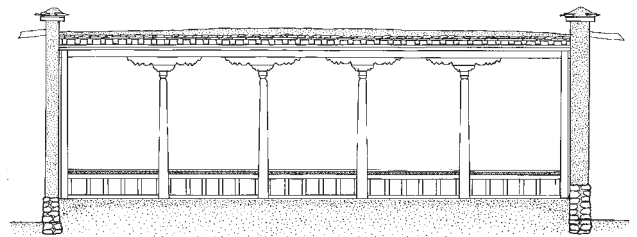
The local priority was to restore the Yul-lha khang, the shrine of the local protector deity (*yul-lha* in Tibetan). According to the local tradition, at some time in the past building parts from a ruined monastery nearby were taken to build this shrine. It is used as prayer hall for the local villagers where religious activities are regularly held.

The community wanted more light and a raised ceiling. THF wanted to retain most historic timber elements. The pillars were thus raised with foundation stones, and a traditional skylight was added. The roof was upgraded with a traditional parapet and water-proofing soil layers. The façade was fitted with Amdo-style tracery windows, and the hall inside with wooden board flooring. Most of the structural work was completed in 2007.

Serchi Labrang was built in the late 19th century as residence for Serchi Rinpoche. It is a typical Amdo-style timber frame building with rich decorative carvings, with some historic paintings preserved. This building was in partly collapsed condition. Even though no Rinpoche lives presently in Serkhang, the caretaker monk for the Sangye Lhakhang is supposed to reside here.

THF replaced damaged timbers and prevented further decay. The wall foundations were reinforced with stones. More work will be necessary in the next year.

The local community has very actively participated in the project. They contributed building materials, and also generously donated food for feeding our workforce, which consisted of artisans and experts from many parts of Amdo as well as from Lhasa. The Community



From top right: design for improved Yul-lhakhang (YH); the former state as previously reconstructed from a demolished temple; erecting a new timber structure; the nearly completed building. Left: interior, with all salvageable historic timber elements re-integrated.



སྤང་རྩི་གསེར་ཁང་།



also organized various religious activities and festivals at Serkhang monastery.

Under our wall-painting conservation program, the oldest paintings in the compound, in the 14th century Sangye Lhakhang building, were documented, damages assessed, and an intervention plan drafted. Implementation started on the four walls in the inner circumambulation passage (see also 2. Wall-painting Conservation program).

This project was supported by MISEREOR, Stavros S. Niarchos Foundation and the Foundation For Cultural Heritage and Art Research, 文化財保護芸術研究助成財団 (Japan).

Top left: the dilapidated Sertri Labrang (former lama's residence), below: replacement of rotten roof beams.

Top right: carpentry workshop in Sertri Labrang.

Left: preparation of traditional whitewash.

Below left: local carpenter building tracery window.

Below right: the local community giving a thank-you dinner to the team.



1.1.2 Trika School & Stupa

Location: Trika County, Hainan Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Qinghai Province.

Duration 2006-on-going

Budget in 2007: € 21,617.03

Ragen village is part of the ancient Tibetan settlement of Trika County, with monuments from the Tibetan empire period. Since the 1950s migration has produced a shift in the ethnographic balance – today the county is inhabited by equally large communities of Tibetans, Han Chinese and Hui Muslims. In 1960s, three Stupas in the Ragen village were destroyed, leaving no trace. The local community developed the strong wish to re-erect one Stupa for their religious practice. The local community successfully negotiated with the government the necessary approval. THF and the community then developed the plan and design of the Stupa and came to an agreement that THF would undertake the basic construction while the villagers would provide the filling and some logistics. A Stupa originally is an Indian monument where relics of the Buddha were preserved. Later it became one of the earliest and still most powerful symbols of Buddhism. Stupas are erected to prevent negative influences, as a merit-bringing deed, or simply as a religious site where villager can meet to perform circumambulation. A Stupa would generally be filled with all kinds of religious items, such as scriptures, clay statues, blessed grains etc. Together with local artisans, the size was fixed as 15 meter high in full stone structure. Due to the location on soft farmland, the foundation was built with reinforced concrete. In 2007, about 1/3 high of the structure was completed. This will be the first new stone Stupa in the region (concrete is now more in fashion).

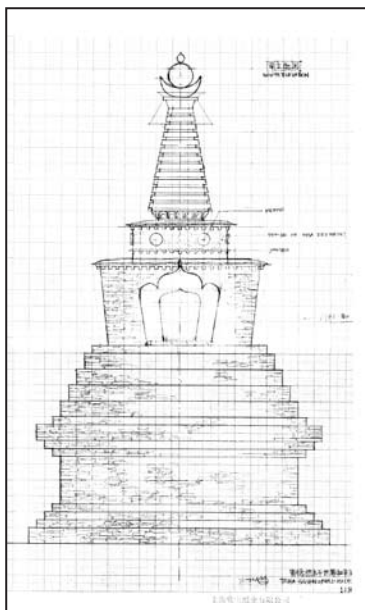
THF also supported the local community school, where youngsters can learn how to read and write Tibetan, with one section for religious studies as well.

This project was supported by private donations and by MISEREOR.

ཐི་ཀ་རཱ་མ་གླིང་ནི་བདེ་མཆོད་རྟེན་པ།



From top: site consecration performed by local Ngag-pa (tantric adept); laying the foundation; completion of the base of the stupa in stone; carpenters preparing the thirteen wooden rings Choekhor Chugsum, which represent the steps of enlightenment. These will be set around the upper part of the "life-pole" (sog-shing) that forms the inner core of every stupa.



Left: stupa design (Y. Hirako/THF). Below: 26 families produced 100,000 clay figures (tsatsa) for the filling of the stupa.



1.1.3 Jyekundo Old Town Project

ཧྲུག་མའི་གྲོང་རྒྱུ་ལྷོ་ཁུང་གྲོང་ཁྱེད།



*Location: Jyekundo Town, Yushu Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Qinghai Province.
Duration 2006- on-going
Budget in 2007: € 2,832.09*

Jyekundo is an important historic Tibetan town that developed as a major pilgrimage and trading center between the Kham, Amdo and central Tibetan regions, and north-western China. Presently Jyekundo has 30,000 residents and is the capital of Yushu Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, at the south-eastern end of Qinghai province, bordering Sichuan and Tibet Autonomous Region. Culturally Yushu belongs to the Kham region.

In 2007, a THF team visited and together with local authorities looked at the present condition of the old town. According to our findings, it will be necessary to implement a housing upgrading program, providing co-financing for residents, and to upgrade the infrastructure in order to preserve one of the few historic Tibetan town centers in a vast region.

As pilot project, we choose several blocks of the old town around the Dunkhor Manilhakhang. The latter temple is the community center of the old town, where residents old and young come for their daily circumambulations. THF set up meetings with local community leaders, residents and monks to develop a pilot infrastructure upgrading project. THF's engineer and the residents then drafted a detailed plan for paving the circumambulation passage.

Our team then carried out a social survey of over 50 households in the pilot district. Residents that wanted to restore their homes with 50% co-financing were identified, construction activities were scheduled for 2008.

This project was supported by MISEREOR and the Stavros S. Niarchos Foundation.



From top: old and new town; traditional house in dilapidation; Dunkhor Manilhakhang; map showing pilot area. Right: residents and THF discuss upgrading plan on site.



1.2 Beijing Hutong

北京胡同保护项目

Location: Nan-luogu-xiang, Dongcheng district, Beijing.

Duration 2005- on-going

Budget in 2007: € 17,497.31

Beijing is one of the oldest still-inhabited centrally planned urban settlements, laid out as capital for the Yuan dynasty (1271-1368). Organized in a grid pattern, horizontal lanes are known as "Hutong" (胡同), giving access to courtyard houses, or "siheyuan" (四合院). Siheyuan are single-storey buildings arranged around a central courtyard, built with "blue" bricks, a timber frames and a tiled roof. A major attraction of the courtyard house is its secluded and peaceful atmosphere, affording a degree of privacy and calm within the city's bustle. The ambience of the courtyard house is closely tied to the traditional lifestyle of China's urban families.

Since the 1990s, the Beijing municipality began re-developing the city at a rapid pace, including the historic center. Hutong lanes were replaced by high-rises. The disappearance of the Beijing Hutong became a hot topic of discussion among people, and as a result, the municipality set up thirty preservation zones in the Old City.

To get a detailed understanding of the present living conditions in the Hutong areas, THF cooperated with Tsinghua university for a study of three neighbourhoods, including architectural and social surveys, published as "Beijing Hutong Conservation Study" (北京胡同保护方案) in 2004. Based on the study, THF developed a rehabilitation pilot project with the Jiaodaokou Neighbourhood Committee. The local government and THF chose the Nanluoguxiang conservation area for implementation. THF worked closely with the residents to discuss and develop the planning on site, according to the



- Fang Zhuan Chang Hutong No. 6 Courtyard
- Ban Chang Hutong No. 24 Courtyard
- Yuer Hutong No. 1 Courtyard
- Shajing Hutong No. 23 Courtyard
- Nan Luo Gu Xiang Conservation Area

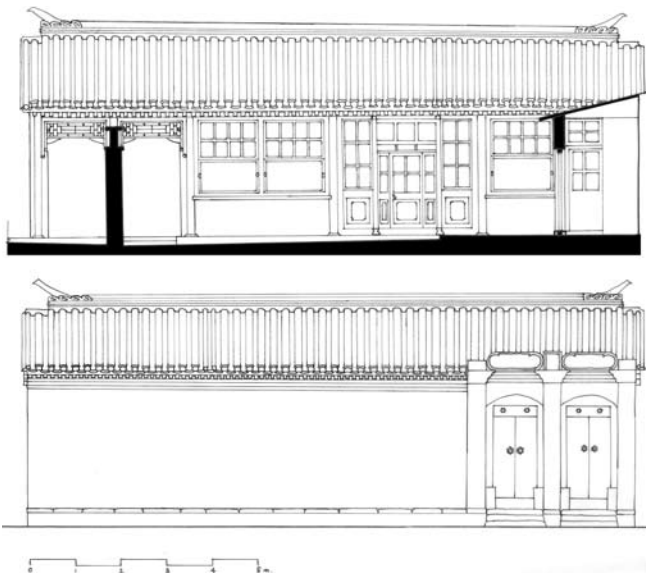
Top: map of central Beijing, official conservation areas in yellow, THF pilot projects highlighted.

Below from top: repair of traditional tiled roof;

courtyard paving;

THF site manager Lundup with artisans and residents.





Fangzhuanchang Hutong No. 6, from top: section and street elevation, dilapidated front wall, rebuilt front wall, interior courtyard. Upper right: THF and Misereor delegation visit the residents in their living room.



individual condition of each site.

In 2007, three courtyard houses were restored: Fangzhuanchang Hutong No. 6 (方砖厂胡同6号院); Banchang Hutong No. 24 (板厂胡同24号院) and Yuer Hutong No. 1 sub-courtyard (雨儿胡同1号跨院).

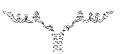
Each site represents one of three main types of ownership in the Hutong lanes: public housing, private property and work-unit housing. The work that was carried out included replacement of damaged building parts, upgrading of drainage facilities, courtyard paving and restoration of historic elements and facades. At the private and work-unit sites, the owner/occupier contributed part of the costs, and supervised the work together with THF's team. Work on the public courtyard was co-financed by the Housing Department.

All residents continue to live in their upgraded house and are responsible for future maintenance.

The project achieved to simultaneously promote community-driven preservation and to raise awareness of the highly endangered urban heritage and their living communities in time for the Beijing Olympics in 2008.

In our opinion, the solution for rehabilitation of historic Beijing lies in micro-management, at the level of individual courtyards within a larger framework set by the government. We therefore cooperated with the government and created a pilot project from grass root level, to show that there are better ways to keep Beijing's old quarters and let the original residents stay. The project aimed not only to preserve the old Hutong structures and historic buildings, it was equally important to keep the residents and improve their living condition; and protect their housing rights instead of relocation. Such a pilot project can have a very important model character all over China.

This project was supported by MISEREOR.



2 MONGOLIA PROGRAMME

སོག་པོ་རྒྱལ་ཁབ་ལས་བཞི།

2.1 Sangiin Dalai Monastery Restoration

*Location: Nomgon sum (village),
South-Gobi aimak, Mongolian Republic.
Duration: 2004- 2007
Budget 2007: € 32,634.20*

Sangiin Dalai monastery was founded in 1772 located on an important trade route between central China and Mongolia. It was expanded to its present size in 1835 - a walled compound with originally ten buildings and three courtyards. Until the early 20th century it was inhabited by over 500 monks and was an important center of Buddhism in the Gobi region.

During the great repression of the 1930s, when most monasteries were destroyed in Mongolia, the Sangiin Dalai complex was first used as army camp, and then as administrative buildings (clinic, school and storage), so six original buildings survived.

At present, Sangiin Dalai monastery is part of the modern administrative town Nomgon Sum, center of an administrative area of about 3500 inhabitants in the South Gobi province. Since the collapse of the caravan trade, the South-Gobi region became one of the poorest in Mongolia.

On September 9th 2007, the local government, the local community and THF jointly celebrated the completion of the 4-year-long rehabilitation of the monastery.



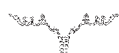
THF successfully completed the goals established at the beginning of the project that were: training of a local Mongolian team in the skills of building a kiln, burning and making bricks and tiles, tiles and bricks masonry, carpentry structural and decorative workshop, traditional painting workshop, and rehabilitate the six historical buildings of Sangiin Dalai monastery and promoting income to this rural area and create job opportunities for the local people and help them integrate in the new socials and political changing.

During these four years, THF and the local Mongolian trainees realized step by step:

- a) Preliminary documentation and architectural survey of the site
- b) Identifying a team of participants.



*Top: Ms Tsetsegma re-roofing Sangiin Dalai.
Bottom from left: Ms Nergui painting the new roof structure;
Ms Boldma and team repairing wall sections;
panoramic view of Sangiin Dalai (completed condition).*





Top left and right: skilled Tibetan painters and carpenters from Amdo worked with the local Mongolian team to build up local skills and to ensure high quality finished work.



- c) Building the kiln, establish a bricks and tiles manufacture.
- d) Detailed documentation of the site's painted and architectural details.
- e) Making complex decorative tiles.
- f) Digging a well for water supply inside the complex.
- g) Carpentry workshop and wooden structure rehabilitation, restoration of all building structures, including rebuilding of the lost pagoda-style roofs. Windows were fitted with Window frames and double-glazing, and much other necessary carpentry work. The local trainees learned the skills of planning and making structural and decorative work. One of the trainees got a diploma in the capital after making a model of one of the new pagoda-roofs.
- h) Masonry, repair of damaged roofs with the newly baked tiles and bricks, repairing all six buildings walls, roofs and foundations.
- i) Enlargement of the kiln and continuing the baking of traditional bricks and tiles.

- j) Training program in Amdo with seven Mongolian participants, in the skills of project management, carpentry, painting and making bricks and tiles.
- k) Planting trees and participating in protecting the fragile Gobi environment.
- l) Local team can make tiles on their own.
- m) Traditional painting program.
- n) Project management training program.

Over 80 local people participated directly in various training programs to learn sufficient skills to perform their trade. The six historical buildings were fully restored and are ready to be used by the local community. The local community organized by Mr. Bayan Saikhan and Mrs. Byampasuren contributed volunteer work, we are grateful to the local doctors and hospital team, the mayor's staff, the school teachers and the director, the kindergarten workers, the army and the electricity team, post office and private individuals.



Sangiin Dalai Monastery

2007 activities

In 2007, the last tiles and bricks were produced by the local team: 6000 roof tiles of different designs, 300 decorative flower bricks and 10000 blue bricks. The Guuregiin dugan roof was re-tiled, the porches, foundations and walls of all 6 buildings were repaired. The inner floor of Dooroviin dugan was paved with blue bricks exclusively by local trainees. The Duinkhoriin dugan floor, the central path and the backside hall were paved with blue bricks. The damaged interior wall was plastered and smoothed by local masons, and flat roofs were waterproofed with lime plaster.

Carpentry workshops were active in all six buildings; mostly interiors and decorative woodwork, wooden floorings, replacing missing missing doors and windows.

Painting program carried out this year on six buildings, all old paintings on timber frames had cleaned and maximum preserved, inner walls were whitewashed and painted following the remains of original design. Replaced wooden parts also painted following the original colors. Outer walls of whole buildings were painted with whitewash and dyes red color according to the original color of buildings.

The Nomgon Sum Mayor Mr. Bayan Saikhan organized a special Naadam festival on the 15th of August to celebrate the important event. Later he and the director of Consensus (our NGO counterpart in Mongolia) organized an official finishing celebration on 1st of September 2007. Chojjin Lama, currently the highest-ranking lama in Mongolia, was invited to perform the consecration together with monks

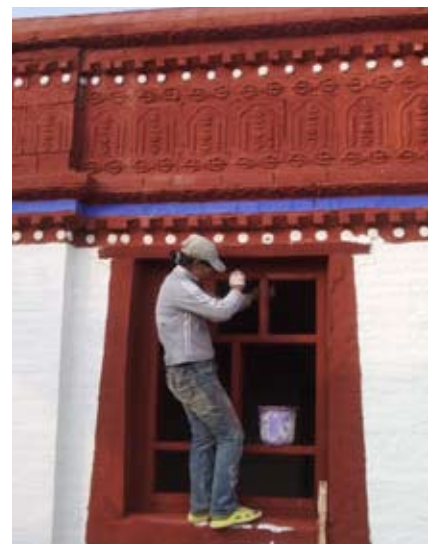


from Dalanzagdad. Many people from Nomgon Sum and other areas of Mongolia came for the celebration. Representatives of the South Gobi province government were present and gave speeches; MISEREOR was represented by Mr. Jan Felgentreu and Mr. Bold. THF colleagues Yutaka Hirako & André Alexander visited, Yutaka participated in the celebration.

In 2007, most of the local participants in the training program were women, among which the following became the most qualified: Mrs. Boldma became a skilled mason in wall construction and tile roofing, Mrs. Tsetsegma skilled in all steps of making brick and tiles, Mrs. Nergui with skills on roofing and wall plastering, Mrs. Byampasuren (a trained economist) is a qualified project manager that THF hopes can be in charge of running the bricks and tiles manufactory with the team trained by THF. Mr. Ankha has learned basic skills as traditional painter, learning traditional patterns and how to mix colours for interior painting decoration.



Top: one of the reconstructed pagoda-style roofs, Khailaniin dugan.
Left: the nearly complete Duinkhoriin dugan hall.
Right: Tibetan-style windows in the Judamiin dugan building.





Left: Mongolia program manager Ms Pimpim, local dignitaries and counterparts during the ceremony.



Right: Choijin Lama performing consecration.

THF team

THF's co-director Ms. Pimpim de Azevedo (Portugal) project management and restoration plan; Mrs. Byampasuren (local project coordinator); with assistance of Mr. Yutaka Hirako (China project manager) and Mr. Lundrup Dorje (Beijing office manager).

For finalizing the crafts and training program, THF invited experts from different fields:

Mr. Zhao Cang and Mr. Chen Bingtai from Qinghai Province China for burning kiln.

Mr. Danilo Thiedemann (Germany), Mr. Ziba, Mr. Shawo Tsering, Mr. Lengbao and Mr. Laxia (Tibetans) from Qinghai Province China for carpentry workshop.

Mr. Xu Changshou, Mr. Tsenden from Qinghai Province China and Mr. Yang Shunli from Tianjin China, for masonry training program.

Mr. La Riben and Mr. Lajia (Tibetans) from Qinghai Province China, for the traditional painting program.

Mr. Amuritegusi from Inner Mongolia for translator and project coordinator.

Volunteers: Ms. Yayoi Takada (architect/Japan) and Ms. Rei Takahashi (painter/Japan) participated in site documentation and in the painting program.

Mongolian team

Carpenters: Jargal, Migmar and Ulan Bataar.
Bricks manufacturing, firing the kiln and masonry work: Mrs. Tsetsegmaa, Mrs. Nergui, Mrs. Solongo, Mrs. Ogtonchuluun, Mrs. Erdene Chimeg, Mrs. Boldma, Mrs. Enkh TUYA, Mrs. Suger, Mrs. Munkhchimeg, Mr. Munkhbat and, Mr. Boldo, Mrs. Enkhjargal, Mr. Ganbold and Mr. Batsuren, Ms. Wanden Dulma, Ms. Sarantsetseg, and Mr. Naranbat and Mrs. Undrakchimeg, Mr. Saganchuluun and Khoohtoi.

Traditional Painting program: Ankha and Munkhod participated in the painting program together with 2 Tibetan teachers.

This project was supported by MISEREOR (Germany), the Rattray-Kimura Foundation (USA) and Ms Jane Huang.

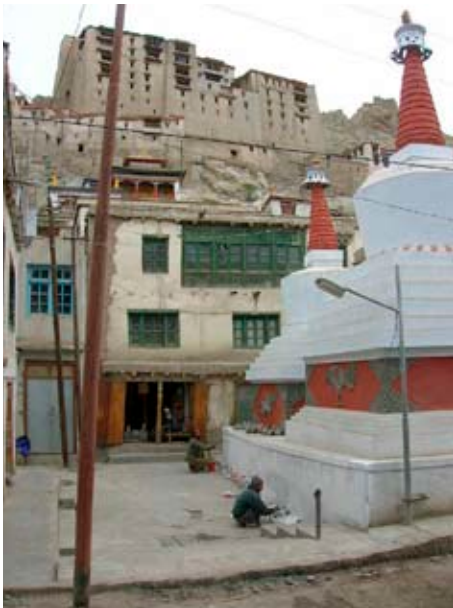
Below: the project core team 2007.



3 INDIA PROGRAMME

ལ་དཀའ་སྐྱོད་ཁྱོད་རྒྱུད་སྐྱོབ།

3.1 Ladakh Leh Old Town Conservation



*Location: Leh, Ladakh, India. Duration 2003-on-going.
Budget in 2007: € 54,575.24*

The historic town of Leh was created in the 1600s when the king of Ladakh at the time (Senge Namgyal) invited prominent families to settle beneath the royal palace. In recent years the old city has fallen under decay as some of the old town residents have abandoned their old homes and built new houses on the outskirts of Leh. Due in part to the efforts of THF and its local branch LOTI (Leh Old Town Initiative), there is growing local interest in preserving the historic town.

During public community meetings and surveys the old town residents maintain that the biggest problem in the old town is the lack of water supply and functioning drains (sewers). Since a functioning drain system must precede an increase in water supply, THF/LOTI is currently focusing on improving the drainage channels in the old town. THF/LOTI has also been lobbying the Leh government to build a sewer system for all of Leh. The 2007 drain project corrected the most obvious sanitation need at the entrance to the old town. In the middle of the Lower Stalam footpath, there was a deep pond of foul smelling water that overflowed down the footpath. THF/LOTI constructed a covered drain channel and a new public tapstand, and paved the alley with slate rocks. Besides addressing the health problems associated with poor sanitation, it is hoped that this project will increase local pride in the old town and serve as an model for future old town drainage projects.

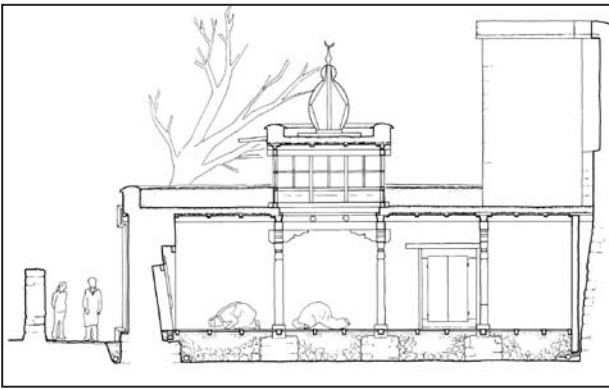
Besides, our regular program of offering co-financing for restoration of residential buildings and monuments also continued. We completed the work at the 15th century Red Maitreya, both structural restoration and mural conservation (see 4.2), restored Leh's oldest mosque (see next page), started to rehabilitate the Nouchung residential house, and held several community meetings to formulate a long-term vision for the old town. 2007 also was the first full season of our Leh Heritage House, nick-named Lala's Gallery, which we operate out of a restored old town building. The Gallery serves as an information point about the old town for visitors, and offers a forum for local artists, researchers and community meetings. SPARC and Mahila Milan invited a group of the first Leh savings group and THF staff to Mumbai to help develop a savings program.

This project was supported by Embassy of Finland in Delhi, Trace Foundation, IIED, Stavros S. Niarchos Foundation, INWENT and local co-financing and private donations. Thanks to Sparc and C. D'Cruz.



From top: newly-paved access path to the old town at Manikhang area; detail of stone paving and drain construction; interior of Lala's Gallery. Right: Ladakh group in Mumbai visiting slum dweller associations and savings groups.





The Masjid Sharif is the oldest mosque in Leh, built in Tibetan style around 1600 when Muslim traders were allowed to settle in the Tsa Soma area. Because a nearby irrigation pool drained into the foundations, the building began to sink and pillars and walls became severely damaged. The local Anjuman Sunni Committee asked for help with co-financing. THF drained and improved the foundations and restored the building to its original shape.



From top: section drawing (AC/THF); interior condition in early 2007, with Mirhab prayer niche at back wall; timber frame is re-erected with many original elements; final condition November 2007 with preserved Mirhab.

From top: exterior with entrance to the left, original condition in early 2007; work in progress during the summer; after completion November 2007.

4 WALL-PAINTING CONSERVATION PROGRAM

Wall-paintings are an integral part of Tibet's physical cultural heritage. THF has started a wall-painting conservation program in 1998, with the emphasis on training local conservators. We are working with experts from Germany and Romania, aided by cooperation agreements with institutions and university conservation departments. Each year we also have a number of conservation student interns and volunteers. In Qinghai and Ladakh, we are training two teams of local conservators. Budget: included in Serkhang and Leh budgets.

4.1 Qinghai

Sangye Lhakhang is the oldest building in the Serkhang monastery complex, erected in the 1340s. The main hall is surrounded by an inner circumambulation passage, whose walls were entirely painted (about 220m² of painted surface). These walls were completely painted over during the Cultural Revolution, with much damage to the paintings. The fragments we have studied so far seem to be from different periods, mostly 18th and 14th centuries.

Two German restorers, Mr. and Mrs. Patrick and Christine Jürgens are in charge of the Serkhang wall-painting conservation program. They documented the paintings digitally and recorded present condition and damages in order to develop the intervention plan.

Because of the complete lack of trained Tibetan restorers, THF has placed priority on training a local team. This currently consists of two Tibetan and one Mongolian students who are being trained on site. The team of experts and trainees jointly worked on four walls, cleaning the



paintings and developing adequate stabilization and repair methods for the various damages. In the Tibetan context, it is important that the original iconography of an image is complete, particularly the face and the hands. Therefore, in order to satisfy the requirements of the local community, some degree of re-touching will be necessary. This will be discussed with the local community once the other works have been completed. In 2007, about 70% of documentation and 30% of cleaning work has been completed.

This project was supported by the Foundation For Cultural Heritage and Art Research, 文化財保護芸術研究助成財団 (Japan), MISEREOR (Germany) and Ms Virginia Yee (HK).

Serkhang Sangye Lhakhang, top: German student cleaning painting; below left: Tibetan trainee, restorer P. Jürgens and local monk; right: Serkhang mural team 2007.



4.2 Ladakh

ཐེངས་རིས་སྤྱད་སྒྲོབ།

Ladakh has preserved a rich heritage of ancient wall-paintings, spared from any Cultural Revolution. However, sometimes local appreciation is lacking and local conservation skills are non-existent.

Romanian restorer Anca Nicolaescu is in charge of THF's Ladakh wall-painting conservation program. For student interns and access to laboratories THF relies on a cooperation with the Conservation Department of Erfurt University of Applied Sciences (thanks to the dean, Prof. Landmann, and diploma student Suzy Hesse).

Since 2005 two young Ladakhis have been trained, Ms Yangchen and Mr. Skarma. In the summer of 2007, they completed a two-month training in the laboratories of Erfurt.

In Leh, THF has been asked by the caretaker monk of the Red Maitreya temple, built around 1430, to repair the leaking roof. In the course of this work we discovered original 15th century murals on two walls, hidden underneath whitewash. Anca and her team of Ladakhi trainees and German interns completed the removal of the whitewash layer in two working seasons, 2006-2007.

Just like in Tibet, local religious practice demands that the iconography of main images must be complete, particularly face and hands. Therefore Anca developed a concept of reversible retouching of these vital parts in one of the main images that was accepted by the local community.



THF was also asked to help preserve the little-known Tsatsapuri temple in Alchi village (close to the world-famous Choskhor temple). The murals appear to be from the 14th or 15th century. Suzy Hesse completed the documentation, damage analysis and intervention concept for one of the three existing buildings.

This program was supported by Trace Foundation, Embassy of Finland in Delhi and InWent.



Left: Anca Nicolaescu at work in the Red Maitreya temple. From top: Yangchen and Skarma training in Erfurt University laboratories; the restored Red Maitreya temple in Leh; the THF/LOTI Ladakh team 2007.



5. RESEARCH & PUBLICATIONS

དཔུང་ཞིག

5.1 Historic City Research

Following discussion that developed during a regional NGO meeting, the Bangkok-based ACHR (see www.achr.net) invited THF to join and coordinate a study of the impact of heritage conservation on low-income communities. ACHR funded the research, and its vast network enabled the study team to have reliable local support. In the first phase, Lijiang, Hoi An, Kyoto, Penang, Pagan and Luang Prabang were visited. The research will be made public as part of a larger study, Understanding Asian Cities part 2.

The study team and local preservationists in Kyoto, center-right ACHR coordinator Maurice Leonhardt.



5.2 Wood identification

THF is cooperating with Nanjing Forestry University to identify the species of wood that were historically used in the construction of Buddhist monasteries in Qinghai. Experts from China, France and Japan visited Serkhang monastery and took samples that were later identified at Nanjing. We found that most of the wood used is still locally available, which means we can use the same type for our restoration work. The final results of the testing will be published as a part of THF's Serkhang monastery conservation project report (see part 1.1).



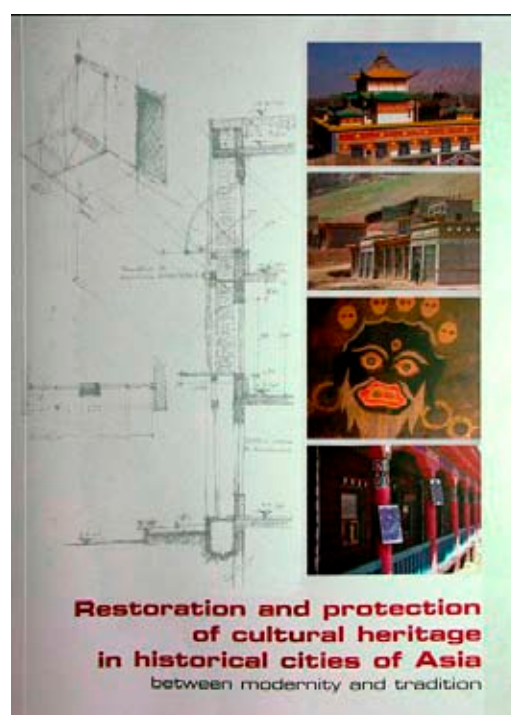
Nanjing team on the roof of Serkhang monastery.

5.3 Course on Tibetan architecture at Berlin University of Technology

THF co-director André Alexander taught a course on Sustainable Architecture for Tibet and the Himalayan region at the School of Architecture, Berlin University of Technology during the winter semester 2007/2008. As a follow-up, in Spring 2008 the class will go to Ladakh to participate in the design of two museums.

5.4 Publication: Restoration and protection of cultural heritage in historical cities of Asia

Proceedings of three international seminars (Napoli, Turino, Roma 18, 20, 22 June 2007), organized by A.S.I.A. Onlus with cooperation from THF, published by Politecnico Di Torino 2007 (see picture on right side).



6. NETWORKING

6.1 Conferences and exhibitions in Berlin and Italy in cooperation with A.S.I.A. Onlus

CULTURAL HERITAGE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF HISTORICAL CITIES IN ASIA: Safe-guarding traditions & ancient knowledge to promote development

A project implemented by: ASIA Onlus and Tibet Heritage Fund, co-funded by European Commission, budget THF: € 5,164.08

This was the motto of a project planned and carried out by the two NGOs ASIA Onlus (Italy) and THF. With support from the European Commission, a program to investigate the issues of sustainable preservation of the heritage of the Himalayas seeks to evaluate adequate methodologies to preserve aspects such as the region's ancient architecture, its traditional cities and its monastic art was launched. Activities included 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 topics Buddhist and Tibetan architecture (Napoli), the need for and examples of sustainable interventions (Torino) and wall-painting conservation (Roma). For bringing these topics to a conclusion, THF and two Berlin Universities, University of Technology and Humboldt University, have organized an international conference in Berlin from December 4-5 2007. Different experts working in the region were brought together to discuss parameters and strategies for sustainable interventions in the Himalayan areas. Simultaneously, exhibitions created by THF and A.S.I.A. about the topic were launched in Museum Pigorini (Roma) and Humboldt University Berlin (foyer).

6.2 Conference on Conservation of Traditional Temple Architecture

THF's Pimpim de Azevedo was invited to present a paper at "The Conference for Conservation of Traditional Temple Architecture" at the National Center for Research and Preservation of Cultural Properties, Tainan, April 18-19, on the occasion of the International Day for Monuments and Sites.

ཐུལ་སྤྱིའི་འགྲོ་འོང་།



From top: exhibition at Humboldt University Berlin, THF's Lundup Dorje giving a presentation in Torino; conference in Berlin University of Technology. Below: Tainan conference.



7. WHO ARE THF

THF་མཆོམས་སྤྱོད་མཛོད་བསྟན་པ།

TIBET HERITAGE FUND (THF) is an international non-profit organization founded 1996 in Lhasa and Berlin. THF's aims are to support preservation of cultural heritage and environment; improvement of living conditions for disadvantaged communities, particularly in the sectors employment, education and health; and sustainable and community-based development of communities in fragile and endangered environments.

THF is a registered non-profit organization in Germany, India and Mongolia, and recognized as non-profit cooperation partner in China.

THF is directed by André Alexander and Pimpim de Azevedo, and Yutaka Hirako is the Chief Financial Officer and China Program Manager; Sylvester Kaben is the treasurer, Lundup Dorje the Beijing office manager, Lobsang Ngudup the Qinghai local program manager; and Tseyang is heads the accounting and logistics department.



Contact THF

info@tibetheritagefund.org

In Ladakh, visit us between April and October at Lakruk House, Stalam, Leh, below the old royal palace. In Beijing we stay close to Nanlouguxian, and during working season we are in Amdo.

THF aims and principles

- Assisting poor and disadvantaged communities in both urban and rural settings in their needs for economic development, cultural preservation, health and education
- Conservation with and for local communities (ICOMOS living cities principles).
- Conservation of buildings and of building technology.
- For residential buildings: priority on livability, owner/occupants participate in planning process, protection of tenants.
- For monuments (incl. monasteries): authenticity desired, building history respected, owners participate in planning process.
- Maximum retaining of historic elements (UNESCO Venice charter).
- Accommodation of local demand for pragmatic usability of sites.
- Compromise and Negotiation are routine.

THF is non-political and committed to promote understanding and co-operation between different cultures and nations to benefit world cultural heritage.

THF projects are based on a participatory approach, centered around preservation of indigenous heritage and traditions. Our water and sanitation program is aimed at improving people's living conditions.

THF trains local people in technical skills, such as traditional building skills, architectural design and survey work, mural conservation and general restoration skills.



THF received the 2006 UN Habitat Dubai International Award for Best Practice for the Leh Old Town Project.

8. FINANCIAL REPORT

ཐོག་མཐུན་སྒྲུབ་ཀྱི་

THF Incoming Funds 2007: EURO 188,591.49

Carry-over from 2006	€ 5,930.89
MISEREOR	€ 108,149.84
Trace Foundation	€ 17,488.52
Finland Embassy Delhi	€ 13,166.42
Stavros S. Niarchos Fnd.	€ 10,935.34
IIED	€ 7,075.77
文化財保護芸術研究助成財団	€ 5,854.80
European Commission	€ 5,368.00
Ms Virginia Yee	€ 3,713.68
Anjuman Society Leh	€ 3,389.62
Rattray-Kimura Fnd.	€ 2,179.78
Jane Huang	€ 1,822.56
INWENT	€ 1,019.44
Gesellschaft f.bedrohte Völker	€ 857.16
Donations (Dr.Dorn, Dr.Newill)	€ 1454.14
Membership fees & book sales	€185.53
Total	€ 188,591.49

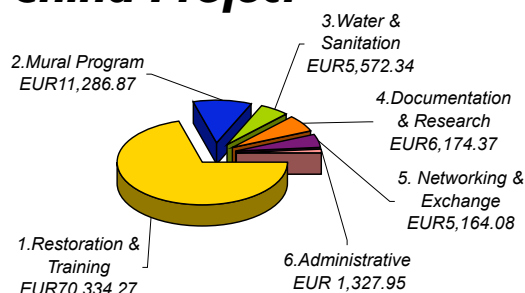
THF Outgoing Funds 2007: EURO 187,291.68

Ladakh project	€ 54,575.24
Serkhang monastery	€ 45,247.06
Mongolia project	€ 32,634.20
Ragen stupa & school	€ 21,617.03
Beijing Hutong project	€ 17,497.31
Surveys & documentation	€ 5,220.26
Conference & networking	€ 5,164.08
Jyekundo old town	€ 2,832.09
Administrative in China	€ 1,327.95
Amdo Labrang project	€ 954.11
Bank fees	€ 222.35
Total	€ 187,291.68
carry-over 2007	€ 1299.81

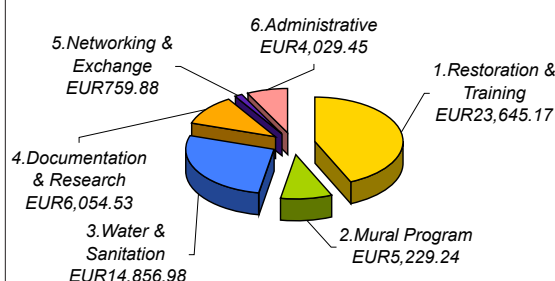
A very big thanks from all participants and local partners and beneficiaries to everyone who has supported our work. Contact THF to find out how to support our current projects.

Expenses by country and by project type:

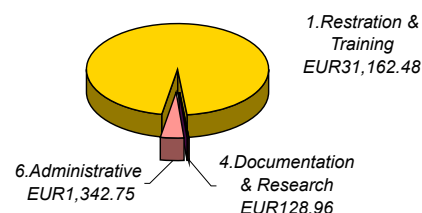
China Project



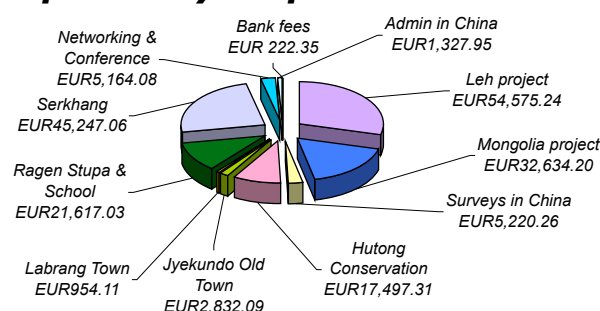
Ladakh Project



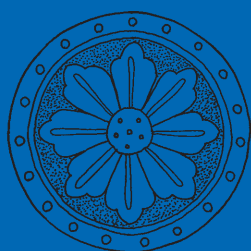
Mongolia Project



Expenses by Projects



MAO TOU 2nd LEVEL ROOF



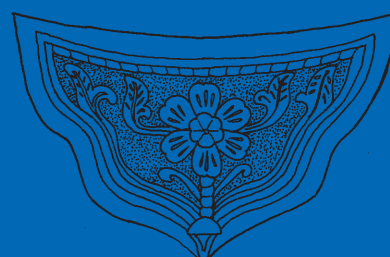
DI SHUI 2nd LEVEL ROOF



MAO TOU 1st LEVEL ROOF

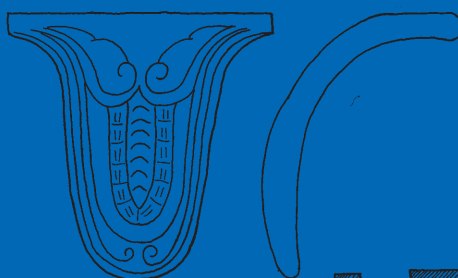


DI SHUI 1st LEVEL ROOF



SERKPAK SANGYE LHAKHANG
VARIOUS ROOF TILE DECORATION
YUTAKA-H 18

TONGUE TILE 1st LEVEL ROOF



Ⓐ



Ⓑ



SERKPAK SANGYE LHAKHANG

① FLOWER BRICK ON MAIN RIDGE

② FLOWER TILE & BAMBOO TILE ON RIDGE LINE

YUTAKA-H 19



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