

LIMA DECLARATION FOR DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

PREAMBLE

Cultural heritage professionals, architects, archaeologists, structural engineers and other specialists from Peru and Japan met during the "Symposium on Disaster Risk Management of Cultural Heritage. Sustainable Conservation of Urban Cultural Heritage in Seismic Zones. The symposium aimed to share post-disaster recovery experience and discuss the role of structural engineers and conservation architects" for the protection of Cultural Heritage located in earthquake zones. From the meeting emerged the following statements:

1. The world is divided into seismic and non seismic areas. Earthquakes occur mainly along two big circles: The Circum- pacific where more than 95% of seismic energy is dissipated and the Eurasian circle. Following the International Conservation Charters and conservation policies, now we address the cumulative damage to cultural heritage associated with severe earthquakes prone areas;

2. A significant number of World Cultural Heritage Properties is located in these seismic areas, especially in the Circum- Pacific region of Asia and Latin America, the Caribbean, Southern Europe, West and Central Asia. Potential damage due to large earthquakes is foreseen in these regions. Therefore these regions need to undertake urgent measures to safeguard lives and cultural heritage from disasters;

3. Arguing safety reasons, the local authorities often demolish historic fabric after a severe earthquake. New generation of professionals should change this tendency through multidisciplinary approach aimed at sustainable protection of heritage. All cultural remains must be conserved or restored by taking into account the principles of integrity and authenticity understood in local context;

4. ICOMOS National Committees are encouraged to contribute to the enrichment of the spirit of the Conservation Charters to consider the disaster mitigation on cultural heritage in seismic zones;

5. Heritage conservation can be accomplished through education by organizing updated courses, seminars and training activities. Academic institutions would play an important role by including cultural heritage and tourism studies for sustainable development of heritage sites;

6. Communication between community members and professionals from various disciplinary backgrounds, academics and authorities is necessary to explain and disseminate why restoration of heritage should be done with due respect to authenticity and integrity. Due attention should be given by journalists and other mass media professionals to spread this understanding;

7. The responsibility of the authorities towards preparedness for the next severe earthquake needs to be stressed. Even though human life is priceless, many heritage buildings at risk of collapse are also used for housing, business and/or other tourism facilities;

8. Disaster mitigation and preparedness requires a comprehensive assessment of risks to the site and its occupants and visitors. Detailed rescue and response plans should also be drawn up. For this purpose, it is mandatory to identify the carrying capacity of historic public buildings and places in order to prevent bottlenecks during disasters. Due consideration should be given to prior inspection to approve only those activities on the site that pose no risk to the life of habitants or visitors.

BACKGROUND AND STATEMENTS

1. World Heritage Convention has emphasized the responsibility of each State Party to formulate national policies for the protection of cultural heritage;

2. In response to disasters, the first priority is to save human life and provide for the basic needs of victims. Next, emergency response and recovery should avoid further harm to cultural heritage;

3. Interdisciplinary analysis and structural assessment of heritage buildings must include the use of traditional materials and technologies, if they are adequate. Considerations should be given to the deep understanding of the historical buildings and their seismic behavior through analytical or physical modeling, non destructive tests and other modern tools and to document it. Performance-based criterion complemented with strength-based criterion should be considered;

4. The earthquake history, especially the seismic activity in and around the heritage sites, and the impact of recent earthquakes on traditional and non-traditional structures, should be documented and made available;

5. In order to achieve the objectives of sustainable development and risk management, recommended by the Thematic Meeting on Cultural Heritage Risk Management on Kobe during UN-WCDDR in 2005, following strategic goals should be taken into account;

6. Integrate cultural heritage into existing disaster reduction policies and mechanisms at the international, national and local levels including involving qualified heritage organizations and expertise;

7. Involve local communities in the preparation and implementation of risk management plans, and all stages of disaster recovery;

8. Include cultural heritage as a subject to develop scientific research and technical studies, educational and training programs associated with risk management and disaster recovery, to work out such operating methods will make the State capable of counteracting the risks that threaten cultural heritage.

ACTION RECOMMENDATIONS

General Recommendations

1. Undertake awareness raising initiatives to involve decision makers and local communities in the development and implementation of disaster risk reduction strategies for cultural heritage;

2. Encourage established national and international networks of cultural heritage and disasters to promote the integration of cultural heritage protection into broader disaster management field.

For Intergovernmental and International Nongovernmental Organizations

3. International Intergovernmental and Nongovernmental Organizations concerned with cultural heritage, such as UNESCO, ICCROM, ICOMOS, ICOM, IFLA and ICA, as well as the International Committee of the Blue Shield (ICBS) and related international instruments such as the World Heritage Convention, should act, enhance and promote disaster risk reduction within their policies, programs, and activities;

4. Special consideration should be given to countries located in seismic areas to ensure safety in cities with living cultural heritage with due consideration to their ecological reality. Recurrent earthquakes cause cumulative damage to historic urban areas and sites. Development of new technology with necessary reinforcement that is compatible to original materials and technology and is reversible should be encouraged;

5. Include disaster risk management of cultural heritage in the scope of the assistance programs of various international development and cooperation agencies, which should also promote this policy among other multilateral development institutions to which they are a party.

For Central, Regional and Local governments

6. Governments should establish expert committees that would enable exchange of opinions to formulate coordinated policies by bringing together multidisciplinary specialists such as structural engineers, architects, archeologists and other cultural heritage specialists. The government should also promote administrative and financial measures that are necessary to establish comprehensive disaster mitigation facilities for cultural heritage properties as well as their surrounding urban environment;

7. Governments should strengthen the institutional support and governance for disaster preparedness, through due regulations developed in consultation with the civil society. Public institutions, owners, and other stakeholders should be encouraged to work together in formulating policies to preserve Cultural Heritage;

8. Responsible authorities of Cultural heritage and Disaster Mitigation should jointly develop special tools for periodical inspection of structural stability of heritage buildings for their mitigation against earthquakes, in order to preserve their heritage values and use appropriate technologies that would maintain these values over time;

9. Encourage national and international assistance to recover living heritage by including comprehensive understanding of the society in the rehabilitation programs, awareness and education activities for the habitants so as to improve their safety and daily life conditions;

10. In the context of the World Heritage Convention and other international instruments, adopt and implement

comprehensive policies, procedures, and legal measures to integrate cultural heritage in all disaster reduction programs and to include risk management plans as part of the management system for heritage properties;

11. Include governmental and non-governmental cultural heritage expertise in existing and future national coordinating bodies mandated to oversee the development and implementation of disaster reduction policy, programs and actions plans;

12. Cooperate with local administrations and provide adequate resources to ensure the adoption and implementation of consistent risk management strategies for cultural heritage assets in their territory, in particular, historic urban areas

and living cultural landscapes, and their settings; including identifying, assessing and monitoring disaster risks;

13. Encourage and support civil society and non-governmental initiatives in the field of disaster reduction for cultural heritage through measures that are aimed at reducing underlying vulnerability factors;

14. Initiate and support education and awareness campaigns to disseminate information widely for the protection of cultural heritage before, during, and after disasters; Use the knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of disaster prevention;

15. Central, Regional and Local governments are encouraged to promote coordination between policies for cultural heritage earthquake risk management, urban planning and disaster management for the cultural heritage properties and the surrounding environment.

For educational/ research institutions

16. To develop training programs on repair and retrofitting aimed both, for cultural heritage professionals and emergency personnel, so as to achieve seamless integration;

17. Education is the starting point to understand the importance of disaster preparedness. Therefore younger generations should be made aware of the importance of cultural heritage, tangible and intangible and that they are responsible for its conservation;

18. Academic institutions such as universities, technical schools and research centers are encouraged to promote education and research on comprehensive disaster management of cultural heritage sites located in earthquake prone zones, and are especially encouraged to engage in international activities such as establishing networks to improve the quality of their activities by cooperating with the activities of regional cultural heritage centers.

The "Lima Declaration for Disaster Risk Management of Cultural Heritage" was drafted and proposed by the professionals below, and adopted with the applause and common consent of all the participants of the International Symposium on "Disaster Risk Management of Cultural

Heritage. Sustainable Conservation of Urban Cultural Heritage in Seismic Zones. Post-disaster recovery experience: Role of structural engineers and conservation architects", hosted by CISMID-National University of Engineering (UNI), Ritsumeikan University (RITSUMUCH), with the support of ICOMOS-ICORP, ICOMOS Peru, which was held at the Jinnai Hall, Japan Peru Cultural Center, on 3rd December 2010.

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