

CULTURAL HERITAGE CONSERVATION: CHINA 2019

KRIST Gabriela, Universität für angewandte Kunst Wien, Konservierung und Restaurierung
LADSTÄTTER Sabine, Österreichisches Archäologisches Institut, Vienna
WEN Rui, School of Cultural Heritage, Northwest University Xi'an
ZHANG Liangren, Nanjing University

The main goal of CHINA 2019 is to continue and intensify the collaboration between Austrian and Chinese EPU members in the field of Cultural Heritage Conservation, which has been developed with the support of EPU. The existing cooperation with North West University Xian and Nanjing will be maintained and new contacts will be established.

Activities planned for 2019 comprise a jointly organized summer school at the Northwest University in Xian with the participation and contribution of Chinese students/staff/teachers of Northwest and of the University of Applied Arts in Vienna. International Summer schools organized by the Institute of Conservation started already in 2015, supported by EPU and later by OEAD Impluse. The summer schools took place in summer in Vienna once a year until 2017 and they were designed to provide hands-on experience in conservation for international students from India, Mongolia, China, Belarus and Ukraine. Now the summer school shall become even more international and shall take place in a different partner country each year, starting with China in 2019.

The main objective of the international summer school, this year, again lies on international training in preventive conservation, collection care and hands-on conservation adhering to up to date research issues in conservation science. The Austrian team as well as the Chinese partners will hold lectures and give practical exercises there. The training will take place in Xian for two weeks. It covers basic training activities in collection care and preventive conservation and will include study trips.

Moreover there shall be meetings to plan the next Silk Road Conference together with Nanjing university either in Vienna or in Nanjing. The conference, that will be planned, should be the follow-up of the successful series of conferences on "Archaeology and Conservation along the Silk Road" to be held in 2020. The Silk Road programme is an important long-term project of renowned Austrian EPU-members – the University of Applied Arts Vienna, the University Vienna, the University Salzburg and the Austrian Institute of Archaeology – together with relevant Chinese partners. The Silk Road Conferences, co-organized by Austrian and Chinese partners, bring together top researchers of Europe and Central Asia and allow exchange of knowledge and experience in the field of archaeology and conservation. It revealed that the conference is most fruitful if it is scheduled every two years. Anyway the constant communication and repeated meetings with Chinese partners are of utmost importance to build up and intensify trust and plan joint-projects well and carefully.

Output

As the academic training in China on conservation is a rather “young” study field there, the China Summer School will give the Chinese partners a possibility to exchange ideas and know ledge and to enhance the quality standards in conservation training in China. This way, the project shall serve a as a support to the Chinese partner institutions in building up study programs in conservation and promote academic conservation education and conservation science. The summer school will also serve as advanced training for the Austrian team. The staff can broaden its horizon and improve its teaching and English skills. As the conditions of preservation of art objects are different in each part of the world, depending on specific climate, culture and materials, participating, Summer School gives the possibility to get to know other approaches towards conservation in the international field. The Silk Road Conference does not only enhance networking between the East and the West but also contribute significantly to the preservation of the unique archaeological relicts and cultural heritage sites along the Silk Road. Therefore a planning meeting in 2019 would be very important to plan for the next conference in 2020. Last but not least the activities serve as a basis for developing the international university network, joint study programs and research projects.

