

Preface

By far, living in city has become increasingly prevalent as over half of the world's population are city dwellers. However, pressure and challenge are intensifying along with urban development, such as expanding population, rapid and immense development, environment conservation and sustainable utilization of resources. Meanwhile, as city is a dynamic organism, its urban fabric keeps changing in response to evolving of social structure and demand. Therefore a new synthetic approach is required, which could take social, economic and cultural demands into consideration. Against this backdrop, Historic Urban Landscape (HUL) approach emerged and developed accordingly. On the 36th UNESCO conference in 2011, Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape was finally adopted, which presents a synthetic approach of urban conservation and has been widely valued by stakeholders on each level.

Two years after the adoption of the Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape, in 2012, WHITRP progressively started research, exchange and dissemination of HUL, especially in Asian-Pacific regions. In October 2012, WHITRAP and Tongji University jointly held the 1st International Conference on Historic Urban Landscapes, which invited many experts from universities and research institutes such as Department of Cultural Relics Preservation and Archaeology of State Administration of Cultural Heritage of P. R. C., China Academy of Urban Planning and Design, Tsinghua University, Southeast University, Tongji University, UNESCO Beijing Office, UNDP, ICCROM, Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design, Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, BTU Cottbus-Senftenberg, the American Planning Association. Two years later, the 2nd International Conference on HUL was held in December 2014 on a larger scale. This conference has attracted experts not only from the above-mentioned institutes, but

also from Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development of P. R. C. , the Australian National University, PwC, World Bank, Huazhong University of Science and Technology, Shanghai Municipal Planning and Land & Resources Administration, Urban Planning Society of China, Chongqing University, Beijing Tsinghua Tongheng Urban Planning & Design Institute, Suzhou Urban Planning Administration, etc. Shanghai Agenda: Implementation of HUL in China was endorsed during the conference. This year (2017), WHITRAP is preparing for the International Expert Meeting on the Implementation of the HUL Recommendation to be held in March 2018. It will invite numerous international specialists from overseas universities and institutes, such as UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, University of Ferrara, Westminster University, Università IUAV di Venezia, International Affairs Institut d'aménagement et d'urbanisme Ile-de-France France, Observatoire de l'architecture de la Chine contemporaine à la Cité de l'architecture et du patrimoine, University of Technology (Jamaica), Newcastle University, University of Tsukuba, University of Évora, the National Research Council of Italy, Korean Cultural Heritage Administration. Besides, WHITRAP has an array of work related to HUL, for instance, compiling the HUL Guidebook, providing HUL domestic and international training courses, translating and publishing related books, as well as compiling reading materials.

Undoubtedly, this is just a beginning. In the future, HUL will combine with interdisciplinary practices and national/regional urban development strategic frameworks, to substantiate and ameliorate application of HUL theory and approach worldwide. WHITRAP will also be devoted to evolution and expansion of HUL approach, especially its implementation, and will form a network for mutual cooperation among cities in the world.

This book has presented case studies related to HUL concept and approach from practitioner's perspective, in various cities both domestically and overseas, including Ballarat (Australia), Rawalpindi (Pakistan), Edinburgh (UK), Cuenca (Ecuador), Shanghai (China), Dujiangyan (China), Yangzhou (China) and Suzhou (China). Hereby, gratitude is extended to all international and Chinese experts with contribution to this book. Thank you for your efforts in this book and

support for WHITRAP's HUL programme.

Last but not least, the conception of this book is attributed to Dr. Ron van Oers, the other editor with years' experience in HUL research and promotion. He worked hard in advancing practice and progress of HUL concept and approach in diverse urban contexts. However, unfortunately, he left the world in 2015 during a UNESCO monitoring mission in Lhasa, China. Hereby, the publication of this book has also embodied profound memory of Dr. Ron van Oers.

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