

Asia-Pacific Dialogue on Heritage and Authenticity

Rethinking Heritage Authenticity: An Asia-Pacific Dialogue for the Future of World Heritage

PROGRAMME

HA NOI – NINH BINH, VIET NAM · 27 SEPTEMBER – 1 OCTOBER 2026

Day 0 · Sunday, 27 September 2026 · Arrival and registration

Time	Session
All day	Arrival and registration of delegates
Afternoon	Optional city tour To be confirmed by the organizers
20:00	Transfer to hotel for venue check

Day 1 · Monday, 28 September 2026 · Authenticity in a Changing World

Time	Session
08:00 – 08:55	Registration of delegates
09:15 – 10:00	Official Opening Welcoming Remarks by H.E Mr. Nguyen Van Phong , Deputy Secretary of the Ha Noi Party Committee Address by H.E Mr. Le Hoai Trung , Member of the Political Bureau, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Viet Nam Remarks by H.E. Ambassador Mustafa Yurdakul , Permanent Delegate of the Republic of Türkiye to UNESCO, Chairperson of the 49th Session of the World Heritage Committee Remarks by Mr Lazare Eloundou Assomo , Director, UNESCO World Heritage Centre <i>Venue: Ballroom 2&3, Meliá Ha Noi Hotel</i>
10:00 – 10:15	The Ha Noi Outcome Document <i>Co-Chairs: Prof. George Okello Abungu and Ambassador Le Thi Hong Van</i>
10:15 – 11:00	Keynote addresses 10:15 – 10:30 Mr Lazare Eloundou Assomo, Director, UNESCO World Heritage Centre 10:30 – 11:00 Reconstructing authenticity: how the Kinh Thiên Palace research advances the classification of authenticity for World Heritage practice — Mr Nguyen Thanh Quang, Director, Thang Long – Ha Noi Heritage Conservation Centre
11:00 – 11:15	Coffee break
11:15 – 12:10	Framing plenary: From Nara to Nairobi <i>Chair: Mr Lazare Eloundou Assomo</i> <i>Coordinator: Pham Thi Thanh Huong</i> 11:15 – 11:25 Heritage ecosystems: why do we need a new approach? — Prof. Toshiyuki Kono, Honorary President, ICOMOS 11:25 – 11:35 Reappraising authenticity thirty years after the Nara Document — Dr Luisa De Marco, ICOMOS Advisor 11:35 – 11:45 From Nara to Nairobi and the international reflection on authenticity — Prof. George Okello Abungu, Australian National University, Canberra 11:45 – 12:10 Discussion
12:10 – 13:10	Lunch

Time	Session
13:10 – 14:20	Plenary session · Theme 1: Authenticity in a changing world <i>Chair: Prof. Toshiyuki Kono · Co-Chair: Assoc. Prof. Tran Tan Van · Rapporteur: Gwenaëlle Bourdin</i> <i>Coordinator: Le Hoang Lien</i> 13:10 – 13:20 Networks and linkages: revisiting authenticity in the Asian context — Dr Janhwi Sharma, India 13:20 – 13:30 Pyu Ancient Cities and Bagan — Mr Than Zaw Oo, Myanmar 13:30 – 13:40 Authenticity perceived differently across natural and cultural frameworks: the mixed landscape challenge at Trang An — Assoc. Prof. Tran Tan Van, Viet Nam 13:40 – 13:50 Archaeology and authenticity in a changing world: case of Central Sector of the Imperial Citadel of Thang Long – Ha Noi — Assoc. Prof. Tong Trung Tin, Viet Nam 13:50 – 14:00 Authenticity in maritime trading towns: comparative lessons from Hội An and Japanese port heritage for World Heritage practice — Prof. Nguyen Van Kim, Dr Nguyen Ngoc Minh, Viet Nam 14:00 – 14:20 Facilitated discussion
14:20 – 15:40	Plenary session · Theme 3: Living, spiritual and associative heritage <i>Chair: Dr Matthew Whincop · Co-chair: Prof. Nguyen Van Kim · Rapporteur: Prof. Inaba Nobuko</i> <i>Coordinator: Nasiphi Gwagwa</i> 14:20 – 14:30 Authenticity within an Indigenous Australian context — Dr Matthew Whincop, ICOMOS-ICAHM 14:30 – 14:40 Form is emptiness, practice is authenticity: Trúc Lâm Buddhism and heritage values at Yên Tử, Vĩnh Nghiêm and Côn Sơn – Kiếp Bạc — Ven. Dr Thích Nu Hanh Tam and Dr Pham Thi Thanh Huong, Viet Nam 14:40 – 14:50 Three dimensions of the authenticity of living heritage: the old tea forests of Jingmai Mountain in Pu'er — Prof. Shao Yong, WHITR-AP, China 14:50 – 15:00 Luang Prabang: authenticity through living heritage, people and their practices — Mr Paxa Nyordsavanh, Lao PDR 15:00 – 15:10 “Lulik” / Sacred on Living, Spiritual and Associative Heritage of Timor-Leste — Mr Francisco Urbano dos Santos with Mr Luis Nivio de Fátima Soares, Timor-Leste 15:10 – 15:40 Facilitated discussion
15:40 – 15:55	<i>Coffee break</i>
15:55 – 17:05	Plenary session · Theme 4: Communities, knowledge holders and contested values <i>Chair: Dr Jihon Kim · Co-chair: Dr Pham Thi Thanh Huong · Rapporteur: Kazuho Nakatani</i> <i>Coordinator: Tran Thi Ngoc Han</i> 15:55 – 16:05 Authenticity in living cities: communities, multiple values and interpretation in Wartime Capital Busan and Suwon Hwaseong — Dr Jihon Kim, Republic of Korea 16:05 – 16:15 Whose knowledge counts as evidence? Community custodianship, living heritage and the future of authenticity in World Heritage practice — Dr Atousa Momeni, Iran (Islamic Republic of) 16:15 – 16:25 Intangible cultural heritage and community memory – a determining component of the core authenticity of the Thang Long Imperial Citadel Central Sector — Assoc. Prof. Dang Van Bai, Dr Nguyen Thi Thu Trang, Viet Nam 16:25 – 16:35 Communities, knowledge holders and contested values in Kiribati — Ms Pelea Tehumu, Kiribati 16:35 – 16:45 Sambor Prei Kuk and community engagement — Mr Seng Chantha, Cambodia 16:45 – 17:05 Facilitated discussion
18:00 – 20:00	Gala Dinner Hosted by H.E. Mr. Vu Dai Thang, Chairman of the Ha Noi People's Committee

Day 2 · Tuesday, 29 September 2026 · Authenticity through Asia-Pacific Cases

Time	Session
9:00 – 12:00	Optional city tour at Thang Long – Ha Noi Imperial Citadel
10:30 – 12:15	Launch of the Kinh Thiên Palace restoration and exhibition Thang Long Imperial Citadel Ground-breaking for the reconstruction of the Kinh Thiên Palace Separate programme will be shared with registered participants
12:30 – 14:00	<i>Lunch and return to the conference venue</i>
14:00 – 15:15	Plenary session · Theme 2: Reconstruction, recovery and continuity <i>Chair: Dr Luisa De Marco · Co-chair: Assoc Prof. Tong Trung Tin · Rapporteur: Dr. Li Guanghan</i> <i>Coordinator: Le Anh Thu</i> 14:00 – 14:10 The ICOMOS–ICCROM Guidance for Post-Trauma Reconstruction — Dr Luisa De Marco, ICOMOS 14:10 – 14:20 Heritage recovery in Myanmar: Bagan and the Mandalay earthquake of March 2025 — Dr Kyaw Oo Lwin, Myanmar 14:20 – 14:30 Japanese experience: authenticity, management, dialogue and continuity — Mr Kazuhiko Nishi, Japan 14:30 – 14:40 Reconstruction, recovery and continuity: the case of Preah Vihear Temple — Mr Phin Samnang, Cambodia 14:40 – 15:15 Facilitated discussion
15:15 – 15:30	<i>Coffee break</i>
15:30 – 16:15	Plenary session · Theme 5: From regional experience to World Heritage practice <i>Chair: Dr Janhwi Sharma · Rapporteur: Dr. Nguyen Thi Thu Trang</i> <i>Coordinator: Ngo Sy Thanh</i> 15:30 – 15:40 East Rennell: heritage value, tourism and management challenges — Ms Sophie Tali Liligeto, Solomon Islands 15:40 – 15:50 From cultural meanings to verifiable judgments: attributes, evidence and change at West Lake — Niu Yanan, Research Fellow, WHITRAP 15:50 – 16:15 Facilitated discussion: translating the findings into World Heritage processes and national legal and policy frameworks. Chairs of all five themes share about regional experience
16:15 – 16:30	<i>Short break</i>
16:30 – 17:45	Plenary · Comparative synthesis <i>Co-chair: Technical Committee</i> 16:30 – 16:45 Synthesis of the Dialogue: from regional experience to World Heritage practice — Dr Janhwi Sharma, India 16:45 – 17:45 Reports from the five themes: what the cases confirm, challenge or add to existing World Heritage practice and recommendations for the Outcome Document <i>Each rapporteur presents no more than three recommendations</i>

Day 3 · Wednesday, 30 September 2026 · From Evidence to World Heritage Practice

Time	Session
08:00 – 08:30	Check-out and luggage loading All participants travel to Ninh Binh after the closing ceremony
08:30 – 09:15	Institutional roundtable 1 · Ambassadors and Permanent Delegates <i>Moderator: Amb. Le Thi Hong Van · Rapporteur: Tran Thi Ngoc Han</i> <i>Co-Chairs: Prof. George Okello Abungu and Ambassador Le Thi Hong Van</i> <i>Coordinator: Ngo Sy Thanh</i>

Time	Session
09:15 – 10:00	Institutional roundtable 2 · Craft people, knowledge holders and youth <i>Moderator: Mr Jonathan Baker · Rapporteur: Le Anh Thu</i> Artisans, elders, creative professional, universities, communities and youth
10:00 – 10:45	Institutional roundtable 3 · Institutional responsibilities <i>Moderator: Amb. Peter Ngure · Rapporteur: Le Hoang Lien</i> Responsibilities of States Parties, UNESCO, the Advisory Bodies, Category 2 Centres
<i>10:45 – 11:00</i>	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:00 – 12:00	The Ha Noi Outcome Document Presentation of the draft Ha Noi Outcome Document — Co-Chairs Adoption of the Ha Noi Outcome Document
12:00 – 12:45	Closing ceremony Remarks by Mr Jonathan Baker , UNESCO Representative in Viet Nam Remarks by Mr Lazare Eloundou Assomo , Director of the World Heritage Centre Address by H.E. Mr. Hoang Dao Cuong , Vice-Minister of Culture, Sports and Tourism of Viet Nam
12:45 – 13:00	Boarding Lunch boxes provided for the journey
13:00 – 14:30	Travel from Ha Noi to Tam Chuc
14:30 – 16:30	Field visit · Tam Chuc Pagoda
16:30 – 17:30	Travel from Tam Chuc to Ninh Binh city
17:30	Arrival in Ninh Binh and check-in at Legend and Hoang Son Peace Hotel Address: 98 Trinh Tu, Hoa Lu, Ninh Binh
19:00 – 20:00	Reception hosted by the Ninh Binh Provincial People's Committee

Day 4 · Thursday, 1 October 2026 · Technical Field Visit, Ninh Binh

Time	Session
08:00 – 08:30	Pick up at Legend and Hoang Son Peace Hotel
08:30 – 09:00	Travel from hotel to Trang An Landscape Complex Mixed World Heritage site
09:00 – 09:15	Video screening of Trang An Landscape Complex Mixed World Heritage site
09:15 – 11:30	Technical field visit · Trang An Landscape Complex A technical exercise rather than a guided tour: the authenticity-assessment framework is tested against the property The Statement of Outstanding Universal Value and the attributes that carry it Relationships between natural and cultural values in a mixed property Continuity of function, meaning and use Community and institutional perspectives Management, interpretation, tourism and monitoring challenges
<i>11:30 – 13:00</i>	<i>Lunch</i>
Afternoon	Return to Ha Noi / Departure to Noi Bai Airport