

Kyoto Declaration 2005 on Protection of Cultural Properties, Historic Areas and their Settings from Loss in Disasters

**(adopted at the Kyoto International Symposium 2005
"Towards the Protection of Cultural Properties and Historic Urban
Areas from Disaster"
held at the Kyoto Kaikan on 16 January 2005)**

Cultural Properties and Historic areas are irreplaceable cultural and social resources and a yet under utilized resource for sustainable development for the benefit of mankind, which should be handed down to future generations.

However, catastrophic hazards such as fires and tsunami caused by earthquakes, typhoons, floods and other disasters, pose grave threats, especially in the countries of Asia and Circum-Pacific region.

Through the reports of the participants of " ICOMOS-Japan International Expert meeting on Risk Preparedness for Cultural Heritage in Asia and Circum-Pacific Region " on the cultural heritage at risk and challenges confronting risk preparedness of cultural heritage in each country, and also on the basis of site inspection, with the cooperation of the people of the Kiyomizu Temple World Heritage Site and the surrounding Sanneizaka preservation district for Groups of Historic Buildings, we recognize the exceptional values that are embedded in the Cultural Properties and Historic Urban Areas, but at the same time also comprehend the risks to World Heritage Sites and the surrounding areas to earthquake, typhoon, flood and other disasters and that appropriate actions should be taken to improve their resilience.

While considering the probability of consequential fires after earthquakes resulting from insufficient preparedness, we recognize that such cultural resources are vulnerable to such hazards; not only in Kyoto but also in the world and that a priority list needs to be developed to focus attention and resources to improve the Historic Built Environment

However, considering the opportunity provided by the UNESCO World Heritage Convention for member states to take positive and effective measures in relation to risk preparedness at World Heritage Sites by undertaking the following activities as stated in Article 5 of the convention text,

- Integrating the protection of cultural heritage into national comprehensive planning programs [according to section (a) of Article 5]
- Developing scientific and technical studies and research and to work out such operating methods as will make the state capable of counteracting the dangers that threaten its cultural heritage [according to section (c) of Article 5], and
- Taking appropriate legislative, scientific, technical, administrative and financial measures [according to section (d) of Article 5]
- And also recognizing the great achievement of the Japanese government in stating a policy for disaster prevention of cultural properties and historic urban areas in " The Guidelines for Earthquake Disaster Prevention of Cultural Heritage and Surrounding Sites " issued by the Cabinet Secretary of Japan in 2004

We the participants of Kyoto Public Forum and ICOMOS-Japan International Expert Meeting on Risk Preparedness for Cultural Heritage in Asia and Circum Pacific Region, recommend that

1. Retrofitting and Community Infrastructure Upgrading needs to be systematically initiated to prevent loss of irreplaceable cultural resources due to disaster.

2. The information base for action programmes needs to be created and expanded to apply existing knowledge and new methods.
3. The past wisdom and experiences in disaster prevention, which were inherent in traditional local communities, and in cultural properties, historic areas and their settings should be preserved and/or recovered.
4. The environment surrounding heritage properties should be considered in the disaster prevention measures.
5. A comprehensive national policy of disaster prevention for cultural properties, historic areas and their settings needs to be formulated by States Parties who have ratified the World Heritage Convention.
6. The need for coordinated action by national and local governments should be emphasized to create an awareness of, and financial resources for addressing Historic Urban Area issues, improvement programmes and their implementation.
7. Outreach programmes in which governance and heritage interests are linked should be established in partnership with local government and universities, NGOs, and heritage entities; financial support from domestic capital markets should be provided to improve risk preparedness strategies in the present cultural heritage management measures; and clear delegation of responsibility and collaboration among various government departments should be promoted in disaster prevention and mitigation measures for cultural heritage.
National and local governments should develop capital investment plans based on socially, culturally, economically, environmentally and technically viable sustainable risk reduction programmes.

Therefore we, the panelists of the Kyoto international symposium, "Towards the Protection of Cultural Properties and Historic Urban Areas from Disaster" and the participants of the "ICOMOS-Japan International Expert meeting on Risk Preparedness for Cultural Heritage in Asia and Circum-Pacific Region", hereby declare that

1. Cultural heritage is a priceless and non-renewable human asset and it is our duty to raise awareness and undertake all necessary measures for protection of cultural heritage from disasters.
2. Cultural heritage embodies accumulated knowledge in disaster prevention based on past experiences and traditional practices, together with modern science and technology, which should be researched and integrated into disaster prevention measures.
3. Disaster prevention measures should address cultural heritage comprehensively, rather than in isolation, through the planning process and programmes, and in coordination with various cultural institutions, urban planning and other departments. While undertaking disaster mitigation, it is essential to adopt a coordinated multi-agency approach to cultural heritage management, in which measures for risk preparedness are integrated through effective partnerships and appropriate funding
4. While establishing mitigation measures to protect cultural heritage from disasters, the responsibility of various bodies should be clarified at all levels.
5. Undertake collaboration through international networks, especially in the earthquake prone Asia and Circum-Pacific Region, to establish project development task forces.

And consequently,

We, the participants of these meetings, ask for the improvement of disaster prevention measures in Kyoto as part of national policy and to further establish a global benchmark by setting the standard for cultural heritage disaster prevention.

Furthermore, we strongly urge all the States Parties and the concerned inter-governmental and non-governmental institutions to build an international network among experts and all those concerned with cultural heritage disaster prevention. We also urge regional development banks to support lending programmes through national and local government; to be members of project development teams to build support systems for historic urban areas; and to organize forums for mutual cooperation and information exchange.

The "Kyoto Declaration 2005 on Protection of Cultural Properties, Historic Areas and their Settings from Disaster" (hereinafter the Kyoto Declaration) was adopted at the Kyoto International Symposium 2005 "Towards the Protection of Cultural Properties and Historic Urban Areas from Disaster" held at the Kyoto Kaikan on January 16th, 2005, organized by Japan ICOMOS National Committee; Executive for "10 years Anniversary of World Heritage Registration" (Kyoto City, Preservation Technology Foundation for Cultural Heritage Building; All Japan Preservation Corporation for Roof Building Technique of Shrine and Temple; Kyoto Foundation for University Consortium; Kyoto City Preservation Foundation for Cultural Sightseeing Resources); Ritsumeikan University COE Program; Research Center for Disaster Mitigation of Urban Cultural Heritage Conference for Protection of Cultural Heritage from Earthquake Disaster and the NPO for Protection of Cultural Heritage from Disaster.

The drafting of the Kyoto Declaration began as a discussion in a small working group convened by Mr. Kanefusa Masuda, acting as coordinator of the International Expert meeting on Risk Preparedness for Cultural Heritage in Asia and Circum-Pacific Region 2005. This working group consisted of Prof. Takeyuki Okubo, Prof. Rohit Jigyasu and Prof. Kanefusa Masuda. Under the leadership of Prof. Okubo, the working group discussed elements to be included in the Kyoto Declaration for three months prior to the symposium. The outcomes of the working group's discussion were presented at the meeting of panelists and participants on 16th January, and after discussion the draft of the Kyoto Declaration was produced. The draft Kyoto Declaration was subsequently presented at the Kyoto International Symposium.

The panelists who participated in drafting the "Kyoto Declaration 2005 on Protection of Cultural Properties, Historic Areas and their Settings from Loss in Disasters" are as follows (in alphabetical order).

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- Dhammika Priyantha Chandrasekara (Lecturer, Moratuwa University, Sri Lanka)
- Dinu Bumbaru (Secretary General of ICOMOS International)
- Earl Kessler (Deputy Executive Director, Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC), Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Thailand)
- George Okello Abungu, (Guest Scholar from Kenya, The Getty Conservation Institute, United States)
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- Joseph King (Acting Unit Director, Heritage Settlements Unit, ICCROM)

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