WORKSHOP PROCEEDINGS

A three-day International Heritage Workshop organized in collaboration with Prince Claus Fund (PCF)/Gerda Henkel Foundation (GHF) and Heritage Foundation (HF)/Spiritual Chords (SC) and Pakistan Council of Architects and Town Planners (PCATP) concluded on 27th October 2018. The workshop was conducted at ZC3, Zero Carbon Cultural Centre, near World Heritage Makli Site.

On 25th October, the audience was composed of international and national experts, public representatives, high level government officials, eminent architects, university students from Sindh and Balochistan along with their faculty, and community members including women and a large number of media representatives, many of whom had come to Karachi.
On 27th in addition to those who attended on 25th October, several distinguished diplomats also attended.

The vast hall of ZC3 accommodated over 200 persons who were later served lunch from the Zero Carbon Chai Khana which was managed by the Barefoot Chulah team, all women who were smartly dressed in their uniforms and served the guests with great confidence. The community members that were present were all former mendicants (beggars) and as partners in the HF/SC Green Shelters project, they were visibly proud of having achieved dignity and self-reliance.

In his welcome speech Director General Archaeology, Mr. Manzoor Kanasro informed about Sindh Government’s plans for the uplift of the world heritage site along with their resolve to engage civil society and communities in heritage safeguarding efforts.

An excellent documentary prepared by the Directorate showed the majesty of the Makli necropolis and Minister Sardar Ali Shah’s resolve to bring back its glory.
Ar. Yasmeen Lari, CEO, Heritage Foundation presented an introduction to Makli World Heritage and the work of Heritage Foundation which spanned over the last 30 years including documentation, publications by Suhail Zaheer Lari and conservation of 5 monuments. She explained the background for taking up the 17th c. tomb of Munir Maghfouri in partnership with Cultural Emergency Response of Prince Claus Fund and the creation of network of conservation partners developed by Ms. Deborah Stolk in order to share innovative approaches for safeguarding cultural heritage.

A first-rate documentary by Ms. Shanaz Ramzi, CEO, StarLinks PR, covered the Green Shelters project and the transformation brought about by the effort of the community in partnership with Heritage Foundation. The documentary, “A Tribute to Kareema: From Beggarwoman to Entrepreneur” showed how in return for the gifts of shelter, toilet, water hand pumps and chulah, the community had risen from a state of apathy and was on the path of self-reliance.

Dr. Salma Samar Damluji, the partner in CER-NET, CEO of Daw’an MudBrick Architecture Foundation, presented her remarkable work in historic Yemen in restoring traditional houses and the training of local artisans. Her presentation was among the highlights of
the event that showed the importance of traditional materials and technique.

As Ms. Deborah Stolk, program director, CER, Prince Claus Fund had been unable to come to Pakistan due to visa issues, Dr. Damluji, who had been a long term partner with Prince Claus Fund, had been requested to deliver the message by Ms. Stolk to provide background information regarding PCF in general and in particular the CER-NET partnership of which HF and Dr. Damluji’s Foundation were the first partners. In explaining the context Dr. Damluji referred to the …..

Other speakers included distinguished architect Asad i.A. Khan, chairman of Pakistan Council of Architects and Town Planners (PCATP). His address highlighted the importance of alternative and green methods of construction and the need for focusing on saving our heritage.

The speech by Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Nawaz Sohoo provided background information regarding the importance of Thatta, a town that was once a celebrated centre of culture and commerce and the capital of Sindh.
The address by US Consul General JoAnn Wagner highlighted the importance of culture in our lives, and the reason that the Ambassador’s Fund provides assistance to heritage projects. She referred to the conservation of the tomb of Sultan Ibrahim and the most recent grant for the protection of Mohenjodaro artefacts at the National Museum.

The enthusiastic address by German Ambassador Dr. Martin Kobler referred to the venue of ZCS, which he had seen a year ago when still being developed. He explained the partnership of Gerda Henkel Foundation with Prince Claus Fund in order to conserve the 17th c. Munir Maghfouri monument.
He also noted that importance of low/zero carbon methodologies and in this connection he expressed his pleasure at the strategies being followed by Heritage Foundation.

25th October afternoon and 26th were dedicated to students workshops when lectures by Mr. Saad Khan, CEO, Pakoswss Technologies, an expert on water issues, Ar. Ghazala Naeem, an expert on Disaster Risk Reduction, and Ar./Plnr. Sadia Fazli, Registrar PCATP, spoke on various topics to apprise the students in diverse strategies that need to be adopted.
Pakistan Chulahs with serving platform built at ZC3 for the event.

The guests were all served from the Zero Carbon Chai Khana in recycled newspaper tube boxes fabricated by the community children as part of their craft exercise. The lunch boxes were lined with banana leaves that had been washed in food grade chlorine water. The ceramic spoons that had been specially designed and fabricated turned out to be a popular product by the guests.

Both Ambassador Kobler and CG Wagner visited various parts of ZC3 including the newly set up eco-tourist resort built with bamboo prefabricated structures. CG Wagner posed with the former mendicant women and showed her admiration for two Ladies Fund Idol Award winners: Champa (2016) for Pakistan Chulah and Kareema (2018) for ceramics/terracotta ornaments.

After lunch Ambassador Kobler visited the site of the tomb of Munir Maghfouri for which a separate report is available.
The tomb of Munir Maghfouri, 1613 AD, located on the eastern edge of Makli World Heritage is being taken up for conservation by Heritage Foundation of Pakistan (HF) with support from Cultural Emergency Response (CER) of Prince Claus Fund (PCF) and Gerda Henkel Foundation (GHF). The HF/SC-PCF/GHF is a shared funding initiative as part of CER-NET.

CER-Net supports local organisations in the development of specific methods and practices for cultural emergency relief and to make these methods accessible and widely available for other organisations worldwide. CER-Net will support research and testing on the applicability of First aid Methodologies in other countries and contexts.

Heritage Foundation and The Da’wan Mudbrick Architecture Foundation in Yemen are the first two partners and co-developers of this network.

The conservation work is being undertaken with application of L-EPI (Lari-Emergency Preventive Intervention) based on the principles of community engagement, use of zero/low carbon sustainable materials (e.g. earth, lime and bamboo), and DRR aspects.

Further, in following UNESCO’s Kyoto vision for effective involvement of local communities in order that heritage conservation could contribute to sustainable development of sites, Heritage Foundation has implemented a rights-based holistic Green Shelters Project for the uplift of 500 families belonging to mendicant (beggar) communities living close to Makli World Heritage Site.

HF has been engaged in research and documentation of Makli WH since late-1980s. It has conserved several monuments at the necropolis: Tomb of Samma Noble I (2012-2014), Ashabi Mosque (2014), Tomb of Mirza Jan Baba (2015-2016) and Tomb of Sultan Ibrahim and Amir Sultan (2014-2017) funded by CER-PCF, Spiritual Chords (SC), the German Government and the US Ambassador’s Fund for Cultural Preservation respectively.

In 2016, HF-UNESCO project Revitalization of Glazed Tiles (Kashi) in Sindh, funded by Korea-Funds-in-Trust, provided an added impetus to livelihood opportunities for kashi artisans, particularly women. The Workshop is being held in order to review the strategies that have been devised and discuss their implication for wider application and dissemination.

It also provides an opportunity for university students to become involved with heritage, green skills and humanitarian work among communities.
Schedule for 24th and 25th October assemblies. 26th was dedicated to work by 40 university students from Balochistan and Sindh, who carried out heritage related activity along with fabrication of green bamboo products. Lectures were given by faculty members and other eminent architects who had joined the workshop.