



Rits-DMUCH

Research Center for Disaster Mitigation of Urban Cultural Heritage,  
Ritsumeikan University, Kyoto, Japan

## Call for Applications:

Ritsumeikan University, Research Center for Disaster Mitigation of Urban Cultural Heritage

### **UNESCO Chair Program on Cultural Heritage and Risk Management**

#### **International Training Course on**

#### **Disaster Risk Management of Cultural Heritage 2011**

**Dates:** 10 to 24 September 2011

**Place:** Kyoto, Kobe (Japan)

**Cooperation with:** UNESCO World Heritage Centre, ICCROM, ICOMOS

#### **Background:**

##### **Disasters and Urban Cultural Heritage**

Historic cities are irreplaceable and highly complex cultural resources that have evolved over time and contain various heritage components such as traditional housing, urban spaces, ecological features and intangible components such as rituals and social activities.

However recent decades have seen unprecedented pace of urbanization. For the first time in human history, the world urban population has exceeded its rural population. Because of internal migration, from the countryside to cities, by 2030 more than 60% of the world's population is expected to live in cities, with record concentrations in large urban conglomerations and megacities in the developing world.

The uncontrolled and largely unplanned growth of historic cities have put increasing pressure on their urban infrastructure and has made heritage components highly vulnerable to natural hazards such as earthquakes, fire and floods. As a result, several urban disasters have taken place in recent years such as Mumbai floods of 2005, Hurricane Katrina affecting New Orleans in 2005, New Zealand Earthquake of 2010 and recent floods in Queensland in 2011 causing extensive damage to rich cultural heritage located in historic urban areas.

Therefore in order to proactively protect historic cities from disasters, mitigation measures need to be undertaken at policy, planning and technical levels through an integrated approach



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aimed at comprehensive risk management of urban cultural heritage. Moreover these should effectively engage various stakeholders at the city, national, regional as well as international levels for protecting cultural heritage in historic cities during such catastrophic situations.

Considering these issues, the theme of the 6<sup>th</sup> UNESCO Chair International Training Course on Disaster Risk Management of Cultural Heritage would be **'Integrated Approach for Disaster Risk Mitigation of Historic Cities'**

### **Background of UNESCO Chair Training Programme**

A thematic meeting on Cultural Heritage Risk Management was held in Kobe, Japan, in January 2005, as part of the World Conference on Disaster Reduction (WCDR). The meeting adopted a declaration that recognized the close relationship between the protection of cultural heritage and socio-economic development.

In response to the recommendations of the Conference, Rits DMUCH has been acting as a focal point for organizing international research, training and information network in the field of cultural heritage risk management and disaster mitigation.

The past training courses have been attended by participants from Nepal, India, Pakistan, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Iran, P.R.China, Korea, Philippines, Indonesia, Taiwan, Serbia, Moldova, Palau, Peru and Turkey.

### **Objective:**

The main objective of the course is to provide an overview of the various aspects of disaster risk management of cultural heritage. In particular, the course provides interdisciplinary training for mid-career professionals to:

- ✓ Undertake an integrated risk assessment by analyzing the vulnerability of cultural heritage to disasters risks;
- ✓ Build an integrated system for disaster risk management of cultural heritage, incorporating mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery measures;
- ✓ Formulate risk management plans for cultural heritage that correspond to the urban and regional planning and disaster management plans and policies; and
- ✓ Establish an international scientific support network for risk management of cultural heritage in order to build the institutional capacity needed to formulate comprehensive risk management plans that are based on the characteristics of cultural heritage and nature of hazards in the regional context.



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## Structure of the Course:

The training course would include classroom lectures, field based learning through site visits and practical demonstrations at the World Heritage Sites of Kyoto and Kobe, workshops, team projects, discussions and individual/group presentations.



The participants are supposed to work in multidisciplinary teams to learn the principles and practical know-how for balancing disaster management measures with those needed for conserving the values of cultural heritage. These would help towards disaster risk management of cultural heritage sites by taking into consideration the nature of cultural heritage and the socio-economic and institutional context of respective countries of participants.

During the course, Rits DMUCH will also provide various kinds of academic support to the participants to help them develop risk management plans for cultural heritage in their own countries. Therefore each participant will select one cultural heritage site in his/her respective country before attending the course.

## Criteria for Selecting the Participants for 2011:

The participants for the course would be selected on the basis of following criteria:

- ✓ **Number of Participants:** Total number of eight participants from developing would be selected for this course (refer ODA list of Developing Countries; <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/32/40/43540882.pdf>). These would include four participants from disaster management field and four participants from cultural heritage conservation field. Besides maximum three participants from cultural heritage or disaster management fields would be selected from developed countries.
- ✓ **Efficiency in training Implementation:** It is expected that the participants from the cultural heritage field as well as disaster management field would work together during the course.



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- ✓ **Case Study Site:** Each participant will select one case study urban heritage site in his or her own country. It can include historic monument/building/museum/ archaeological area or ensemble located in urban areas as well as entire historic urban area or city. The site should be vulnerable to one or more natural hazards such as earthquake and/or fire and/or flood and /or landslide.
- ✓ **Multiplying effect:** It would be preferable if the participant is attached to a cultural heritage or disaster management department/organization/university, through which knowledge gained during the course can be disseminated at local/national or regional level.

### **Working language:**

The working language of the course will be English. Proficiency in the written and spoken English is an essential prerequisite for participation.

### **Travel and accommodation:**

Financial support for travel and accommodation during the course would be available for participants from developing countries.

Participants from developed countries are expected to cover their round trip travel cost to and from Kyoto and accommodation.

All participants are requested to stay a hotel arranged by the organizer at rate of 4600 JPY per night which are exclusive of breakfast.

### **Daily Subsistence Allowance (DSA):**

DSA for the course will be provided to only participants from developing countries at rate of 2000 JPY/day. Participants are expected to cover their meals and other expenses from DSA.

Participants from developed countries are expected to cover their own expenses including the meals during the course.

### **Lunch:**

Lunch will be provided to all the participants during the course except on the free day in the middle of the course period.



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## **Application requirement:**

Applicants are asked to complete the application form and send it by E-mail no later than **24 April 2011**, candidates must submit:

- **Application form**
- **Short paper (3-5 pages):** describing project(s) and programme concerning cultural heritage conservation and management or disaster risk management in which you have been involved, and your overall potential for success in further applying the course contents in your professional career.
- **Questionnaire**
- **Official Endorsement**

**Applications should be E-mailed in Word Format to the following address:**

**E-mail: [dmuchitc@st.ritsumei.ac.jp](mailto:dmuchitc@st.ritsumei.ac.jp)**

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**Application Deadline: 24 April 2011**

**After initial short listing based on submitted applications, final selection would be made through telephonic interviews.**