Incorporating Protection of Cultural Heritage into Disaster Risk Management

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Priorities During Disasters
Priorities – Life Safety

Evacuate

Search & Rescue

Medical Care
Priorities – Cultural Heritage
What is Cultural Heritage??
What is Cultural Heritage?

Tangible cultural heritage: immovable
What is Cultural Heritage?

Tangible cultural heritage: immovable
What is Cultural Heritage?
What is Cultural Heritage?
What is Cultural Heritage?

Tangible cultural heritage: moveable
What is Cultural Heritage?

Intangible cultural heritage (oral traditions, performing arts, rituals)
What is Cultural Heritage?

Natural heritage
What is Cultural Heritage?

Tangible cultural heritage: Underwater
Heritage Losses During Disasters
Heritage Losses – During Disasters

Earthquake
Heritage Losses – During Disasters

Earthquake
Heritage Losses – During Disasters
Indonesia Earthquake
13 June 2006

World Heritage Site of
Prambanan Temple Complex, Java
Heritage Losses – During Disasters

Kobe Earthquake 1995
Flooded church marking border between river Skeksna and White Lake.

Heritage Losses – During Disasters

Flooded church tower, Alps, Italy
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4107-36792-N-X999
Heritage Losses – **During** Disasters

Wildfires

World Heritage Site of Olympia, Greece
Heritage Losses – During Disasters

Church Buried by Paricutin Eruption

http://wwwdelivery.superstock.com/WI/223/4187/PreviewComp/SuperStock_4187-3511.jpg
Heritage Losses – During Disasters
Heritage Losses – During Disasters

Fire in Istanbul’s Historic Haydarpasa Train Station, 28 November 2010

Photos: Zeynep Gul Unal
Heritage Losses Following Disasters
Heritage Losses – Following Disasters

Destruction of Cultural Heritage more by demolition than by Earthquake during Emergency response
Heritage Losses – Following Disasters

Demolition Before Assessments
Heritage Losses – Following Disasters

- Slow Recovery Efforts
  - Mold, weather, theft
  - Inadequate
    - Planning
    - Financial Resources
    - Personnel Resources
    - Training
    - Tools
Why is Heritage Important??
Why Is Heritage Important??

Spiritual, Cultural, Social, Economic-
- Spiritual centers
- Meeting places to strengthen relationships with one’s community and country
- A sense of local and regional identity
- A link to one’s past
Why Is Heritage Important??

Spiritual, Cultural, Social, Economic-
• An invaluable educational resource
• Maintain community pride and a sense of belonging
• Serves as physical anchors within a community
• Economic – tourism
• Area of refuge in emergency situations.
Before Disaster

During Disaster

After Disaster

RISK ASSESSMENT

RISK PREVENTION / MITIGATION

Communication & Monitoring

Communication & Monitoring

RESPONSE PROCEEDURES

Communication & Monitoring

RISK ASSESSMENT

RECOVERY / REHABILITATION

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

TREATMENTS LIKE REPAIR/RESTORATION/RETROFITTING

DAMAGE ASSESSMENT
Disaster Preparedness
Disaster Risk Reduction - Preparedness

• Undertake an inventory of cultural heritage properties, artifacts, traditions, etc;
• Assess heritage vulnerability related to construction, condition and site influences.
• Raise awareness regarding significance of cultural heritage
• Undertake cost-benefit analyses to assess the economic impact of disasters on community.
Disaster Risk Reduction – Preparedness

• Document indigenous construction methods, materials and techniques.
• Undertake research on performance of traditional construction techniques and materials.
• Prepare Inspection/Maintenance Guides
• Gather/file information and locate remotely.
Disaster Risk Reduction – Preparedness

• Compile lists of qualified heritage specialists and their skills, along with all contact details

• Develop damage assessment skills, documentation forms and fieldwork processes accounting for special characteristics of heritage properties, historic landscapes and collections.
Disaster Risk Reduction – Preparedness

• Work closely with emergency response teams
• Train for pre-planning, response and recovery needs of heritage resources as well.
Disaster Risk Reduction – Preparedness

- Develop post-disaster demolition permitting process incorporating conservation professionals
- Require appropriate damage assessment by heritage experts prior to demolition.
Disaster Risk Reduction – Preparedness

• Identify and integrate local, regional and international experts and associations (i.e. ICOMOS) that are developing standards and guidelines.

• Identify sources of international aid money for rebuilding.
Disaster Risk Reduction – Preparedness

• Special security measures for heritage at risk

Swat Valley, Pakistan
Vandalism by Extremists
September, 2007

Source – The Telegraph
Disaster Response
Disaster Risk Reduction- Response

• Implement above plans.
• Include qualified conservation professionals at the emergency command center(s).
• Undertake assessments by qualified experts.
• Train international help in terms of local methodologies, tools, resources, etc.
Disaster Recovery
Disaster Risk Reduction- Recovery

• Implement the above plans.
• Avoid using heritage for adverse uses- staging areas, debris storage/removal areas.
• Involve qualified conservation professionals in post-disaster recovery activities.
Disaster Risk Reduction- Recovery

• Use risk-informed approach for future disasters and local knowledge/traditions in rebuilding.
Role of ICOMOS-ICORP towards Reducing Disaster Risks to Cultural Heritage
What is ICOMOS/ICORP??

• ICORP is one of the International Scientific Committees of ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites)
• Focusing on Risk Preparedness of Cultural Heritage
• The committee consists of:
  – more than 40 professionals
  – from 25 countries
  – expertise in various aspects of disaster mitigation, response and recovery of cultural heritage.
What does ICOMOS-ICORP do?

• ICOMOS-ICORP promotes protection of cultural heritage places from the effects of disasters and armed conflict.
• ICORP does this through activities related to
  – collaborating with international, national and non-governmental organisations
  – furthering knowledge
    • identifies, undertakes and reviews scientific research
    • building capacity to reduce cultural heritage losses
    • disseminating best practices
    • delivering training
Ongoing Activities….

- ICOMOS-ICORP Manual on ‘Preventing Fire During Rehabilitation’
- Guidelines on Disaster Planning for World Heritage Sites
- Toolkit for Damage Assessment of Cultural Properties
- International Training Course on Disaster Risk Management of Cultural Heritage Ritsumeikan University, Kyoto
Ongoing Activities....

• Collaboration with International Organizations in Cultural Heritage:
  – International and National Committees of Blue Shield for emergency response
  – ICCROM for Training and Capacity Building
ONGOING ACTIVITIES....

Sharing Experience and Expertise:
The Possibilities of Professional Heritage Aid in Crisis Areas

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Thank you
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