

# Overview of the 2011 Symposium for “Urban Culture and Regeneration” in East Asian Metropolises

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An international symposium, entitled “Urban Culture in the Process of Urban Regeneration: Learning from East Asian Experiences,” was held on 24 -25 November 2011 at Tongji University, Shanghai, with various scholars from China, Korea and Japan gathering to discuss contemporary urban issues. The project to promote research into Asian urban culture had been developing since 2010 and on this occasion there was significant representation from several major research centers. The symposium was jointly hosted by Tongji University, Fudan University, Rikkyo University (Japan), University of Seoul (Korea), UNESCO World Heritage Institute of Training and Research for the Asia and the Pacific Region (WHITRAP), and Shanghai Research Centre of Chinese Culture and Creation.

The symposium commenced on 24th November with Professor Hai Yu’s introducing the symposium’s theme, outlining the schedule and introducing the paper-presenters. The Opening Address by Professor Jiang Wu (Tongji University) was followed by ten paper presentations, and the symposium concluded with discussion about the immediate prospects of East Asian urban centers. Below is the name of the presenters with the titles of their papers:

- (1) Jiang Wu (Tongji University), “Experience in the Conservation and Management of Historic Cultural Heritage in Shanghai”;
- (2) Tetsuo Mizukami (Rikkyo University), “Directional Shifts in Yokohama City’s Chinese Schools”;
- (3) Jian Zhou (Tongji University), “Case Study of Conservation and Renewal of the

Shanghai Old Town”;

- (4) Yaeko Nishiyama (Kinjo Gakuin University), Yoshihiko Kuroda (Nagoya University), and Chunyang Xu (Meijo University), “Urban Regeneration and Transformation of Governance Structure: Why is Reconstruction of Urban Culture Important?”;
- (5) Shiho Nishiyama (Rikkyo University), “Urban Regeneration and Possibility of Governance: Social Enterprises which Promote Sustainable Community Building”;
- (6) Tianshu Pan (Fudan University), “Ethnographic Perspectives on Communal Memory, Spatializing Strategy, and Neighborhood Gentrification in Post-Reform Shanghai”;
- (7) Wonho Jang (University of Seoul), “Urban Scenes and Development: The Case of Seoul”;
- (8) Binggong Su (Shanghai Research Centre of Chinese Culture and Creation), “Comparative Analysis on the Modes of Xintiandi, Tianzifang, the Bridge 8 and Zhizgoiu”;
- (9) Kee-Bom Nahm (University of Seoul), “Cultural Industries and Policies of the City of Seoul”; and
- (10) Hai Yu (Fudan University), “State-Led Market Order and Local Autonomous Experiment: The Case of Sustainable Development of Tianzifan.”

On the following day of 25th, the participants went on an excursion to Zhizhaoju, the Tianzifang area, the Bridge 8, and Sinan Mansions and other places along the way. This was to experience first-hand the actual landscape of urban regeneration in the Shanghai district. After visiting several key sites, the body continued to deliberate the many urban issues raised in their presentations until late at the Guangmingcun Restaurant.

We are glad to announce that this special issue of the journal includes several revised papers from the above symposium. Four articles are contributed from China: “Narrative of Historic Block Renovation in Power and Concept Dimensions: Case of Tianzifang in Shanghai” by Professor Hai Yu; “An Alternative Path of Conservation and Renovation of Historic District Conservation of Urban Heritage in Real Estate Project: A Case Study of Shanghai Old Town” by Professor Jian Zhou; “Place Attachment, Social Memory, and Neighborhood Gentrification in Post-Reform Shanghai: Ethnographic Perspectives” by Professor Tianshu Pan; and “On the Developing Modes of Creative Industrial Areas: Xintiandi, Tianzifang, 8 Haoqiao and Zhizaoju” by Professors Binggong Su and Xiao Pang. Three articles are from Japan: “Urban Regeneration and Transformation of Governance Structure: Why is Reconstruction of Urban Culture Important?” by Professors Chunyang Xu, Yaeko Nishiyama, and Yoshihiko Kuroda; “Sociological Study of Social Enterprises

which Promote Sustainable Community Regeneration” by Professor Shiho Nishiyama; and “Past and Present Situations of Chinese Schools in Yokohama” by Professor Tetsuo Mizukami.

Let us take this opportunity to acknowledge Ms Zhen Liu (Program Specialist, World Heritage Institute of Training and Research for the Asia and the Pacific Region under the auspices of UNESCO) for her devoted work in collecting all the papers for the symposium. In addition, we must acknowledge the extensive efforts of Professor Jian Zhou for the symposium’s efficient organization, which meant that of each participant not only experienced fresh discussion from cross-cultural perspectives but also was able to encounter Shanghai culture and a spirit of enduring mateship. The significant discussion regarding urban issues, such as “urban culture and regeneration,” will be continued in next year’s symposium in Seoul.