

15 October 2004
DECLARATION OF BUENOS AIRES

NINTH INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR OF FORUM UNESCO -
UNIVERSITY AND HERITAGE

University of Buenos Aires
Faculty of Architecture, Design and Urban-Planning
11 - 15 October 2004

The 240 Participants to the Seminar, from universities of 21 countries of the five regions of the world, meeting on the occasion of the Ninth International Seminar of FUUH on the theme "*Heritage Management: Centre and Periphery*"

CONSIDER THAT

The 316 abstracts and posters received represent an achievement and an increased proof of interest for the networks activities,

- Heritage concerns the future, more than the past: it represents a way of existence rather than a way of living;
- Centre and Periphery are recurrent and crucial terms for heritage management.
- These two notions are a question of perspective, every person being at the center of the periphery of the Other;
- in the globalisation era, periphery has unique and irreplaceable assets, which deserve to be better known and protected.
- The components of the civil society or the local communities are consulted to validate management plans that are elaborated by Heritage Specialists without true concentration nor participation from their part;
- International Charters and Conventions are a reflection of cultural diversity for what concerns the variety of conceptions of heritage, of its conservation, its authenticity and its integrity;
- Heritage represents the links of a society with its habitat;
- Applications of the new information and communication technologies virtualize visually heritage, allowing access to knowledge of the sites for the greatest number of people and reducing distances between centers and peripheries of knowledge without succeeding though giving this possibility to all to this date;

- New technologies are a tool to overcome the difficulties of periphery which are generated by spatial distance.

RECOMMEND THAT:

- Heritage management, which is not separable from the notion of habitat, should be an integrated management including all components of society, with the same qualitative and quantitative objective.
- Components of society or of community should determine themselves to define the site management plans, as this represents the best guaranty of their commitment and agreement in favour of the sites' protection;
- Intangible heritage should rather be called living heritage. The notion of citizenship includes everybody's responsibility towards local, national, regional or World Heritage;
- Universities should elaborate and propose training programmes to mediation which should include conservation techniques, management and capacity to interact with the local communities, in order to listen and integrate them to reflection concerning models of human development.
- Approaching heritage should not be exclusively visual but sensitive, comprising all human senses;
- New technologies should remain tools which cannot be substituted to interpretation, as virtual visualization of heritage cannot replace its direct perception;
- New technologies applied to heritage conservation should serve the local communities and not the reverse, in particular, they should form a teaching tool allowing awareness-raising of the value of their heritage;
- The need for an international cooperation should be taken into account, to allow universities to share purchase, maintenance and training costs of new technologies within a region, in a spirit of solidarity for the advancement of knowledge;
- Heritage should be considered as an essential factor for the development and financial investment and should not be reduced in times of economic crisis.
- Either local or national authorities should allow the access to cultural heritage knowledge, as the right every person has to a perspective of public health, as well as social integration and welfare.