



Monthly Commentary

In the run-up to the Olympics, the destruction of old neighborhoods in Beijing has received extensive and prominent coverage in a variety of international newspapers and magazines. The reporting has been accurate, and the problems highlighted by the newspapers are indeed distressing.

But there are positive developments to report as well, as set forth in the two articles of this issue of *Heritage Update*. It is these positive developments that encourage CHP to expand its cultural heritage work, and to have confidence that the work it undertakes will have a meaningful impact on cultural heritage protection in China in the months and years ahead.

Beijing Cultural Heritage Protection Center

Articles

Bridging the Gap in Cultural Heritage Preservation

How the struggle for preservation of China's cultural heritage is going depends on "whether you see the glass as half empty or half full". In recent weeks there has been much critical reporting in the international press on the redevelopment of the Qian Men area of Beijing. CHP is distressed with what has happened in Qian Men and other areas in contravention of established government policy and regulations regarding preservation of Beijing historic districts, but we would also like to bring to the attention of our supporters progress that has been made in other areas of cultural heritage protection, particularly government policy encouraging and promoting public participation in cultural heritage issues.

[Read more..](#)

CHP events summary

"Together We Grow Up" CHP's Volunteer Update

On the afternoon of July 12 2008, CHP staff and volunteers watched the "Tang Hu Lu" theatre group perform "Together We Grow Up", an account of the challenges and achievements that CHP's volunteers encountered as they participated in the 2nd phase of the 'Friends of Old Beijing'(FoOB) project. "Tang Hu Lu" were 6 talented volunteers who were involved in the project and watching this performance was an entertaining finale to eight months of hard research by CHP's dedicated volunteers.

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Media mobilization

[Am Ende kommen Touristen\(Spiegel Online\)](#)

[Volunteers are the backbone of hutong courtyard renovation \(Beijing Today\)](#)

[Lost in the New Beijing: The Old Neighborhood \(The New York Times\)](#)

[In Ancient Alleys, Modern Comforts \(The New York Times\)](#)