



Monthly Commentary

Looking back on CHP's footsteps this year, we feel the warmth in the freezing Beijing winter.

Thank you, for supporting us with your actions and generosity.

Beijing Cultural Heritage Protection Center still has a long way to go. However, it makes us proud that more and more people are identifying with our cause and joining us in the cultural heritage protection.

Beijing Cultural Heritage Protection Center

Feature

New Year Wishes and Reflections from CHP

He Shuzhong, CHP Founder

As China's civil society gradually develops, cultural heritage preservation is also becoming a part of public life. CHP's role in civil society's development and in cultural heritage preservation meets at two points, improving Chinese society and contributing to the public. I am proud on behalf of CHP, from its bits and pieces to becoming something worthy of pride. I humble myself to the help offered by the friends of CHP.

CHP could not have achieved such quality and growth without its staff of intelligent and dedicated workers in the face of trials and challenges. We must represent everyone's interests, keeping in mind society's improvements and raising our levels of coordination and organization. I look forward to seeing CHP grow and gain more strength in the coming year as I also look forward to seeing even happier coordination between CHP employees and our supporters. I encourage everyone in their continued support of our efforts.

Hu Xinyu, Executive Director

In 2008, regardless of project management or organizational management, CHP has begun to mature as an organization. At the beginning of the year, we successively recruited people to take on the responsibilities of the Courtyard Renovation Training project and of our public relations, implementing the project according to our projected goals. Organizationally, we have gradually reached our financial and staffing requirements. Although not all aspects of our plans have been fully completed, but we have taken important first steps.

CHP in 2008 beginning with change from within has gradually begun to resemble an organized NGO, learning from other NGOs and organizations many similar experiences.

We will be even better in 2009!

Doreen Diao, Beijing Traditional Courtyard Renovation Project Officer

2008 is the first year that I have worked for CHP. It was still the end of winter when I first came. There was a hint of spring in the air, but still very cold. Before I knew it, it is winter again, and it has been almost a year since I joined the big family. I was a little nervous in the beginning because I had no experience working in the field. It were the colleagues' help and CHP being a new organization allowing margins of learning and failing that walked me through the orientation period. Of course I also owe the volunteers, experts, and everyone who have helped

me at work. They answered my questions patiently, and gave me valuable comments and advice, which made CRT project moving forward, and will continue to be better in the future.

Zhang Pei, “Friends of Old Beijing” Project Assistant

In the year that I have worked for CHP, there are many people who told me, “The job you are doing is very interesting!” “It’s not easy, right?” See, the characteristic of our work can be concluded easily. Yes, every time we hold events, it makes me feel very grateful and happy that so many people are attending and supporting us. Although it is a difficult task, we have such a strong team with superb volunteers that keeps the project going.

“We grow up together,” I used this phrase to encourage FoOB volunteers. I think that the working mode and experiences built in FoOB II can lead us to better efficiency and work quality in the future.

Yao Zhengang, Website project assistant

It’s another year already! In this year, new colleagues, new interns, and new volunteers make CHP more well-known by the public and other organizations. More and more friends make CHP, and cultural heritage protection active. People say that 2008 is the first year of NGOs in China. Whether this statement is true or not, I can’t say for sure. But in this year, there are less friends asking me what an NGO is, but more people asking what events CHP is holding. This should be considered a step forward. A step forward for cultural heritage protection awareness and a step forward for CHP and NGOs alike. Looking ahead on 2009, my biggest hope is that CHP’s new website could be completed soon, and that it can be a useful tool and platform for us to communicate better.

Lily Wu, Communication and media training officer

The most appropriate word to describe CHP office is “teahouse.” There are always people coming in and out in our not-so-spacious office. New friends and old friends are discussing passionately for the projects. In the half year that I have worked for CHP, as the communication officer of the organization, I feel grateful for meeting interesting people and participating in meaningful actions on one hand, on the other hand the more I know about this industry, the more responsibility I feel I need to bear. The speed of cultural heritage destruction is beyond our imagination. CHP is racing with time.

Hope we can continue this “serious but fun” task next year, and hope that my efforts can make more people identify with our mission.

Michelle, PiA fellow

As the Princeton-in-Asia fellow who just joined CHP in September, the support from my colleagues and volunteers helped me walking through the orientation period without difficulty. The project I am coordinating now is Heritage Trails. This project aims to design walking trails in Old Beijing city for people to visit historical and cultural sites and to raise the awareness of cultural heritage protection. 2009 will be a fruitful year for this project. In January the partial contents of the project will be available online. By the end of the summer, when the project concludes, books will be published bilingually in Chinese and English. I hope the books can meet friends of CHP’s expectations, and that you will all have them on your bookshelves! Happy new year to everyone and all the best in 2009!

Desiree Marianini, Intern

The experience at CHP has just started. It has been less than two months since I came into the office as an intern. My expectations for this new path that I’ve began are various and different: I hope to gain knowledge about the policy, the status of old Beijing, city which gave me the hospitality, and about the current situation of cultural heritage in China. I hope I can make use of what I learned in the past for this cause which sometime seems to be far from the citizen mind. What I rely on is being able to learn form a multicultural environment I’m in, I sincerely believe in the importance to be part of CHP give the possibility to everybody to share experiences, points of view and topics, to grow up together in this crew, which is the miniature of the future society.

Tina Yen, Intern

Though I haven't been at CHP for very long, I am very grateful for this opportunity to work on architectural preservation projects and to work with the wonderful people at CHP. As a Fulbright Scholar, my purpose is two-fold: first, to conduct research on the history of Beijing and historical preservation efforts and secondly, to contribute all that I can to CHP in helping to raise awareness for the importance of cultural and architectural preservation. Lastly, I hope to learn and better understand preservation through the experiences and knowledge of my friends here at CHP.

Dai Yue, Volunteer/ Public servant

It has been almost a year since I started volunteering for CHP. In the past, numerous people told me, "Cultural heritage? Only retired people care about it." "How much is there left to be preserved? There's nothing you can do really in this industry." But I found in this year that there is still much for the young ones to do in the industry. There are also more and more young people concerning cultural heritage protection. I like the phrase "Let us grow together" a lot. Cultural heritage protection is not an easy journey; the team can only grow larger and stronger in the future if everyone puts in his efforts.

Guo Ran Volunteer/ Lawyer

It was accidental that I joined CHP, and this accident accidentally helped me set my career path, gave me unexpected experiences, and got me acquainted with so many friends that I otherwise would not have met. CHP is tiny, just like most of its staff. But it bears great responsibility of the entire nation. It may sound like boasting, but it is indeed truth. There are at times challenges and obstacles when volunteering, but it is also very rewarding. Therefore, go for it everyone! We can do better!

"Friends of Old Beijing" have been recruiting volunteers in its 3rd phase. There are hundreds of people participated in our work. Because of these people, there are even more who have heard, and have learned about us. From solely listening in the beginning to the brand new faces and fresh voices of our activities later on, from passively accepting ideas to actively generating creative ones, excitedly participating, CHP has slowly matured. Accordingly, I hope that everyone can receive more feedback, improve the work that they do, and that we can work hard to achieve our desired goals.

Cultural protection and heritage protection are all good, but without our support they have no meaning. Only with our support and care will these things take on meaning. Working and volunteering at CHP, and writing reports are not the only means of supporting and caring about cultural heritage preservation. Thus, I hope that in the coming year, more people will participate in CHP's activities, invite CHP to participate in different events, so that we can cooperate more freely.

Articles

Spokesman for the Foreign Ministry Promises to Protect Ke Yuan and Open to Public

In a web site message on 19 November, CHP appealed to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to not proceed with its plan to demolish Ke Yuan, a superb Qing Dynasty garden complex located in one of the historical protection districts of Old Beijing. Thanks to the efforts of a large number of supporters, our appeal elicited official response from several government departments. But we noted that the responses of different departments were not consistent, which set off warning bells. It is our hope that the statement of Qin Gang, spokesman for the Foreign Ministry, to a journalist's question on 25 November, is the most authoritative.

[Read more...](#)

An interview with museum scientist Su Donghai (part 2 of 2)

In the early winter this year, CHP got a phone call from an old gentleman. He said that he received a set of *Mengma Archive*, and was very touched after reading it. Later, we visited this gentleman in his eighties, and the first advocator and expert of eco-museum in China—Su Donghai.

[Read more...](#)

Announcements

[Job Opening](#)

[Lectures held in 2008](#)

[Documentaries shown in 2008](#)

[CHP Heritage Update Readers' Survey](#)

Heritage Update has received much attention and recognition since its first publication two years ago. The results of this survey will help us improve the Update. We aim to make the Update a platform for promoting cultural heritage preservation, and a channel for CHP and the public's communication.