



## Monthly Commentary

Throughout April, our attention focuses on the fate of Kashgar. As the only surviving old city with strong central Asian architectural style, the value of Kashgar lies with its Mosques, arched-towers, as well as the dynamic minority lifestyles. Since we published "Please Help to Protect Kashgar Old Town" on our website in mid April, we have heard that over 70% of the old town already gone. We do not intend to varify such a number, but we do feel we have more work to do. Although what we do may not affect what's happening a few thousand kilometers away, we do not want to give up our efforts, and we ask you to continue supporting our efforts as well.

We truly believe the meaning of perseverance in our battle against cultural heritage demolition.

## Beijing Cultural Heritage Protection Center

## Articles

### Plaese Help to Protect Kashgar Old Town

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Kashgar locates in the southwest of Xinjiang. Its Old Town has a recorded history of 2100 years. The existing historical neighborhood was formed mainly during the 1600's, and many of the buildings are over 400 years old. The mazelike streets and lanes, historical buildings, surround the town center at Atiguor Mosque. Chinese scholars consider it the only surviving Muslim old town with central Asian influence, and UNESCO experts regard it as the most important trade center along the ancient Silk Road. Without Kashgar Old Town, the application for the Silk Road to be registered as a UNESCO World Heritage Site cannot be justified. Kashgar is also very meaningful for the study of the history of Western explorers in the late Qing Dyasty and early Republican eras. Its significant cultural value was recognized by the Chinese government in 1986, when it was first pronounced as a national level historical city. So Kashgar old town should be preserved carefully in accordance with government regulations, Communist Party policy and Chinese law.

[Read more...](#)

## Project Updates

### Cultural Heritage Protection and Civil Society Building

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"Cultural Heritage Protection and Civic Society Building" Project Discussion

Cultural heritage protection and civic society building are two areas that are in most need of being strengthened in China today. The two are also mutual – cultural heritage protection promotes the building of a civic society and a civic society encourages the protection of cultural heritage.

### Ethnic Minority Cultural Revitalization

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#### Congjiang Archive Project

This month, Beijing Cultural Heritage Protection Center (CHP) and UNESCO officially signed the Congjiang Archive Project (Stage One) contract. The project is supported by the UNDP-Spain Millennium Development Goals

Achievement Fund signed by the Chinese Government, UNDP representative and Ambassador of Spain in October 2008. Run by the eight UN departments, the Congjiang Archive is part of the China Culture and Development Partnership Framework. CHP is invited as the only non-governmental organization to participate in this ethnic minority cultural heritage protection project.

## **Media mobilization**

【Bloomberg】 [Nonprofit Group Appeals to China to Reassess Plan for Kashgar](#)

【Beijing Resident News Broadcast Station】 [Journalist Perspective: Awkward Wanping Cheng](#)