



Monthly Commentary

Once a year, 49 countries in Europe celebrate European Heritage Days. The theme of this year's 26th European Heritage Days was "accessibility to heritage", promoting a series of events designed for the handicapped and events geared toward parents with children. The theme highlights the recognition that cultural heritage protection requires general public collaboration, regardless of age, gender, and other considerations.

The event lasted for two days. In France, where the European Heritage Days first took place in 1984, the celebration was very well received. Over 12 million participants attended the event, from France's President - Nicolas Sarkozy - to the general public. There was also a huge success on the cultural heritage preservation effort itself; the total number of national historic sites, prominent architectural sites, and handmade artifacts increased from 10,000 entries in the past to 15,772 entries in 2009. 604 new architectural sites that bear historical significance were also added into the 2009 cultural heritage preservation list.

In contrast, a long road in cultural heritage protection still lies ahead for China. The destruction of Liang Sicheng and Lin Huiyin's Former Residence incident and a lack of interest in cultural heritage protection among the government and Chinese citizens, to name a few, echo the problem that still persists in China.

We call on you to actively participate in protecting our own culture. We encourage you to follow the [Provisional Regulations Governing the Management of the Designation of Cultural Relics](#), which will be launched in October 1st. This newly-issued law is regarded to be one of the simplest and most effective laws on cultural heritage protection that China ever has.

Beijing Cultural Heritage Protection Center

Articles

China issues legislation encouraging the public to exercise its right to protect cultural heritage

Several successful cases in the past combined with the continuous development of the rule of law have shown that NGOs in China are capable of helping the people exercise their right to protect cultural heritage. The "Provisional Regulations Governing the Management of the Designation of Cultural Relics" to be enacted on October 1, 2009, will make NGOs even more important to the protection of these cultural artifacts.

"Cultural relic" is a very important legal concept used in the field of cultural heritage protection. Anything from a small container to a major historic site will only be protected if it receives an official government designation. The "Cultural Relic Protection Law" is responsible for many of the successful efforts to preserve tangible cultural heritage over the last few decades.

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Project Updates

A'er Village Qiang Cultural Protection Project

The First Gathering of Volunteers for the A'er Village Qiang Cultural Protection Project



Last summer, CHP held a salon at our Bailin Temple office to discuss a topic of cultural heritage protection for the Qiang minority. At the time, we would never have imagined that a formal project would be launched at that very location only a year later. We also would never have expected to receive such a great response as countless volunteers eagerly contacted us after seeing our recruitment announcement.

After a thorough selection process, the volunteer team has now been formalized.

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Liang Sicheng and Lin Huiyin's Former Residence

It is You Who Help us Make the Change—The Report on the Shooting of Liang Sicheng and Lin Huiyin's Former Residence's Short Movie



29 August, 2009 | Liang Sicheng and Lin Huiyin's Former Residence at No. 24 Beizongbu Hutong, Dongcheng District has finally restored to its normal state after receiving a lot of public attention of late. On another Saturday morning, CHP team raised the surrounding neighbors' curiosity once again as we were setting up our camera equipments in the area.

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Announcements

- [CHP has received 1,757 hits on our Profile page on douban](#)
- [Get Your Copy of a Free Map Marking Heritage Sites in Beijing](#)

Media mobilization

CHP wrote a commentary article in the **Orientations** magazine, providing an in-depth analysis and suggestions on the reconstruction plan of Old Town Kashgar.

【Orientations】 [Saving Kashgar](#) Oct, 2009

More than anywhere else in the world, Kashgar's Old City conjures up the exotic cosmopolitanism and mixing of races and cultures of the Silk Road. For centuries, the maze of alleys threading through the jumble of mudbrick houses, the markets filled with Central Asian merchandise and handicrafts, and the strikingly simple but elegant Muslim religious structures, have captured the imaginations of travellers from East and West.

【China Jianshe Bao】 [让行动阻止行动](#) 1st, Sep, 2009

Li Zhaoru's detailed report on CHP's forum - The Protection of Liang Sicheng and Lin Huiyin's Former Residence and its Relation to the Construction of Civil Society.