

Resilience thinking for integrating disaster risk reduction and climate action in heritage management

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Resilience is defined as “the capacity of a system to deal with change and continue to develop” and therefore it broadly refers to management of change in heritage places. In the context of disaster risk management of cultural heritage, resilience thinking implies proactively dealing with various risk scenarios and developing coping mechanisms to respond and recover from disasters. Therefore rather than considering disaster risk management as a standalone plan, this new approach embeds it as part of integrated conservation and management of heritage sites by linking nature and culture in wider territorial context for building their resilience. Such an approach also reinforces the link between catastrophic hazards and slow and cumulative ones that increase the vulnerability to disasters. Besides, it encompasses effective strategies for mitigation, adaptation and preparedness to address disaster risks and also recognizes the link between disasters and climate change by looking at ways of integrating climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies with disaster risk management of cultural heritage. The presentation will elaborate on this new approach and its implications on capacity building of heritage professionals through ICCROM’s new initiative under the World Heritage Leadership Programme on Understanding People, Nature, Culture: Heritage Management for Building Resilience of Living Traditional Settlements. It aims to guide heritage professionals and institutions to develop heritage management actions that takes into account multiple hazards and risk factors related to disasters (including those resulting from climate change) from the larger natural setting, being able to solicit management solutions for risk mitigation, adaptation and preparedness for living settlements.

Biography

Rohit Jigyasu is a conservation architect and risk management professional from India, currently working at ICCROM as Project Manager on Urban Heritage, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management. Rohit served as UNESCO Chair holder professor at the Institute for Disaster Mitigation of Urban Cultural Heritage at Ritsumeikan University, Kyoto, Japan, where he was instrumental in developing and teaching International Training Course on Disaster Risk Management of Cultural Heritage. He was the elected President of ICOMOS India from 2014-2018 and president of ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on Risk Preparedness (ICORP) from 2010-2019. Rohit has been the Elected Member of the Executive Committee of ICOMOS since 2011 and is currently serving as its Vice President for the period 2017-2020. Before joining ICCROM, Rohit has been working with several

national and international organizations such as UNESCO, UNISDR, Getty Conservation Institute and World Bank for consultancy, research and training on Disaster Risk Management of Cultural Heritage.