

October 24, 2011

Dear ICOM

Report from ICOMOS conference: Asian Urban Heritage, Phuket, Thailand

I would like to thank ICOM for the grant that enabled me to attend this conference and to give my paper 'Bhopal: Reclaiming a divided heritage' which I co-authored with Dr Bosse Lagerqvist from Kulturvård, Gothenburg University.

The conference was an excellent event organized by ICOMOS Thailand with 16 different international speakers. However, there were only two from Europe, and the inclusion of the 'western view' was very welcomed. Different approaches towards conservation and heritage are being developed in Asia which question the European tradition in creative and dynamic ways, and which we in the West need to know about. These are relevant for the way that heritage and museums are managed and for the importance of understanding participation and empowerment as genuine concepts, not just words.

As a result of the conference and the post conference tour, a number of possible collaborations are being discussed and important dialogues have begun. These were only possible because we were able to be there.

Thank you again

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