

WORKSHOPS ON CULTURAL HERITAGE CONSERVATION IN MONGOLIA, STONE AND POLYCHROMY

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The main goal of the project is to continue and intensify the training activities in the field of conservation and preservation of cultural heritage in Mongolia, which have been developed since 2013 with the support of EPU. So far, four workshops were organized by the Institute of Conservation in collaboration with the Mongolian partners, including the Mongolian State University of Arts and Culture (MSUAC), the National Center for Cultural Heritage (NCCH), and the Bogd Khaan Palace Museum (BKPM). The past activities comprised workshops on preventive conservation of textiles, conservation science, stone conservation and polychromy on wood. All provided basic theoretical and practical training activities. The consequent continuation of workshops allows the Mongolian participants to build on and extend knowledge gained in previous workshops, why this project should be carried on. Further, representatives and staff of the Mongolian partner institutions were hosted so far by the Austrian university for up to 4 months in the framework of OeAD scholarships or in the framework of meetings. All these efforts enabled to develop a solid and confident network and partnership between the Austrian and Mongolian institutions over the years, which now builds a profound base for future collaborative activities.

Activities planned for 2018 are two cultural heritage conservation workshops to be held in Mongolia: one workshop with focus on conservation of stone and the other with focus on conservation of polychrome wood. Both are follow-up workshops and include theoretical sessions as well as practical training on the two selected heritage sites: the complex monument Tureg Kulchur at Ikh Khoshoot and the Bogd Khaan Palace in Ulaanbaatar.

Besides the workshops, a strategic meeting of Austrian and Mongolian partners is planned in Vienna in winter 2018. Based on the very good experiences and the benefits gained from this kind of meeting in winter 2017, the one in 2018 will be used to discuss and plan follow-up workshops in 2019 and future collaborative projects. Altogether the activities and workshops provided by the Institute of Conservation, University of Applied Arts Vienna, highly contribute to the training of conservation professionals in Mongolia, which still suffers from lack of educational conservation programs. The topics of the workshops 2018 – stone and polychrome wood – are of particular interest for the Mongolian partners, as only little expertise is available on the sustainable preservation of these two materials in the harsh environment of the country.



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