

A Debate on World Heritage:

That inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage List does not protect our heritage

CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Introduction

The problematic issues of World Heritage Listing, WHL, such as conflicts between tourism and retention of authenticity, will be teased out in a formal debate with 3 speakers on each side arguing for and against the resolution: *That inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage List does not protect our heritage*. There will be time for audience questions and a final wrap-up Forum to discuss the issues highlighted in the debate in more depth.

There are two ways to participate in this event:

1. By being a member of one of the debating teams; - each team comprising three members.
2. Participating in the final wrap-up Forum.

The Debating Teams

Debates are used to explore and resolve issues and problems, and are conducted in front of an audience and/or panel who are judging the quality of the evidence, arguments and performance. A formal debate involves two sides: one supporting a resolution and one opposing it. The Debate opens with the affirmative team, the team that supports the resolution, presenting their arguments, followed by a member of the opposing team. This pattern is repeated for the second speaker in each team. Finally, each team gets an opportunity for rebutting the arguments of the opponent. Each of the first two speakers will have ten minutes to present their arguments, with 5 minutes each for the final rebuttals, and 5 minutes for closing statements from each team, making a total of 60 minutes for the debate.

At the end of the formal debate there will be 30 minutes in which the audience can ask questions of the debaters. A Judging panel will then present their comments on the quality of the evidence and arguments from each team, followed by the People's Choice for the winning debating team.

There will be a 30-minute refreshment break before we begin the Forum.

The Forum

The Forum/workshop discusses the issues highlighted during the debate. We will work in groups of around 10 people to summarise the key issues from the debate, with a view to formulating a White Paper commentary that can be presented to UNESCO's World Heritage committee. We are calling for people to express their interest in both participating in this session and / or being a moderator of one of the small groups.

Expression of Interest

If you are interested in being a member of one of the debating teams, participating in the Forum or being a Forum moderator, we invite you to submit an Expression of Interest which:

- States your preference for participation – Debater, Forum participator or Moderator
- States your preference for Affirmative or Opposing Team, if choosing the debating teams
- Includes a brief curriculum vitae indicating your experience with the UNESCO WHL and how this will provide valuable evidence and arguments for the debate (max 500 words).

Organisers

Further information and EOIs can be sent to any of the three organisers of this event:

Frances B. Affandy, Bandung, Indonesia

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Pauline K.M. van Roosmalen, Amsterdam, Netherlands

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Anne Warr, Sydney, Australia

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Timetable

5 February 2020

Deadline submission EOI

1 April 2020

Notification of acceptance

3 October 2020

2 PM – 6 PM Sydney-based Official Side Event: 'Shared responsibility: Does inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage List protect our heritage?'

Background

The following extract from an article by Alex Shashkevich in Stanford News, Nov 19 2018, summaries the issues for the proposed discussion on World Heritage Listing:

Created in 1946 to help establish peace through international cooperation in a world ravaged by two colossal wars, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) hoped to change the "minds of men and women," as its constitution says.

The agency aimed to achieve that mission through education, cultural exchange and conservation of heritage sites.

But that utopian ambition has gotten lost, according to Stanford anthropology Professor Lynn Meskell who has spent the last eight years researching the history of the organization and its World Heritage program.

Today, most countries seem to care more about getting their historic sites onto the World Heritage List in order to benefit from UNESCO's brand rather than discuss conservation and preservation, Meskell said.

Meskell calls for change within the organization and for an increased representation of minorities and indigenous populations at the discussion tables during UNESCO meetings.

news.stanford.edu/2018/11/19/stanford-scholar-examines-unescos-world-heritage-program