

## **INTRODUCTORY CONSIDERATIONS**

**to selected papers at:**

### **International conference on critical heritage in cross-cultural perspectives**

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*Scientific Editor*

It was with great pleasure that I participated, as an Italian representative, at the International Conference on Critical Heritage in Cross-cultural Perspectives in Hangzhou (5-7 November 2013), organized by Zhejiang University. A great many qualified persons and experts from various countries participated, representing international universities and cultural and research institutions. I would like to point out once more the excellent organization, related not only to the congress meeting but also to the various events. This can rightly be a prerogative and peculiarity of particular significance, not only in scientific terms, testifying to those qualities of exquisite willingness and excellent managerial ability inherent in those representing this great Asian nation.

Undoubtedly China, together with its corresponding academic and cultural world, now looks beyond its confines, not only in politics and economics, but also in the scientific and cultural sphere, disengaging itself from its internal dimension and social and cultural complexity. Its growth has, furthermore, been rapid, accompanied by soft power in culture and in the collective imaginary, thanks to the growing number of Confucius Institutes and the diffusion of the China Central Television (CCTV).

It is also true that China is focusing on merit and talent by instituting Chinese universities in other countries, setting up courses such as those held at the Imperial College of London by Zhejiang University.

Among the research centers activated, with the purpose of developing innovation in emblematic and advanced sectors, also from a cultural point of view both broadly and strictly speaking, it is worth mentioning a project which is currently underway involving an Agreement of Cooperation between the University of Bologna and Zhejiang University for a "Joint Research Laboratory for Cultural Heritage Diagnosis and Conservation".

Following my presentation at the International Conference held in Hangzhou, a request was made to reproduce at Zhejiang University, the Diagnostic Laboratory for Cultural Heritage of the Department of Cultural Heritage of the Alma Mater Studiorum University of Bologna in Ravenna, Italy – acknowledged as an institute of excellence by the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Activities and Tourism, the Institute of Foreign Trade and by Change Performing Arts. The said Agreement is written in terms of acquiring innovation as well as management know-how within the dichotomous context of continuity and change, essential for the modernization of the country, and the social, cultural and academic community.

With this in mind, we have accepted the request of our Chinese colleagues to publish the papers presented at the International Conference in Hangzhou and selected by a Chinese committee, in the international Journal "Conservation Science in Cultural Heritage". For this it seemed proper, in respect of the selection made by our Chinese colleagues, for us to report the full text of the papers, and to stand apart from the initiatives which resulted in the scientific

content as well as the uniformity of the papers themselves: it was therefore considered right to remain faithful to the entire scientific contribution, more prevalent with respect even to what is established in the Journal's Editorial Guidelines.

It was consequently decided to publish a supplement to issue No.14 (2014), in response to the pondered and desired choice of the Editorial Department of the Journal "Historic Urban Landscape of Zhejiang University".

This undoubtedly means recognition for the University of Bologna and for the research and results achieved at international level by the University's Department of Cultural Heritage: Asian "fidelity" towards our country through the awareness of the change in this "new China", and also of the acquired scientific maturity of the structure and respective representatives of the University of Bologna.