

**The series of Events of the Heritage of  
Commemoration ---18<sup>th</sup> April  
International Day on Monuments and  
Sites**



**ICOMOS International Conservation  
Center- Xi'an**

# 1. Background

At the heart of the work of ICOMOS lies the understanding, the protection and the conservation of those structures, sites and ensembles whose interest is linked to history and memory. The value of these elements of our cultural heritage is associated with the history of societies and peoples, as well as the arts and sciences they developed.

In this, these monuments and sites, including those more complex and diversified forms of heritage places such as living landscapes, are tangible carriers of the memory of a part of the human experience. Thus, through their authenticity and integrity, they contribute, in their way, to the commemoration and transmission of values which include history.

This discussion is not merely a contemporary one. The past President of ICOMOS, Michael Petzet, often quoted the Roman Cicero who defined a monument not by its shape or scale but for its capacity to remind us of something (*omnia monumenta sunt, quae faciunt alicuius rei recordationem*). Beyond this general observation on the close relationship between human history and the heritage with which ICOMOS and its members concern themselves, the theme for the 2014 International Day on Monuments and Sites – the Heritage of Commemoration – provides an opportunity to present those constructions that have been intentionally created with the purpose of commemorating an event, a person, an idea, etc.

This choice of theme is partly inspired by the centennial in 2014 of the beginning of the Great War of 1914-1918. Due to the unprecedented scale of destruction and its international reach, this great tragedy of the Modern Era led societies to adopt a new form of commemoration, more centred on the notion of sacrifice and the individual identity of the innumerable victims rather than events and heroic personalities. This led to the creation of a distinctive heritage of monuments and sites, created for the sole purpose of commemoration.

The heritage of commemoration takes a variety of forms: engraved inscriptions, mausoleums of exceptional architecture or works of monumental sculpture, more modest elements reflecting vernacular traditions or dedicated landscapes such as cemeteries or memorial gardens. This heritage also includes elements that were given a commemorative value; for example, ruins or industrial vestiges accompanied by dedication plaques, or public squares whose toponymy commemorates a historical event or individual. Many of the cultural sites on the World Heritage List have a commemorative purpose: the Taj Mahal in Agra, India; Hiroshima's Peace Memorial and Genbaku Dome in Japan, the Centennial Hall in Wroclaw, Poland; or the Statue of Liberty in New York, USA.

In proposing the Heritage of Commemoration theme for the 2014 International Day for Monuments and Sites, ICOMOS invites all its National and International Committees, its members and partners to highlight a form of heritage whose purpose reflects the deep need of human beings to remember and to transmit their memory to others. It is also an opportunity to reflect on the challenges of memory in our contemporary world, as well as the complexity of its conservation.

ICOMOS Committees are kindly invited to organise events related to this important date: conferences, lectures, press releases, round tables, visits to heritage properties, etc. in order to raise public awareness related to this specific type of heritage.

## **2. Events Introduction**

### **(1). Name of the events**

A series of events of “The Heritage of Commemoration” ---18th April  
International Day on Monuments and Sites

#### **a. Sponsor**

Organization Unit: ICOMOS International Conservation Center-Xi'an (IICC-X)

Undertaker: Tomb of Zhang Qian, The Grottoes of Great Buddha Temple in Bin County, Small Wild Goose Pagoda, Xi'an Yu Youren Former residence museum, Xi'an Bell and Drum Towers Museum and Xi'an Eighth Route Army Museum

#### **b. Publicity**

(a) School Child, teenagers, students;

(b) Relevant area career man, experts;

(c) Public, residents who shows interests in World Heritage

### 3. Events Content

These activities are divided into two parts—Advance publicity and the show on the day. The advance publicity includes pre-design and the print of leaflet. The publicity activities include providing color pages, posters and hanging banners for publicity as well as volunteers' recruitment on the show day among the relevant sites etc. The Weibo (Chinese Twitter) and official website are the main ways of online publicity, which regularly post activities information on consultation and arrangement. ICOMOS International Conservation Center-Xi'an will take responsible for the work.

**Publicity Banner: The Heritage of Commemoration—18<sup>th</sup> April International Day on Monuments and Sites.**

#### **(a) Online Activities**

IICC-X Official Weibo launched the theme of # 18<sup>th</sup> April International Day on Monuments and Sites# photography activities.

IICC-X Official Weibo advertises “The Heritage of Commemoration—18<sup>th</sup> April International Day on Monuments and Sites.”

#### **(b) Off-line activities**

- **The Heritage of Commemoration—18<sup>th</sup> April International Day on Monuments and Sites: Events on Tomb of Zhang Qian**

Place: Front square of Tomb of Zhang Qian in Cheng gu County

Date: 5<sup>th</sup> April 2014

Participator: Public, the descendant of Zhang Qian etc.

Events: (1) Fete Ceremony

(2)Autograph activity on safeguarding the heritage of commemoration

- **The Heritage of Commemoration—18<sup>th</sup> April International Day on Monuments and Sites: Events on The Grottoes of Great Buddha Temple in Bin County**

Place: The Grottoes of Great Buddha Temple in Bin County

Date: 7<sup>th</sup> April 2014

Participator: residents

Events: (1) Temple Fair

(2)Autograph activity on safeguarding the heritage of commemoration

- **The Heritage of Commemoration—18<sup>th</sup> April International Day on Monuments and Sites: Events on Xi'an Eighth Route Army Museum**

Place: Xi'an Eighth Route Army Museum

Date: 16<sup>th</sup> -18<sup>th</sup> April 2014

Participator: Public, Relevant units colleagues etc

- Events: (1) “Britain Gong Yi Jiu Hu Dui” photograph Exhibition  
 (2) Autograph activity on safeguarding the heritage of commemoration

- **The Heritage of Commemoration—18<sup>th</sup> April International Day on Monuments and Sites: Events on Commemorative puzzle series—City treasure hunt (Xi’an)**

Place: Small Wild Goose Pagoda as the start and end point, the activities will be carried out within the scope of the Xi’an City Wall

**Events draft map:**



- **The Heritage of Commemoration—18<sup>th</sup> April International Day on Monuments and Sites: “Cultural Heritage and Commemoration” Curator Forum**

ICOMOS International Conservation Center-Xi’an invites Tomb of Zhang Qian, The Grottoes of Great Buddha Temple in Bin County, Small Wild Goose Pagoda, Xi’an Yu Youren Former residence museum, Xi’an Bell and Drum Towers Museum and Xi’an Eighth Route Army Museum, head of the seven cultural heritage sites from Shaanxi province to make an interchange and dialogue on the understanding and perspective for the heritage of commemoration.

