

CULTURE: Conserving it Together

Suva, Fiji 1-5 October 2018

An ICOMOS conference on heritage conservation across the Pacific

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The 2018 '*CULTURE – Conserving it Together*' conference in Fiji brought together approximately 100 eminent local and international experts, specialising in heritage conservation, from 14 countries including Australia, China, Fiji, France, Japan, Mexico, Myanmar, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Taiwan, Tuvalu, United States and Vanuatu. There were also two pre-recorded electronic PowerPoint presentations, one from Canberra and the other from the Philippines, which were presented via Skype.

The '*CULTURE*' conference was the first annual conference of Australia ICOMOS held abroad. The delegates were joined at this landmark event by several Board members of ICOMOS, including President Toshiyuki Kono, Secretary General Peter Phillips, and a few Presidents from Asia-Pacific region ICOMOS National Committees.

The conference paper presentations took place over three days in Suva (3-5 October), with a special pre-conference workshop in Levuka World Heritage Port Town, from 29 September to 2 October. At the workshop, Pasifika-region and selected international heritage experts set the foundations of a Pasifika Charter for cultural heritage management in the Pacific region. Post-conference tours to various sites in the western region of Fiji rounded out the event. The [Levuka Workshop report is now online](#).

Delegates presented papers on heritage conservation issues in relation to the main four sub-themes, in addition to two special sessions, the *CultureNature Journey* and the *Underwater Cultural Heritage of the Pacific region*. More on the themes can be found at the [conference website](#)

The Keynote Speakers presented excellent addresses and their provocative introduction to the conference themes set the stage for delegates to further their discussions around the range of more than 43 presentations throughout the duration of the event. The presentations clearly showed the diverse of heritage challenges present in the Pacific region that need addressing.

Accordingly, the conference paved the way for delegates to continue the collaboration and sharing of expertise and knowledge with their Pasifika colleagues and relevant stakeholders, to achieve the common '*CULTURE*' conference ***focus in sharing knowledge, celebrating the rich culture of the Pacific and the common issues on heritage conservation across the region***. It is hoped that future gatherings will provide more opportunities for this to occur.

Selected papers from the conference were also included in two issues of *Historic Environment* (the refereed journal of Australia ICOMOS), which can be accessed from the links below.

[Vol 31 \(2\) CULTURE: Conserving it Together – Heritage at Risk](#)

[Vol 31 \(3\) CULTURE: Conserving it Together: Cultural Landscapes—Intangible Heritage](#)