Beijing, September 29, 2022

**Call for Research Papers for the Maritime Silk Road**

**International Cultural Forum**

The year 2022 marks the 50th anniversary of the promulgation of the UNESCO’s “Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage”. World cultural and natural heritage is the result from the development of human civilisation and the evolution of nature, as well as a significant carrier for promoting exchanges and mutual learning among different civilisations. It is our common responsibility to protect, pass on and make good use of these precious wealth, which is conducive to the continuation of human civilisation and the sustainable development of the world. The Silk Road was a great road of trade, culture and friendship between ancient civilisations of the East and the West. In recent years the protection of its cultural heritage has received extensive attention from the international community. The research and conservation of the Maritime Silk Road, as an essential part of the Silk Road, is also of great significance for strengthening exchanges and mutual learning among contemporary civilisations to promote world peace.

In response to the call of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, the Maritime Silk Road International Cultural Forum will be held in Macao, China, on 16-17 November 2022, to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the “Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage”, to facilitate the investigation and research on the cultural heritage resources of the Maritime Silk Road, and to promote international exchanges and cooperation on the conservation and management of the cultural heritage of the Maritime Silk Road.

The forum will have in-depth discussions and exchanges focused on the historical and archaeological research, protection and management, as well as display and interpretation of the cultural heritage of the Maritime Silk Road. Topics to be explored include the space-time definition of, the historical and contemporary values of, the conservation and sustainable use of, and the international exchange and cooperation of, the cultural heritage of the Maritime Silk Road. The forum now calls for research papers from the international community. Selected papers will be published on the official site of the forum, ICOMOS China, and relevant public channels, with their authors to be invited to attend and speak at the forum.

**I. Targeted contributors**

Professional institutions, experts, scholars, university professors and students, as well as conservation and management practitioners in the field of cultural heritage around the world.

**II. Themes**

The research should be centred on the conservation and sustainable development of the cultural heritage of the Maritime Silk Road, with a theme chosen from the following:

* Historical and archaeological research of the Maritime Silk Road and its definition in the scope of space and time;
* Historical and contemporary values of the cultural heritage of the Maritime Silk Road;
* The conservation and sustainable utilization of the cultural heritage of the Maritime Silk Road;
* International exchange and cooperation on the conservation and management of the cultural heritage of the Maritime Silk Road.

**III. Requirements**

1. Content

* In-depth elaboration on one of the themes above, with clear viewpoints, solid arguments and reasonable logic.
* Based on the actual practice of the conservation, management and utilization of the cultural heritage of Maritime Silk Road, select specific issues or cases for analysis and discussion, and put forward constructive and feasible suggestions.
* Each institution or individual shall only submit one paper, with an abstract attached.
* The paper must be written in Chinese or English.

1. Format

Please refer to the Appendix for details.

1. Selection

Submitted papers will be reviewed and selected by experts in relevant fields. Please keep your own manuscript. The submitted copy will not be returned. Method to handle papers that are not chosen to be published will be notified separately.

**IV. Submission Date**

Prospective contributors shall send the reply slip and the completed paper (preferably around 5,000-8,000 words) by or before **15 October 2022**, to the email address shown below.

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Appendix 1: Reply Slip for the Call for Research Papers

Appendix 2: Format Requirements for Submitted Papers

Best Regards,

ICOMOS China