

Dr. Hongtao Liu



Dr. Hongtao Liu, Associate Professor, Director of the World Heritage International Research Center, Southwest Jiaotong University, Sichuan Province, China

Hongtao Liu currently works as the Director of the World Heritage Research Center at Southwest Jiaotong University, Sichuan Province. His expertise is in cultural heritage studies, after obtaining the doctoral degree from the Graduate Department of World Cultural Heritage, University of Tsukuba in Japan. In recent years, his research team has focused on the conservation of World Heritage sites under the background of climate change, given the fact that multiple disasters occur frequently in Asia, especially in the southwest of China. Since the Wenchuan Earthquake in 2008, he has been paying attention to the disaster situation and post-disaster recovery of the World Heritage sites. In 2011, he participated in the heritage site damage survey in Japan after the 311 Tohoku Earthquake. Also, in 2016 and 2017, he organized and hosted international workshops on disaster prevention and recovery of heritage sites to the National Bureau of cultural relics of Nepal, which was sponsored by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China. In particular, since the Jiuzhaigou Earthquake in 2017, he has been participating in post-disaster recovery and risk monitoring of the Jiuzhaigou World Heritage site. From 2020, the research team also started researching the disaster damage and countermeasures in Giant Stone Buddha in Leshan City in the Flood.

His presentation 'China's reaction to the World Heritage conservation under the background of climate change' is based on the fact that China's World Heritage sites are facing various potential risks brought by severe climate change. In the future, China will reform the conservation modes and turn "passive response" to "preventive conservation" to better preserve World Heritage.

1. Overview of China's World Heritage disaster damages, including the number of China's existing World Heritage sites, the general situation of disaster damage, damaged heritage site statistics in 2019.
2. China's World Heritage protection actions and future plans, including policies and measures for World Heritage at the national level under climate change, world cultural heritage disaster monitoring system and future protection and development plan for World Heritage under climate change.
3. Case studies on the conservation of World Heritage sites in the World Heritage Research Center at Southwest Jiaotong University, including research on disaster risk management and preventive conservation of historic villages in Jiuzhaigou World Natural Heritage Site, and flood disaster mechanism and flood control measures of Leshan Giant Buddha World Cultural and Natural Heritage Site.