CONFERENCE REPORTS



INDIA

INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE IN INDIA: KNOWLEDGE, CONDITION AND SIGNIFICANCE

Workshop at the ICOMOS 2017 General Assembly in New Delhi, December 2017

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This special session on industrial heritage was arranged by Moulshri Joshi, TICCIH National Representative for India. The event was supported by the National Institute of Urban affairs, who hosted it in their offices situated in the heart of ICOMOS conference venue, the India Habitat Centre.

The meeting room would have comfortably accommodated 40 participants, but by the end, over 80 people squeezed in, draining surrounding rooms of furniture and reflecting an interest in industrial heritage that significantly outstripped expectations. The attendees who managed get in were not disappointed. The programme opened

with an introduction to the industrial heritage of India from Moulshri Joshi, and was followed by presentations on a wide range of topics including zinc smelting, iron making, Dutch factories, railways, power plants and ship/boat building. The event ended with sessions discussing thematic concerns, and the way forward for industrial heritage in India. Moulshri Joshi also presented for display two printed copies of the first Industrial Heritage Inventory for India (see Worldwide). The hope is that this will help in the struggle to achieve much wider recognition of the value and importance of industrial heritage in India.

There is no doubt that the session was hugely successful. In addition to being much larger than anticipated, its audience was vibrant and young, reflecting an interest amongst emerging practitioners and academics within India. However, it also reflected the scale of the task affecting planners and heritage professionals - there is some extraordinary industrial heritage to be found across the country, but it is not sufficiently valued or recognised, and much of it continues to be under significant threat. The hope is therefore that this session, and specifically the young audience that it attracted, can help address the dangers currently afflicting Indian industrial heritage, whilst also realising the many opportunities that this type of heritage can offer.

COMING SOON



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