

First International Conference on Inland Waterways, Waterscapes and Cultural Heritage

(Hue, Vietnam, 8-11 December 2020)

Inland waterways include rivers, canals, lakes, lagoons, floodplains, reservoirs, wetlands, and inland saline systems. A waterscape can be defined as a landscape in which water is a dominant feature and these can be very different, ranging from irrigated agricultural areas such as the terraced rice paddies of South East Asia, transport canal routes, urban waterfront developments, engineered lakes, lagoon and riverine environments and many others.

The conference highlights the crucial importance of inland waterscapes as visible and intangible infrastructural networks within various national, regional and local contexts and identifies their function as tourism and leisure assets. Historic waterways contain elements such as bridges, lock systems, hydraulic factories, warehouses and river port facilities that are increasingly recognised as being industrial heritage assets. It is also important to consider the socio-cultural value of rivers, canals, lakes, lagoons, estuaries and other bodies of water. Furthermore, inland waters play a pivotal role in our personal everyday practices, experiences, biographies and memories. The intangible heritages of inland waters are (re)created by a continual interplay between various individual and collective memories and histories resulting in hybrid watery spaces and places. Therefore, we need to pay attention to both the politics and grand narratives about waterways as well as personal memories, reflections, local traditions and vernacular practices.

This conference also aims to promote waterways and related areas as both socio-cultural and economic resources for developing sustainable tourism and leisure practices, responding to the growing demand for cultural and environmental protection, as well as for high quality recreational experiences.

The conference builds on previous work by scholars in different European countries. Since 2012 networking initiatives have commenced to exchange expertise and knowledge. This common research trajectory was focused on a series of issues concerning European historic canals and their related heritage as an opportunity to promote “responsible” tourism. A major European conference was then held in 2015 at Ca’ Foscari University in Venice with the Civiltà dell’Acqua International Centre (in cooperation with the UNESCO Venice Office and the Istituto Veneto di Scienze, Lettere ed Arti) to provide an opportunity to focus on more detailed aspects of cultural tourism along historic canals and fluvial waterfronts’ management.

The First International Conference on Inland Waterways, Waterscapes and Cultural Heritage is collaboratively organized by Hue Institute for Development Studies (Vietnam), Ca’ Foscari University of Venice (Italy) and the University of Technology Sydney (Australia). Our aim is to internationalise the emergent field of Waterways Studies and to give researchers from different regions the opportunity to understand the nature of waterways as cultural water-/land-scapes in differing locations across the world.

Keynote lectures will be given by **Prof. Francesco Vallerani** (Ca’ Foscari University, Venice) and **Prof. Bruce Prideaux** (Central Queensland University, Australia) plus others to be confirmed.

We welcome papers discussing:

- *Tangible and intangible cultural, industrial and environmental water heritage and history*
- *Leisure, tourism and wellbeing on and near inland waters: boating, kayaking, canoeing, walking, running, biking, cycling, angling, etc.*
- *Identities and belonging on and near water*
- *Discourses, representations and narratives of inland waters in cultural texts and arts (visual art, literature, film, TV, (social) media etc.)*
- *Water transport and mobilities*
- *(Potable) water use, sustainability and conservation patterns in agriculture, aquaculture, tourism, everyday life etc.*
- *Flood (or drought) events and the everyday discourses of the climate crises*
- *Hydropolitics and water management practices, systems and policies*
- *Waterfront regeneration, redevelopment, planning and governance*

- *Infrastructures and engineering: hydroelectrics, dams, canalization*

Abstracts should be submitted to the organising committee: hue2020conference@gmail.com

Delegates presenting at the conference will be invited to submit expanded versions of their papers for inclusion in a themed issue of the refereed journal *Shima* that will be published in 2021.

Conference organising committee:

Dr Cuong Cung (Hue Institute for Development Studies), **Dr Philip Hayward** (University of Technology Sydney), **Dr Maarja Kaaristo** (Manchester Metropolitan University), **Dr Giang Tran** (Hue Department of Tourism), **Dr Francesco Visentin** (University of Udine)

Key dates:

Abstract submission deadline: March 16th 2020

Authors notified of acceptance: April 15th 2020

Conference takes place: December 8th-11th 2020, at the Muong Thanh Hue Hotel, Hue, Vietnam

The conference working language is English.

Practical information:

Registration cost (including refreshments, lunches and opening reception): 5 million dong (equivalent to US \$215).

Registration cost for Vietnamese and non-OECD academics + all PhD and Masters students (including refreshments, lunches and opening reception): 1 million dong (equivalent to US \$43).

Field trip cost to Tam Giang Lagoon (including lunch) 1 million dong (equivalent US \$42).

Conference Venue: Muong Thanh Hue Hotel, Hue, Vietnam.

Accommodation: Special rates have been arranged at the Muong Thanh Hue hotel and nearby hotels — information about costs and cost codes to use will be posted on this site in December.