



Đại sứ quán
Cộng Hòa Liên Bang Đức
Hà Nội

Embassy
of the Federal Republic of Germany
Hanoi

PRESS RELEASE

ON THE OCCASION OF HANDOVER CEREMONY OF THE PROJECT “CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION OF THE PORTAL , FRONT SCREEN, ROCKERY POOL OF PHUNG TIEN TEMPLE COMBINED WITH THE ADVANCED TECHNICAL TRAINING AT HUE IMPERIAL CITY”

(Hue City, January 07, 2019) Permitted by Thua Thien Hue Provincial People’s Committee, Hue Monuments Conservation Centre (HMCC) and GEKE co-organize the restoration-completion ceremony of the project “Conservation and restoration of the portal, front screen and rockery pool of Phung Tien Temple combined with the advanced technical training at Hue Imperial City” supported by the Federal Republic of Germany accompanied with the reciprocal fund of Thua Thien Hue Provincial People’s Committee.

The project was approved by the Committee in the Decision No. 1645/QĐ-UBND dated July 24 2017 with the total budget of 3,651,063,000 VND (143,328,91 EURO); in which 3,460,970,000 VND (135,873.15 EURO) belongs to the sponsor of the Federal Republic of Germany, and 784,000,000 VND (30,778.16 EURO) is the reciprocal fund of Thua Thien Hue Provincial People’s Committee.

The project was officially implemented at Phung Tien Temple area, Hue Imperial City from September 29, 2017, and it has been successfully completed in close cooperation between HMCC and GEKE on December 31, 2018. The project was implemented in 02 phases, as follows:

- Phase 1 (from September 29, 2017 to October 29, 2018) is the period of conservation and restoration of gate and front screen of the temple combined with the intensive technical training for 07 students, who are artisans, artists, architects, engineers and masons recruited from heritage restoration companies in Hue, HMCC and other different local sources. Under the management, guidance and experiences of conservation expert of GEKE – Ms. Andrea Teufel, the gate and front screen with delicate patterns had been completely conserved and restored by advanced techniques like “fresco technique” (the technique of painting colors on wet lime plaster), colored renders and secco techniques, which had been used at Nguyen Dynasty's architectural works.

- Phase 2 (from November 01 to December 31, 2018) is the period of recovery and restoration of the pool and its rockeries at Phung Tien temple done by engineers, architects, masons, and artisans of HMCC. The outstanding artistic ensemble of Feng Shui architectural design has been fully restored according to the original. A new waterproofing system to the pool was also applied.

Phung Tien Temple is one of the five most important ancestral temples of Nguyen dynasty. It was built with considerable scale at the 10th year of Emperor Minh Mang's reign (1829). At this temple, females of the court were allowed to join ceremonies and daily thurification, and to worship the ancestors of Nguyen Dynasty. The temple complex included 5 constructions namely the main hall, the eastern and western minor-houses and the left and right house. The entrance was marked with a sophisticate designed ensemble of gate, front screen and pool with rockery. In their 180 years of existing, the buildings were restored several times. During war, in February 1947, the Phung Tien temple and the houses were burned to the ground. Luckily the enclosing wall with the main gate, front screen and rockery pool, five small northern gates and the back screen of the temple remained preserved. The big losses reduced the great aesthetic value of the entire complex and the years of abandonment endangered the remaining structures. Hence, the restoration measures were urgently needed to preserve the survived evidences of the magnificent complex and start to recover the perceptibility of the tangible and intangible value of the Complex.

One important aim of the project was to develop and apply a new method of conservation and authentic restoration by using its original design technique of coloured plasters and fresco painting. It is fully gained with good results and is honored with the third prize of Thua Thien Hue Union of Science and Technology Association (HUSTA) as well as with the third prize of VUSTA, the Vietnamese Union of Science and Technology Association, in 2018. Notable as well are the achievements in developing an advanced technique for conservation and restoration of the unique Phap Lam (enamel) boards in situ. The methods provides a theoretical basis, which can be used as references for comparable measurements on monuments restorations. Specially the very durable and stable technique of painting color-pigments on a *fresh* applied lime plaster ('Fresco' = fresh), which is the first time ever used for restoration measurements, will have big advantages for following preservation measurements.

The other main aim of the project was to build capacity for sustainable preservation of the vietnamese builded heritage. So, conservation and restoration methods including the new techniques were taughed to 8 project participants. By direct combining of theoretical and practical lessons and an intensive training, optimal results of sustainable technology transfer were achieved.

In an upcoming step, the project participants will conserve and restore a smaller scaled gate of Phung Tien Temple complex to proof their ability to implement their gained technical knowledge. The project work will be implemented with advise of German project leader Ms. Andrea Teufel and under observation of the Heritage Department of Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Sport (MOCST) and the HMCC. Successfully participants will be awarded with the certificate issued by the Jury, which qualify them as restorers for historical buildings. This is an important step towards professionalizing the education for restorer in Vietnam.

The success of this project does not only help embellish the landscape as well as the heritage space in the Complex of Hue Monuments, but also create a new emphasis attracting tourists. It also supplies a follow-up generation with good restoration techniques, reactivate the traditional fresco technique, raises the local awareness of the heritage preservation, and accelerate the concerns of the government as well as international NGOs on Hue heritage preservation.

The project, once again, affirms the deep concern of the local authorities and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Germany, the Embassy of Germany in Hanoi as well as the professional research organizations from Germany in the preservation and enhancement of the Complex of Hue Monuments, and affirm the position and capacity of Hue Monuments Conservation Centre in the international cooperation projects implemented in Hue. This is also an evidence of the sustainable cooperation between Vietnam and Germany in the preservation of cultural heritages in Vietnam.

REFERENCE

- * **The project management agency:** Thua Thien Hue Provincial People's Committee
- * **The donor:** The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany via the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Hanoi
- * **The project receiver and implementor:** Hue Monuments Conservation Centre
- * **The international counterpart:** Gesellschaft zur Erhaltung des kulturellen Erbes e.V. Fulda, Germany (GEKE)

** Information about GEKE:

German name: Gesellschaft zur Erhaltung des kulturellen Erbes e.V. Fulda, Germany

Vietnamese name: Hội Bảo tồn Di sản Văn hoá Fulda, Đức

English name: Society for the Preservation of Cultural Heritage

Abbreviation: GEKE

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Website: www.denkmalservice.de

Chairman: Architect for heritage buildings Mr. Rainer Korte

GEKE was officially established in 1999, and is based in the former Monastery Johannesberg in Fulda, Germany.

The main objectives of the association are:

- Initiation, support and conduct investigations and researches to preserve the cultural heritage;
- Carrying out inspections on historical buildings, in order to reduce expenditures and costs for maintenance (preventive maintenance);
- Promotion and support of the preservation of monuments such as the preservation and restoration of listed architectural monuments and archaeological sites according to the respective national laws;
- Promotion of technical education and training.

To date the organization has successfully implemented and collaborated on many conservation projects in East Europe, e.g. Russia and Poland and nine projects of different scales in South-East-Asia as well as in Germany.

**** Information about Hue Monuments Conservation Centre**

Vietnamese name: Trung tâm Bảo tồn Di tích Cố đô Huế

English name: Hue Monuments Conservation Centre

Abbreviation: HMCC

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Director: Ph.D Phan Thanh Hai

HMCC was officially founded in June 10th, 1982. Directly under the control of Thua Thien Hue Province administratively and professionally reporting to the National Cultural Heritage Department (Ministry of Culture, Sport and Tourism), the HMCC is responsible for managing, preserving, restoring and promoting values of the Hue Monuments Complex, Vietnam's first World Heritage property, and the Nha nhạc (Hue Court Music), recognised as Representative Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, and documentary heritage of the Royal Literature on Hue Royal Architecture as well as the associated historical landscape.

More than 150 monuments and structures have been fully and partly restored. In addition, the Center has published some 30 volumes; conducted much research; organized hundreds of Nha Nhạc performances; and mounted tens of exhibitions about Hue's cultural heritage, both in Vietnam and in overseas countries. Furthermore, the Centre has collaborated with fifty of organisations, institutes and universities in Vietnam and other countries for the purposes of research and education; and cooperated with international organizations to implement many plans for the high quality conservation and restoration of local relics.

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