These Congress proceedings contain 131 papers emerging from Congress presentations, seminars, workshops and poster sessions. Together with the Honolulu Charter, the proceedings represent one of the tangible legacies of the Third Global Congress of Heritage Interpretation International.

Honolulu Charter

The Honolulu Charter was drafted by the Congress organizers as a statement to the international travel industry of the relationship of heritage interpretation and preservation. A total of 230 Congress attendees from 35 countries supported the intent of the Charter and signed the document. In January 1992, the following Honolulu Charter was transmitted to the United Nations:

The undersigned — having gathered in Honolulu, Hawai‘i, during November 3-8, 1991 for the "Joining Hands for Quality Tourism" Congress of Heritage Interpretation International — do hereby assert and endorse the indispensable roles of heritage interpretation and preservation in the provision of quality tourism experiences for visiting guests at every community and locality in the world.

We assert and endorse that the unique heritage identity of each community and locality, including its natural and cultural resources, must be perpetuated to maintain the biological and cultural diversity, and thereby the diversity of place identities, of the entire planet. Further, such unique local heritages must be interpreted, not only to visiting guests, but to community residents themselves.

We assert and endorse that heritage interpretation principles and practices, and heritage identity preservation, are at the very core of tourism development approaches such as cultural tourism and ecotourism.

We hereby call upon and encourage both public and private groups to join hands in the perpetuation of global diversity and unique place identities — through the application of heritage interpretation principles and practices in all communities and localities of the world. We transmit this document to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and to the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) with a call for governments to take actions that permit and encourage the implementation of the principles of this Charter.

As co-chairs of the Congress, we express our sincerest thanks to the many organizations and individuals who helped make the Third Global Congress a great success. We hope that these proceedings will serve as a useful and valuable resource for anyone involved in heritage interpretation and preservation, as well as tourism planning and development.

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