

## Beijing Forum 2019 Pulse of the World: Archaeology and Civilization along the Silk Road (IV)

On the afternoon of November 3rd, the panel session “Pulse of the World: Archaeology and Civilization along the Silk Road” was inaugurated in Starlight Hall, Yingjie Exchange Centre, Peking University. Three speakers gave speeches on the topic of “World Heritage along the Silk Road”.

Professor Sun Hua, from Peking University, was the first scholar to present his study on the “Survey and Research on the South Asia Corridor – Silk Road”. He pointed out that the “Silk Road South Asia Corridor” was a relatively new concept created by British scholar Tim D. Williams. This concept, together with the Serial Nomination of the World Cultural Heritage Site, have raised awareness among international and domestic cultural heritage authorities, and provinces and autonomous regions of southwest China began preliminary archaeological investigations on the South Asian Corridor. Professor Sun pointed out that this concept, redefined by Chinese scholars, spans from the Qin and Han Dynasties to the Ming and Qing Dynasties, and is a land transportation route from the centre of ancient China, namely, Xi'an in Shaanxi Province, southwest to the ancient countries of South Asia. He further presented a detailed examination of the geographical development of the southern routes. Finally, he advocated the conservation of linear heritage routes such as the South Asian Corridor, including ancient city sites, religious artefacts and other related antiquities, in the hope for better protection of the integrity of the trade routes.

Professor Fakhri Daneshour Parvar, from the University of Tehran in Iran, was the second scholar to present her research on the “Study of Selected Persian and Arabic Scripts on Wares in the National Palace Museum of Taiwan and (a Porcelain Bowl in the Islamic Section of National Museum of Iran). She provided a thorough explanation of her paper on the subject, and, together with a close examination of the Persian and Arabic writings on porcelain wares, she concluded her speech drawing connections to mutual influences between the cultures along the Silk Road.

Dmitriy A. Voyakin, Director of the International Institute for Central Asian Studies in Kazakhstan, was the last scholar to present his study on the “Serial Nomination of the Silk Roads: International Initiatives and Development Perspectives”. He first shared the background and the

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complicated process of preparing the Silk Road for the Serial Transnational nomination. The idea of the nomination of the Silk Road for the UNESCO World Heritage Site emerged from an analysis of the periodic reporting of UNESCO in 2005. The nomination process not only involved a significant number of components planned by the participating countries, but also directly depended on the consolidation of the efforts of several countries at the high political and expert levels. He then turned to the concept of the Silk Road. With the support of the participating countries of the Central Asian region, China, Europe, Japan, experts from the UNESCO World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS, the Silk Road has been developed to adequately represent the rich cultural heritage of Eurasia on the World Heritage List. While this concept concerns the sites of the Silk Roads in the particular countries, it is recognized by all that the routes network of the Great Silk Road crosses the borders of at least fifteen modern countries between China and the Mediterranean. Professor concluded his speech with the project's positive outcomes from a conservation and management perspective.