


IFLA ASIA-PACIFIC REGION LANDSCAPE CHARTER

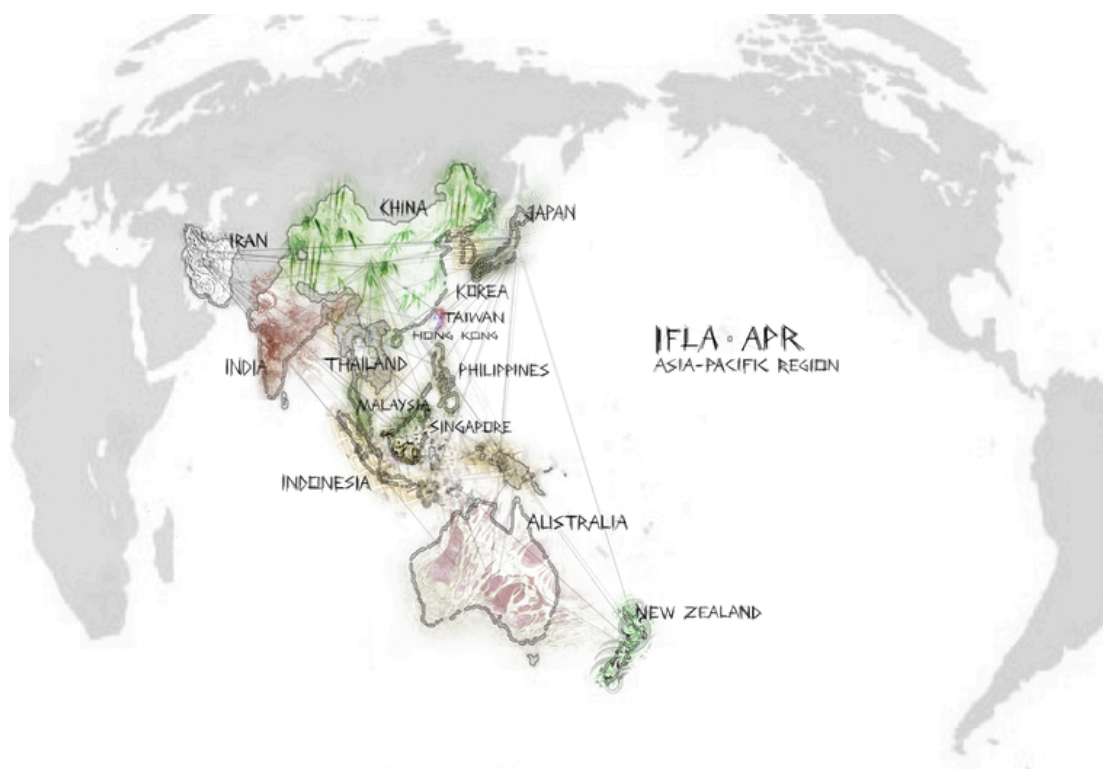
Adopted 15th March 2015 by IFLA APR Executive



.....
Signed on behalf of APR by
Dato Ismail Ngah, IFLA President -- Asia Pacific Region

PREAMBLE

Landscapes are the result of unique combinations of biophysical, cultural and social processes, evolving over time and interwoven with memory, perception and tradition. They include land, water systems, marine areas and island configurations, and play a vital role in human nurture, fulfilment and in shaping individual and collective identity. Landscapes range from the outstanding and the memorable, to the familiar and commonplace, and all member organisations of the IFLA Asia-Pacific Region representing a diverse array of cultures spread across fifteen countries have a duty of care to ensure that the distinctive characteristics and potential of their landscapes are not compromised through insensitive or inappropriate change, and that their communities are not diminished or endangered by inappropriate development.



The IFLA Asia-Pacific Region is a part of the world that has been shaped by maritime journeys, vibrant cultural landscapes and economic innovation and is home to a rich tapestry of landscape architecture traditions. The region has many unique characteristics, including member countries with the largest global populations, vast tropical rainforests providing habitats for many thousands of species of flora and fauna, diverse cultures and philosophies spanning many millennia, and a common coastal heritage. The IFLA Asia-Pacific Region thus continues to make a significant contribution to our global heritage and traditional relationships with landscape. It is imperative that this rich history of active engagement with regional landscapes is acknowledged as part of our future commitment to the global landscape resource.

Landscapes are the outdoor places where people live, work and play; they are important because they provide an opportunity for people to identify with their neighbourhoods and their nation, and allow people to connect with the land and their own plant and animal communities. The sustainable management of our landscapes is a fundamental objective of the IFLA Asia-Pacific Region members. Important aspects of that objective, in the widest

possible range of different landscapes, include the preservation of common and distinctive heritage as a reflection of identity and diversity; retention of ecological health; and consideration of the productive capabilities of land. This approach aims to maintain important life-supporting functions such as water quality and biodiversity, while providing for the appropriate utilisation of landscapes for sustainable social, cultural, and economic development. The profession of landscape architecture in the Asia-Pacific Region of IFLA, represented by the member organisations of that region, therefore has a significant role to play in promoting such sustainable change.

The importance of the deep and fundamental relationship that the indigenous and other peoples of many member countries have with the natural world is also acknowledged. Where appropriate, those attitudes and beliefs should influence and inform the ways in which we approach the protection, planning, design and management of our landscapes. The richness, diversity and sensitivity of contemporary landscape design throughout the IFLA Asia-Pacific Region are testament to the extensive history and strong cultural stories and traditions that shape us.

The scope of landscape architectural practice and pressures on the landscape continue to increase and a comprehensive set of principles is now required to underpin this scope and pressure to support the diverse aspects of contemporary landscape practice in our Region. These principles have been structured in the form of a Charter, or guiding document, which outlines the principles and purpose of the IFLA Asia-Pacific Region in pursuit of its promotion of the protection, planning, responsive design, sustainable management and maintenance of the landscape resource.

This Landscape Charter sits within a global context and framework which comprises a series of National Landscape Charters and Conventions coordinated through the International Federation of Landscape Architects. Other significant statements about our approaches and attitudes to the landscape include, but are not limited to the ICOMOS Charter (1964), the European Landscape Convention (2001), the Florence Declaration (2012) and the Matera Resolution (2013).

1 Purpose of the IFLA Asia-Pacific Region Landscape Charter

The Charter is the IFLA Asia-Pacific Region's declaration of a set of fundamental principles to support the active stewardship of, advocacy for, and enhancement of the landscapes of our region. It serves as a set of guiding principles for landscape architects, and as a frame of reference to inform decision-makers about the broad scope of landscape matters.

The Charter sets out policies, principles, definitions and values for the protection, planning, enhancement, design and management of landscapes in our region, and provides a framework through which other disciplines, Government agencies and departments, and other stakeholders can cooperate on landscape and landscape-related issues.

2 General provisions

2.1 Scope

The aims of this Charter are to promote the sustainable protection, planning, design innovation and management of the landscape resource, and to encourage cooperation between all stakeholders on landscape issues.

2.2 Aims

This Charter applies to the entire territory of the IFLA Asia-Pacific Region and covers all aspects of the landscape, including natural, cultural, rural, urban and peri-urban areas, whatever their scale or context. It includes land, water systems and marine areas, and applies to a diversity of landscapes including those which are outstanding, those which are spiritually, culturally or naturally significant or protected, and everyday, productive or degraded landscapes.

2.3 Signatories

Each party which adopts the Landscape Charter shall undertake to work towards implementing the aims and policies of the Charter, in harmony with its own policies.

3 Key principles of the IFLA Asia-Pacific Region Landscape Charter

The following key principles form the basis for the Charter document:

3.1 Sustainable management

Sustainable management underpins and informs landscape management and change throughout our region. Sustainable goals can be manifest through a variety of means including (but not limited to) ecological health, economic viability, social vitality and cultural expression.

3.2 Guardianship

Many nations possess founding documents or fundamental statements about the birth and development of their country. Often these documents accord special status to the original or indigenous peoples yet do not deny any other cultural or ethnic group their rights to their own identity and practices in a multicultural society. Principles that might be embodied in such documents that influence the work of landscape architects include government, self-management, equality and cooperation. This Charter recognises and honours those principles, noting that variety in worldview and cultural concepts adds richness and diversity to our perceptions of landscape while informing national culture and practices. This Charter celebrates and affirms the value of unity in diversity for our region.

3.3 Stewardship

We all have a responsibility to nurture the continued health and diversity of landscapes, and ensure the sustainable integration of protection, production, recreation, and habitation values for all living things.

3.4 Identity

People may be grounded in place by tradition, forebears, or identification with 'home'. This can occur at both a local and regional scale, as well as at a national scale, and is powerfully expressed through the palimpsest of landscapes and the ways in which landscapes shape their communities.

3.5 Human health and wellbeing

Physical, emotional, spiritual and cultural wellbeing are aspects of human health and vitality that can be sustained, enhanced and revitalised by landscapes, whether natural, cultural, or designed for that purpose.

3.6 Place making

Landscape change should occur creatively and responsively, and provide design innovation and approaches that inspire, enrich, or reveal natural or cultural elements of landscape to create settings in which people can flourish.

3.7 Inclusivity

The Charter provides a mechanism for communities to actively participate in the sustainable planning, design and management of their landscapes, through the articulation of values associated with their beliefs and their national, regional and local places.

4 Definitions

4.1 Landscape

An area, as perceived by people, whose character is the cumulative result of the action and interaction of natural and/or cultural factors.

4.2 Landscape protection

Action taken to conserve and maintain the significant or characteristic features of a landscape, based on the particular qualities of the landscape's natural and/or cultural resources, heritage value, and/or human activity.

4.3 Landscape management

Programmes and action to maintain, adapt or enhance landscapes in response to changing social, cultural, economic or environmental goals, needs and dynamics.

4.4 Landscape design

An active process of developing creative and innovative solutions for landscape change.

4.5 Landscape planning

A process of developing responsible, creative and long-term strategies, proposals or actions to manage, enhance, protect or restore landscapes.

4.6 Landscape policy

A statement by relevant local or central Government authorities of general principles, strategies and guidelines that enable or direct specific measures aimed at the protection, planning, design and management of landscapes.

5 General policies

Each party to this Charter undertakes to:

- Acknowledge all landscapes as an essential component of people's surroundings, an expression of the diversity of their shared cultural and natural heritage and a foundation of their identity, and promote the legal recognition of landscape as a key element of community identity;
- Establish and implement landscape policies to encourage landscape protection, conservation, planning, design and management through specific policies described in paragraph 6 below;
- Establish procedures for the participation of all stakeholders, including the general public, indigenous peoples, local and regional authorities, and other parties in achieving those goals described in paragraph 6 below; and
- Integrate landscape considerations into national, regional and local policies in relation to any environmental, economic, cultural or social change with possible direct or indirect impacts on landscapes.

6 Specific policies

Each party undertakes to contribute to advocacy, education, development of assessment methodology, research and policy in respect of the landscape, and cooperate and collaborate in order to enhance the effectiveness of measures taken under other paragraphs of this Charter, as follows:

6.1 Advocacy

- Increase awareness in both public and private organisations about the character and value of landscapes, their contribution to human health, wellbeing and heritage, and the potential consequences that arise from change in or to the landscape;

6.2 Education

- Support, and where appropriate promote and implement, training programmes for landscape policy, planning, evaluation, assessment, design and management;
- Support, and where appropriate promote and implement, school and university courses which address landscape character and values, and the issues raised by their protection, planning, design and management;

6.3 Assessment, Research and Policy

- Encourage and support programmes and actions with a focus upon the identification of national landscape typologies, the analysis of their characteristics, the forces and pressures transforming them and the ways in which they have changed or are changing;
- Support the application of consistent assessment methodologies to those landscapes, taking into account the particular values assigned to them by indigenous peoples and other stakeholders in those landscapes;
- Contribute to the development and definition of landscape quality objectives for the landscapes identified and assessed, after appropriate stakeholder consultation; and
- Support the development of landscape policies aimed at sustainably protecting, planning, providing for appropriate design innovation in, and/or managing the landscape.

6.4 Mutual assistance

- Share knowledge and information, and/or render such technical and scientific assistance arising from experience or landscape-related research as appropriate to other parties to achieve the outcomes covered by the Charter.

7 The IFLA Asia-Pacific Region Landscape Award

The IFLA Asia-Pacific Region Landscape Award is a distinction which may be conferred upon organisations or individuals that have instituted policies or measures to protect, plan, design or manage their landscapes, and which have proven to be effective. This distinction may be conferred on local or regional authorities, central Government agencies or departments, representatives of indigenous peoples and other organisations, or parties to this Charter or individuals that have made outstanding contributions to sustainable landscape protection, planning, design or management.

The IFLA Asia-Pacific Region shall establish a committee with representatives from signatories to this Charter to define and publish the criteria for conferring such an Award, and to make recommendations to the IFLA Asia-Pacific Region Committee in regard to nominees for the Award. Nominations for the IFLA Asia-Pacific Region Landscape Award will be accepted on an annual basis, as provided for in the criteria and rules of the Award, and may be submitted by parties to the Charter, or from other organisations, bodies or individuals that promote or embrace the provisions of the Charter.

The granting of such an Award is a prestigious honour acknowledging important contributions to society, aimed at further encouragement to those receiving the Award to continue to ensure the sustainable protection, planning, design and/or management of the landscapes concerned.

8 Relationship with other documents

This Charter acknowledges and builds upon principles outlined in the IFLA Bali Declaration and the IFLA Shanghai Declaration. The provisions of this Charter shall not prejudice other more specific provisions concerning sustainable landscape protection, planning, design and/or management contained in other existing or future binding national or international documents.

9 Adoption of the Charter

This Charter provides an opportunity for the widest possible range of stakeholders in the landscape to be invited to become signatories and uphold the principles of the Charter, while also working towards the achievement of the goals of the Charter. Signatories may include representatives of Government agencies or departments, regional and local authorities, indigenous peoples, individuals, organisations that represent various stakeholders with an interest in landscape, or organisations that represent professions with an interest in landscape.

In particular, parties that promote sustainable landscape protection, planning, appropriate design innovation and management, and that support cooperation between all stakeholders on landscape issues, shall be invited to become signatories. Such Charter adoption shall be formally promulgated by the party concerned, and an instrument of ratification shall be deposited with the Hon. Secretary of the IFLA Asia-Pacific Region Committee.

An agreement to adopt the Charter by any party may be withdrawn by that party through a declaration of such withdrawal to the Hon. Secretary of the IFLA Asia-Pacific Region Committee. Any such withdrawal shall be promulgated by the party concerned.

The IFLA Asia-Pacific Region Committee shall monitor the use of the Charter and the ways in which the signatories discharge their responsibilities under the Charter. Any party that fails to uphold the principles of the Charter, or acts to undermine the achievement of the goals of the Charter, shall be requested to modify their actions; failure to address any concerns shall result in such party being removed from the list of signatories to the Charter.

10 Amendments to the Charter

Any party that is a signatory to this Charter may propose amendments to the Charter by notifying the Hon Secretary of the IFLA Asia-Pacific Region Committee of the proposed amendment with supporting statements or evidence that demonstrate the value of the amendment in further promoting the provisions of the Charter. Any such proposed amendments that clearly further the intentions of the Charter will be examined by the Committee of the IFLA Asia-Pacific Region. If such amendments are supported by the Committee, all parties that are signatories to the Charter will be notified to enable discussion of the proposed amendment to occur prior to such amendment being considered for adoption by the IFLA Asia-Pacific Region Committee at an annual regional conference meeting.

11 Notification

The Hon. Secretary of the IFLA Asia-Pacific Region Committee and/or the Chair of the Communications Committee shall notify all parties that are signatories to this Charter of:

- any new signatories to the Charter;
- any proposal for amendment to the Charter, with a time frame for consultation and discussion, and the date upon which it is proposed to take effect and be binding upon all signatories to the Charter; and
- any other act, notification, information or communication relating to this Charter, including identification of any recipients of an IFLA Asia-Pacific Region Landscape Award.

12 Adoption

This Charter was adopted by the IFLA Asia Pacific Region (APR) Executive at their special meeting on 13th March 2015 and countersigned by the President of the IFLA Asia-Pacific Region. The original signed agreement was deposited in the archives of IFLA, with certified copies made available to all parties that are signatories to this Charter.