

REPORT ON THE STUDY TOUR MISSION TO CINQUE TERRE, ITALY

25 May – 03 June 2009

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BACKGROUND OF THE MISSION

It was in 2001 that a recommendation for the development of an ‘International Outreach’ to connect the Rice Terraces WH site more to sites elsewhere outside the Philippines and to international activities was put forward by the 2001 mission to the Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras. The mission specifically encouraged the fostering of linkage with the WH Centre so that a programme would be developed with other WH cultural landscapes, such as the vine terrace landscape of Cinque Terre in Italy.

During the 29th WH COM Session (29COM 7A.26), *Decision: 29 COM 7A 26 (DURBAN)* further stated that it ‘*Encourages the State Party to further pursue the idea of a twinning programme recommended by the 2001 mission, in consultation with UNESCO and the Italian authorities*’. In April 2006, the Joint Reactive Monitoring Mission tasked to evaluate the State of Conservation of the Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras once again proposed to the Ifugao stakeholders the idea of a twinning programme between this WH property and Cinque Terre.

Following this, another mission was organized with Prof. Mariolina Dominici Besio of the Faculty of Architecture, University of Genoa, Italy. Sent by the World Heritage Centre to attend the ICOMOS Scientific Committee on Vernacular Architecture Meeting (CIAV) at Banaue, Ifugao, she presented a paper on the Cinque Terre Cultural Landscape, focusing on its vineyard terraced landscape that is presently experiencing various challenges of change related to tourism and development. Prof. Besio’s mission once again presented the proposal for a Twinning Programme with the Philippine authorities, completing her trip with a report to encourage both Philippine and Italian authorities to pursue the project.

This idea was further endorsed as the World Heritage Committee in its 32nd Session (32COM 7A.24) stated that it “*welcomes the steps undertaken towards the development of a twinning programme of exchange and cooperation between the World Heritage properties of the Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras and the Cinque Terre of Italy.*”

Both the Rice Terraces and Cinque Terre are ‘*organically evolving cultural landscapes*’. The September 1997 ICOMOS recommendation to the World Heritage Committee states that ‘*the Eastern Ligurian Riviera between Cinque Terre and Portovenere is a cultural site of outstanding value, representing the harmonious interaction between man and nature to produce a landscape of exceptional scenic quality that illustrates a traditional way of life that has existed for a thousand years and continues to play an important socio-economic role in the life of the community.*’

Both cultural landscapes are exceptional testimonies to a cultural tradition that has lasted for generations. Both are subject to risks brought about by socio-economic changes. Prof. Besio states in her report following the mission of 2007 that “*The two landscapes, yet, are subjected to similar risks, with the same causes even if they have different socio economic conditions. The abandonment of the agricultural activities by local communities causes the increasing hydro-geological risk. The traditional agricultural productions achieved to high costs because of the difficult conditions in which the farmers work, are not competitive in comparison with the products of the industrial agriculture. The populations tend towards other activities or emigrate; the terraced system progressively ruins with no recoverable damages without the maintenance of the artificial system of soils and waters.*”

This proposal for the Twinning Programme of Exchange and Cooperation between the World Heritage Properties of the Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras and the Cinque Terre of Italy is being pursued with this initial phase of a study tour of the Philippine Delegation to Cinque Terre recently held 25 May to 03 June 2009.

At the on-set, the visit had been expected to enable the acquisition of knowledge for further development of conservation policies, as well as an increased capacity to implement these on the basis of knowledge acquired during the study tour. This study tour had also been expected to identify, with the Italian authorities, an action plan on the next phases of the Twinning Programme, intended to be a formal and substantive collaboration between the two heritage sites.

The following are information pertaining to the undertaking of the study tour, its concluded activities, the numerous observations, insights and lessons learned from the Cinque Terre WH site and its possible applicability to the Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras, and lastly, the next steps and actions to be undertaken to further pursue this Twinning Programme.

ACTUAL ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN BY THE MISSION

- 25 May (Mon) – Arrival at Milan and trip to Genoa. Overnight at Genoa
- 26 May (Tues) – Meeting at the Office of the Regional Director; Trip to Cinque Terre.
Accommodations set at Riomaggiore;
- 27 May (Wed) – Visit to the Terraces at Manarola; Visit the bridge at Manarola to be demolished;
Lunch at Via dell Amore; Visit to the factory of bio-organic cosmetic products at the train station of Manarola;
- 28 May (Thurs) - Meeting with the Mayor of Monterosso al Mare; Trip to La Spezia and meeting with the Mayor of La Spezia and the members of the Bureau of Tramonti;
- 29 May (Fri) – Meeting at University of Genoa and at the Office of Regional Director;
Presentations at both offices about the Rice Terraces;
- 30 May (Sat) – Visit to the town proper of Manarola and trip by boat to Portovenere; Tour and meeting with the Portovenere officials;
- 31 May (Sunday) – Mass at the Santuario of Maria di Riomaggiore; Meeting with the Head of the Cooperative Systems; Visit to Tramonti;
- 01 June (Monday) – Trip to the town proper of Monterosso al Mare (AM); Trip to Genoa and tour of the palaces and historic centre of Genoa (PM)
- 02 June (Tues) – Tour of Genoa (AM-PM).; Trip to Milan (PM) and Tour of Milan (evening)
- 03 June (Wed) – Flight back to Manila

OBSERVATIONS, INSIGHTS AND LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE MISSION: THE ASSESSMENT OF INFORMATION GAINED FROM CINQUE TERRE AS APPLIED TO THE RICE TERRACES OF THE PHILIPPINE CORDILLERAS

The study tour of Cinque Terre, Italy has been conducted in accordance with the proposals presented in several missions to the Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras, and as presented in the Decisions of the WH Committee: 29 COM 7A 26 (DURBAN) and 32COM 7A.24 (QUEBEC). This study tour has been considered a programme that would foster cooperation and exchange between two organically evolving cultural landscapes WH properties.

Observations and Insights

Cinque Terre is a strip of land situated at the end of the eastern Ligurian coast of Italy, between Punta Mesco which divides the gulf of Monterosso from the gulf of Levante, and Punta Persico, beyond which starts the powerful cliffs of the Portovenere promontory. (Terranova, 1989)

Major settlements are found in the five coastal villages of Monterosso, Vernazza, Corniglia, Manarola and Riomaggiore while minor settlements are located in Volastra, Groppo, S. Bernardino, Fossola, Monesteroli, Schiara and Persico. In these settlements are observed several buildings and their aggregates. In the five major villages of Cinque Terre are structures closely built each other, with a narrow pattern of building construction, embracing the natural terrain of the land.

Above the villages, at the promontory of hills surrounding each are found vineyard and olive landscapes said to have been developed as early as the Middle Ages. These vineyard landscapes are cultivated with grapes over a pattern of terraces following the natural topographic slopes of the hills. Being located along the coast that is predominantly characterized by steep cliffs and ravines have exposed the cultivated terraces to the natural elements. Its natural terrain fronting the Ligurian coast constantly subjects the terraces to strong winds and rains, thereby uncovering the terraces and its agricultural landscapes to a variety of risks: landslides, soil erosion and the difficulty of farming.

Sparsely located buildings and settlements are also found within the vineyard landscapes. According to reports, some of these buildings and settlements are traditional in construction and design, most are nearly completely abandoned, and others, despite being recently refurbished to accommodate tourists, remain abandoned.

Historians and archeologists theorized the occupation of Cinque Terre around 900- 1000 A.C. Reports say that populations living inland trespassed the watershed areas of the hills delimiting the coastal side and moved out to small hillside settlements, reaching the seashore only in a further time.

To the settlers living in the area, farming work has been complex due to the natural terrain of the land. The traditional manner of planting grapes wherein the grapevines literally creep and hug the ground in a horizontal manner had required farmers to stoop down and crawl at ground level thereby making maintenance work (pruning) very difficult. This difficulty is compounded as the natural terrain of precipitous slopes and cliffs make transportation of produce laborious as these are either brought up or down the steep cliffs for processing at nearby settlements. These difficulties in farming have resulted to the abandonment of the terraces.

Observed through the ages of abandonment are the natural transformations of the terraced landscapes as human settlers opted for other sources of livelihood outside of Cinque Terre. Natural growth can be seen where bushes have penetrated the once beautifully terraced landscapes that originally covered thousand of hectares of land, which is now presently down to only a few hundreds of hectares. Socio-economic factor causes associated with traditional inheritance laws and the parceling and subdivision of lands to smaller sizes, the difficulty in farming and in the maintenance of farmlands, the inadequacy of produce that is unsustainable to a family's increasing and changing needs that were often compounded by the their quest for better economic conditions, have resulted to the abandonment of farmlands in Cinque Terre. This in turn has spurred the natural transformation to bushy landscapes of these once densely terraced

farms. The urban development of La Spezia has been one main of the precursors for abandonment, as the peoples of Cinque Terre found therein economic opportunities that could not be met by the ever decreasing farm lot sizes and agricultural produce.

In 1997, the UNESCO World Heritage Committee decided to inscribe Cinque Terre under criteria (ii), (iv) and (v) describing the eastern Ligurian Riviera between Cinque Terre and Portovenere as a cultural site of outstanding value that represents the harmonious interaction between people and nature to produce a landscape of exceptional scenic quality that illustrates a traditional way of life that has existed for a thousand years and continues to play an important socio- economic role in the life of the community.”

In 1999, Cinque Terre was declared as a National Park. Both declarations by UNESCO and as a National Park have sparked tourism in the area. At present, all the five major towns of Cinque Terre and the peninsula of Portovenere are swamped with tourists, both domestic and foreign, wanting to experience the beauty of the villages, its agricultural produce, and its agricultural based terraced and natural landscapes. Tourism sustains the economy of the villages. Most local activities, whether or not related to agriculture, are geared towards contributing to a bustling local economy that is predominantly influenced by tourism.

Traditional houses in villages are now transformed into tourist accommodations or into shops and boutiques selling a variety of goods - from locally made artifacts or foreign ones, or to locally or regionally produced agricultural food products, or to mere grocery shops, line the streets where narrow strips of buildings once housed the residences of villagers.

What is so inspiring is that traditional agriculture which was originally developed for local needs and consumption, is now in itself a self sustaining economic resource that caters to the needs of tourism. Traditional agricultural food produce such as the local wines and liquor (the *Sciaccheta*, the *Grapa*, the local red and white wines of Cinque Terre, the *uva con grappa*, sauces and pastes (the *pesto* and the *salsa verde*, etc.) made from local herbs, combined with local seafood, predominates the cuisine. Tourists are therefore attracted not only to the scenic manmade and natural beauty of the villages and terraces of Cinque Terre but are also very much enamored with the variety of local food products that grace each and every meal.

At present, the Cinque Terre National Park has started developing its own cosmetic products that are made from the herbs and plants of the area. A line of products is now sold in all National Park stores but this has slowly attracted a flow of buyers. This is because of the stiff competition due the cosmetic industry on the international level. However, the wines of Cinque Terre, most especially the boutique wine known as *Sciaccheta* (a sweet wine very similar to Port) has penetrated the international market. Sold at 60 euros per bottle in local stores of the National Park, this is offered in Japanese wine stores at 180 euros per bottle.

Despite the concentration and encouragement of the National Park to sell only locally-made produce, items coming from other parts of Italy and from foreign countries have also pervaded the market. This is seen in boutique shops where products ranging from resort clothing to jewelry have been found attracting tourists wanting of souvenirs.

The 1999 declaration of Cinque Terre as a National Park not only spurred tourism activities in the area but it has also started the return of local farm lot owners to Cinque Terre. Tourism has therefore contributed a lot to the return of the farm lot owners, as they have been encouraged by the dynamism of economic growth resulting from an energetic tourist market, and the viability of

agricultural production that is geared towards an active contribution to tourism industries. As mentioned, Cinque Terre wine is now internationally known, so that agricultural produce is now not only for the local economy but also for the needs of a growing global market.

Interviewing the Italian authorities on the various risks and concerns associated with tourism, they expressed confidence that it is with the existence of strict regulations and laws, and its enforcement that preservation efforts to attain integrity of traditional built environments of the villages and the settlements sparsely located within the natural and agricultural terraces of Cinque Terre, will be realized. They are confident that the agricultural areas outside the villages will remain intact from building development, while the existing built environment within the villages are being ably managed to avoid too much building modifications and transformations. However, they have expressed concerns that because of tourism and its associated dynamic human activities, the serenity of the villages and its cultural values associated with non-agricultural traditions are now also slowly disappearing.

Young American tourists and couples abound the villages of Cinque Terre. Locals say that Cinque Terre has been a popular and must see destination for young Americans. Portovenere on the other hand hosts a variety of tourists, both domestic and international. It has been known to host regular weddings inside one of its beautiful Romanesque churches. The narrow winding roads within the Medieval Town of Portovenere is so extraordinarily quaint, but so common to medieval building and village traditions. A visit to one of the traditional houses revealed an architecture that is local to the area. Now transformed to accommodate the changing needs of the family living in it, the house still exudes a local building tradition that has been preserved through generations, as seen in the proportions of its spaces, in the design of certain interior architectural and aesthetic elements and in certain wall finishes that are very much local to the area. Similar to the other villages, Portovenere now houses boutique and souvenir shops lining the narrow interior passageways of this fortress medieval town.

Tramonti, on the other hand, is an area that is still very much underdeveloped in terms of tourism, but which to the Italian authorities has good potentials for tourism development and for the preservation of traditional cultural values. Tramonti, unlike the other major villages of Cinque Terre, has problems with accessibility. Tramonti is located above the rugged coastlines and cliffs of Cinque Terre that are inaccessible through coastal roads and railway systems. Traditional roadway networks composed of trails provide access to the farms. Farms are found literally hugging the cliffs and access to these are through narrow staircase-like pathways. Buildings, with their original function of being farmhouses for occasional agriculturally based use, lie along these very steep slopes of the coasts, which are also very difficult to access. This has resulted to the buildings being underdeveloped for adaptive re-use related to tourism.

According to the Bureau that is charged with the recovery of Tramonti, steps are being undertaken to develop Tramonti not only for its agricultural produce but also for the rehabilitation of its traditional buildings and settlement areas for tourism purposes. An experimental farm for the growing of saffron was shown to the Philippine Delegation and it is the objectives of the Bureau that saffron, a local produce of the area, be grown in large quantities, thereby enabling economic growth for the area. Saffron, a well-known and important cooking ingredient for Mediterranean cuisine, used for stews, rice based food, and in meat and fish dishes is very expensive and therefore could spur economic growth to the area if produced in large quantities. Production of saffron is not so tedious and this could be considered an alternative to traditional farm industry for the local community.

The Bureau has reported the many difficulties experienced in their work for the recovery of Tramonti. The location of the buildings in Tramonti has attracted domestic tourists coming from Milan and other nearby cities to the area. These foreigners presently own 60% of the houses, but these houses are not yet being rehabilitated. A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) is presently being passed so that these people are obliged to preserve the terraces together with the rehabilitation of their houses. The houses within Tramonti cover a total floor area of only 50 square meters, with house footprint of only 25 square meters. These are normally two story high structures made of local stones and terracotta roofs. The land surrounding the house is normally sized at 400 square meters. As the MOA has only been recently developed, non of the owners of the houses have agreed to signing it. The Bureau is therefore working towards the attainability of success of this strategy for conservation. According to them, this is quite an ambitious task as it involves responsibility and willingness of the owners to undertake manual labor, both for the rehabilitation of their houses and for the continuous maintenance of the terraces surrounding the building structure.

The Tramonti strategy for conservation and management is greatly aided by Geographic Information System (GIS) generated maps and plans that helped map out the different layers of information of the values of the site. Maps generated through GIS show the different typologies of buildings, the different geological conditions of the land (soil types, areas prone to erosion or to seismic activities, etc), the different geo-morphological features of the property. This information system enables the Bureau to make certain decisions according to certain situational conditions. Risk and disaster mitigation and management could easily be facilitated through the aid of GIS. The Faculty of Architecture of the University of Genoa has greatly assisted the Bureau in the preparation of these maps and it is through this that conservation and management of Tramonti is being undertaken. Similarly, like Tramonti, the many Cinque Terre sites are also being managed and conserved through the aid of this GIS tool, having been prepared for Cinque Terre by the same Academic group.

At the level of conservation and management, the strategies for the recovery of traditional houses is indeed a good example of a conservation approach that hopes to succeed for both the sake of building rehabilitation and for terraces restoration. The different studies made on the various materials for use in building restoration and rehabilitation is a big step towards achieving success in conservation. On the other hand at the level of terrace conservation, the study of the different geologic typologies, the identification of the best soil conditions for the planting of certain agricultural crops, is a best practice that is aimed at the optimization of the use of the land - a clear approach to sustainability, good conservation and management.

On the side, the Philippine Delegation was informed that an abandoned hotel building located in one of the islands of Portovenere has been recently demolished due to its nonconformity with the present conservation strategies of the island. The island is rich in biodiversity and Portovenere has been declared a Natural Site. The demolition of this unfinished hotel structure has in fact underscored a heightened awareness for conservation at the national, regional and local levels. Another structure, a gigantic bridge that crosses the highway between Manarola and Riomaggiore is also underway to its being demolished. To some Italian authorities, these examples of demolitions of non-conforming structures (non-conformance to traditional and natural settings and to the present strategies for conservation) have been a long awaited move, the success of which has been achieved after decades (35-40 years) of efforts. Efforts towards attaining success have spurred conflicts and discussions amongst the many affected national and local agencies, but nonetheless, these actions have been considered a welcome transformation to a present and a future mindset that is much more aware of the values of culture, nature and conservation.

Lessons learned from Cinque Terre and Portovenere and their applicability to the concerns of the Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras

It is with great privilege that the Philippine Delegation was able to visit Cinque Terre and learn from its many valuable assets, resources and present capabilities as many on-going practices, traditional or otherwise could be gained from the visit.

The ability of Cinque Terre to rise from an almost hopeless situation, from an era when it became an almost forgotten heritage site, to its present economic condition and worldwide reputation (realized only within a 10-year period after its declaration as a UNESCO WH site and a National Park), is indeed a welcome inspiration worth emulating by any World Heritage Site struggling with socio-economic concerns.

It is therefore the intention of the Philippine Delegation to express its sincerest gratitude for this invaluable experience that has, in many ways, enlightened and enriched its participants in its quest to address the many concerns related to socio-economy of the Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras. The information and the Cinque Terre experience has gained for the Philippine Delegation the much needed information and knowledge that could help address the many concerns and challenges presently faced by our very Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras.

For example, on the issue of tourism, the Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras is presently striving to develop its tourism industry. A tourism strategy has already been identified in the Master Plan for the Rehabilitation of the Rice Terraces, but projects and programmes of a successful tourism industry at the Rice Terraces has yet to be fully realized at the level of the property. The Cinque Terre example has showed to the Philippine Delegation the necessary approaches to economic tourism based sustainability. From the development of comfortable accommodation facilities, to the development of product lines related to agriculture, food and the cosmetic industry, and to the development of a local and traditional cuisine that has been elevated to international status due to its notability and delectability, Cinque Terre has reached a self sustaining level, which a far cry from the present level of tourism and economy at the Rice Terraces.

On the level of food and cuisine development, what is learned from the Cinque Terre experience is that transformation of what is traditionally known to a level that is international yet still traditional in essence and value is very much a welcoming achievement in food development. The use of natural herbs and the local agricultural produce has made the local Cinque Terre cuisine unique and very much of the place. It is therefore also the hope that the Rice Terraces, with its local simple food taste and preparation, would be able to develop a food industry and cuisine that is so uniquely Ifugao and essentially that of the Philippine Cordilleras, yet one that can be elevated to International status and taste similar to what has been achieved by its Cinque Terre counterpart.

Off farm activities developed by Cinque Terre indeed show various alternatives to gaining economic sustainability. Being tied to a traditional agricultural cycle, as traditionally being employed before in Cinque Terre and still presently being practiced at the Rice Terraces, has placed both sites in economic constraints that has resulted to the sites backward economic situation. With the development of off farm activities in Cinque Terre, such as the successful production of agricultural produce over and above production for the local needs of the

community is indeed a best practice for economic sustainability of traditionally based landscapes. It is hoped that through this Twinning Programme, exchange and transfer of information from the Cinque Terre group would enable the Rice Terraces to look for alternatives to its present traditionally cycle-based economy.

Still related to tourism, the successful approaches by Cinque Terre to organize the incoming-outgoing tourist movements undertaken through a very organized ticketing strategy have been well noted by the Philippine Delegation. The exchange of information on these approaches would greatly help the Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras as it still struggles to find the right approaches to generate funds from incoming tourists through the ticketing method. The Rice Terrace of the Philippine Cordilleras is so huge and extensive. The five rice terrace heritage cluster sites alone is difficult to manage when it comes to tourists entrance fee schemes. It is therefore the hope that through this Twinning Programme, information exchange would enable the Rice Terraces group to learn and apply this important strategy to its own WH site.

On the issue of management and conservation, the use of the GIS is indeed a clear approach to management for land use and resource optimization. The Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras once requested for funds support from the World Monuments Fund for the training of trainers on the use of the GIS. The first phase of the project has been achieved but succeeding phases to make the project successful has not been realized, due to the lack of both human and funds resources at the local level. It is the hope that through this Twinning Programme, an exchange of technological skills and expertise be realized, with the assistance of the Faculty of Architecture of the University of Genoa.

On the issue of traditional house rehabilitation, the Italian authorities noted the need for the Rice Terraces to come up with new architectural designs that could be adapted for the expansion of traditional building types or for the construction of new buildings within heritage cluster sites that are compatible and harmonious to the context of traditional building and natural landscapes. Suggestions came underway during the meetings in Genoa while the thought of working closely with the Faculty of Architecture of the University of Genoa through this Twinning Programme, came into mind.

On the issue of cooperative systems, Cinque Terre has been very successful in the management of its cooperative systems. It is through these that resources in the form of products and services, are ably controlled, regulated and managed. The Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras still has its *ubbu* system for the maintenance of the rice terraces, with community members helping in the tilling of the soil, planting of the crops and harvesting of the produce. Likewise, other cooperative systems exist for the promotion and marketing of traditional crops to external buyers. All these cooperative systems have their own unique approaches that aid in accomplishing certain objectives. Learning from the different approaches engaged by the Cinque Terre groups would enable the improvement of approaches undertaken by the Rice Terraces groups and vice versa. It is therefore hoped that through this Twinning Programme, exchanges in information as to the different approaches to cooperative management would be realized.

Information transfer on the use of certain technologies. The Philippine Delegation has noted the success of Cinque Terre in bio-organic production for the cosmetic industry. It likewise noted the use of a non-invasive technology for the transportation of produce at the farm level. Information exchange on these technologies would greatly assist Ifugao as it seeks information on appropriate off farm activities, alternative livelihood systems and alternative methods that facilitates agricultural production for its rice terraces.

On the other side, it has been noted that traditional values in Cinque Terre have slowly disappeared with the influx of tourism. The Philippine Delegation in its presentation on the rice terraces and the Ifugao culture has shown to the Italian authorities that the Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras is still very much rich in traditional values, both in the cultural tangible and intangible levels. The various approaches to the conservation and management of cultural traditions employed by the Ifugaos are worth emulating by the Cinque Terre group. It is therefore the intention of the Philippine Delegation to show to the Italian Delegation in their visit to the Rice Terraces in December 2009 the various approaches to culture conservation that are being implemented at the Rice Terraces.

At the Cinque Terre site, economic sustainability is now directly associated with tourism and indirectly associated with agriculture and land traditions. To the Ifugaos and the peoples of the Philippine Cordilleras, economic sustainability is inextricably linked with the use of the land for agriculture, with the preservation of its surrounding natural environment, with the development of agri-business activities and with the optimization of its natural and cultural resources. Because of these differences, approaches to conservation and management may also be different. However, learning from these different approaches could further push new approaches and strategies that could be beneficial to both parties concerned.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTION PLANS TO BE TAKEN FOLLOWING THE MISSION

The 10 day visit to Italy has been a success as the Philippine Delegation was able to sit down with the Italian authorities in outlining a list of projects which could be undertaken for the pursuit of this Twinning Programme. Some of these projects have been explained in detail in the above written report on the item: *Lessons learned from Cinque Terre and Portovenere and their applicability to the concerns of the Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras.*

The initial list outlined and developed during the meeting in Italy was further improved by the Italian authorities following the completion of the trip, through the development of a comprehensive framework articulated in different programmes/projects, as shown below. The Italian authorities proposed that some of these projects outlined in the comprehensive framework be further studied for their applicability to other possible twinning programmes undertaken by the Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras with other countries, not necessarily with Italy, in accordance with reciprocal needs, interests and potential shareable knowledge expressed by these sites and countries. The following is the comprehensive framework:

PROPOSED OPERATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A STRATEGY TO ADDRESS THREATS IN THE PHILIPPINES CORDILLERAS RICE TERRACES UNDERTAKEN THROUGH A TWINNING PROGRAMME

1. Management framework sector:

- GIS Technology Educational Assistance (Twinning programme Rice Terraces and Cinque Terre – TP-RTCT)
Involvement of the University of Genoa Faculty of Architecture and the Province of Ifugao and its technological specialists through the ISCAF – Ifugao State College of Agriculture and Forestry and the stakeholders of the WH cluster sites) – GIS preparation/case study of a particular WH cluster site.
- Cooperatives system (administrative and/or traditional) structure information exchange: methodology for the establishment of cooperative systems i.e., outlining the responsibilities and duties of members, its operational structures, the process of income sharing, fields to which they have been applied and have been successful, etc. (TP-RTCT, exchange with other sites)
- Management structure, processes, procedures information exchange (TP-RTCT; exchanges with other sites; ICCROM management workshops, ETC.)

2. Sustainable Tourism sector

Sharing of methodologies, approaches and processes with sites/organisations that have been successful in achieving goals in this field. Identified needs/project proposals include the following areas/ themes:

- Ticketing strategy information transfer (TP-RTCT)
- Sharing of information and resources in terms of knowledge of accommodation facilities - elaboration of suitable standards and monitoring procedures. (TP-RTCT; UNWTO Sustainable Development of Tourism Department training workshop; ICCROM workshops, etc.)
- Wellness Tourism programme exchange

Report on the Study Tour of Italy for the Twinning Programme between Cinque Terre and the Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras WH sites

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Exchange of information, processes and technological know how

- Cuisine development programme
Methodology and information exchange (i.e., making more attractive the local traditional dishes, widening and varying the selections offered, etc.) and actions to be undertaken (this may include research at the local level on traditional recipes that may be re-interpreted and/or on local edible plants that may be used for newly created – but still localized dishes by Philippine or foreign cooks).
 - Project proposal: exchange of products project in the ‘gourmet bio-food’ and bio-cosmetics areas (TP-RTCT)
 - Marketing and promotion exchange programme that would assist both sites in the marketing and promotion of local products as well as in the promotion of both places as tourist destinations while encouraging the sustainable conduct of traditional agricultural activities.
 - In the cuisine development and food industry sector, pursuing the potential amplification of the market for the Ifugao special rice to include countries like Italy and those in Europe. Within this programme realm is the development of a ‘haut cuisine’ competition in Cinque Terre, where famous cooks may use the Philippine Cordilleras rice to create new rice dishes that combine Cinque Terre traditional ingredients with the rice and other traditional products (Twinning cuisine project). This may be a ‘kick off’ initiative for the marketing of Ifugao rice in Cinque Terre as one of the actions of the Twinning Programme between Rice Terraces and Cinque Terre.

3. Agricultural and agro-industrial sector:

- Off farm activities technology transfer/ exchange (the conduct of off-farm/off-agri-season income generating activities that would enhance the economic conditions of traditional agriculture based sites)
- promotion and enhancement of typical local products (steps geared toward the development of a food community for the rice producers of the Philippine terraces or for other traditional crops (a case where the Rice Terraces may also benefit from twinning programmes with other food communities already existing in Asia, such as that in Thailand and in Bangladesh)
- agro-products transformation and packaging ‘approach/technology’ exchange (TP-RTCT)
- Equipment and machinery development technological exchange for farm production, raw product transformation and packaging (in particular, developing monorails factories in Philippines/Ifugao)

This exchange may be developed with Medium and Small Scale industries, through special dedicated international or EU programmes but also using the TP-RTCT

4. Hydrological research through the assistance of Italian Academic institutions

5. Climate change information exchange

6. Cultural/Educational Programme sector:

- Indigenous Knowledge (IK) conservation information exchange (information transfer on the different approaches that the Rice Terraces has undertaken to conserve and preserve its culture and IK systems)
- Education Program focusing on cultural and IK knowledge system exchange

7. Architectural and Landscape Conservation sector:

- Technological exchange on the different approaches and methodologies for the rehabilitation and the integration of modern utilities (electrical wiring and lighting systems, sanitary and/or plumbing, insulation, installation of integrated renewable resource exploitation equipments, etc.) on traditional vernacular Ifugao houses, and the development of new designs for Ifugao structures based and adapted from traditional Ifugao vernacular house designs. This may be undertaken through a comprehensive approach to conservation that may include the following:
 - Documentation of traditional building technology and building components including understanding of their design related to function;
 - Development of mixed technologies for the repair/consolidation and for the improvement of traditional building structures/components
 - Development of new design

The above mentioned activities may be carried out by local colleges and universities through research and educational programmes. An international design workshop may also be envisioned that would promote attention to Ifugao vernacular architecture at the international level which would obtain a variety of possible adequate solution based proposals for its rehabilitation/ reinterpretation in the light of modern needs, while retaining the essence of its vernacular character.

THE TRIP OF AN ITALIAN DELEGATION TO THE PHILIPPINES

As part of the continuity of the Twinning Programme between the Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras and the Cinque Terre World Heritage Site, a trip of Italian delegates to the Philippines was proposed, for schedule on the first week December 2009.

It was agreed that the finalization to identify the members of the Italian Delegation would be undertaken in the course of the months prior to the trip to the Philippines. It was also proposed that the members of the Italian delegation to be sent to the Philippines shall be composed of technical experts who could further the development of the projects and programmes listed above related to this Twinning Programme. Following the discussions and meeting in Cinque Terre and in Genoa with the Italian authorities, an initial list of participants/members of the Italian delegation was thought of, based on the possible technical contribution that they may be able to extend to further this cooperation project. The following are the names and expertise of the possible members of the Italian Delegation initially thought of following the meetings held in Italy, listed in random order of importance:

1. For the Cooperative Systems information exchange – Mr. Gianluca Pasini – head of the Cinque Terre Coopertative systems

2. For the Geotechnics and hydrological studies information exchange - Prof Roberto Passalacqua – Geotechnics expert
3. For the GIS programme exchange – either Prof. Mariolina Besio or Arch Anna Boato – both experts in GIS technology
4. For the cultural, IK and architectural knowledge exchange – either Prof. Mariolina Besio or Arch. Luisa de Marco – both architectural restoration and heritage conservation experts
5. For the tourism programme exchange – Mr. Francesco Marchese – official of the National Park and very knowledgeable of the operations of the Park
6. To further promote the importance of sustainable development in organically evolving Cultural Terraced Landscapes World Heritage Sites – Mr. Francesco Bandarin – architect/planner/Director of the World Heritage Centre

The following activities were initially discussed, which could further developed as the trip to the Philippines by the Italian delegation is pursued:

1. Visit and trekking to all the five heritage cluster terraces sites of Ifugao – Hungduan, Julongan-Nagacadan, Batad, Bangaan and Mayoyoa Central
2. Visit to a stone wall restoration project
3. Visit to ISCAF to observe on-going activities related to the IK systems programmes
4. Observance of on-going traditional ceremonies or rituals
5. Observance of activities related to the Schools of Living Traditions
6. Visit to a pilot school project for the Centre for Lifelong Learning and Sustainable Development (Pagsasarili School) in Ifugao
7. Others as may be deemed important

It is hoped that the above mentioned projects and programmes identified to further this Twinning Programme be pursued by both WH properties. It is the intention that the conduct of these projects and programmes would mutually benefit both WH sites through cooperation and exchange of knowledge, experiences and good practices in heritage conservation and management.