ICOM-ITC November 2016 Training Workshop

Collecting Objects, Telling Stories

Nov.7-15, 2016
Beijing, China
Welcome Address

Dear lecturers, dear participants,

First of all, we would like to extend our warmest welcome to you on behalf of ICOM China and the Palace Museum.

Established on July 1, 2013, the ICOM-ITC has organized six regular training workshops in Beijing and a special one in Tanzania. It is dedicated to providing an efficient platform of communicating and exchanging ideas on present challenges and future directions for museum professionals worldwide with well-designed programmes in a rigorous yet pleasant way. By now, a total of 219 museum professionals from Asia, Africa, Europe, Latin America and Oceania have participated in these workshops and been trained in such aspects as museum management, collection, exhibition and education.

The theme of the ICOM-ITC November 2016 Training Workshop is “Collecting Objects, Telling Stories”. Museums in nowadays are showing increasingly important social role and position. In their transformation from a closed area for displaying and protecting collections to an open place for communication and interaction, museum collections serve as the foundation and bridge. Thus, it’s fundamental for museums to make a scientific and complete use of their collections for displaying their collection diversity, and for improving their exhibitions, publicity, education programmes, visitor services, cultural products, database building, etc. This workshop is organized to offer you an opportunity to share ideas and experience, in hope of contributing to the scientific and reasonable collection management, to the sufficient display and utilization of collections, and to the effective communication among museums and between museum and the society. We believe that only when museums become a kind of faith and action, can they fully perform their functions and value.

The workshop benefits tremendously from the great dedication and active participation from all the experts, participants and faculty members. So, please allow us to extend our most sincere gratitude to you. We also hope it could provide assistance to and inspiration for your academic research and daily work.

In the end, wish you all a pleasant stay in Beijing and this workshop a big success.

Guan Qiang
Chair
ICOM China
Nov. 2016

Shan Jixiang
Director
The Palace Museum
Nov. 2016
Introduction to the Training Workshop

The ICOM-ITC was established in July 2013 as a joint collaboration of the Palace Museum, ICOM and ICOM China. It is based on the purposes, missions and shared professional goals of ICOM and its Chinese national committee, and relies on the Palace Museum for its operation and management. Its main objective is to develop museum expertise and knowledge of young promising museum professionals in developing countries, especially in the Asia-Pacific region.

The ICOM-ITC holds two workshops each year, one in April and one in November. Each workshop surrounds a specific museum topic. The November 2016 workshop is to be held from November 7 to 15, 2016 under the theme of “Collecting Objects, Telling Stories”. Eight museum experts and professors from Canada, China, France, the Netherlands and UK are invited as lecturers; and thirty-one participants are admitted, including sixteen from China and fifteen from other countries.


The theme of the workshop will be discussed and explored through diverse forms of programmes, like lectures, group activities, case studies, mini workshops, and museum visits. Lecturers and participants could exchange ideas on several topics, like liquid collecting, risk management, illicit traffic in cultural goods, collection management practices and so forth in the workshop. Visits of three local museums will give participants the opportunity to observe, discuss, experience and learn about the practices of Chinese museums, while the “reading artifacts” will enable participants to handle objects and learn how to use them in practice.

We hope that the programmes prepared for the workshop will provide participants with new ideas and expertise, promote exchanges between museum professionals from different regions, and broaden their professional networks.

Profile of Lecturers

Dr. Shan Jixiang started his research on the conservation and planning of historical cities and cultural heritage areas while studying in Japan from 1980 to 1984. After returning to China, he was successively appointed Deputy Director of Beijing Municipal Administration of City Planning, Director of the Beijing Municipal Administration of Cultural Heritage, Secretary of the CPC of Fangshan District of Beijing, Director of Beijing Municipal Commission of Urban Planning, and Director of the State Administration of Cultural Heritage. In 2012 he became Director of the Palace Museum.

He has been the member of both the tenth and the eleventh National Committees of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), and is a member of the twelfth National Committee of the CPPCC, President of Cultural Relics Society of China, and Vice Chairperson of the Architectural Society of China.

As a student of China’s renowned academician, Professor Wu Liangyong, Dr. Shan graduated from the School of Architecture, Tsinghua University and received the Eng.D degree. He is a doctoral supervisor and adjunct professor of a number of universities and colleges, including Peking University and Tsinghua University. In March, 2005, Dr. Shan received the International Leadership Award issued by the American Planning Association (APA). His published works include more than ten monographs such as Cultural Heritage Conservation and Urban Culture Renaissance, Retaining the "Root" and "Soul" of Urban Culture, Cultural Heritage-Thoughts and Practice, and Secure Palace Museum-Thoughts and Practice: Collected Works of the Renchen Year, and over a hundred academic theses.

Shan Jixiang
(China)

Director of the Palace Museum, senior architect, registered city planner
Guan Qiang  
(China)  
Deputy Director and Member of Party Committee of State Administration of Cultural Heritage (SACH)  

After his graduation from the Department of Archeology of Peking University (BA) in 1985 and later from the Department of Archeology of Jilin University (MA) in 1988, Mr. Guan entered Exhibition Department of the Palace Museum in July, 1988. During his work, Mr. Guan participated in a language programme (English) in Predeparture Training Department at Beijing Language and Culture University and then pursued further education on Archeology at Cairo University in Egypt. From 1993 to 1996, he was temporarily transferred to Division II of State Administration of Cultural Heritage.  

In 1997, Mr. Guan started to serve in the SACH, and successively worked for Archaeology Management Division, Department of Cultural Relics Preservations, and Administrative Office. In April of 2009, he took the post of the Chief of Department of Cultural Relics Preservations and Archeology (Department of World Cultural Heritage). Since December 2015, he has served as Deputy Director of the SACH and member of its Party Committee, in charge of the Department of Science and Technology (Department of Museum and Cultural Relics), Beijing Luxun Museum (New Culture Movement Memorial of Beijing), Cultural Relics Publishing House, and Art Exhibitions China.  

With fairly long-time experience of working with museums and cultural heritage preservation, Mr. Guan published academic articles as follows, Study on the Archaeological Relics in “Hetao Region” of Neolithic Age, Theoretical Breakthrough on the Protection of Street Blocks, etc.

Song Jirong  
(China)  
Deputy Director of the Palace Museum, Director of the ICOM-ITC  

Dr. Song Jirong graduated from the Northwest University in Xi’an, China in 1982 and pursued advanced studies in Staffordshire, UK from 1992 to 1993. In 1994, she started a PhD course at Nanjing University of Science and Technology, and entered the postdoctoral research center at Northwest University in 1997. Afterwards, she served successively as the dean of the Postgraduate Department; dean of the Chemical Engineering School; professor, doctoral supervisor and vice-chairman of the Academic Degrees Committee. In 2006, Dr. Song was transferred to the Palace Museum as the director of the Conservation Department. In June 2010, she was appointed by the Ministry of Culture as a deputy director of the Palace Museum. She was the chief editor of Palace Museum Journal and committee member of the Editorial Board of Forbidden City. She has published over 100 articles in domestic periodicals such as Chemical Physics, Inorganic Chemistry Communications, New Journal of Chemistry, Journal Molecular Structure, Science China and Chinese Science Bulletin. More than 70 articles were indexed by SCI and EI.  

Under her guidance, the Conservation Department's “Techniques for Mounting and Repair of Traditional Chinese Painting and Calligraphy” and other five conservation techniques were listed as the nation's intangible cultural heritage. She also conducted the program “Scientific Establishment of the Cultural Heritage Protection and Repair Technique Database”. She also participated in the research program “Alternatives to Alum in Restoring, Copying, and Reproducing Traditional Chinese Painting and Calligraphy”. Dr. Song stated the idea of “the Hospital of Cultural Heritage”, which means a scientific approach to conservation. She researches the program on “Thangka’s conservation in the Hall of Mental Cultivation”, and meanwhile she is responsible for the management of Exhibition Department, Publicity and Education Department, Scientific Research Department, Conservation Department and Gugong Research Institute. She is now the director of the Gugong Institute, executive deputy director of Gugong Research Institute and director of the ICOM-ITC.
After the graduation from the Department of Philosophy of Beijing Normal University in 1988, Mr. Liang was admitted to the Palace Museum attending to the restoration of ancient architecture as well as the conservation, management and research of historical objects. Since 1984, he had been in charge of the general inventory management, historical objects collecting, formulation and revision of collection management regulations, as well as the examination, assessment and handover of oversea exhibitions.

During his service at the Palace Museum, he had successively held the posts of deputy division chief, division chief, and deputy director of Conservation Department, deputy director of Administrative Office, and director of Collection Management Department. He had also served as committee member of the Publishing House of the Palace Museum, secretary general of the Committee of Collecting and Identification of Historical Objects of the Palace Museum, member of the Conservation Committee of Beijing Academy of Museum, and Chair of the Conservation Committee of Chinese Museums Association. With rich experience, he has been repetitively invited to attend the research programmes, seminars and training sessions sponsored by the State Administration of Cultural Relics, the Palace Museum, the Capital Museum, the National Museum of Friendship, etc., regarding to the inventory management and restoration of historical objects. After his retirement, Mr. Liang was re-employed by the Palace Museum.

Mr. Claude Faubert started his museum career at the Ontario Science Centre, one of the world’s best-known science centres. In 1992, he joined the Canada Science and Technology Museum, Canada’s largest and most comprehensive science and technology museum, and was its director general from 2001 to 2011. From 2011 to September 2015, Claude was Vice-President, Collection and Research for the Canada Science and Technology Museums Corporation. Claude is now a museum consultant specialising in science and technology museums and exhibition, in cultural heritage as well as in museum training.

Claude was a member of ICOM’s Executive Council from 2007 to 2013; since 2011, he has been a member of the ICOM committee that allocates annual funding to the international committees as well as to special projects.

Beginning in 2013, Claude has been the ICOM coordinator for the ICOM International Training Centre (ICOM-ITC) housed in the Palace Museum, Beijing.

Claude is a current member of the board of the Commonwealth Association of Museums (CAM) and a voting member of Cimuset.
Ms. Leontine Meijer-van Mensch is Deputy Director at Museum Europäischer Kulturen Staatliche Museen (Museum for European Cultures) in Berlin. Before, she was lecturer in heritage theory and professional ethics at the Reinwardt Academy (Amsterdam, the Netherlands).

She studied new and theoretical history and Judaic studies in Amsterdam, Jerusalem and Berlin and she was a postgraduate in European Cultural Heritage Studies in Frankfurt/Oder with a focus on museology. Léontine worked for a variety of exhibition projects in Germany, Poland and in the Netherlands, for instance as a researcher and as an educator in the Jewish Museum in Berlin and the Jewish Historical Museum in Amsterdam. Before returning to Amsterdam in January 2006, she was the project coordinator of the Europa Fellows II research programme at the Collegium Polonicum in Slubice (Poland) and lecturer of cultural management and museology at Europa-Universität Viadrina in Frankfurt/Oder. She is a board member of COMCOL, the ICOM-International Committee for Collecting and an international board member of the International School of Museology, Celje, Slovenia. She moderated the Erfgoed Arena at Reinwardt Academy till January 2011. Her Ph.D. research focuses on the museology discourse in the German Democratic Republic and its international resonance. Her main interest is in remembrance culture and contemporary collecting.

Léontine’s broad international background, knowledge and experience of European cultural heritage and museological developments provide her with a profound sense of history and current trends. She is an insightful theoretical museologist contributing to the ongoing museological discourse.

Mr. Robert Child graduated from Exeter University with a BSc in Chemistry, subsequently working as a research chemist, before retraining in museum conservation. After 5 years working on archaeological and ethnographical material in Exeter Museum, Mr. Child worked as the Senior Conservator with responsibility for a very large mixed collection. After 7 years there, he became Head of Conservation at the National Museum of Wales until 2010. He is a consultant in Preventive Conservation and lectures and publishes widely on the subject, as well as carrying out practical surveys and treatments. He specializes in Integrated Pest Management and as such, is the Advisor on Insect Pests to the National Trust and other major organizations. He currently runs Histrionics, a company providing advice, treatment and materials to the heritage community.
Mr. Raphaël Roig holds a Master’s degree in Contemporary history and a Master’s degree in International relations from the University of La Sorbonne (Paris). Following years of field research in political sciences in Eastern Africa, he has been in charge of the Konso Museum project and the organisation of a range of exhibitions in Ethiopia.

Since 2011, he has been working at the International Council of Museums (ICOM) as a Senior Program Officer and the Secretary of the Ethics Committee. Meanwhile, he is also working for the NGO Amnesty International as the Coordinator for East Africa, and for the organisation of the NGO’s movie festival.

Within ICOM, he is particularly involved in the development of programmes in the following fields: the protection and promotion of cultural heritage, the fight against illicit traffic and museum security, professional training and museum ethics.
### Workshop Agenda (Nov. 12-16)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Lecture/Activity</th>
<th>Lecturer/Participant</th>
<th>Venue</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nov.12</td>
<td>9:00-12:00</td>
<td>Mini workshop 1: The Signification of Objects in the Process of Collecting</td>
<td>Ms. Léontine Meijer-van Mensch</td>
<td>Room 404 Gugong Institute</td>
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<td>Mini workshop 2: Risk Management in Practice</td>
<td>Mr. Robert Child</td>
<td>The PM</td>
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<td>Mini workshop 3: Legal and practical tools to better protect cultural artifacts</td>
<td>Mr. Raphaël Roig</td>
<td>Room 208 Gugong Institute</td>
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<td></td>
<td>13:30-17:00</td>
<td>Mini workshop (continued)</td>
<td>Lecturers, participants, and ICOM-ITC staff</td>
<td>Gugong Institute/the PM</td>
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<td>Lunch (Jade Garden Hotel)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov.13</td>
<td>All day</td>
<td>Excursion</td>
<td>Lecturers, participants, and ICOM-ITC staff</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov.14</td>
<td>9:00-12:00</td>
<td>Reading Artifacts I</td>
<td>Mr. Claude Faubert</td>
<td>The PM</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Lunch (the PM)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>13:30-17:00</td>
<td>Reading Artifacts II</td>
<td>Mr. Claude Faubert</td>
<td>The PM</td>
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<td>Dinner (Jade Garden Hotel)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov.15</td>
<td>9:00-12:00</td>
<td>Visit of the Palace Museum</td>
<td>Lecturers, participants, and ICOM-ITC staff</td>
<td>The PM</td>
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<td>Lunch (the PM)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>13:30-15:30</td>
<td>The Development of Chinese Museums and the Management of Collection</td>
<td>Mr. Guan Qiang</td>
<td>Jianfu Palace of the PM</td>
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<td></td>
<td>15:30-16:00</td>
<td>Evaluation of the workshop</td>
<td>Participants</td>
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<td></td>
<td>16:00-17:00</td>
<td>Closing Ceremony &amp; Certificate Awarding</td>
<td>Leaders, Lecturers, participants, and ICOM-ITC staff</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Dinner (Jade Garden Hotel)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov.16</td>
<td>All day</td>
<td>Departures</td>
<td>ICOM-ITC staff</td>
<td>Jade Garden Hotel</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Chinese Participants

- **Chen Xin**
  Director of Investigation and Exploration Department
  Guangzhou Municipal Institute of Cultural Relics and Archaeology
- **Du Kan**
  Assistant to the Director of Conservation and Restoration Center
  Capital Museum
- **Hu Ying**
  Curator
  East China Normal University Museum
- **Liu Huawei**
  Curator
  Anhui Museum
- **Liu Jie**
  Section Chief of Exhibition and Conservation Department
  National Library of China (National Museum of Classic Books)
- **Qin Suyin**
  Deputy Director of the New Culture Movement Research Department
  Beijing Luxun Museum and the New Culture Movement Memorial of Beijing
- **Wang Bing**
  Director of Museum Affairs Department
  China Fire Museum
- **Wang Fang**
  Assistant Director
  Guangdong Museum
Chinese Participants

Wang Haizhu  
Director of Collection Department  
Chemical Industry Museum of China

Yang Xiyan  
Foreign Affairs Manager  
Chinese Museums Association

Yang Xiao  
Deputy Director of Scientific Research Department  
Yunnan Nationalities Museum

Yuan Xin  
Conservator  
Hunan Provincial Museum

International Participants

Anil Dwivedi  
(India)  
Senior Conservator  
Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts

Aprille Tijam  
(The Philippines)  
Senior Manager, Exhibitions and Collections  
Ayala Museum

Bojana Bogdanovic  
(Serbia)  
Senior Curator  
Open Air Museum "Old Village"

Chotima Yamee  
(Thailand)  
Geologist, Senior Professional Level  
Phuwiang Fossil Research Center and Dinosaur Museum

Darchell Henderson  
(Bahamas)  
Gallery Registrar  
The National Art Gallery of the Bahamas

Enkhjargal Tegshjargal  
(Mongolia)  
Collection Registrar  
The Fine Arts Zanabazar Museum

Hong Thai Pham  
(Vietnam)  
Head of Department  
Vietnam National Museum of Nature

Juan Antonio Soto Hernandez  
(Mexico)  
Director of Collections  
Museo del Objeto del Objeto A.C.
International Participants

Njabulo Chipangura
(Zimbabwe)
Curator of Archaeology
National Museums and Monuments of Zimbabwe

Rama Zeynalova
(Azerbaijan)
Chief Specialist on Scientific Research
Azerbaijan Carpet Museum

Shomwatala Ndeenda Shivute
(Namibia)
Curatorial Coordinator/Collections Curator
National Art Gallery of Namibia

Syed Aneel Ahmad Gilani
(Pakistan)
Associate Curator, Botanical Sciences Division
Pakistan Museum of Natural History

Jiang Qianqian
Publicity and Education Department

Fan Xuechun
Publicity and Education Department

Zahra Habibizad
(Iran)
The Archive&Gallery Director
Music Museum of Iran

Youngjin Kye
(Republic of Korea)
Researcher
Institute of East Asian Archaeology

Virginia Fernanda Gonzalez
(Argentina)
Management Collection
National Museum of Cabildo and May Revolution

ICOM-ITC Staff

Yan Hongbin
Director of Publicity and Education Department

Guo Meixia
Deputy Director of Publicity and Education Department

Li Yingchong
Publicity and Education Department

Wang Qianhui
Publicity and Education Department

Youngjin Kye
(Republic of Korea)
Researcher
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Information about the Participating Museums

Capital Museum of China

The Capital Museum of China was opened in 1981 in Confucius Temple and moved into its present building in 2006. It houses a large collection of ancient porcelain, bronze, calligraphy, painting, jade, sculpture and Buddhist statues from imperial China as well as other Asian cultures.

With its magnificent architecture, abundant exhibitions, advanced technology and complete functions, the Capital Museum, large and modern, makes its contribution to the titles such as “famous historical and cultural city”, “cultural center” and “international metropolis” of Beijing and ranks among the first class museums both at home and abroad.

The present Capital Museum's building's massive roof and the gradient at the entrance square was influenced by the design from ancient Chinese architecture, and the stone-made exterior wall was meant to symbolize imagery of the city walls and towers in ancient China. A piece of danbi (a massive stone carved with images of dragon, phoenix and imperial artifacts) is embedded on the ground in front of the north gate of the museum, whereas a decorative archway from the Ming Dynasty is set in the receptional hall in which shows the "central axis" feature that are commonly seen in Chinese architecture. The Bronze Exhibition Hall, which has an oval-shape, was also meant to symbolize the unearthing of ancient relics by its slanting design in which extends from the ground to the exterior of the museum.

Address: 16 Fuxingmen Outer Street, Xicheng District, Beijing
Access: Walk to Wangfujing Station, take Subway Line 1 to Muxidi Station (Exit C1); the museum is 500 meters to the east.
Website:http://www.capitalmuseum.org.cn

China Fire Museum

China Fire Museum is the only museum of fire prevention at national level in China. It is built and run by the Fire Department of Ministry of Public Security of China, opened to the public since 8th November 2011. China Fire Museum is a comprehensive museum, which exhibits the culture and history of fire prevention, educates visitors about fire warning and fire and disaster prevention, and provides them interactive experience.

China Fire Museum occupies an area of 48,000 square meters. The museum has five major thematic exhibitions, namely introduction exhibition, temporary exhibition, ancient fire prevention exhibition, modern fire prevention exhibition and fire and disaster prevention experiencing area. To present the relationship development between fire and human being in each historical period, China Fire Museum displays objects, models, pictures and videos in the exhibition galleries, and also sets simulating scene area and interactive experience area. With the purpose of inheriting the historical culture of fire prevention and fostering the development of fire prevention industry, China Fire Museum has put a lot of effort, and has been awarded the honorary titles of “National Educational Base of Science Popularization”, “National Educational Base of Social Practice on Fire Prevention and Safety for Primary and Middle School Students”, and “Beijing Patriotism Educational Base”.

Address: 70 Guanganmen South Street, Xicheng District, Beijing
Access: Walk to Donghuamen Station, take Bus No.2 to Dashilan Station, transfer to Bus No.59 to Daguanyuan West Station, the museum is about 60m to the north.
Website:http://www.cfm119.com
Arthur M. Sackler Museum of Art and Archaeology

Arthur M. Sackler Museum of Art and Archaeology is set within Peking University. It was built by Arthur M Sackler (1913-1987) and his wife Gilian Sackler. The museum is a teaching-oriented museum, and is the first of its kind among Chinese universities. Completed in 1993, the museum opened to the public for free in 2010. It was set up with a teaching and research purpose. A visit to the Museum offers a potted course in Chinese art history.

The inaugural exhibits of the Museum have two types: permanent collections to assist the teaching of Chinese archaeology at Peking University, and special exhibits illustrating the important excavations conducted by the Archaeology Department which functions as a field training school for their students. The basic exhibition is arranged according to the archaeological periods in teaching: Paleolithic; Neolithic; Xia; Shang and Zhou; the Warring States; Qin and Han; the Six Dynasties, Sui and Tang; Song, Liao, Jin, Yuan and Ming.

The Sackler Museum owns more than 13,000 collections. Its collection comes from four sources: ① Peking University’s holdings prior to the establishment of the Archaeology Division in 1952; ② the collection belonging to the former Prehistory Museum of Yanjing University; ③ artifacts from excavations carried out after the Archaeology Division was established (These are used primarily for teaching purposes); ④ loans and gifts from other cultural and archaeology institutes for the preparation of the museum.

Address: Inside the West Gate, Peking University, No.5 Yiheyuan Road, Haidian District, Beijing
Access: Walk to Tiananmen East Station, take Subway Line 1 to Xidan Station, transfer to Subway Line 4 to East Gate of Peking University Station (Exit A), the museum is about 1000m to the west after getting inside the university.
Website: http://www.amsm.pku.edu.cn

Useful Information

Training Venue
The Palace Museum
Address: 4 Jingshan Qianjie, Dongcheng District, Beijing
Gugong Institute
Address: 19 Nanheyan Street, Dongcheng District, Beijing

Hotel
Jade Garden Hotel
Address: 1 Nanheyan Street, Dongcheng District, Beijing

Meals
In most days, the Training Centre offers three meals a day to all lecturers and participants.
Breakfast: Jade Garden Hotel
Lunch: Jade Garden Hotel or the Palace Museum
Dinner: Jade Garden Hotel

Transportation
The training centre provides each lecturer and participant from outside Beijing with a public transport card. You can take bus and subway with this card.
The nearest stations:
Subway: Tian’anmen East Station (Line 1), Wangfujing Station (Line 1)
Bus: Donghuamen Station (2/82)
Tip: English is not widely spoken in Beijing. You can find English spoken staffs in most of the major hotels, fine dining restaurants and shopping malls. Most of the taxi drivers do not speak fluent English, therefore we suggest you ask the hotel staff to write down your destination in Chinese before going out. Please make sure to carry the hotel information (in Chinese) with you.
Currency

The currency used in China is CNY. The exchange rate of CNY and USD is approximately 1USD=6.8 CNY. Most hotels, restaurants, supermarkets, and shops accept international credit cards.

Electricity

The voltage in China is 220 Volts, with 50Hz frequency.

Telephone

The country code for China is 86; the city code for Beijing is 010 and for Beijing local calls just dial the eight digit number. To make an international direct dial call from Beijing, use the international access code “00”. Local SIM cards are easily available.

Climate

According to weather statistics, Beijing’s average temperature in November is around 4℃, with considerable day/night temperature difference.

Shopping

Wangfujing Shopping Street

The Jade Garden Hotel is near to Wangfujing Shopping Street which is one of China’s most attractive and modern shopping streets. Now much of the road is off-limits to cars and other motor vehicles, and it is not rare to see the entire street full of people.

How to Get There
On foot: Walk along the Donghuamen Road. In about 10 minutes (approximately 500 meters) you will see an Apple Store and Wangfujing shopping street is on your right.

Xidan Commercial Street

Xidan Commercial Street is a favorite shopping area among locals, especially young people, as it is a fantastic combination of shopping, dining, entertainment, culture and commerce.

How to Get There
By subway: take Subway Line 1 at Tian’anmen East Station and get off at Xidan Station.
By bus: take Bus 2/82 at Donghuamen Station and get off at Tian’anmen East Station, transfer to Bus 52/1/99 and get off at East Xidan Lukou Station.

Places to go in the evening

Nanluoguxiang Hutong

Nanluoguxiang, one of the best preserved historical areas in downtown Beijing, is famous for its hutong and siheyuan courtyards, as well as the bars, cafes, clothing and handicraft shops there. This 768-meter-long south-north central lane has 16 hutong branching off the central lane, giving each side 8 hutong. Located between Gulou East Street and Di’anmen East Street, this quaint street boasts many cool shops offering silk shawls, handicrafts designed by local artists, and trendy T-shirts featuring images of everything. It is more than just a chic place to buy some Chinese-inspired gifts for friends, but also a mirror perfectly showing Chinese architecture of the Yuan Dynasty.

How to Get There
By subway: take Subway Line 1 from Tian’anmen East Station, transfer at Dongdan Station to Subway Line 5. Get off the train at Dongsi Station, transfer to Subway Line 6, and Nanluoguxiang Station is only one stop away.
By bus: take bus 60 from Donghuamen Station and get off at Luoguxiang Station (about 20 minutes), Nanluoguxiang is two minutes’ walk away.

Houhai Bar Street

Houhai (literally: “Rear Sea”) refers to a lake and its surrounding neighborhood in Xicheng
District of central Beijing. Houhai is the largest of the three lakes, along with Qianhai (lit. the "Front Sea") and Xihai (lit. the "Western Sea"), that comprise Shichahai, the collective name for the three northern-most lakes in central Beijing. In the last 200 years, many governmental officers, celebrities, monks and nuns chose to build mansions, temples and nunneries in it. Thus, its attraction lies not only in its natural beauty, but also in the historical value of its architecture. Since the early 2000s, the hutong neighborhood around Houhai has become known for its nightlife as many residences along the lake shore have been converted into restaurants, bars, and cafes. The area is especially popular with foreign tourists visiting Beijing and is also often visited by the expatriate community and the younger generations of locals.

How to Get There
By bus: take bus 2/82 at Donghuamen Station, and get off at Gulou Station.

Tian’anmen Square
Located at the center of Beijing City, Tian’anmen Square covers an area of 440,000 square meters. Thousands of people come here every day. It is a must-see place in Beijing. At the north end of the Square is Tian’anmen Tower. The most important use of it in the past was to declare in a big ceremony to the common people who became the emperor and who became the empress. Until 1911 when the last feudal kingdom was over, no one could enter the Tower except for the royal family and aristocrats. The granite Monument to the People’s Heroes is just at the center of the square. Built in 1952, it is the largest monument in China’s history. “The People’s Heroes are Immortal” written by Chairman Mao is engraved on the monument. Eight unusually large relief sculptures show to the people the development of Chinese modern history. Two rows of white marble railings enclose the monument, simple and beautiful. West of the Square is the Great Hall of the People. This building is the site of the China National People’s Congress meetings and provides an impressive site for other political and diplomatic activities. Memorial Hall of Chairman Mao is at the south side of the Square, and National Museum of China the east side.

How to Get There
By bus: take bus 2/82 at Donghuamen Station, and get off at Tian’anmen East Station.

Excursion
Mutianyu Great Wall
Located in Huairou County about 45 miles from Beijing, Mutianyu Great Wall enjoys a long history and is part of the glorious culture of China. It connects Juyongguan Pass in the west and Gubeikou Great Wall in the east. The wall was first built in Northern Qi Dynasty (550-557). In Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), Tan Lun and Qi Jiguang, two famous patriotic generals, rebuilt it in order to strengthen its defensive potential when they guarded the strategic pass. It served as the northern protective screen, guarding the capital and imperial mausoleums for generations. Besides its strategically important location and compact layout, the Mutianyu Great Wall is also famous for the breath-takingly beautiful scenery. There is steep climb from the main gate but there is a chairlift to make it easy. A good place for views across the ridges and down the valleys.

Summer Palace
Situated in the Haidian District northwest of Beijing City, the Summer Palace is 15 kilometers (9.3 miles) from central Beijing. Being the largest and most well-preserved royal park in China, it greatly influences Chinese horticulture and landscape with its famous natural views and cultural interests, which also has long since been recognized as ‘The Museum of Royal Gardens’. The construction started in 1750 as a luxurious royal garden for royal families to rest and entertain. It later became the main residence of royal members in the end of the Qing Dynasty. However, like most of the gardens of Beijing, it could not elude the rampages of the Anglo-French Allied Force and was destroyed by fire. According to historical documents, with original name as ‘Qingyi Garden’ (Garden of Clear Ripples), the Summer Palace (Yiheyuan) was renamed after its first reconstruction in 1888. It was also recorded that Empress Dowager Cixi embezzled navy funds to reconstruct it as a resort in which to spend the rest of her life. In 1900, the Summer Palace suffered another hit by the Eight-Power Allied Force and was repaired in the next two years. In 1924, it was open to the public. It ranked amongst the World Heritage Sites by UNESCO in 1998, as well as one of the first national AAAAAA tourist spots in China.