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### **Our Future's Past: Sustainable Cultural Heritage in the 21st Century Rome, November 24<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

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An interesting study conference dedicated to sustainable cultural heritage in the twenty-first century was held in Rome 24 to 26 November 2011, organized by the British School at Rome and the American University of Rome. The meeting was attended by many scholars from various Italian and foreign universities, thanks to their contributions have enriched the three-day conference, bringing their experiences, creating a fruitful exchange of methods and experiences. The first day of work was held at Sainsbury Lecture Theatre of the British School at Rome, and was focused on the relationship between heritage and landscape, and the interaction between conservation and cultural heritage. Interesting projects were presented from the point of view of content and methodology. There was some discussion of a work devoted to the archaeological site of Lenggong Valley in Malaysia, the garden of the Monastery of Piedimonte Matese in the province of Caserta, cultural routes, with particular attention to the case of the Via Francigena. Finally, the first session also saw the presentation of a work on the historic city of Asmara in Eritrea, and Erbil in Iraq. Both sites are on UNESCO's Tentative List. In the second session of the studies were presented papers on new forms of contemporary art events, interior design and training for heritage professionals, understood as the union between the human and experimental sciences. The next morning, the discussion was centered on the theme of cultural heritage as a basis for economic development. There have been some projects that have been presented as a strength the cooperation between local people and institutions as the case of Gjirokastra in Albania, or Oaxaca in Mexico. In the afternoon we continued discussing the relationship between heritage and sustainable tourism, and questioning, in conclusion, on how far cultural heritage can be international. The relationship between heritage and sustainable tourism has been made by some stakeholders, in particular, were shown some strategies and methods to enjoy and appreciate the heritage with a different approach than usual. The last day of the conference opened with a session devoted to the relationship between heritage and identity. It was discussed in particular the formation of national identities, their development and their cultures, studied and investigated through the link with their cultural heritage. In the second part of the morning, it was the turn of the analysis of the relationship between heritage and critical external factors. Were presented some significant methods of preservation of cultural heritage used by law enforcement agencies nationally and internationally. The conference concluded with a section dedicated to the use of new technology in support of cultural heritage. Three days of meetings and debates that have

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allowed the sharing knowledge and discussion of a sensitive and crucial theme to develop strategies and models of approach to the cultural heritage for its use, conservation and promotion.

Conference abstract will be put on British School at Rome website soon <http://www.bsr.ac.uk/>.