

## Buddhist Historical Sites in Andhra Pradesh, India

Recently, the state government of Andhra Pradesh has started a campaign together with the Tourism ministry and the Archaeological Department as well as with the Buddhist Centre of the Hyderabad University. The campaign's goal is to develop Andhra Pradesh in terms of tourism with regard to the ancient Buddhist heritage sites of the area. Part of that work was introduced at the conference of the Buddhist Centre as well. The team was able to locate now over 150 ancient Buddhist heritage sites (including early caves, stupas and viharas) of the BC (3<sup>rd</sup> to 1<sup>st</sup>) and early AD period. The main archaeological findings were discovered around the famous Amaravati Buddhist site and in the Guntur district where the most famous Mahasiddha in India – Acharya Nagarjuna, the acclaimed teacher of Mahayana Buddhism – once taught. Amaravati is well known for its stupa (mahachaitya), which is the biggest in India and is believed to have once been the largest marble-surfaced dome in the world. Its foundation was laid during the reign of Asoka and around this site several other Buddhist monuments have been excavated recently, giving a more complete idea of this early period of Buddhist life in India.

With regard to this, a discussion with the Vice Chancellor and the Director of the Buddhist Centre of the University – who are both well connected with the State Government and the Archaeological Department – has been helpful to initiate a campaign in order to identify a Buddhist archaeological cultural landscape around Amaravati and the Guntur District.

We think in future we will be able to initiate a cultural landscape program for the ancient Buddhist heritage in this area, which will be supported by the State Government of Andhra Pradesh and also by the Indian Government.

### Contact

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### Venue

**Ostendorf-Haus of KIT**

Weberstraße 5, 76133 Karlsruhe

Tram stop (Tram 3): Kunstakademie/Hochschule

Directions and more about Ostendorfhau

<http://ka.stadtwiki.net/Ostendorfhau>



### Project Partner

**Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT)**

ZAK | Centre for Cultural and General Studies,  
Institute for Technology Assessment and Systems  
Analysis (ITAS)

**HimalAsia – Cultural Heritage and Educational  
Foundation, Kathmandu, Nepal**

**University of Hyderabad, India**  
Centre for Buddhist Studies

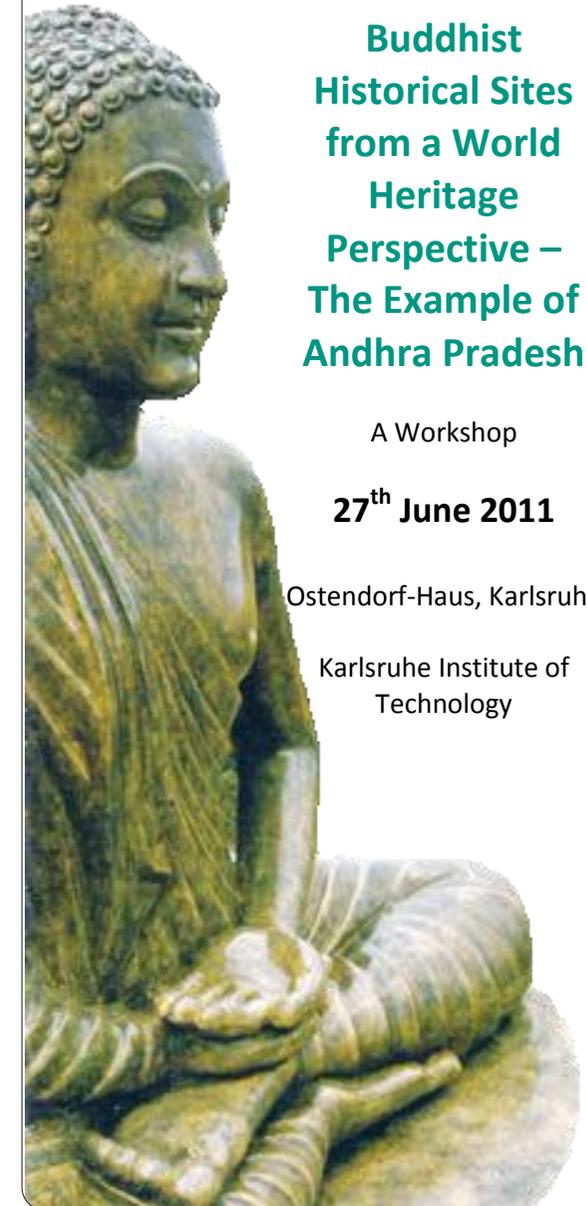
## Buddhist Historical Sites from a World Heritage Perspective – The Example of Andhra Pradesh

A Workshop

**27<sup>th</sup> June 2011**

Ostendorf-Haus, Karlsruhe

Karlsruhe Institute of  
Technology



## Workshop “Buddhist Historical Sites from a World Heritage Perspective – The Example of Andhra Pradesh”

Background of the workshop is an interdisciplinary collaborative project with the Centre for Buddhist Studies of the University Hyderabad in India. The project serves the purpose to promote the preservation and development of the Buddhist sites in the federal state of Andhra Pradesh. The Centre for Buddhist Studies conducts research on a preferably region wide documentation, classification, preservation and development of these historical cultural assets. In the long run, a request for the recording of the sites or the region in the UNESCO World Heritage list is planned.

In addition to the ZAK and the Centre for Buddhist Studies, the Institute for Technology Assessment and Systems Analysis (ITAS), as well as the HimalAsia - Cultural Heritage and Educational Foundation in Kathmandu, Nepal, participate in the project. For the workshop further experts from the KIT will be requested, as well as external experts, e.g. also from the UNESCO. Thus, different scientific and interdisciplinary approaches to the subject are made visible. Furthermore, the workshop offers a framework for exchange among those engaged at the KIT with relevant techniques and topics for the project and other external experts. The methodical-technical requirements for the scientific recording of these cultural sites and the social, economic and intercultural framework conditions for the cultural tradition shall be discussed. In addition, we want to check the possibility of a collaboration between the University of Hyderabad, the Kathmandu University and the KIT with respect to the teaching on the subject of Cultural Heritage.

### Monday, 27<sup>th</sup> June 2011

- 09:30 **Welcome and brief presentation of the project**  
Prof. Dr. Caroline Y. Robertson-von Trotha, Speaker KIT Competence Field „Cultural Heritage and Dynamics of Change“, Director of ZAK | Centre for Cultural and General Studies, KIT
- 10:00 Prof. Dr. Chandra B. Varma, Head of the Centre for Buddhist Studies at the University of Hyderabad, India  
**Towards a ‘Buddhist Cultural Landscape Site’, research activities at the Centre for Buddhist Studies, Hyderabad, and the goal for inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage List**  
**Discussion and Feedback**
- 11:15 *Coffee Break*
- 11:45 Paul Bucherer-Dietschi, Director of the Foundation Bibliotheca Afghanica, Switzerland  
**Experiences of protection of Buddhist Cultural Heritage in the Islamic surrounding of Afghanistan**
- 12:30 Dr. Michael Hölscher, Max-Weber-Institute for Sociology at the University of Heidelberg  
**Cultural Heritage, Memory and Identity – Indicator Suites**
- Discussion and further short presentations from members of the KIT and the Competence Field “Cultural Heritage and Dynamics of Change”
- 13:00 *Invitation to a shared Lunch*
- 14:00 Manuel Junck, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, *Tourism and Sustainable Development*  
**Tourism and international development cooperation. Approaches for the protection of world heritage sites**

14:45 Dr.-Ing. Boris Jutzi, Institute of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing at KIT  
**Three-dimensional acquisition of archaeological objects**

15:30 *Coffee Break*

16:00 Prof. Dr. Susanne von der Heide, Kathmandu University; Director HIMALASIA - Cultural Heritage and Educational Foundation  
**Introduction to the master-programme ‘Landscape Management and Heritage Studies’ at the Kathmandu University, Nepal**

Possible further short presentations from members of the KIT and the Competence Field “Cultural Heritage and Dynamics of Change”

**Discussion and Feedback**

17:00 End of Workshop

The Workshop is financed by start-up funds of the KIT Competence Area "Technology, Culture, and Society" and related to the Competence Field “Cultural Heritage and Dynamics of Change”.

The Competence Field “Cultural Heritage and Dynamics of Change” addresses both material and immaterial aspects of cultural heritage, identity formation, and societal change. The Competence Field's focus is on the development and implementation of ethical, professional, and cultural standards as well as on processes of innovation and change. Multi-disciplinary research concentrates on the interplay between cultural heritage, cultural diversity, and awareness of change, as well as on the formation of modern identities and concepts of social responsibility.