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Title : Conservation Education in Hong Kong, China
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Abstract:

It is undeniable that conservation education plays a vital role in sustaining the cultural heritage in a country. Nevertheless, there is no comprehensive and structured conservation programme available in Hong Kong. To meet operational needs, the serving conservators received their professional training by attending a short course overseas. The knowledge obtained by this way belongs to the sphere of “knowing how” which gives the conservator the necessary skills to practice his work. It comes to a question: “Is it sufficient?” Recently, a decision in heritage preservation was changed in light of societal responses to a local film featured on life of the 50s and 60s. It reflects that the justifications and criteria for prior conservation decisions have blurred. It is necessary and important for conservation practitioners or policy makers to have the knowledge of “knowing that” – setting out the rationale why conservation efforts are necessary. The paper will analyze the scenario in Hong Kong to identify the needs and voids in conservation education for both the conservation practitioners and the general public and its role in bridging them. A SWOT analysis is conducted to examine if the condition is ripe for establishing conservation programme in Hong Kong. The input in terms of human resources, training providers, local and international collaborations is discussed. A SMART approach is adopted to achieve the set objectives.