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CONFERENCE PAPER ABSTRACT

NAME OF PRESENTER:	Yi-Jen Tseng
TITLE OF PAPER:	Built Heritage, the Threat of Disasters, and the Challenges to Conservation—Kinmen Island as Case Study
THEME:	<i>Theme 1: Heritage at Risk – Climate Change and Disasters</i>
PAPER ABSTRACT:	
<p>Built heritage, having been constructed long ago with period-specific technology, materials, and peculiar cultural variables, is far less resistant to disasters than modern architecture. As a result, it is highly susceptible to the threat of disasters, such as typhoons. When a disaster occurs, a historic building often lacks innate features that allow it to protect itself from the impact. Preventative enhancement measures are therefore of even greater importance in order to reduce the risk of impact from disasters on these time-honored structures.</p> <p>Kinmen is a Taiwan-governed island off the coast of China's south-eastern province Fujian. For over forty years it was placed under military administration. Strict development regulations unexpectedly helped to preserve a large number of traditional villages and architecture clusters. However, the island's flat and open landscape provides no protection against the typhoons that are common in summer and autumn, causing a number of the heritage structures to be damaged each year. Additionally, many of these traditional houses and buildings are left unused with little proper maintenance and care and exposed to natural and man-made hazards, including wind, rain, and fire. In September, 2016, a devastating typhoon caused nearly half of the island's listed historic buildings to be damaged in varying degrees, highlighting both the insufficiency of awareness about island-specific disaster-proofing strategies on Kinmen, as well as a weak recovery ability in the aftermath.</p> <p>This essay takes Kinmen as an example. It examines the practices of disaster prevention and rescue for built heritage as well as the challenges. Furthermore, the article discusses current rescue and prevention strategies in Taiwan when facing the threat of disasters.</p>	
BRIEF BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE PRESENTER:	
<p>Tseng, Yi-Jen received his Ph.D. in Architecture from National Cheng Kung University, Taiwan. He is currently an associate professor in the Department of Architecture at National Quemoy University. His major areas of expertise include architectural history and theory, restoration and reuse of historic buildings and non-destructive testing of wood structures. In recent years, he has been actively supporting the conservation of historic buildings, traditional buildings and military heritage in Kinmen County, Taiwan by providing necessary professional consultation to property owners. He also plays an influential role in the community as a member of several different architectural heritage preservation committees.</p>	