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Abstract: Here we are, the final countdown to the most awaited event of the conservation calendar has started and as I write, final preparations are under way in Hong Kong where the IIC Congress Committee has been working hard to ensure you'll enjoy a fabulous event. You still have time for a very last minute booking – we'll be delighted to see you in gorgeous Hong Kong! Visit the IIC website for info on flights, hotels and programmes and as you're browsing do not forget to check out the full list of posters that's just been announced at: https://www.iiconservation.org/congress/2014hongkong/posters In this issue of NiC Alex Cantrill talks about her work with the organization Heritage Without Borders and in particular she talks about her involvement in Kosovo to deliver conservation and restoration training in the neighbouring cities of Mitrovica and Vushtrri. In keeping with the Asian theme, the second feature of this issue focuses on the Guizhou region in China where Kuanghan Li, Director of the China Heritage Program with Global Heritage Fund talks about the challenges of combining cultural landscape conservation and rural developments. We are excited to announce the finalists for this year Keck Award; you'll agree that the projects candidates this year are in many ways outstanding so regardless of the winner we'll be delighted to learn more about each one of them. Enjoy Barbara Borghese

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