Sustainable development of (UNESCO) heritage sites in China and the Netherlands
Case studies of Lijiang, China and Amsterdam, the Netherlands

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Photos of Amsterdam: NiCE, 2012 (left side); Wallpoper, 2012 (right side).
Preface

The initiative of conducting my MSc thesis related to the topic of cultural heritage is my personal interest. During my bachelor study, I visited several Chinese historic towns. But most of them are crowded with tourists, and local inhabitants are hardly to find, especially in the popular tourism destinations. In addition, most tourism products in the historic towns are similar with each other. At that time, except the differences of scientific and artistic values, my impressions of Chinese historic towns are full of tourists and similar tourism products and commercial running places.

But when I come to the Netherlands for further study, I visited some historic towns and centres, such as the historic centre of Leiden, Utrecht, Giethoorn, etc. I find that the historic districts here attract a great number of visitors meantime still serve local inhabitants. Local inhabitants enjoy their historic districts together with visitors. The relationship between local inhabitants and visitors seems harmonious from my point of view.

The different situation between Chinese historic towns and Dutch historic towns and centres makes me thinking about several questions: why do Chinese historic towns prefer to develop tourism industry? Is it possible for Chinese historic towns to keep a harmonious relationship between local inhabitants and tourists? How do the Dutch governments keep the living function of their historic towns and centres? Are the Dutch historic towns and centres facing other problems?

So when I prepare for the thesis, I decide to do my thesis in the cultural heritage field and try to figure out the questions which are mentioned above. Hesitation, confusion and excitement happen during the research period. But finally, the research is worked out.

During this long trip, I receive many people’s help. Without your helps and encouragements, I cannot work out this research. Firstly, I want to appreciate my supervisors Joks Janssen and Fennie van Straalen. Your comments and suggestions are helpful and understanding, and inspiring me a lot. Also, I want to appreciate Gerrit-Jan Carsjens for his scientific and practical comments on my thesis. Secondly, I want to give my appreciation to everyone who helps me a lot during my fieldwork. Thirdly, I want to thank my parents and friends for their support during the trip. Fourthly, my aunty, thank you for help me checking my English writing and giving useful suggestions on English writing.

Please enjoy reading this thesis,
Yang Daisi
Summary

On the one hand, the principle of sustainable development (SD) is popular and the importance of cultural heritage in local development is recognized among countries (see Bowitz and Ibenholt, 2009; Jimura, 2011; van Duijn and Rouwendal, 2012). The development of cultural heritage sites faces many challenges, such as the negative impact of tourism, the conflict between conservation and development. The idea of SD is considered as an important method to face these challenges. Moreover, the awareness of the contribution of cultural heritage on local SD is increasing. On the other hand, both China and the Netherlands have rich cultural heritage resources. But the legal and administrative structure in China is different from that in the Netherlands. There is no doubt that the ways of dealing with the SD of the heritage site in China and that in the Netherlands are different. Based on these two aspects, a comparison study of Chinese approach and Dutch approach on the issue of SD in historic towns is considered in this research. But to better conduct the comparison study, a common accepted SD evaluation model in two countries is needed. There are various SD models and indicators, and the three pillars model (economic, environmental, social-cultural pillars) is widely recognized.

The existing problems in historic towns are identified on the basis of information mentioned above. These problems raise the main challenges for historic towns to reach SD are the conflict between heritage conservation and development of historic towns and the balance among the three pillars of SD. According to these, the main research question sets:

**How China and the Netherlands under two different circumstances reconcile the conflict between the conservation and development in their cultural heritage sites and balance the relationship among the three pillars of SD?**

Also, to better answer the main research question, four sub-issues are organized, including SD, national planning system, national cultural heritage conservation structure, and in-depth study. The research framework is established on the basis of research questions. This research is divided into four parts—Introduction and theoretical framework, Context studies, In-depth studies via two cases (Lijiang in China and Amsterdam in the Netherlands), and Discussion and conclusion. The research methods of literature review and document study are employed throughout the research, and case study is an important method to work out the in-depth studies.

To conduct a comparison study on the SD of cultural heritage sites in two countries—China and the Netherlands, a common accepted explanation of the research target is the first issue for this thesis, which is the main reason for setting Chapter 2. This chapter identifies a suitable explanation of the research target, together with important conservation principles at the international level. With the help of this part, the research target is narrowed into the inhabited historic towns and centres which are popular tourism destinations too. Based on the explanation of research target, the theoretical framework (Chapter 3) formulates the SD indicators with three pillars model for this research (Figure 3.1) which is an important evaluation tool for the research. For example, the economic pillar in Figure 3.1 highlights the important of place-based economy and the reuse of historic buildings; the environmental pillar emphasizes the important of natural environmental protection and high-quality of urban living environment; and the social-cultural pillar demonstrates the issues of public participation, equity principle, local identity and local pride, etc.

The next step of the context study, including the national planning system and national cultural heritage conservation structure, starts after the formulation of SD indicators. In China, briefly it has three levels hierarchic system—national, provincial, and municipal level. At the national level, the principle act is Urban and Rural Planning Law of the People's
Republic of China in the planning discipline which in the cultural heritage field is the Law of the People’s Republic of China on the Protection of Cultural Relics. Also, Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development of the People’s Republic of China is responsible for the planning issues while the State Administration of Cultural Heritage is responsible for the cultural heritage conservation issues. At the provincial and municipal level, there are related bye-laws and responsible departments. Higher authority has the power to guide the activities of the lower authority.

In the Netherlands, it is three tiers system—national, provincial, and municipal governments. At the national level, the principle act is Spatial Planning Act in the planning discipline which in the cultural heritage field is the Monuments and Historic Buildings Act. Also, Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment is responsible for the planning issues while the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science is responsible for the cultural heritage conservation issues. Provincial governments and municipal governments are responsible for the planning and cultural heritage conservation issues. The communication among three tiers governments is through consensus building.

The development control in both China and the Netherlands is through granting related licenses or permits. The mechanisms for protecting historic buildings and historic cities/areas are restoration and utilization (prolonging the life-span) and related plans (protection plan and land use plan).

The context study offers the structure of the system which the cases rooted and contributes to easier form the conservation structure and finds the development direction of the case. Generally speaking, the Chinese case—Lijiang because of its economic situation chooses to develop tourism in the old town and its surrounding area first. And then it uses the economic benefits from tourism to further protecting the old town. After the economic situation improves, Lijiang government considers using the tertiary industry (tourism industry) to promote the development of the primary industry (agriculture) and secondary industry (real estate industry), and to promote the development of bio-industry and the hydro-power industry. On the other hand, the Dutch case—Amsterdam is another situation. The historic centre of Amsterdam is one of the local identity and attractiveness for attracting creative knowledge workers to settle down.

For the SD of the heritage site, the situation of imbalance among three pillars exists in both cases. Two cases show the trend that the local governments pay more attention on the economic dimension, such as promoting tourism. But Lijiang government emphasizes more on the social-cultural dimension than the environmental dimension, while the situation in Amsterdam is opposite. In sum, the Chinese approach shows stronger trend in tourism oriented while the Dutch approach is community oriented. The two different trends arise mainly for three prerequisite differences: administrative system, ownership of land, and the economic situation. Especially the difference of economic situation greatly influences the two approaches, most historic towns in China has economic problems, so the tourism development and its economic benefits are important mean to improve local economic situation and offer more financial support for heritage conservation. But the economic situation in the Netherlands is better than that in China, so Dutch approach considers the economic dimension from the aspect of being the attraction for further development.
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1. Introduction

Tourism industry has been developed quickly in the recent years in China and is considered as a good way to contribute to local economic growth. Tourism in many places with rich tourism resources is being developed as a leading industry, and cultural heritage is considered as a good resource for the tourism development (Wu, 2002). But the tourism development of historic cities or towns differs from other tourism sites. Because these cities’ histories, historic buildings, customs and environment which are segregated from modernization attract tens of thousands of tourists from home and abroad, so their development need to take the heritage conservation into account (Gan and Zhang, 2000). If this attractiveness decreases during the development, tourists may not come again and the tourism industry will decreased.

The historic towns Lijiang (丽江) and Zhouzhuang (周庄) in China make use of tourism development to promote the heritage conservation and gain a lot of social and economic benefits (Tang, et al, 2007). These huge social and economic benefits make tourism development in historic cities and towns a hot spot in the tourism industry (Cao, 2010). So there is an increasing political focus on cultural heritage because of the higher public interest in heritage and the potential economic benefits. Many people consider cultural heritage as a mean to stimulate local economic activity (Bowitz and Ibenholt, 2009). People’s interest in consuming heritage is increasing, and in many cases World Heritage sites are key destinations for local, national and international tourism (Jimura, 2011; Rössler, 2010).

This is also why Chinese heritage tourism grows rapidly in the late 20th century (Wei, 2009). Its rapidly growth brings great economic benefits, but causes a lot of problems. Many experts found many problems in historic towns’ development (see Tan, 2007; Yan, 2002; Li, Y., 2001; Yan, 2009). Generally speaking, these problems found in Chinese historic towns mainly because the rapid growing of tourism industry and its negative impact.

This situation does not just happen in China. Similar problems are also found in many historic towns in other countries. Jimura (2011), based on the case study of Ogimachi, Shirakawa-mura in Japan, pointed out several impact of tourism development on local community both positive and negative impact. Pendlebury, et al (2009) also identified some challenges for urban World Heritage sites based on the situation in UK. They further mentioned that these challenges appeared in other developed countries too.

So facing these problems and challenges, what can the governments of the historic towns do? England policymakers and planners recognized these challenges as early as in 1997. They considered that applying sustainable development (SD) policy to the historic cities as a new policy mechanism to reconcile the conflict between the conservation and development (Strange, 1997). The idea of SD was not a new concept. Its first launch at the international document was in 1987 Out Common Future. But it did not quickly embrace in the national policy. China started formulating its national SD strategy in 1992. And SD became the fundamental objective of European Union (EU) can be traced back to 1997 ‘Treaty of Amsterdam’ (European Commission Environment, 2012). Even SD launched the national policy, but the issue of how SD connects to a heritage site and helps the site to deal with the challenges still remains.

So many scholars start seeking the possibility of reaching historic towns’ SD under different terms, such as sustainable urban development (Al-hagla, 2010) and sustainable tourism development (Liu and Wang, 2003). But to reach historic cities or towns’ SD, policy makers as well as planners face the difficulty of balancing the demand between conservation and development (Strange, 1997). Considering the cultural heritage as a good resource for tourism development, its commodification is apt to make the heritage conservation and cultural values compromise to the commercial forces of consumer demand (Nasser, 2003).
It is obvious that the cultural heritage conservation is vitally important for the development of historic cities and towns. In the World Heritage List, European countries have the largest number of cultural heritage sites, and they also have a long history of preserving heritage (Zhang, 2010; UNESCO, 2012a). Their legal and administrative systems are well established and functioned. The Netherlands also has a long history of heritage conservation. Its first law on heritage conservation came into force in 1961 (Historic Buildings and Monuments Act). And a new policy document ‘Belvedere’ combining heritage and spatial planning published (Belvedere, 2009). But in China, the study on Dutch heritage conservation is relatively less. Searching among the international articles, it still remains a lot of work to frame a systematic overview on the Dutch heritage conservation. And a research on both Chinese and Dutch heritage conservation is barely found.

Since the study on two countries’ situation is rare, it may be useful and interesting to do such a research and see what they can benefit from each other. Considering the great differences between China and the Netherlands from developing stages and some other obvious reasons (such as political and cultural difference), a context study of two countries including planning systems and heritage conservation may contribute to understand the differences and gain a systematic overview. Moreover, in the research of some comparison studies they mainly focus on the related theories and cases (see Ping, 2008; Richards, 2001), readers are hard to know the context information of the case, for instance, what kind of action is specific for this case and what is the requirement of the national policy. So a research of the background information in this thesis will help better understanding what kind of system is the case rooted and what rules or actions made by the local government are specific for the local situation.

In addition, this thesis is a study on two countries under different circumstances. Both countries have their own national lists of valuable cultural heritage, and their selection is based on different criteria. To better and more reasonable do the case studies means that the selected study cases are better identified under the same criteria which refer to the World Heritage List. The reason for doing each part and how it contributes to the thesis will be explained in Research Methodology part. But before going to this part, a necessary step is needed—a quick exploration on the concept of SD. After it, a general idea of sustainable development can be gained, and it will help better formulating the research issues and research framework.

1.1 The definition and concept of sustainable development

The idea of ‘sustainable development’ exists for a long time which traces back to 1970s (UN, 1972; Stivers, 1976). ‘Our Common Future’, which was published by the United Nations World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED) in 1987, is one of the most important international documents for SD. The definition of SD given in the report is common accepted and used: “Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs (WCED, 1987, Article 1)”.

After that, the literature on SD has burgeoned in a wide range of social and natural science discourses (Pezzoli, 1997). The number of tools and approaches for developing and analysing sustainability is...
growing rapidly. These approaches are formulated under different people’s or organizations’ world view. But one thing is commonly accepted—sustainable development embodies three pillars of economy, environment and society known as ‘Three pillar model’ (Giddings, et al, 2002; Robert, et al, 2002; Becker, 2004).

The three pillars model is often present as three equal sized rings interconnected (Figure 1.1). Generally speaking, the aim of SD is bringing the three together in a balanced way and reconciling conflicts (Giddings, et al, 2002). This model is chosen because it is widely accepted and can be used for analyzing the case studies in two different context. And then, the three perspectives are broadly cover most important aspects in the SD of a city. Even the experts from China and the Netherlands have different research focuses, their research issues can be categorized into these three perspectives.

Traditionally, SD focuses on an environmentalism framework which primarily concerns the ecological degradation. The concerns of economic and social perspectives and their inter-connection with environment increases later (Nurse, 2006). The economic perspective mainly reflects the need to strike the balance between the costs and benefits of economic activity within the confines of the carrying capacity of the environment, while the social perspective relates to the maintenance of political and community values, and also the satisfaction of basic needs within the society (Munro, 1995; Nurse, 2006). For the characteristics of the three dimensions, Keiner (2004) summarizes them into three simple words: environment-conservation, economy-growth, and society-equity.

Besides these three dimensions, the importance of culture for local SD is recognized. Considering the social perspective relates to the maintenance of community values. And the community values consist of traditions, customs, and other factors which are parts of culture. But there remains another issue of how to deal with the tight relationship between the social perspective and cultural perspective. A governmental report uses the notion of social-cultural perspective instead of the social perspective which solves the difficulties of distinguishing between social and cultural perspective (Swedish Research Council Formas, 2004). So in this research, the social-cultural pillar will be used instead of the social pillar.

Besides detailed requirements for each pillars, there are many general principles or requirements for reaching SD. For instance, ‘Our Common Future’ (WCED, 1987) describes some requirements for reaching SD for several system, including administrative system, political system, social system, etc.; Ciegis, et al (2009) demonstrates several SD principles, such as social justice, public participation, use of local economic potential, etc.; Gladwin, et al (1995) suggests five principles for reaching SD, including connectivity, equity, etc.

Here some general principles are selected and briefly mentioned, which are relevant to this research and contribute to the formulation of problem descriptions. The more detailed explanation, including the selection reasons, of the general principles of SD and three pillars will be done in Chapter 3.

More than twenty years passed after the publication of Our Common Future, some basic principles are still important, but in a fast changing society many different problems and new research focus rises. Cultural heritage or historic setting attracts more and more people’s attention. The importance of cultural heritage in local SD is recognized, and cultural heritage is considered as a major component of high quality life (Tweed and Sutherland, 2007). Then the questions arise: how to evaluate SD in cultural heritage site? Is there any special consideration for SD in cultural heritage site? And is it really a good development strategy to develop tourism industry in a cultural heritage site?
1.2 Problem description and statement

1.2.1 Social problems

As is shown in Figure 1.2, the problems for the sustainable development of a heritage site can be categorized into 3 groups on the basis of the three pillars model of SD. The problem statements and descriptions here will be explained one pillar after another. Within the explanation of each pillar, the problem descriptions will basically include three perspectives: the problems in the heritage conservation perspective, in the development perspective, and the negative effects on the heritage conservation because of development actions or strategy. But not all the pillars have problems in these three perspectives, for instance, the environmental dimension mainly has problems in the perspective of negative effects on the conservation because of the development actions.

Figure 1.2 Three pillars model of problem statement

(Based on the content of Chapter 1.2.1, made by author)

Centre of the three pillars

The problems located in the centre of the three pillars reflect the main barriers for achieving SD in a heritage site. Among several articles, it can be found that the main barrier for achieving sustainable development in a heritage site is the conflict between preserving heritage and local attempt to extract economic or secure appropriate economic and social development (Pendlebury, et al, 2009; Strange, 1997; Li, Y., 2001). This reflects the conflict between heritage conservation and local development. Then in many cases, heritage site is also a popular tourism destination, especially World Heritage Sites. It leads to the conflict between tourism development and planning for the local population (Pendlebury, et al, 2009; Nasser, 2003).

Environmental pillar

Many famous historic cities and towns attract a great amount of tourists from home and aboard. It causes the problem of the environmental carrying capacity over-loaded. And there is no doubt that too many tourists will have a negative impact on the natural environment and built environment. And it will further cause the problem of the degradation of environmental quality (Zhao and Zhong, 2004; Newby, 1994).

Economic pillar

The heritage conservation problem reflected in the economic pillar mainly directs to a serious situation demolishing the historic building and rebuilding a new one following the old style (Ruan and Xiao, 2003).
From the development perspective, many historic towns follow the improper development strategy, neglecting the cultural heritage conservation, and reflects that the big scale and modern buildings are blindly pursued constructed which is harmful for the integrated townscape of heritage site (Wang and Sun, 2008). However, what means the improper development strategy in a heritage site? From the cultural heritage protectors’ points of view, they consider the cultural heritage important for the cities/towns, which also fit the inter-generation equity of SD. But possibly from the local inhabitants’ points of view, they may prefer the modern buildings because they are yearning for modern life. So what means an improper development strategy for a heritage site still needs to be settled. But in this thesis the means of the improper development strategy are mainly from the cultural heritage protectors’ points of view.

Tourism industry, in many cases, is an important industry for local economic structure. And the tourism development in a heritage site means the commercialization of cultural heritage. It will easily cause the environmental and social values of cultural heritage comprised to the economic benefits (Pendlebury, et al, 2009; Nasser, 2003). Also, the situation of over-commercialized is found in many heritage sites. It is common recognized that over-commercialization has negative impacts on the heritage conservation, which are shown in: building large scale tourism infrastructure which does not fit in with the surrounding, and rebuilding the surrounding environment which may be harmful to the town’s traditional living atmosphere. The last but not least is that the country, communities and local residents all start running hotels, restaurants, and other tourist service business (Ruan and Xiao, 2003). Besides these, the mass flow of tourists cause the situation that inhabitants escape from the historic towns is recognized recently (van Iersel, 2007). And inhabitants worry about the situation that their historic centre will become an open-air museum.

But it is hard to judge what kind of situation is over-commercialized because of the lack of quantitative or qualitative assessment method. If mentioned this situation in a more appropriate way, it shall like heritage conservation value is dominated by commercial value, or tourism-led development in heritage site will be better (Newby, 1994; Nasser, 2003; Bao and Su, 2004).

Social-cultural pillar
Some Chinese articles mention some problems of heritage conservation from the legal aspect (see Yang and Yu, 2004; Shao and Ruan, 2002). The development of Chinese cultural heritage conservation is relatively new than that of the western countries. Although there are some achievements now, many problems still exist in Chinese legal system (Yang and Yu, 2004). The most obvious problem is that the construction of legal system on cultural heritage conservation is lagging behind. Moreover, it is unclear which department is in charge of managing cultural heritage. Many governments and departments’ duty on managing cultural heritage site are overlapping with each other. It causes the situation that some regulations come from different departments and sometimes conflict with each other (Shao and Ruan, 2002). The problems in the legal aspect are categorized into the social perspective. It is because the legal and administrative system is a part of the social institution which is a part of the social dimension.

In addition to the incomplete legal and administrative system in the heritage conservation field, some local governments and project developers do not take cultural heritage conservation seriously and have some misunderstanding in this field. The most obvious one is transferred a great number of local residents out of the historic town or centre for protecting the historic towns (Ruan and Xiao, 2003).
Despite the misunderstanding of cultural heritage conservation, the improper development strategy in a heritage site causes the situation that the position of the historic town is not clear in planning and lacks its unique features (Wang and Sun, 2008). This lack of features in a historic town is likely to lead to the tourists get the impression that they do not need to go to many historic towns since many historic towns look similar (Yan, 2009).

Although the tourism development has some positive impacts on the economy situation of local community, the conflict between tourism development and local community attracts a lot of people’s attention, especially the negative impact on the local living environment (see Jimura, 2011; Nasser, 2003). The negative impact can be summarized into three types. The first one is the conflicts between development and engagement. The policy and company’s treaty only emphasize the main statue of developer, local community engagement is often neglected. It will easily cause the imbalanced distribution of tourism income among tourism department, construction companies, and local residents. The second one is the ambiguous property rights. From developer’s opinion, the public space (like street, temper, pavilions, terraces, etc.), traditional dwelling, local culture, custom, and events, all of these things can be used for tourism development. But in local residents’ opinion, these things are gifts from ancestor and belong to them. The third one is the conflicts between the ownership and interpretation right of local culture (Wei, 2009). The explanation of local culture is done by the travel agencies which may not offer detailed interpretations for tourists.

If this kind of situation exists, local residents are unlikely to back up tourists and tourism development (Li, 2010). They will consider tourists as disturbance of their peaceful life. They may choose to move out, or to make some riots which possibly does harm to tourists’ impression of the town. These situations arise because the decision maker or project manager does not take local community’s attitude and heritage conservation (including tangible and intangible) into account, especially the local community cannot involve in the tourism planning and management. So the awareness of the importance of public participation or community involvement in conservation and development of a heritage site is increasing (Jimura, 2011; Arthur and Mensah, 2006).

1.2.2 Scientific problems

In a word, the social problems can be divided according to the three pillars model of SD, the scientific problems are generalizing from four main concerning issues.

As has been mentioned above, there are many problems and conflicts existing in cultural heritage sites not just in China but also in other developed countries, and these problems and conflicts are related to each other. How to solve or at least improve the situation? Adul Wichiencharoen, the former chairperson of UNESCO World Heritage Committee, held the idea “using sustainable tourism to deal with the problems in cultural heritage site” in the 28th Session of the World Heritage Committee (SINA, 2004). Recent years, many international and Chinese articles on the topic sustainable tourism or sustainable development of tourism industry are published. But there already exist lots comments or critiques on the tourism development in a cultural heritage site and on its negative effect on the heritage conservation. So is the idea of SD can really help to reconcile these conflicts? If it can, then what is SD in cultural heritage sites and how to evaluate it?

Meanwhile, Europe has a great number of cultural heritage sites attracting tens of thousands of people from home and abroad to visit. And its history on heritage conservation is much longer than China. Many Chinese researchers study and analyze European cultural heritage conservation, but most of studies focus on French, Germany and Italian heritage conservation. The studies on the Dutch heritage conservation are relatively few though the Netherlands has many attracting places for visitors, such as Kinderdijk, Volendam, and the
historic canals in Amsterdam. Then how does the Netherlands deal with the relationship between the heritage site’s conservation and development? Moreover, as has been mentioned before, the comparison study between China and the Netherlands is barely found.

In addition, articles about Chinese planning system, heritage conservation, or the conservation of a specific heritage site are rich in Chinese, but the world-known articles are relatively less. This situation is similar to the Dutch case. Moreover, the articles on cultural heritage conservation focus more on the national policy, specific site’s situation, or the certain dimension (such as the economic or social-cultural dimension). The articles on the relationship between the national policy and the local actions from heritage conservation aspect are comparatively less.

What is more, these articles mainly focus on the conservation perspective or the tourism development perspective to analyse the situation of a country or a case. Articles from a holistic view to analyse the SD of a heritage site are less seen, especially the relationship between heritage conservation and development, or the relationship among three pillars of SD.

**Problem statement**

Generally, the problems in a cultural heritage site mainly reflect in the conflict between heritage conservation and development, and the conflict between tourism development and local community. Many other problems which can be categorized into the three pillars model of SD are caused by these two main conflicts.

These problems existing, the following concerns emerge. The first is the critique on whether or not the SD can solve or minimize the negative impact of the two main conflicts. And then, this study involves the situations in two countries due to the less comparative study on the Chinese and Dutch heritage conservation and development. Then the lack of knowledge, from a holistic view, on the relationship between the conservation and development of a heritage site, and the relationship between the national policy and local actions are another scientific concern to start this research.

**1.3 Objective and research questions**

Generally speaking, the objective of the thesis is to understand how the two approaches, those of China and the Netherlands, try to obtain the cultural heritage site’s sustainable development via two case studies, and analyze their advantages and disadvantages.

In order to attain the objective, one main research and four sub-issues are set. Four sub-issues are linked to the four sub-topics of the thesis—SD, national planning system, cultural heritage conservation in two countries, and in-depth studies of the SD in a heritage site.

The main research issue is how China and the Netherlands under two different circumstances reconcile the conflict between the conservation and development in their cultural heritage sites and balance the relationship among the three pillars of SD?

Sub-topics and sub-issues:

- Sustainable development
  a. What kinds of issues are important for the sustainable development in a cultural heritage site, from social, economic, environmental perspectives?
  b. Is there any special consideration for the sustainable development in their cultural heritage sites under the respective circumstances of China and the Netherlands?
- National planning system
  a. How does the current legal and administrative system work at different levels and their relationship?
  b. How does the planning framework, from national to local level, organize and steer the developments?
  c. What are the relationship between cultural heritage and the planning system, and the relationship between sustainable development and the planning system?

- National cultural heritage conservation structure
  a. How does the legal and administrative structure organize in the field of cultural heritage conservation?
  b. How does the heritage conservation work for different types of cultural heritage?

- In-depth studies (via two cases: Lijiang, China and Amsterdam, Netherlands)
  a. Why does this site worth being preserved?
  b. How does the heritage conservation form a comprehensive system?
  c. How does tourism influence the heritage site, from the aspects of local community, heritage conservation, and the site’s development?
  d. How does the historic district contribute to the city’s development?
  e. How do the conservation and development actions contribute to the site’s SD?

1.4 Research methodology

Based on Creswell’s criteria for selecting a research design, qualitative approach is suitable for this topic, and the research method selected derives from Creswell’s work (2009). But the first work of this section is establishing the research framework based on the overview of SD, found problems in heritage sites and the research questions. Then the explanation of the selected reason and function for each research method will be done.

1.4.1 Research framework

As is shown in Figure 1.3, the thesis has four parts. Part I is the foundation of the thesis and consists of Chapter 1, Chapter 2 and Chapter 3. These chapters are tightly linked to each other. Chapter 1 first gives a brief introduction of sustainable development and chooses the three pillars model for future analysis. And it is used in the next section immediately to categorize the problems. After identifying the problems existing in the heritage site’s SD, it comes to the step of setting objective of the thesis and research questions. The research questions are not set under three pillars model, but formulated by research topics which are important for working out this research and reaching the objective. And based on the research questions, the relevant research methods are selected.

After this, the research should start with exploiting the concept of SD and setting the indicators for the case study. But the content of the definition and scope of cultural heritage is arranged first in Chapter 2. There are two main reasons for this arrangement. The first one is this research conducting under two countries’ situations. Since both countries have their own familiar notions. Understanding two countries’ definition and identification of cultural heritage set the first step for understanding each country’s heritage conservation structure. The second reason is considering the different notion of cultural heritage, in order to better work out a common accepted notion of cultural heritage in the thesis which conforms to the definition made by UNESCO, together with reviewing some important heritage conservation principles. Based on the notions and explanations at the international and national level, a
concept referring to a specific type of cultural heritage for this research will be formed which can be understood under two countries’ situations. Then the research can go to the next step—Chapter 3. In Chapter 3, the research and formulation of SD indicator can be done focusing on the specific type of cultural heritage. And the second model—three pillars model of case study indicator will be formulated during this step of research. So the Chapter 2 and 3 are not just the first part of theoretical framework but also the foundation part of the thesis.

Then Part II is the second part of the theoretical framework composed of two countries’ context study. Basically, this part is help to better understand two case studies by offering an overview of the country’s planning system and heritage conservation structure, especially the study of cultural heritage conservation structure. The overview gaining from this study

Figure 1.3 Research framework of the thesis
can contribute to the conservation part of the case study. So the setting of Chapter 5 is mainly centers on how heritage conservation as an important and essential part for a heritage site to reach SD and to contribute to the case study. The setting of Chapter 4 is due to the fact that the two studies (studying the heritage conservation system and case study) cannot avoid a research for related plans, such as heritage protection plan, comprehensive plan or strategy plan. Moreover, planning is an important mechanism to steer the development of a site which is another important aspect of this research. And Briassoulis states that ‘planning is an integrated sequence of inter-related decisions to designing courses of action to be implemented with particular means and implementation processes’ (2001, p.411). So through the plan of a heritage site, the development objectives, targets, or designated functions, etc. of a site can be easily comprehended. And for a heritage site, especially a site listed on the WHL or national list, a protection plan or zoning plan is required (UNESCO, 1972; Richel-Bottinga, 2000). It means that, besides national policy, laws and regulations, studying related plans are necessary. So an overview of the country’s planning system will not only helpful for offering background information, but also the searching experience will helpful for raising the efficiency in searching important policy documents or plans in the subsequent research.

And then it comes to the in-depth study—Part III. The research method—case study is an important mean to work out this part of the research. As Creswell mentions case study is “a qualitative strategy in which the researcher explores in depth a program, event, activity, process, or one or more individuals” (2009, p.227). And Flyvbjerg also points out that “concrete, context-dependent knowledge is more valuable than the vain search for predictive theories and universals” (2006, p.224). The context study of two countries is not concrete with major focus on the policy at the national level, while there are still many issues unclear, such as the local government’s interpretation of the national policy and the action they take to protect their heritage sites. So the context study on the abstract or theoretical level is not enough, the in-depth studies via two cases in this thesis will offer more detailed information. The in-depth study will help readers better understand three main issues: how the national policy operates at a local level, what actions the local government take based on its specific situation, and how the local government deals with the relationship between heritage conservation and the site’s development and balances three pillars of SD.

After the in-depth studies, the thesis will come to its conclusion part—Part IV. It consists two chapters (Chapter 8 Discussion and Chapter 9 Conclusion). A separated chapter for discussion is considering the previous research for two countries is done separately, so the content for analyzing two countries’ situation together under the same point is necessary. The advantages and disadvantages of the two approaches will be presented in this chapter. Finally the thesis comes to the conclusion.

1.4.2 Research methods

This work is mainly based on literature review, document study from international to national level and two case studies.

Literature review

The first topic for literature review is finding the existing problems in cultural heritage sites. Only when the existing problems are clear can the concept and the way to tackle these problems be organized.

The second one is the definition and the scope of cultural heritage. The literatures of this topic are both Chinese and English. Since this thesis will explore the Dutch approach and the Chinese approach, a common definition is needed. And the scope of cultural heritage is broadened by years and together with the conservation philosophy development, so a
literature review on the change of cultural heritage (both definition and conservation principles) at the international level is needed. But at the national level, the explanation and the scope of cultural heritage will be a little bit different. So a literature review on two countries’ explanations of cultural heritage is needed. After the study on the international and national explanations, the research object will be narrowed into a certain type of cultural heritage. This topic’s literature review will lead to a search for related official documents.

The third topic is the sustainable development. The articles also include Chinese and English. The research concept includes the definition and the interpretations of SD, and then identifying the important issues for SD in heritage sites in both countries.

The forth one is about the Chinese planning system and the Dutch planning system, and searching and developing a method to compare the two planning systems. And the fifth one is the national cultural heritage conservation structure. These two topics’ literature review is tightly linked with related document study.

Scopus and Google Scholar are the two main search engines for international articles, and CNKI, which is one of the most important scientific articles searching engines, is the main Chinese article search engine.

**Document study**

Since the thesis is going to study the planning and management in cultural heritage site for its protection and development in China and the Netherlands, the necessary of studying government documents in both countries cannot be avoid. Moreover, the two case study sites both are in the World Heritage List, so the study on the UNESCO documents is also needed. The UNESCO documents which are to be studied should at least include the World Heritage select criteria, operational guideline, important charters, etc. Because heritage conservation is an important component of the thesis, ICOMOS contributes a lot for promoting heritage conservation. So the ICOMOS documents are also needed to be reviewed.

The study documents can be found in the official website of UNESCO and ICOMOS. Official documents of China and the Netherlands can be found in the website of related administrative department.

**Case study**

As has been mentioned before, the case study is important for this thesis. Since this thesis includes two countries’ situations, two case studies are necessary—one in the Netherlands and one in the China. Considering the huge differences between two countries, it makes the selection of the cases is essentially important. Moreover, the criteria for the identification of cultural heritage site in two countries are different, so the selected cases shall be identified under the same criteria on the basis of the World Heritage List.

The World Heritage Site is the place listed by the UNESCO. Being a World Heritage Site means it is under the same selection criteria. So the two cases will be chosen within the World Heritage List. But the Netherlands and China have many cultural heritage sites included in the World Heritage List. And then the problem arises: how to select the suitable one among two countries’ World Heritage Sites?

According to previous information, the heritage site should possess the living function and a popular tourist destination as well. Then the Dutch case is narrowed down to the ‘Historic area of Willemstad, inner city and harbor, Curaçao’ and ‘Seventeenth-century canal ring area of Amsterdam inside the Singelgracht’. The first one is immediately deleted because its legal status is different from the Netherlands, so the second one is taken into
consideration. The canal ring area of Amsterdam basically covers the historic center of Amsterdam and is a popular destination for tourists from home and aboard. Moreover, it is the capital of the Netherlands, so its policy documents or research reports, both English and Dutch, will be more and easier to access than other Dutch cultural heritage sites.

On the other hand, the selection for Chinese case remains a lot: Ancient city of Pingyao, Old town of Lijiang, Ancient villages in Southern Anhui—Xidi and Hongcun, Historic centre of Macao, Kaiping Diaolou and villages, and Fujian Tulou. The Old town of Lijiang is picked up among the aforesaid six mainly for three reasons. The first one is that its legal system (including regulations and plans) concerning heritage conservation is much more complete than others. The second reason is the history of its tourism development is longer than other and attracting tourists from home and abroad. And the third reason is the well-known of ‘Lijiang Model’ in China. ‘Lijiang Model’ is a part of UNESCO workshop on ‘Cultural heritage management and tourism: Models for cooperation among stakeholders’ in 2001. The popularity of Lijiang Model in China is because it demonstrates that tourism development in heritage site can both contribute to local economic development and heritage conservation. And then many historic towns in China developed their strategy under a similar way. But many problems caused by the tourism development in Lijiang are now recognized. So using Old town of Lijiang as the Chinese case study and its research result will be a useful lesson for other Chinese historic towns.

After the case is selected, how to process the study is of vital importance. The first thing is to learn about the site’s history and preserved values, especially the preserved values. The value explains why this site attracts a great amount of tourists and why it can be inscribed on the World Heritage List. Moreover, the preserved value reflects some important conservation elements which may be mentioned in the conservation part. The second thing is the conservation framework of the site. As always mentioned in the research, the heritage conservation and development are two important issues in a heritage site’s SD. The research of these two issues cannot be avoided. The previous research will contribute to this part. It is also needed to work out whether there are any special actions for protecting this site. Then it goes to the third part—development part. The first thing to do in this part is to find the designated function of the site through the comprehensive plan or development strategy. The next step is the research of its tourism development, which includes these issues: the position of tourism industry in the economic structure of the city, government’s actions for promoting or guiding tourism activities, and the influence of tourism on local community. And the third step is to analyze how local government secures local community’s rights, such as how to minimize the negative impact of the tourism on local inhabitants. After this, a research will be done on the influence of heritage site on the development of city—is the heritage site limiting the development of the city or it promoting other industries’ development in the city, or is it contributing to the city from other perspective like local identity or social cohesion?

The literature review, document study and searching in the websites of related administrative departments will run through the whole process. After the case study, the discussion will start based on the research result of the cases and the SD indicators with three pillars model which will be developed in Chapter 3.

1.5 The layout of the thesis

This thesis contains 9 chapters. Chapter 2 defines the scope of cultural heritage at the international level and national level and helps to narrow the research object to a specific type of cultural heritage. And then indicators of analysing sustainable development in heritage site will be formulated in Chapter 3. Chapter 4 studies the Chinese and Dutch planning system. And based on Chapter 4, Chapter 5 does research into two countries’
heritage conservation structure. After the context study, Chinese case study will be done in Chapter 6 while Chapter 7 is the Dutch case study. Then Chapter 8 analyses and discusses about the context study and case studies. Lastly, the conclusion will be drawn in Chapter 9.
2. Definition and identification of cultural heritage

It is the first thing for this thesis to be clear about what the cultural heritage is and what is included in the scope of cultural heritage. And there are various types cultural heritage, such as church, temple, archaeological site, cultural landscape, etc. This chapter not just makes clear about the definition and scope at the international level and national level, but also helps to clarify the research target to an exact type of cultural heritage. In the meantime, some important conservation principles which may influence both Chinese and Dutch heritage conservation will also be identified together with figuring out the definition and scope at the international level. After the research object is narrowed to a specific type of cultural heritage, the research on its related sustainable development issues can start. The research result will form a three pillars model indicator for analysing the case studies.

2.1 Cultural heritage at the international level—definition, identification and conservation principles

UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) and ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites) are the two most important international organizations in cultural heritage field. The common world-wide accepted definition and scope of cultural heritage will stem from these two organizations’ documents. And these two organizations contribute a lot to promoting the heritage conservation and publishing a great number of conventions, charters, declarations and recommendations. The conservation principles or methods found among these documents have effects on both the heritage conservation in China and the Netherlands. So this chapter will search for the definition and scope of cultural heritage meanwhile identify some important conservation principles among the UNESCO and ICOMOS documents.

2.1.1 Definition of cultural heritage and important conservation principles

Cultural heritage was first addressed in the international law in 1907 (Hague Regulations concerning the Law and Customs of War on Land), and then a body of international documents for cultural heritage protection has been developed by UNESCO and other intergovernmental organisations since 1950s (Blake, 2000).


The Venice Charter (International Charter for the Conservation and Restoration of Monuments and Sites) was adopted in 1964. And as its requirement, ICOMOS established next year in Warsaw, which is the only international non-government organization in the field of cultural heritage conservation. Its aim is applying theory, methodology, techniques to cultural heritage conservation (ICOMOS, 2011a). ICOMOS did not use the UNESCO’s definition, but used the notion of monuments and sites.

The Venice Charter is considered as the milestone in the history of international heritage conservation, even the world changes a lot after its publication (Ruan, et al, 1999). It has not only promoted the establishment of ICOMOS, but also aimed to provide professional principles to guide the preservation of the historic buildings. It has extended the definition of historic monument to include the urban and rural setting, and considered the need for safeguarding the integrity of historic sites, and set five principles for conservation and other five principles for restoration (ICOMOS, 1964).

From Hague Convention and Venice Charter, it is easily to find out that the definitions applied in UNESCO and ICOMOS are different. Until the adoption of the World Heritage Convention (Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural
Heritage), UNESCO accepts the definition proposed by ICOMOS and added the third category ‘groups of buildings’ under the category of cultural properties (UNESCO, 1972). And then in 1978, ICOMOS also adds the third category of ‘group of buildings’ and emphasised on the urban and rural context in the ICOMOS Statutes (Ahmad, 2006). The definition made by the World Heritage Convention is still in use.

- **Monuments**: architectural works, works of monumental sculpture and painting, elements or structures of an archaeological nature, inscriptions, cave dwellings and combinations of features, which are of outstanding universal value from the point of view of history, art or science;
- **Groups of buildings**: groups of separate or connected buildings which, because of their architecture, their homogeneity or their place in the landscape, are of outstanding universal value from the point of view of history, art or science;
- **Sites**: works of man or the combined works of nature and man, and areas including archaeological sites which are of outstanding universal value from the historical, aesthetic, ethnological or anthropological point of view (UNESCO, 1972, Article 1).

The World Heritage Convention is one of the most important international documents in the field of heritage conservation. It required establishing the World Heritage Committee and World Heritage List which plays an important role in the international and national heritage conservation (UNESCO, 1972).

Since its publication, there are no many changes for the convention. Considering its implementation, the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention (shorten as Operational Guidelines) is formulated. The changes concerning heritage conservation will be described in the Operational Guidelines, such as the extent of the cultural heritage scope, application procedure, etc.

Another important UNESCO document—Nairobi Recommendation (Recommendation Concerning the Safeguarding and Contemporary Role of Historic Areas) is adopt in 1976. It defines the concept of historic and architectural areas, and points out that historic areas and their surroundings are considered as a coherent whole (UNESCO, 1976).

After the adoption of World Heritage Convention, the definition and scope of cultural heritage did not change. Until the adoption of Florence Charter on Historic Gardens (ICOMOS, 1982) and Washington Charter (Charter for the Conservation of Historic Towns and Urban Areas) (ICOMOS, 1987), the scope of cultural heritage is extended to include historic parks and gardens at the international level. This extent has been promoted by the regional development in Europe and Australia. The Declaration of Amsterdam points out that the importance of preserving historic parks and gardens and environment in 1975 (Council of Europe, 1975). And the Burra Charter (ICOMOS Australia, 1979) claims the need to preserve the fabric of a place.

The Washington Charter is another important document and relevant with this thesis. It has summarized the theories and experiences from different countries in the past two decades, and defined that historic urban areas should include cities, towns, historic centres, or quarters together with their natural and man-made environments. It suggests that conservation plan should ensure a harmonious relationship between the historic area and the town as a whole (ICOMOS, 1987).

But the extent of historic parks and gardens has not been reflected in UNESCO document until 1999. In the 1999 version of the Operational Guidelines (UNESCO, 1999), it adds the category of cultural landscape and further develops the category of groups of urban buildings into three sub-categories: towns which are no longer inhabited, historic towns which are still inhabited (historic centres are in this category), and new towns of the
20th century. The inhabited historic towns fit the thesis’s research target, but the definition here is not clear enough.

In the 2005 version of the Operational Guidelines, the categories of cultural properties are further developed to cover the heritage canals and heritage routes (UNESCO, 2005). But it does not improve the definition of inhabited historic towns. And in the 2012 version of Operational Guidelines, it is described as ‘have developed and will continue to develop under the influence of socio-economic and cultural change, a situation that renders the assessment of their authenticity more difficult and any conservation policy more problematical’ (UNESCO, 2012b, p.89). It is further developed into four small categories, including the historic towns. Another thing needs to be mentioned. The Dutch case—Seventeenth-century canal ring area of Amsterdam inside the Singelgracht belongs to the category of heritage canal. But as is mentioned in the case selection reason even it belongs to a different category with the research target, the location of canal ring area is within the historic centre of Amsterdam. And analysing the canal ring area cannot avoid the analysis of the historic centre of Amsterdam.

Based on the three UNESCO conventions (UNESCO, 1972, 2001, 2003) and two versions of Operational Guidelines (UNESCO, 1999, 2005), the categories of heritage at international level can be concluded in Figure 2.1.

Besides the conventions and charters mentioned above, another concept mentioned in the Quebec Declaration (Quebec Declaration on the Preservation of the Spirit of Place) which is adopted by ICOMOS in 2008 is useful in this research. The ‘spirit of place’ consists of tangible (site, building, landscape, etc.) and intangible elements (rituals, traditional knowledge, values, etc.) which contribute to making place and to giving it spirit (ICOMOS, 2008). This concept is identical with the concept of ‘setting’ which was raised in the Xi’an Declaration (Xi’an Declaration on the Conservation of the Setting of Heritage Structures, Sites and Areas) earlier (ICOMOS, 2005). And in thePairs Declaration (ICOMOS, 2011b), it mentions that the principles of authenticity, integrity and ‘sense of place’ are widely agreed conservation principles (summary of other important documents see Appendix 1).

Figure 2.1 The scope of heritage based on the UNESCO documents
2.1.2 Identification—World Heritage

At the international level, the identification of cultural heritage is the World Heritage List (WHL). What kind of natural or cultural sites can be inscribed on the List is defined by the 1972 World Heritage Convention. The sites on the WHL can be divided into 3 groups—natural sites, cultural sites, and mixed sites (UNESCO, 2012a). Ten selection criteria are set and detailed explained in the 2005 Operational Guideline, and six of them are for cultural heritage sites (UNESCO, 2005). To be included in the WHL, sites must have outstanding universal value and meet one out of ten criteria. Except these criteria, the site’s protection, management, authenticity and integrity are also taken into consideration (UNESCO, 2012c).

WHL selection criteria for cultural sites:

1) To represent a masterpiece of human creative genius;
2) To exhibit an important interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town-planning or landscape design;
3) To bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization which is living or which has disappeared;
4) To be an outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history;
5) To be an outstanding example of a traditional human settlement, land-use, or sea-use which is representative of a culture (or cultures), or human interaction with the environment especially when it has become vulnerable under the impact of irreversible change;
6) To be directly or tangibly associated with events or living traditions, with ideas, or with beliefs, with artistic and literary works of outstanding universal significance. (The Committee considers that this criterion should preferably be used in conjunction with other criteria) (Source: UNESCO, 2005).

So far, China has 41 properties on the List (Appendix 2), while 29 are cultural properties, 8 are natural properties, and 4 are mixed properties. The Chinese case—the Old Town of Lijiang (丽江古城) which inscribed on the WHL in 1997 and met the criteria 2), 4), and 5). And the Netherlands has 9 properties are inscribed on the List (Appendix 2), while 8 are cultural and one is natural. The Dutch case—the Seventeenth-century canal ring area of Amsterdam inside the Singelgracht which inscribed on the WHL in 2010 and met the criteria 1), 2), and 4).

Table 2.1 The criteria for the nominations of the two cases (Source: UNESCO, 1997 and 2010)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Old Town of Lijiang</th>
<th>17th century canal ring area of Amsterdam</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2)-a unique embodiment of the history and culture of the region and its ethnic customs and habits and an illustration of the essential features of social progress; -a typical illustration of the unique style of the Naxi ethnic group and a condensation of the architectural modes of China’s Han, Bai, Yi and Zang nationalities in terms of both overall layout and specific buildings;</td>
<td>1)-a new and entirely artificial ‘port city’; -a masterpiece of hydraulic engineering, town planning, and a rational programme of construction and bourgeois architecture;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4)-is different from other Chinese historical and cultural cities in its townscape, water</td>
<td>2)-in the 17th century, a crucial centre for international commercial trade and intellectual exchange, for the formation and the dissemination of humanist thought; -the capital of the world-economy in its time;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4)-the model for the entirely artificial ‘port city’</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
system, coordinated urban structures, rationally spacious dwellings, unique artistic styles and contents; 5) an exceptional ancient town set in a dramatic landscape which represents the harmonious fusion of different cultural traditions to produce an urban landscape of outstanding quality

2.2 Definition and identification of Chinese cultural heritage

The word ‘cultural heritage’ in China is adopted and popular after China became the States Parties of ‘World Heritage Convention’ in 1985. Prior to it and occasionally nowadays, Chinese people is more used to the word ‘cultural relics (文物)’ which has the similar meaning of cultural heritage. The definition and scope of cultural relics is mainly based on the ‘Law of the People’s Republic of China on the Protection of Cultural Relics (1982)’. In the 1980s, the scope of cultural heritage based on ‘World Heritage Convention’ basically covers the scope of cultural relics in China with some differences, though. And because the content of cultural heritage has changed considerably at the international level, especially the new notion of ‘intangible cultural heritage’, it shows the limitations of the content of cultural relics. So now, the Chinese notion of cultural heritage is defined based on Chinese situation and absorbs the world-wide accepted notion and scope (Cai, 2007; Liu and Run, 2009).

2.2.1 Definition of Chinese cultural heritage

Before the term of cultural heritage became popular, the terms of ‘antique (古物)’ (mainly refers to movable property) and ‘cultural relic’ are used more and commonly accepted among Chinese. Even now, the notion of cultural relic is still one of the most commonly used notions in Chinese current legal system (Wang, 2010).

In 1960, the State Council published the ‘Provisional Regulations of the Preservation and Management of Cultural Relics’. The cultural relic was classified into five types. And later in the ‘Law of the PRC on the Protection of Cultural Relics’, these five types are kept but some changes are made in their descriptions (Wu and Li, 2010). The ‘Law of the PRC on the Protection of Cultural Relics’ (shorten as Protection of Cultural Relics Law) was approved in 1982 and has been revised three times. In the latest ‘Protection of Cultural Relics Law’, the descriptions of the five types of cultural relics are not clear enough and hard to identify as the research target. So a further research is needed.

Meanwhile, the system of Chinese famous cities of historical and cultural value may be suitable for the research. The starting point of this system was the ‘Promulgation on the authorization of preserving Chinese famous cities of historical and cultural value’ approved in 1982. At the same time, the first list of 24 national famous cities of historical and cultural value was announced. But this document did not give the definition of the famous cities of historical and cultural value. Its definition is missing until the 2007 Protection of Cultural Relics Law.

The notion of ‘historical and cultural protection area’ occurred in 1986 when the second list of national famous cities of historical and cultural value published, but was replaced by ‘historical and cultural neighbourhood’ in the 2002 revised Protection of Cultural Relics Law. And in the latest Protection of Cultural Relics Law (2007, Article 14) described the famous cities of historical and cultural value (shortened as historic cities) as ‘cities with an unusual wealth of cultural relics of important historical value or high revolutionary memorial significance’. And the definitions of historical and cultural neighbourhoods, famous towns...
and villages of historical and cultural value (shorten as historic neighbourhoods/towns/villages) are similar to the definition of historic cities.

Since the 21st century, the term of ‘cultural heritage’ has been increasingly used in the world; China also uses the word ‘cultural heritage’ more and more often than before (Liu and Run, 2009). Combining the Protection of Cultural Relics Law and two policy documents—the ‘Promulgation on strengthening the cultural heritage conservation’ (State Council, 2005) and the ‘Promulgation of the General Office of the State Council on the suggestions on strengthening Chinese intangible cultural heritage conservation work (General Office of the State Council, 2005)’, the current Chinese cultural heritage system has suitable definitions and the categories can be summarized and shown in Figure 2.2. And for this research, the historic cities/towns will be suitable as the research target.

2.2.2 Identification of Chinese cultural heritage

The identification of Chinese cultural heritage uses classification system (Figure 2.3). According to Protection of Cultural Relics Law (2007), the designation of the national important cultural relic protection unit (shortened as national protection unit) is the responsibility of the State Administration of Cultural Heritage. And the State Council will verify the designation and make announcement. So far, there are six approved lists of the national protection units.

The classification of historic neighbourhood is similar to historic city, both at national level and provincial level. At the national level, it is designated by the MOHURD and the State Administration of Cultural Heritage. And the department responsible for the provincial level is local cultural, urban construction, or planning department (Dong and Yang, 2010).

The historic cities have two levels—national and provincial level. When the announcement of the first approved list of national historic cities came out, there was no specific criterion for the selection of the national historic cities. The criteria for the national historic cities were formulated during the procedure of examining the second list (Ruan, et al, 1999; Dong and Yang, 2010). There are three main criteria:

- **Not just the history of the city is important, but it is also need to take into consideration that whether the city now has an unusual wealth of cultural relics and preserved well;**
- There is difference between the historical city and cultural relic protection unit. As a historic city, its current structure and scene should keep the traditional characteristics, and the city should has neighbourhood which can represent the city’s traditional scene;
- Cultural relics are mainly distributed in the urban or rural area in its administrative region, and their protection and utilization has important influence on the city’s designated function, structure and development strategy (Ruan, et al, 1999; Dong and Yang, 2010).

![Figure 2.3 Classification of Chinese Cultural Heritage](Source: Protection of Cultural Relics Law, made by author)

So far, the State Council designated 119 national historical cities (Appendix 3). Although it is said that the research target is the historic cities/ towns, actually the research will pay more attention on the historic cities/ towns at the national level. It is because the central government publishes several regulations and rules for their protection, and establishes a special fund for the national historic cities. It can be assumed that historic cities at the national level receive more attention and its conservation framework may be more complete than the historic cities/towns/ villages at the lower level.

### 2.3 Definition and identification of Dutch cultural heritage

The definition and identification of cultural heritage in the Netherlands is easy to find. Moreover, as a state party of the European Union (EU), the conventions or charters compiled by the Council of Europe have effects on the Dutch heritage conservation. So a quick scan of several relevant EU documents is needed in this section.
2.3.1 Definition of Dutch cultural heritage

As is shown in the Table 2.2, the earliest EU convention can be traced back to 1954, but now the conventions mentioned most frequently are the Amsterdam Declaration, Valletta Convention (not the main concern of this research), and Granada Convention. The importance of the Amsterdam Declaration is no doubt, since it promoted the inclusion of historic gardens and parks at the international level.

The Granada Convention defined that architectural heritage in EU comprise three categories which coordinate with the UNESCO but with different descriptions:

- **Monuments:** all buildings and structures of conspicuous historical, archaeological, artistic, scientific, social or technical interest, including their fixtures and fittings;
- **Groups of buildings:** homogeneous groups of urban or rural buildings conspicuous for their historical, archaeological, artistic, scientific, social or technical interest which are sufficiently coherent to form topographically definable units;
- **Sites:** the combined works of man and nature, being areas which are partially built upon and sufficiently distinctive and homogeneous to be topographically definable and are of conspicuous historical, archaeological, artistic, scientific, social or technical interest (Council of Europe, 1985, Article 1).

In addition to the definition, the convention has several sections including protection procedures, ancillary measures, conservation policies, etc. It points out the need of integrated conservation which reflected in the Netherlands is the Belvedere strategy.

**Table 2.2 Some important European conventions (Source: Council of Europe, 2012)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adopted year</th>
<th>EU Conventions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1954</td>
<td>European Cultural Convention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1975</td>
<td>European Charter of the Architectural Heritage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1975</td>
<td>Amsterdam Declaration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1979</td>
<td>European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Valletta Convention, revised in 1992)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1985</td>
<td>Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada Convention)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>European Landscape Convention (Florence Convention)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The categories made by the Granada Convention keep three corresponding to the categories of UNESCO, but in the Netherlands their categories are a little different. According to the *Monuments and Historic Buildings Act* (Monumentenwet) which was adopted in 1961 and revised in 1988, it defined the heritage as historic buildings/sites (which further mention the type of ecclesiastical historic buildings/sites), archaeological monuments, and urban and village conservation areas:

- **Historic buildings/sites:**
- **B1.** all structures of at least 50 years of age which are of public interest because of their beauty, their importance to science or their cultural and historical value;
- **B2.** sites that are of public interest because of the presence of structures as referred to at b1;
- Archaeological monuments (c): the sites referred to at b2;
- Urban and village conservation areas: groups of buildings that are of public interest by virtue of their beauty, their spatial or structural coherence or their scientific or cultural/historical value, and that include one or more historic buildings (Monuments and Historic Buildings Act, 1988, Chapter 1b and c).

The Monuments and Historic Buildings Act (shorten as 1988 Act) revised in 1988 and at that time the international level and EU both agreed with the inclusion of historic gardens and parks. Although it was not reflected in this Act, in practice cultural landscape is an important cultural heritage category in the Netherlands. Currently, the Dutch cultural heritage can be categorized and shown in Figure 2.4. And for this research, the focus type of Dutch cultural heritage is the urban and village conservation areas.

2.3.2 Identification of Dutch cultural heritage

Based on the three main categories of the cultural heritage (historic buildings, urban and rural conservation areas, and archaeological monuments), their identification will be explained here.

The historic buildings which meet their definition and other conditions of the 1988 Act and are of national importance can be designated as national monuments. And they will be included in the Register of monuments (Rijksmonument). A national inventory of the period 1850-1940 started in 1985 and finished in 2000. After this, the interest on the architectures and planning during the Reconstruction era (1940-1965) is increasing. And in 2007, 100 leading examples of buildings from this period were designated as national monuments. Besides the national monuments, provincial executives and local authorities can designate their provincial and municipal monuments (Cultural Heritage Agency, 2012b). The public can be involved in the designated procedure, such as loge on an appeal (Richel-Bottinga, 2000).

The urban and rural conservation areas which meet the conditions of the 1988 Act can be designated by the Minister of Education, Culture and Science and the Minister of Infrastructure and the Environment (former Minister of Housing, Spatial Planning and Environment) (Cultural Heritage Agency, 2012c). This type of heritage only has the national status and does not have the provincial or municipal conservation areas. Its identification except designated by these two ministers, can be designated by the Ministry of Agriculture as a natural reserve. The public is not directly consulted, but will be announced (Richel-
Bottinga, 2000). According to the 1988 Act, the decision of designation or withdrawal of a conservation area must be published in the Government Gazette or in other newspapers.

The archaeological monuments can be identified at two levels—national level and provincial level (archaeologically alert areas).

All the immovable heritage of national importance will be listed in the Register of monuments. So far, the Register of monuments consists of 60,000 monuments (including 1500 archaeological sites) and 440 urban and rural conservation areas. This list is lengthening. More and more ‘younger’ monuments are listed, such as the buildings of the Reconstruction era.

2.4 Reflection on the definition and identification of cultural heritage

The preferred notions of cultural heritage in two countries are different, but the selected notions (historic cities and urban and village conservation areas) as the research target have something in common and similar to the definition (groups of buildings) given by UNESCO. So basically, the research target of the thesis will provide these characteristics: outstanding (universal/ national importance) values on the aspects of history, art, science, architectural style, spatial or structural coherence, etc.; still inhabited; popular for tourism industry. The Dutch definition emphasizes that the conservation area should arouse public interest, but the Chinese or UNESCO’s definition does not mention this point. It reflects that the Netherlands has the tradition of public participation, and the Chinese definition is more from the political and professional aspect. Furthermore, the UNESCO description on inhabitant historic towns reflects the facing challenges of this type of cultural heritage: social, economic, and cultural changes, and the difficulties of assessing and keeping the authenticity.

In addition to the similarity in the definition, there occurs some similarity in the designation procedure of the major cultural heritage type at the national level. It includes the designation is a cooperation work between the departments from planning and cultural heritage disciplines, and public is not direct involved in the procedure but informed. But in the Dutch situation, public can participate in the procedure of designating the historic buildings. The selection criteria are important issues during the designation procedure. The Dutch criteria mainly refer to the 1988 Act, while the Chinese criteria are formed during the procedure of second national list of historic cities besides the criteria on the basis of the Protection of Cultural Relics Law.

International conservation principles are another important aspect for exploring the suitable definition among the UNESCO and ICOMOS documents. The awareness of preserving the environment both nature and man-made (surrounding environment or fabric of a place) can be traced back to the Venice Charter under the concept of integrity. Other concepts, like the fabric of a place, historic environment, can be considered as a more detailed explanation contributing to the concept of integrity. With the broadening concept of cultural heritage and the development of preservation practices, the idea of ‘spirit of place’ and other similar idea (setting and sense of place) raise and include the intangible aspect like the traditions or customs. And this principle has positive effect on the place making and contributes to the unique of a place.
3. Principles and indicators of sustainable development in cultural heritage sites

Since the idea of sustainable development (SD) launched in the international official texts in 1987, this notion becomes popular worldwide. And a lot of organisations, scholars from different disciplines are interested in it and try to develop various interpretations, indicators, or evaluation methods (Appendix 4 select some interpretations). Considering that this research is done under two countries’ circumstances, the common accepted model—‘three pillars’ model of SD is chosen for the case analysis. The related general principles or requirements of SD will be explained first, and then goes to the step of explaining the content of each pillar and its relation with cultural heritage. The SD indicators for this research will be formulated on the basis of the content of this chapter.

3.1 General principles for reaching sustainable development

‘Our Common Future’ is the fundamental document for SD and provides many suggestions for achieving SD. It mentions the requirements of reaching SD for seven systems. Three systems’ requirements are selected and considered relevant to the thesis. These statements will be useful for judging whether or not these systems in the case study running under the SD principle:
- A political system that secures effective citizen participation in decision making;
- An administrative system that is flexible and has the capacity for self-correction;
- A social system that provides for solutions for the tensions arising from disharmonious development (WCED, 1987, Article 81).

Although this document provides many suggestions for achieving SD, they are too abstract for an assessment. Nevertheless, being an international document, it leaves some space for different stakeholders to interpret SD from their discipline. After the publication of ‘Our Common Future’, many organisations, governmental departments or scholars present reasonable principles for SD from general perspective.

Ciegis, et al (2009, p.37) state several principles of SD for choosing sustainability indicators: social justice; local government, public participation; sustainable balance between local and imported resources consumption; use of local economic potential; environmental protection; and protection of cultural heritage. Except for the principle of ‘sustainable balance between local and imported resources consumption’, the rest principles are relevant and important for the cases in this thesis.

There is no doubt about the importance of the principle of ‘protection of cultural heritage’ and ‘environmental protection’. The first one is one of the most important components of the research. The second reflects the rising awareness of the importance of protecting the surrounding area of a heritage site. Moreover, environmental quality is an important component of living quality. The principle of ‘social justice’ here refers to the relationship between tourists and local community. The principles of ‘local government’ and ‘public participation’ are related to the requirements of three systems mentioned above. And the principle of ‘use of local economic potential’ can be used in analysing the heritage site’s economic situation. This principle is selected because if a heritage site’s development too relies on tourism, it will cause many negative impacts on the heritage conservation and the development of the site is not stable.

Besides the mentioned six principles, Gladwin, et al (1995) suggests that SD is a process of achieving human development through five principles. And two of them are considered relevant: ‘connectivity’, which refers to an embrace of ecological, social and economic interdependence, and the interdependence, is reflected in the three pillars model; and
‘equity’, which is further developed into five sub-issues by Haughton (1999). The first one is the futurity (intergenerational equity) which reflected in the definition of SD given by Our Common Future. The second one is the social justice (intragenerational equity). And the third one is the transfrontier responsibility which is not the main concern of the thesis. The forth one is the procedural equity. Haughton (1999) says it refers to people treated openly and fairly. If it is considered in a heritage planning and tourism planning process, it can be understood that local community and other interested groups have the opportunity to participate in the process, and can gain access to some related information or documents. What is more, different groups are treated fairly. The last one is the importance of biodiversity which is also one of the most important goals for natural environmental protection.

These principles are the general requirements for a city/town to reach SD. But is there any special consideration for reaching SD in a cultural heritage site? It will be explored in the next section.

3.2 Sustainable development in cultural heritage sites in the broad context

Generally speaking, the idea of SD first entered the UNESCO official document in the 1992 Operation Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention with the notion of sustainable land-use instead of SD when the cultural landscape category is introduced. Then in the 2005 version of Operational Guidelines, a separated paragraph was developed for SD: the protection and conservation of the natural and cultural heritage are a significant contribution to SD (UNESCO, 2005, I.B.6). And the principle of SD should be integrated into the WHS’s management system is mentioned in the 2011 version (UNESCO, 2011). Although the concept of SD was not so rapidly and easily embraced in UNESCO official documents, it is a fundamental principle for all stakeholders in the WH conservation (Rössler, 2010). So the principle of SD is needed for a cultural heritage site, and then how does cultural heritage contribute to the three dimensions, and what are the important and related contents in the three dimensions?

Environmental pillar

The environmental dimension is the dominant concern of SD and is considered as the constraint on human development (Tweed and Sutherland, 2007). But ecological dimension rises quite often. Lélé (1991, p.609) defines the ecological sustainability as ‘the existence of the ecological conditions necessary to support human life at a specified level of well-being through future generation. (And) ecological sustainability emphasizes the constraints and opportunities that nature presents to human activities’. And Pawlowski (2008) mentions that this dimension mainly relates to the conservation of nature and landscape. It can be said that the ecological dimension is related to nature environment.

But the emphasis of environmental dimension in the urban environment is quite different from the issues mentioned above. Satterthwaite (1997) gives five broad categories of environmental actions in the urban environment. And the principle of ‘achieving a high-quality urban environment for all urban-inhabitants’ is important for reaching SD in a heritage site from the local community’s perspective (Satterthwaite, 1997). And in this way, the environmental dimension focuses on the urban built environment, and all actions suggested by Satterthwaite contribute to a better living environment for the inhabitants. So in this paper, the environmental dimension can be considered to have two sub-dimensions: natural environment and urban environment.

Then how does a heritage site play its role in the environmental dimension? The role of the built heritage in urban environmental sub-dimension mainly addresses the technical
problems of maintaining the fabric of existing buildings (Tweed and Sutherland, 2007). And the awareness of the importance of the relationship between heritage site and natural environment is rising. Xi’an Declaration (ICOMOS, 2005) points out that the setting can contribute to the significance of heritage site, and the concept of setting includes the interaction with the natural environment. Another thing can reflect the importance of the natural environment in heritage conservation field—the requirement of setting buffer zone and environmental coordination zone in a heritage site’s protection plan.

The paragraph mentioned above is from the heritage conservation perspective to view the relation between heritage site and environmental dimension. The other part—the development of a heritage site also influences the environment both natural and urban built environment. As is mentioned before, many heritage sites are the popular tourist destinations too. So the development part is mainly concerned with the tourism development. The pressure of increased tourists and tourist activities will have environmental impact which refers to the degradation of environmental quality because of the overcrowding (the rise idea of carrying capacity), and will cause the spatial transformation including morphology of the place, functional pattern, use of public space, etc. But tourism development also has the potential contribution to environmental perspective through increasing an appreciation for the historic environment among tourists and local community (Jimura, 2011; Nasser, 2003).

**Economic pillar**

The economic dimension is considered as the most important pre-requisite for fulfilling human needs and for improving the living conditions of citizens (Tweed and Sutherland, 2007). If linking with a cultural heritage site, the economic dimension shall at least including the reuse of historic buildings, the economic contribution of the historic site’s development (mainly the tourism), and the influence on heritage conservation.

To conserved buildings effectively is to prolong the life span through adaptive reuse. It is based on efficient use and economic viability. The economic viability depends on the use to which it can be put, and the efficient use requires either a ready-made demand or a new demand that should be created for it (Nasser, 2003; Worskett, 1969).

And the economic contribution of cultural heritage on the site is undoubtful. Bowitz and Ibenholt (2009) analyzed the economic impact of the cultural heritage projects. They stated that the economic impact can be divided into direct effect and indirect effect. The direct effect of cultural heritage project is the project itself. It can be measured in sales, value added or revenues, or employment. And the indirect effects have various types and have been assessed in regional economic analyses, but it is not the main concern of this research. And to be more exactly about the direct effect of tourism development on local community, it at least includes the job creation, income generation, revitalization of local traditional products, and community infrastructure enhancement (Jimura, 2011). Combining with one critical issue for SD raised by ‘Our Common Future’—‘meeting essential needs for jobs, food, energy, water, and sanitation’ (WCED, 1987), they explain why tourism development is popular in many historic towns, like the direct effect ‘job creation’ meets the critical issue of SD ‘needs for jobs’.

But the tourism-led development in a heritage site will easily lead to the conservation bias reflected in the situation of selectivity of conserved buildings (used for tourism), price of the land and property (better location for attracting tourism, the price is higher), and some places changing from serving local community to serving tourists. Even so, there still is the potential for tourism contributing to the heritage conservation through creating more demand for conserving buildings (including less valued monuments) and creating uses for redundant buildings (Nasser, 2011).
Social-cultural pillar

The social dimension refers to the need to improve the quality of life for all citizens and the maintenance of political and community values (Tweed and Sutherland, 2007; Nurse, 2006). And Barier (1987) defined social sustainability as the ability to maintain desired social values, traditions, institutions, cultures, or other social characteristics. So the social dimension shall comprise quality of life, political (institutions) and community values, customs, traditions, culture, spirituality, and interpersonal relations (Tweed and Sutherland, 2007; Nurse, 2006; Barier, 1987; Pawlowski, 2008).

It is seen that the boundary between social and cultural is ambiguity. Culture is the product of a society over the years, and the record of the creativity and the development process of a society. It also exists in people’s everyday life and is an element that contributes to the future (Chan and Ma, 2002). Nurse (2006) suggests adding culture as the fourth pillar of SD and puts it in the central position. And Johannesburg World Summit on SD in 2002 considers the cultural diversity as the forth pillar of SD alongside the economic, environmental and social pillar (ICOMOS, 2011b). This research is conducted on the basis of the two countries’ situations, thus the three pillar model is more commonly found among different governmental reports. And many cultural influences can be categorized into the three dimensions. Furthermore, social dimension comprises many aspects which are the important part of culture. It means that the boundary between social and cultural perspective are ambiguous. Since it is hard to separate social factor and cultural factor, and cultural factor plays an important role in the social dimension, using the social-cultural dimension instead of social dimension will be a more proper way for this research.

The social-cultural dimension is most relevant to the need to consider cultural heritage as part of SD, which can be related to the notion of intergeneration equity. As early as 1976 the social measure was already recognized in heritage conservation (UNESCO, 1976). And the Washington Charter (ICOMOS, 1987) also points out the social aspect in conserving historic towns and the Nara Document on Authenticity (ICOMOS, 1994) also recognizes the importance of cultural and social values of all societies. Many other charters or declarations mention the importance of social and cultural aspects in cultural heritage sites (see ICOMOS, 2005, 2008, 2011b). A cultural heritage site can be considered as the local identity. If the site is identified as the one with values at an international level, national level or regional level, it may render the local people proud of its culture (Jimura, 2011).

Besides the importance of social-cultural aspect in the heritage conservation, the tourism development in a heritage site has many effects on local community. In many cases, tourism conflicts with local living culture and causes the changes in local lifestyle and culture. And these changes may lead to the solidarity of the community or the loss of community cohesion (Nasser, 2003; Jimura, 2011). Because local community and its culture are sensitive for changes, the social-cultural dimension in a heritage site needs to be paid more attentions.

Planning for sustainable development

To exam a heritage site’s SD, the city’s comprehensive plan and heritage protection plan are one of the most important documents. So is there any principle for evaluating SD of a plan? From the planning perspective, planning for SD can be viewed as a continuous process of designing courses of action to assist spatial systems to achieve and maintain non-declining levels of welfare over time (Briassoulis, 2001). What is more, planning for sustainability in heritage places is significantly different and difficult because of their inextricable link to the past as a continuum (Nasser, 2003). And it needs to consider the balance between past and future, conservation and development, and the balance among three dimensions of SD.
Berke and Conroy (2000) identified four characteristics of SD and set six operational principles for evaluating whether or not a plan embracing the principle of SD. The characteristics of ‘dynamic process’ and the operational principles of ‘place-based economy’ are important for the case study. And Nasser (2003) examined the relationship between tourism, conservation, and planning from sustainability perspective, and identified four objectives. The objectives of ‘need for long-term planning’, acceptance of change and development to ensure continuity, and need to consider equitable access to heritage resources by the local community and visitors are important in the thesis from planning perspective.

The ‘place-based economy’ refers to the principle of ‘use of local economic potential’. It reflects that in a comprehensive plan or development strategy the local resources are efficiently used or not. And the ‘equitable access to heritage resources by the local community and visitors’ refers to the social justice (intra-generational equity) principle. It reflects the situation in which whether or not the site has the physical or mental barrier for local and tourists to gain access to the historic towns or centres. The most notable principle is the ‘dynamic process’ which can link the objectives of ‘need for long-term planning’ and ‘acceptance of change and development to ensure continuity’. The dynamic process is not just showed in a dynamic planning procedure, but the plan also needs to consider the changes and has the ability to deal with the changes. And a long-term planning considers the planning from a holistic perspective and will benefit the society. But there must be changes during the long-term planning, so the principle of dynamic process and acceptance of change and development is important for a long-term planning. Based on the previous analysis, the theoretical framework showed as the second three pillars model, which is the foundation for doing the analysis throughout the research, is formed (Figure 3.1).
Figure 3.1 Theoretical framework: Three pillars model of SD indicators for the research

(Based on the content of Chapter 3, made by author)
4. National planning system—China and the Netherlands

Besides national policy, laws and regulations, planning is another important mechanism to steer the development of a city/town. The national planning system is explored before the national cultural heritage conservation system due to the fact that the national cultural heritage conservation is rooted in its planning system. Moreover, the analysis structure of the planning system, especially the legal and administrative system, can be used in analysing the cultural heritage conservation system too. Meanwhile, studying the planning system in advance can help to examine its relationship with SD and cultural heritage.

Different scholars have different methods to understand and analyse a country’s planning system. To gain an overview of the Chinese and Dutch planning systems, a suitable analysis structure is necessary. Wu and Li (2010) mentions that studying a country’s planning system can be conducted via its planning legal system, administrative system, technical system, and operation system.

- **Planning Legal System** is the foundation of a country’s planning system. It offers the statutory basis and legal procedure for planning activities. The generation and development of a country’s planning system is usually indicated by its legal system’s generation and changes. The foundational structure of a country’s planning legal system is similar, commonly has principle act, subsidiary legislation, special legislation, and related legislation (Figure 4.1).

![Figure 4.1 The foundational structure of a country’s planning legal system](Source: Tang and Wu, 1998)

- **Planning Administrative System** is the planning administrative department setting from the central government to local government, and the clear power and responsibility of each level’s planning administrative department.

- **Planning Technical System** includes different planning level’s target, mission, and function, and the contents and measures for finishing these plans; and also includes the technical standards for compiling the plan from different level. Basically, to understand a country’s planning technical system is to understand its planning framework and related methods.

- **Planning Operation System** refers to the planning implementation and operation. And many countries mention it as the development control. The planning technical system and operation system include how to compile a plan, the preconditions for compiling, the plan’s authorization procedure, verification procedure, and modification procedure, etc. for planning at different levels.
4.1 Chinese planning system

In 1956, the State Construction Committee published the ‘Compiling measures on urban planning’ which is the first management regulation on urban planning field, heralding the starting point of the legal construction in Chinese planning work. And the first law in Chinese urban construction field—‘Urban Planning Law of the People’s Republic of China’ adopted in 1989 (Liu and Sui, 2004). This law is replaced by the ‘Urban and Rural Planning Law of the People’s Republic of China’ (shortened as Urban and Rural Planning Law) in 2007.

4.1.1 Planning legal system and administrative system

Chinese planning legal system

Basically, Chinese legal structure at the national level consists of law, administrative rules and regulations, departmental rules and regulations, and technical norms or standards. Local people’s congress and standing committee (such as provincial and municipal) can formulate its administrative rules. And local government can draw on its rules, regulations and technical standards (Li, 2001; Wu and Li, 2010).

The principle act of Chinese planning legal system is the ‘Urban and Rural Planning Law (2007)’ which has seven chapters including general provisions, establishment, implementation and modification of urban and rural planning, supervision and inspection, etc. Article 1 mentions the purpose of formulating this law is ‘strengthening urban and rural planning administration, harmonizing urban and rural spatial layout, improving people’s living environment and promoting the integrated, harmonious and sustainable development of urban and rural society and economy’ (Urban and Rural Planning Law, 2007, Article 1).

Furthermore, Article 4 clarifies the basic principle for Chinese planning system:

- Planning the urban and rural areas as a whole, reasonable layout, saving the land, intensive growth, and planning before construction;
- Improve ecological environment, enhance the conservation and comprehensive utilization of resources and energy;
- Protect the farmland and other natural resource and cultural heritage, maintain local features, ethnic features, and traditions;
- Prevent pollution and other public nuisance
- Satisfy the needs of regional population development, national defence construction, disaster prevention and alleviation, public health and public safety (Urban and Rural Planning Law, 2007, Article 4).

In addition to the Urban and Rural Planning Law, China also has a series administrative rules and regulations, department rules and regulations and technical regulations/norms as the subsidiary legislation and special legislation to make more detailed classification and requirement for many important fields and activities of urban and rural planning (Wu and Li, 2010; Li, 2001).

Chinese planning administrative system

Chinese planning administrative system is composed of urban and rural planning administrative departments at different levels, embodying three levels: national level, provincial or autonomous regional, and municipality directly under the central government level, and municipality and town level. At the national level, it is in charged by the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development of the People’s Republic of China (MOHURD). The Urban and Rural Planning Department of MOHURD is responsible for detailed issues. The administrative departments for the other two levels can be viewed from Table 4.1.

Table 4.1 Urban and rural planning administrative departments at different levels (Source: Wu & Li, 2010)
The administrative department for the urban and rural planning

### National

MOHURD, Urban and rural planning department is responsible for the detail issues

### Provincial, autonomous regional, municipality directly under the central government

- Provincial and autonomous regional: Housing and Urban-Rural Development Department (some province or autonomous region is the construction department), urban and rural planning office is responsible for the detail issues
- Municipality directly under the central government: Planning Bureau

### City/ municipality, town

Planning Bureau (or construction committee, construction bureau)

The duty of the planning administrative department, basically, is based on the law and regulations to manage the urban and rural planning work within their administrative regions, and responsible for the people’s government at the same level (*Urban and Rural Planning Law, 2007*).

Generally speaking, the Chinese legal and administrative system shows the connection with SD and heritage conservation. The purpose of formulating the Urban and Rural Planning Law is promoting the integrated, harmonious and SD of society and economy. And the aim of ‘improving people’s living environment’ also meets the social-cultural dimension principle of SD. Moreover, the basic principles of urban and rural planning emphasis the need of ecological environment improvement, natural resources and cultural heritage protection, and the principle of ‘maintaining local features, ethnic features, and traditions’ is the content of intangible cultural heritage protection. These principles reflect the general principles of SD and show the concern of cultural heritage conservation. Not to mentions that MOHURD is responsible for the designation of national historic cities/ towns/ villages, and also for the conservation work and supervising their management.

### 4.1.2 Planning technical system and operation system

#### Chinese planning technical system

Chinese spatial planning framework can be divided into two part of strategic plan and implementation plan two parts (Table 4.2).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategic plan</th>
<th>Implementation plan</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Definition</td>
<td>Draws up the implementation plan of different urban districts based on the strategy plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Defines the city’s long term development goals, and gives the development guidelines and spatial strategy for the land use, traffic control, environmental protection,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Source: Tang and Wu, 1998)
infrastructure etc.; and offers the guiding framework for the implementation plans of different urban districts and systems.

| Foundation of the development control | Cannot be | Can be (so it is also called statutory plan) |

Based on this binary divided standard and the Urban and Rural Planning Law, the classification of Chinese official planning types is showed in Table 4.3.

**Table 4.3 Chinese legal urban and rural planning types** *(Source: Wu & Li, 2010)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Planning types</th>
<th>Planning characteristic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National level</td>
<td>Chinese spatial development plan (2006-2020)</td>
<td>Strategic plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provincial/ autonomous regional level</td>
<td>Provincial urban system plan</td>
<td>Strategic plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Municipal and town level</td>
<td>Comprehensive plan</td>
<td>Strategic plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County/ village level</td>
<td>Regulatory plan; Site plan</td>
<td>Implementation plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Township planning</td>
<td>Strategic plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Village planning</td>
<td>Implementation plan</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Urban and Rural Planning Law *(2007)* makes specific regulations on the department for organizing the compilation and approval of different planning types and their contents. The national spatial development plan is compiled by MOHURD and related departments of the State Council. The provincial urban system plan is compiled by provincial or autonomous regional people’s government. The plans at the national and provincial level are approved by the State Council. The comprehensive and township planning are the responsibility of local people’s government. But its approval department is a little complex, because it depends on the administrative status of the city (such as municipality directly under the central government, or capital city of the province, etc.). However, the details of the approval department will be skipped for it is not the major focus of this thesis.

**Chinese planning operation system**

The development control and requirement is different between the urban planning area and town/ village planning area in China. The development control system in the urban planning area is the ‘one proposal two licenses’ system, while in a town/ village planning area is done through the License for Rural Construction Planning and the land use approval *(Urban and Rural Planning Law, 2007)*.

‘One proposal’ is the Proposal for site-choosing. It means that during the establishment of a construction project (mainly is the new big or middle scale industry and civilian project), the design task which submits for approval shall have the suggestions from the urban and rural planning administrative department on the possible project location. And the ‘two licenses’ are the License for Construction Planning and License for Project Construction Planning *(Liu and Sui, 2004)*.
Although there is no direct proof of the relationship among the technical and operation system, SD, and heritage conservation, but it is still possible to prove indirectly that the technical and operation system stresses the SD and heritage conservation. The compilation of a plan follows the laws and regulations and national policy, and the principal act of Chinese planning system mentions the principle of SD. So the planning in China needs to follow the SD principle. Seen from another perspective, different plans always need to follow the regulations from upper level’s plan, so the plan at the national level has the highest power which is known as the Chinese spatial development plan (2006-2020). The guiding principle of this plan includes SD. And it also includes the principles of environmental friendly, social harmony, inheriting and developing traditional features, protecting natural and cultural resources, etc. (MOHURD, 2010). All these principles meet the principle of SD. Moreover, the environmental protection, natural and cultural heritage conservation are the mandatory contents of a city’s comprehensive plan.

Then how does the development control follow the SD principle? There is no doubt that it needs to follow the national policy and related laws. And the Fifteenth National Congress of the Communist Party of China (1997) decides that SD is one of the national development strategies, and Chinese modernization must follow the SD strategy (Jiang, 1997). So the approval of the ‘one proposal two licenses’ needs to consider the SD of the project location.

But this system is mainly applied for the big or middle scale industry or civilian project. In a historic town, like Lijiang old town, it rarely needs to apply for the proposal and licenses considering the authenticity and integrity of the historic town. However, in Lijiang old town, the restoration or construction work needs other related permit or license.

4.2 Dutch planning system

The first legislation of Dutch planning system dates back to the Housing Act (Woningwet) in 1901 because cities’ governments cannot endure the poor environmental quality caused by the unregulated development (European Communities, 1999).

4.2.1 Planning legal system and administrative system

Dutch legal planning system

Briefly the Dutch legislation has four formal types: royal decrees, ministerial legislation, rules of the provinces, and rules of the municipalities (Winter, 2006). And as the Chinese context study, the Dutch context mainly focuses on the national level and in the legal system is the ministerial legislation.

The principle act in Dutch planning system is the Spatial Planning Act (Wet op de Ruimtelijke Ordening, WRO) which comes into being in 1965. In 2000 the Cabinet wants to revise the act ‘fundamentally’ (Needham, 2004). It means that the new act will not work in the framework of the WRO. And in 2008, the new Spatial Planning Act (Wet Ruimtelijke Ordening, Wro) goes into effect. Unlike Chinese principle act, Wro does not mention the principle or objective of Dutch planning but more focus on clarity the planning types at different levels and related administrative issues. The common principles and objectives of Dutch planning are more like unwritten rules which are widely accepted among officers, planners, interested groups, etc.

Besides Wro, there are several subsidiary and related legislations at the national level in the Netherlands which are tightly related to planning issues, such as the decree (Besluit ruimtelijke ordening, Bro), Housing Act (Woningwet), and Urban Regeneration Act (Wet stedelijke vernieuwing), etc. And at the provincial and municipal level, related governments also have authority to formulate their bye-laws.
There are three main principles of Wro: decentralisation, deregulation, and direct implementation (VROM, 2007). It reflects the tendency that local authority has more space for organizing the activities within their territory, and raise the efficiency (less regulations and administration, and implementation-oriented). Wro sets ten chapters including general provisions, structure vision, land use plan and integration plan, general rules and specific instructions, financial provisions, enforcement and supervision, objections and appeals, planning bodies, and final provisions.

Dutch administrative system

The Netherlands is a ‘decentralised unitary state’ with three-tier governmental system. The three tiers refer to the national, provincial, and municipal government. The provincial and municipal governments have the same statutory powers. Although the administrative system is a hierarchic structure, the communication among the three tiers’ governments is mainly through consensus building and mutual adjustment (van der Valk, 2002).

At the national level, the ministry responsible for the spatial planning is the Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment (Ministerie van Infrastructuur en Milieu, I&M). The I&M is established in 2010, merged the former Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Management (Ministerie van Verkeer en Waterstaat, V&W) and the Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment (Ministerie van Volkshuisvesting, Ruimtelijke Ordening en Milieu, VROM). At the provincial and municipal level, provincial and municipal governments are responsible for the spatial planning within their territory.

The main responsibilities of I&M in the field of spatial planning are: preparing and coordinating national policy and strategies on spatial planning; national strategy on allocation of land and water resources for sustainable economic and social development (I&M, 2011a).

Although Wro does not directly points out the principle of SD, the national policy embraces the SD (such as 6th national planning strategy) and EU develops the national SD strategy (EU SDS). The responsibilities of I&M include the economic and social SD. And I&M is committed to improving quality of life, access and mobility in a sustainable environment (Government of the Netherlands, 2012). So from responsibilities and commitment of I&M, the Dutch planning system concerns all the three pillars of SD.

4.2.2 Planning technical system and operation system

Dutch technical system

Basically, the types of Dutch plan consist of strategic plan and operational plan (Table 4.4). Faludi and van der Valk (1994) prefer project plan as the opposite side of the strategic plan, but author of this thesis still chooses the operational plan which is easier to understand.

Table 4.4 Differences between strategic plans and operational plans (Source: Faludi and van der Valk, 1994)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategic plans</th>
<th>Operational plans</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Explanation</strong></td>
<td>Preceding operational planning, engaging in broad searches, generating tentative solutions to more complex problems, and has few routines to fall back on</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Object</strong></td>
<td>Decisions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Interaction</strong></td>
<td>Continuous</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
According to Wro, the main legal types of plan and the plans at the related levels of governments will be shown in Table 4.5, and includes the changes from WRO to Wro.

Table 4.5 Dutch legal planning types *(Source: WRO, 1965; Wro, 2008)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>National level</th>
<th>WRO</th>
<th>Wro</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spatial planning key decisions (PKB)</td>
<td>Structural vision (structuurvisie)</td>
<td>Strategic plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Integration plan (Inpassingplan)</td>
<td>Operational plan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional plan (streekplan)</td>
<td>Structural vision (structuurvisie)</td>
<td>Strategic plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Integration plan (Inpassingplan)</td>
<td>Operational plan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Structure plan (structuurplan)</td>
<td>Structural vision (structuurvisie)</td>
<td>Strategic plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land use plan (bestemmingsplan)</td>
<td>Land use plan (bestemmingsplan)</td>
<td>Operational plan</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The policy or planning trend of Dutch spatial planning reflects in the national planning strategy. Until now, it has six national spatial strategies, and the latest one is published in 2006 with the title of ‘creating space for development’. The aim of the sixth national planning strategy includes creating space to meet the economic and social demands for land sustainably and efficiency and improving the living environment *(I&M, 2011b)*. And now the Ministry of I&M is working on the seventh national policy which already publishes the draft in 2011.

The structure vision contains the basic principles of the spatial policy and the possible implement method. The vision is not legally binding. It just represents the commitment and ambition of the governmental body and does not affect other tiers governments *(VROM, 2007)*. But the land use plan is the most important legally binding instrument and is the emphasis point of the Dutch planning system *(van der Valk, 2002; Buitelaar and Sorel, 2010)*.

Because in WRO the strategic plans (PKB and regional plan) compiled by the national and provincial government are not legally binding, and the only legally binding plan is compiled by the municipal government. These situations make the municipal government have more autonomy and ignore the policy of national or provincial level, and the policies from the higher levels are not implemented well *(Needham, 2004)*. This situation is improved in the Wro. National and provincial governments can compile operational plan which is legal binding too. And they have the right to check the content of municipal land use plan.
Besides the national and provincial operational plan, these two tiers governments can also influence municipal plan and policy using the directive or instruction. If the province or national government considers that something needs to be arranged for one specific situation, the instruction can be used. Once the municipality gets the instruction, it has to adapt the land use plan based on the instruction (VROM, 2007).

Another change is that the applied area of the land use plan. In WRO, land use plan was made for the land outside the build-up area. But in Wro, it is mandatory for the entire municipal jurisdiction. And it is hope that the steering and safeguarding function of land use plan will work better (Buitelaar and Sorel, 2010).

**Dutch operation system**

The development control in the Netherlands is using the land use plan and project decision (projectbesluit, former exemptions) strategically. And several kinds of permit are also related to the development control, including building permit, planning permit, demolition permit, etc. (Buitelaar, et al, 2011; Wro, 2008). A new permit—environmental permit raises in 2012 based on General Provisions Environmental Law (Wet algemene bepalingen omgevingsrecht, Wabo). It brings together 25 existing licensing and authorization systems which intervening with environment.

Legally, the revision of land use plan is mentioned in both WRO and Wro every ten years. But WRO did not have the sanction for the delayed revision which caused most land use plans to be out of date. In addition, Dutch planning system is considered as a plan-led system which means that if it is not mentioned in the land use plan then the land cannot be developed (European Communities, 1999). And the fact that most land use plans are out of date makes the exemptions important for the development and the number of the exemptions is relatively high. This is changed in the Wro. Wro adds the sanction for the delayed revising work, and replaces the exemption by the project decision and tries to minimize its number. The project decision is ‘a decision that, for the purpose of realising a project which may include one or more buildings, non-construction works or activities or the use thereof inconsistent with the current land-use plan, the land-use plan does not apply’ (Wro, 2008).

And then it comes to the question: how the technical and operational system concerns the SD and heritage conservation? The aim of the sixth national planning strategy refers to the land sustainably and efficiency for social and economic demands. And this document mentions ‘sustainable’ several times under the notion of sustainable recreational landscape, sustainable transport system, etc.

Moreover, the primary goal of Dutch spatial planning is to enhance quality of life which is linked with the concept of sustainability, liveability and the quality of spatial environment. The three concepts refer to a well-maintained physical environment (townscape, landscape, etc.) and a safe, clean, healthy environment, as well as free of choices for inhabitants. And the problem of inefficient land use raised in Dutch planning system calls for the multiple functions for land use (van der Valk, 2002). Except directly pointed out the concept of sustainability, the concepts of liveability and spatial quality is the important issue of SD.

The most obvious connection between cultural heritage and spatial planning in the Netherlands is the ‘Belvedere’ policy. Moreover, Buitelaar, et al (2011) divides the land use plans into three categories and one of them is the conservation plan which takes up 35%. There exists the trend that when compiling a plan the Dutch government shall combine the spatial planning with cultural history, and the cultural history does not just play as an background introduction of the plan location but as an important element for both the planning procedure and the plan.
5. Policies and methods for national cultural heritage conservation—China and the Netherlands

As is mentioned in Chapter 3, to reach SD of historic towns, it is necessary to balance the heritage conservation and development. And in the field of cultural heritage conservation, UNESCO and ICOMOS play important roles. Their documents come up with a lot of guidance and suggestions for many countries. Several relevant principles have already been reviewed in Chapter 2, such as the spirit of place, harmonious relationship between the historic area and the town, etc. Besides these commonly accepted principles, the two countries have their own structure for preserving their cultural heritage.

The study of two countries’ cultural heritage conservation structure starts with the legal and administrative structure, and then comes the basic conservation method for different cultural heritage types and the financial resources, and ends with the special considerations of SD in historic towns. The research of the basic conservation methods for different cultural heritage types is not just for gaining an overview of the conservation framework of a county, but also contributes to the in-depth studies. By doing this, a bridge between the national framework and a specific site can be built.

5.1 Chinese cultural heritage conservation structure

The earliest governmental care of cultural heritage protection dates back to the end of Qing Dynasty. In 1906, Qing government establishes the Ministry of Civil Affairs and starts the compilation work of ‘Extended Measures of the Antique Preservation’. But at that time, Qing regime is in precarious situation, this regulation does not receive enough attention among provincial governments (Zhang, 2009).

5.1.1 Legal and administrative aspect

Current Chinese cultural heritage conservation structure, from the legal aspect, can be traced back to the ‘Provisional Regulations of the Preservation and Management of Cultural Relics’ which the State Council publishes in 1961. It points out that the cultural relic protection is the responsibility of city and town’s People Committee. And the protection of cultural relics shall be included in the urban construction plan (State Council, 1961). But the cultural relics and their protection system suffer dramatic destroyed during the Great Cultural Revolution (1966-1976). During that period, there is a tendency of neglecting culture, traditions and ‘destroy the old and establish a new’ in Chinese society. Even after the Cultural Revolution period, its negative effect still exists, causes the situation that some people/officers do not respect cultural heritage and blindly pursue modern and new buildings.

In 1982, the ‘Law of the PRC on the Protection of Cultural Relics’ (Protection of Cultural Relics Law) is adopted and revised three times. It is the principal act in Chinese cultural heritage conservation field (Zhang, 2009; Wu and Li, 2010). The current version is revised in 2007 which has 8 chapters. The Protection of Cultural Relics Law defines the scope of cultural relics, identification, and their ownership, and clarifies the responsible department at different administrative level. It points out that people’s government shall proper deal with the relationship between economic construction, social development and cultural relic protection, and place the cultural relic protection into local economic and social development plan which meets the requirement of SD.

The State Administration of Cultural Heritage is in charge of the national cultural heritage protection work. And local people’s government is responsible for the cultural heritage protection work within its administrative region. For the people’s government whose level is higher than the county level, the cultural heritage administrative department
is responsible for the implementation, supervision and management of the cultural relic protection (Protection of Cultural Relic Law, 2007, Article 8).

The Protection of Cultural Relics Law does not have many articles concerning the historic cities, towns, neighbourhoods and villages’ conservation. But in addition to the Protection of Cultural Relics Law, there are some regulations published by other administrative department related to the historic towns’ conservation and management (Table 5.1).

Table 5.1 List of important policy documents on cultural heritage conservation in China

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adopted year</th>
<th>Published department</th>
<th>Chinese name</th>
<th>Translation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1961</td>
<td>State Council</td>
<td>文物保护管理暂行条例</td>
<td>Provisional Regulations of the Preservation and Management of Cultural Relics (Abolished)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>MOHURD</td>
<td>历史文化名城保护规划编制要求</td>
<td>Requirements of the Compilation of the Famous cities of historical and cultural value Protection Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>MOHURD</td>
<td>历史文化名城保护规划规范</td>
<td>Standards for the Famous Cities of Historical and Cultural Values Protection Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Ministry of Culture of PRC</td>
<td>世界文化遗产保护管理办法</td>
<td>Administrative Measures of the World Cultural Heritage Protection and Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>State Council</td>
<td>风景名胜区条例</td>
<td>Regulations on the Scenic spots</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>State Council</td>
<td>历史文化名城名镇名村保护条例</td>
<td>Regulations of the Famous cities, towns, and villages of historical and cultural values Protection</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5.1.2 The cultural heritage protection methods

In this section, the protection methods will be explained in categories which have correspondence with the Chinese cultural heritage types—immovable cultural relics, historic neighbourhoods, and historic cities/towns/villages (Figure 2.2). But one thing needs to be clarified. The immovable cultural relic includes archaeological sites which some of them are located in the rural areas. This kind of cultural relic is not the main concern of the research because the study of this thesis mainly focuses on the cultural heritage located in the urban area and has effects on the city’s development.
**Immovable cultural relics in the urban context**

Before going to the protection methods, the ownership needs to be clarified. Archaeological sites, ancient tombs, grotto temples belong to the country. And the immovable cultural relics designated by the country (such as contemporary architectures, monuments, historic buildings), most of them belong to the country. And some community-owned or personal monuments, historic buildings and other movable cultural relics, the owners of which need to obey related cultural relic protection laws and regulations (*Protection of Cultural Relics Law, 2007*).

The protection of the immovable cultural relics follows the principles including respecting the traditional style, doing the maintenance and restoration when necessary, and protecting the surrounding environment. When some elements have to be replaced, there shall have a clear boundary and some explanations. And the protection zone and buffer zone is needed for the cultural relic protection unit (*Protection of Cultural Relics Law, 2007; Li, 2001*).

Moreover, the cultural relic protection unit is a component of the city. So besides its protection, the utilization is also important. The objective of the rational utilization of immovable cultural relic shall not only contribute to its development, but also positive influence the development of its surrounding area (*Li, 2001*).

The means of the utilization of cultural relics mainly have three ways. The first and the best one is keeping the traditional function, such as religious buildings, historic gardens. The second one is changing its traditional function to use as a museum, the office space for school, library or other cultural, administrative departments and the tourism facility. The third one is served as the landmark of the city. Except these three utilization methods, there still exist many un-listed or less value historic buildings in a city. Their protection and utilization method shall be analysed based on its physical and social context (*Li, 2001; Wu and Li, 2010*).

**Historic neighbourhoods**

There are not many regulations or standards referred to the historic neighbourhood conservation, just some articles mentioned in some laws and regulations concerning historic cities’ conservation, such as the ‘Regulations of the Famous cities, towns, and villages of historical and cultural values Protection’. This regulation points out the function of historic neighbourhood in the historic city and puts forward the requirement for its conservation (*State Council, 2008*).

Similar to the cultural relic protection, the protection zone and buffer zone is also required for the conservation of historic neighbourhood. Within the protection zone, the construction activities are highly restricted. And within the buffer zone, the construction activities shall be done under the guidance or supervision of related department, such as planning department and cultural heritage department. And then the concept of historic neighbourhood conservation has three main aspects: architectural protection, spatial structure, and landscape. The conservation work also needs to consider these important issues: improving the infrastructure and living environment, reorganizing the traffic, and designating the neighbourhood’s function (*Wu and Li, 2010*).

The infrastructure and living environment improvement is essential important for the conservation of historic neighbourhood from the author’s understanding. Many historic neighbourhoods still have the living function, but the living quality of the traditional building cannot meet the requirements of modern life. The poor living condition is likely to force local inhabitants to move out of the neighbourhood.
Historic cities (towns and villages)

The conservation of historic cities is much more complex than historic neighbourhood and cultural relic. The ‘Regulations of the Famous cities, towns, and villages of historical and cultural values Protection’ published by the State Council in 2008 offers more detail regulations for the historic cities’ conservation than the Protection of Cultural Relics Law. It mentions that the local people’s government shall organize the complication of the historic city protection plan after the designation. And the protection plan shall be finished in one year after the publication of its approval. The planning period of the protection plan should be corresponding to the city’s comprehensive plan or township plan (State Council, 2008).

Several principles shall be taken into account when compiling the protection plan and also useful for guiding the conservation work.

- The conservation and planning work shall from the overall perspective and the city’s development, not just focus on the protection of single historic building or historic ruin;
- The conservation of historic city shall balance the relationship between conservation and development;
- The rational development and utilization of cultural heritage;
- The necessary of researching and analysing the characteristic of historic city;
- The protection of historic buildings and other cultural relics is prolonging their life-span. And the restoration and maintenance shall follow its traditional style, but not to repair it as a new one (Ruan, et al, 1999).

From these principles, it can be found out that the conservation concept of historic city includes tangible and intangible aspect (Ruan, et al, 1999; Wu and Li, 2010). And this corresponds with the increased awareness of the importance of social cultural context of the historic cities (like the spirit of place, setting). These conservation principles and requirements are widely accepted and used in China, so they can be found in Lijiang.

5.1.3 Financial resources

Except the well-functioning legal and administrative system, and the proper protection methods, the financial support is essential important for cultural heritage protection. Chinese financial resources for cultural heritage protection are not varies. It mainly bases on the governmental financial appropriation. The Protection of Cultural Relics Law (2007, Article 10) mentions that the people’s government whose level is higher than the county level needs to place the expenditure for cultural heritage protection into its fiscal budget. And the business income of museum, cultural relic protection unit, such as the entrance fee, is specially used for cultural relic protection.

Besides the governmental financial appropriation and business income, the central government set the ‘Special fund for the protection of famous cities of historical and cultural value’ in 1995. The special fund is used for the protection works, including the maintenance and restoration of important historical and cultural protection area in the historic cities (Zhang, 2009). But the financial resources for the development of the historic cities/ towns/ villages or neighbourhoods are mainly relying on local fiscal budget and commercial loan. There is no special fund for the development of a heritage site.

5.1.4 Sustainable development in Chinese historic towns

National policy concerning sustainable development

It has 20 chapters, and consists of 5 main components: general SD, SD for population and society, economic SD, rational use of resources, and environmental conservation (State Council, 1994). In the same year, the ‘Priority Programme for Chinese Agenda 21’ was formulated by various experts with different backgrounds. It sets out the strategic framework for long-term, integrated SD, and is considered to be the national overall guideline for SD (Chan and Ma, 2004). These strategies are too board and is not the concern of the thesis. So the next step focuses on the exploration of SD in Chinese historic towns.

**Sustainable development in Chinese historic towns**

The situation of commodification of cultural heritage is common in China. This situation results in many researches on the SD in historic cities/towns mainly focusing on the sustainable tourism development. For instance, Huang and Yan (2009) identifies several negative effects of tourism development on the Tangqi old town’s (Hangzhou) society, culture, and environment, then offers three suggestions for the old town’s SD; Wang, et al (2007) based on the case studies of three old towns in the southern part of China stated four SD strategies for historic towns; Yan (2009) points out three important principles for the SD of tourism in historic towns; and Li, Y. (2001) find several existing problems in historic town’s tourism industry and gives six measures for the SD of tourism. These researches provide many useful suggestions for SD in Chinese historic towns. Although these suggestions did not follow the three pillars model, they can be easily categorized as the three dimensions (Table 5.2).

The environmental dimension of SD in Chinese historic towns emphasizes the importance of environmental protection, biodiversity, carrying-capacity, and the idea of ‘setting’ which is also mentioned in the Figure 3.1. Except these, it further emphasises the scale of tourism facilities which need to coordinate with the historic fabric. The harmony experience of social-ecological system for tourists, which can also be enjoyed by local inhabitants, raises the interdependence between environmental and social-cultural dimensions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Economic dimension</th>
<th>Environmental dimension</th>
<th>Social-cultural dimension</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>-Consider the quality improvement as the regional competitive and vitality;</td>
<td>-Maintain the ecological balance in the region;</td>
<td>-Respect the historic authenticity and reserve the cultural diversity;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-Cooperative development in the region;</td>
<td>-Respect the nature;</td>
<td>-Reform the social context;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-Set a good urban image and a unique tourism image and build a multi-layers marketing network;</td>
<td>-Rational manage the environmental carrying capacity;</td>
<td>-Revitalization of traditional community;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-The awareness of brand management;</td>
<td>-Control the service facilities and their scale;</td>
<td>-Emphasize the local characteristics;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-Develop high-quality cultural tourism products;</td>
<td>-Formulate a harmony experience of social-ecological system;</td>
<td>-Revive the scene of poetic life;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-Improve infrastructure and the accessibility of the site;</td>
<td>-The harmony development with the surrounding environment.</td>
<td>-Unique characteristic and diversity of ethic groups’ culture;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-Enhance macro-control and guiding effort;</td>
<td></td>
<td>-Community participation;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-Standardize the tourism market order.</td>
<td></td>
<td>-Improve the management and service level;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 5.2 Important issues for Chinese SD in historic towns
The focus point of economic dimension in China refers to the regional competitive and development, marketing, and branding. The tourism product quality and infrastructure is emphasised in the broad context. Meanwhile, the economic benefit of tourism in a historic town in the broad context is recognized in China, too. In Chinese economic dimension, it also mentions the issues which are cross the boundary between economic and social-cultural dimensions—macro-control and standardizing the market order. These two are more related to the local governmental ability which is the institutional aspect of social-cultural dimension. But considering their effects are more obvious in the economic dimension, so these two issues are categorized into the economic dimension.

The important issues in Chinese social-cultural dimension are pointed out in Chapter 3 repeated, like authenticity, cultural diversity, and local identity, etc. But the importance of legal system and education are particularly emphasized. And the issue of the poetic life reflects that people pursues this kind of life because of the high pressure of modern living pace in big cities.

5.2 Dutch cultural heritage conservation structure

The Dutch systematic governmental care of cultural heritage originates in the second half of the nineteenth century. Victor de Steurs plays an important role in it, who publishes the ‘Holland op zijn smalst’. This publication leads to the ‘Provisional list of Dutch monuments of art and history’ which the later official list based on (Lubina, 2009; Richel-Bottinga, 2000).

5.2.1 Legal and administrative aspect

The preservation of historic buildings becomes the official task of the national government in 1874. But the legislation construction was relatively late compared with other European countries. Until 1961, the first principle act ‘Monuments and Historic Buildings Act’ was adopted, and revised in 1988 (de Boer, 2006; Lubina, 2009). Besides the 1988 Act, there are still many other acts related to heritage conservation (Table 5.3).

Table 5.3 Important acts related to heritage conservation in the Netherlands (Source: Lubina, 2009; UNESCO, 2010)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Publish year</th>
<th>Dutch name</th>
<th>English name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1928</td>
<td>Woningwet</td>
<td>Housing Act</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Waterscapswet</td>
<td>Water Board Act</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1984</td>
<td>Natuurschoonwet</td>
<td>Law on ‘Natural Beauty’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>Wet stedelijke vernieuwing</td>
<td>Urban Regeneration Act</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Wet ruimtelijke ordening</td>
<td>Spatial Planning Act</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Wet algemene bepalingen omgevingsrecht (Wabo)</td>
<td>Environmental Licensing (General Provisions) Act</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The 1988 Act consists seven chapters, including general provisions, listed historic buildings/sites, grants, listed urban and village conservation areas, preservation of the archaeological heritage, enforcement and penalties, and transitional and concluding
provisions. The articles concerning the conservation areas are not sufficient. The 1988 Act just mentions the legal procedure for the designation and withdrawal of the area and the requirement of adopting a land use plan.

Besides the acts at the national level, the provincial and municipal governments can make their regulations, bye-laws and policy documents. And the provincial government shall develop the heritage note (erfgoednota, may have different names) and cultural-historical map. The map will contribute to anchor the cultural history into the land use plan (Cultural Heritage Agency, 2012d).

The responsible department at the national level is the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science (Ministerie van Onderwijs, Cultuur en Wetenschappen, OCW). Its responsibility includes the protection and sustainable preservation of the national cultural heritage. And the provincial and municipal government is responsible for the monuments within their territories (Cultural Heritage Agency, 2012e).

The Cultural Heritage Agency (Rijksdienst voor het Cultureel Erfgoed) is a research institute within the Ministry of OCW and responsible for the Register of Monuments. Its targets include listing, preserving, sustainably developing and providing access to the valuable Dutch heritage (Cultural Heritage Agency, 2012e). And like the planning system, some tasks and responsibilities are decentralised to provincial and municipal governments (de Boer, 2006).

5.2.2 The cultural heritage protection methods

There are three main categories of Dutch cultural heritage, but the protection of historic buildings and urban and village conservation areas are the major concerns of this thesis. In addition, two policy documents will be mentioned since they reflect the current conservation tendency in the Netherlands.

Historic buildings

In the past, the restoration principle preserves the condition of historic buildings as it has been. But now it changes to the principle that the restoration can be done whenever is necessary. This principle tries to halt the degradation of the building and to extend its life span (Richel-Bottinga, 2000).

During the designating procedure, the private property owners can object to the listing in the Register of monuments. Once their properties are listed, they need to follow the 1988 Act and related municipal ordinance. The restoration, reconstruction, alteration, or demolish of a monument needs related permit (de Boer, 2006; Richel-Bottinga, 2000). Although the national government is responsible for the listed monuments of national importance, the power of granting permit, according 1988 Act, is decentralized to local authority (municipal executive).

The environmental permit is a new requirement concerning the environment aspect after the Wabo goes into force in 2012. This permit is needed for part of the historic buildings, and the application can be done through Internet (Cultural Heritage Agency, 2012f). The environmental permit and its application procedure reflect the tendency of simpler regulation in the Netherlands.

Urban and village conservation areas

Once the urban and village conservation areas are designated by the Ministry of OCM and the Ministry of I&M, the municipal council must adopt the land use plan for the conservation area according to Wro, 1988 Act, and Urban Regeneration Act.
The protection of conservation area does not attach importance to its historic structure, but also to the monuments in the area and new buildings. The protection of conservation area focuses on the historic structure, characteristic, function, etc., while the protection of the monument takes account of its appearance, authenticity, and integrity with the surroundings (Cultural Heritage Agency, 2012c).

It seems that there is not much emphasis on the conservation area, but actually the protection of an area is tightly linked with the land use plan. In other words, the heritage conservation for a historic area tightly connects with the planning system. The policy documents mention later further strengthens this connection.

**Belvedere**

In 1999, the Ministry of VROM, Ministry of OCM, and the Ministry of Agriculture and Transport published the ‘Belvedere Memorandum’ policy document. This policy is cooperating between policy, cultural history, and spatial planning. The goal refers to the integration of spatial policy and policy on cultural heritage management and reinforcement. The integration is reflected in two approaches: internal integration (integration of historical disciplines, including archaeology, historical geography, and architectural history) and external integration (integration of historical discipline, planning discipline, and architectural discipline) (van der Stoep and van den Brink, 2005).

The Belvedere lasts for ten years (1999-2009) with extra funds. And it is considered as an innovation programme. The principle of ‘preservation by development’ is set in the form of the Belvedere. And the approach presented by Belvedere reflects that making use of cultural heritage and adding an extra cultural dimension to the spatial structure contribute to the quality of the surroundings. Now the Belvedere is finished and four developments are identified: broadening and rejuvenation of the concept of heritage, public participation, and interest in and input from designers (Janssen, et al, 2012; Belvedere, 2009).

**Modernising heritage management**

After the Belvedere policy ends, the policy document ‘Modernising heritage management’ (Modernisering Monumentenzorg, MoMo) published in 2009. There are three main goals of MoMo, including stimulating and supporting the area work, bringing the importance of cultural heritage into account in spatial planning, and cumulating a vision of heritage and reducing the administrative burden (Cultural Heritage Agency, 2012g). The first two goals reflect the trend of Dutch heritage conservation moving from the object-oriented protection to an area-based approach.

As the reflection of the goal of MoMo, the Vision Heritage and Space (Visie Erfoged en Ruimte, VER) published with the sub-topic of ‘Choosing character’. VER points out five priorities in heritage policy. One of them is enhancing the significance of WH by promoting tourism. And another one refers to the living landscape which can be understood as a good balance between heritage, economy (energy transition) and ecology (biodiversity) (Cultural Heritage Agency, 2012h).

So what is the relation between heritage conservation and SD? At the first view, the protection of historic buildings and conservation area is not obvious. But the utilization of historic buildings, especially reusing the building, extends the life span and contributes to the economic dimension of SD. And the living landscape mentioned in VER links to economic and environmental dimensions. The protection of conservation area requires the land use plan, and its relationship with SD already mentioned in the Chapter 4. Not to mention that the Belvedere policy has impact in all three dimensions of SD (economic vibrant, quality of surrounding, place identity, public participation, etc.).
Then what can be expected for the Amsterdam case? The context study of Dutch national situation is abstract. One of the reasons is the decentralization of power, which means that local authority is important for studying the Dutch heritage conservation approach. Only under a specific context (Amsterdam), several detail things can be grasped: the relationship between local heritage conservation and national regulations, relationship between the protection of an area and monuments, more detailed relationship with SD.

5.2.3 Financial resources

The financial support for the heritage conservation is various. Richel-Bottinga (2000) detailed explained the Dutch funding mechanism. The funding mechanism includes grant assistance, tax reductions (income tax, corporation tax, wealth tax, and conveyance tax), and other assistance (private fund or other grant regulations such as Urban renewal grant). And the grant assistance includes several types of grant: grants for restoration, maintenance grants, grants for country seats, and other grants (grants for special purposes). Except these grants on the purpose of preserving heritage, the Ministry of OCM also offers the grants for the change of use of the listed historic buildings (1988 Act). But there is no grant for the conservation areas.

5.2.4 Sustainable development in Dutch historic towns

Regional and national policy concerning sustainable development

In 1997, SD becomes the fundamental objective of the EU, and in 2001 the first EU sustainable development strategy (SDS) launched. But unsustainable trends still exist. Moreover, the member of EU has been enlarged to 25 after 2001. So after a series of actions, a renew strategy is adopted in 2006, and a further review of EU SDS is adopted in 2009. The EU SDS identifies seven key challenges (European Commission Environment, 2012).

On the other hand, the Netherlands started a peer review of its National Strategies for SD in 2006. The main focus is the ‘Sustainable Action (2003)’. The Sustainable Action offers national definition of SD which involves balanced, coordinated management of three domains—socio-cultural domain (people), ecological domain (planet), and economic domain (profit), and identifies twelve sustainability themes (VROM, 2003). But the key challenges and the sustainability themes are too broad for the thesis, so a further search for some more detailed requirements of SD in the Netherlands is needed.

Sustainable development in Dutch heritage sites

Different from Chinese situation, the SD in Dutch cultural heritage field is more from local community’s perspective and does not put emphasis on the tourism too much. Baarveld and Smit (2011) mention that the inner-city redevelopment project will contribute to SD and take into account more things concerning SD. And the awareness of the importance of heritage for SD is increasing in the regeneration and redevelopment schemes (Janssen, et al, 2012). Russo and van der Borg (2002) put forward several suggestions for the SD of tourism in European cities.

Table 5.4 Important issues for Dutch SD in heritage sites

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Economic dimension</th>
<th>Environmental dimension</th>
<th>Social-cultural dimension</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>-Reuse of buildings (saves demolition wastes);</td>
<td>-Regenerative potential of historic environment;</td>
<td>-Context and characteristic of the redevelopment area;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-Redevelopment of inner-city;</td>
<td>-Improve living environment.</td>
<td>-Place/ unique identity;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-Offer opportunities for social-economic</td>
<td></td>
<td>-Improve the satisfaction of local community;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>-Quality of life;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Development | Socially inclusive;  
| -Balance costs and benefits | -More dynamic approach;  
| between actors involved; | -Organising capacity,  
| -Economic vibrant cities; | maintain attraction capacity;  
| -Entrepreneurial skill; | -Quality of information;  
| -Quality of tourist services | -Attractions and events.  
| and products; |  
| -Accessibility (internal and external); |  

(Source: Baarveld and Smit, 2011; Janssen, et al, 2012; de Boer, 2006; Russo and van der Borg, 2002)

The economic dimension does not take account of the economic benefits of tourism on local community, but puts more emphasis on the reuse of buildings and redevelopment projects. In addition, in the accessibly aspect the internal accessibility in a tourism destination is not considered much compared with the external accessibly. It refers to the easy transport between the attractions in the city. In the Dutch context, there are more concerns as to the use of cultural heritage from the local community’s perspective: improving living environment and quality of life.

Although the environmental dimension does not seem to receive enough attention here, actually the Netherlands pays a lot of attention to the environmental issues. One of the critiques on the Sustainable Action is that it mainly focuses on the environmental dimension and misses the economic and social dimensions (iied, 2007). Furthermore, cultural landscape is an important part of Dutch cultural heritage. And its protection and utilization is basically located in the environmental dimension.

It seems that a lot of issues are important in the social-cultural dimension. Actually many of them are reflected in the broad context and Chinese situation too, such as characteristic, identity, quality of life. But the more dynamic approach features the tendency in Dutch heritage planning, and it links with the principle of acceptance of change in the broad context. And maintaining attraction capacity means the city can attract tourists to visit the site repeated.
6. Chinese in-depth study—the case of Old Town of Lijiang

6.1 Introduction of Lijiang city

General introduction

Lijiang city is located in the northwest part of Yunnan province, China (Figure 6.1). In 2002, the State Council approved the proposal of turning Lijiang County into a city. After this, the administrative region of Lijiang includes one district and four counties (Lijiang chorography compilation committee office, 2008). Because of the change of the administrative status, a series changes happen in order to adapt this update, such as the

Figure 6.1 Location of Lijiang Old Town (Source: Ayican-Chinese do-it-yourself travel, 2010a; MyBeijingChina, 2010; Marc-Antoine, 2008)
change of the designated function, characteristics, etc.

**Resources—culture**

Lijiang has multi-ethnic groups living together which reflects the characteristic of cultural diversity, including Naxi (the indigenous people), Yi, Lisu, etc. *(Lijiang chorography compilation committee office, 2011)*. Most indigenous people of Lijiang old town is Naxi ethic. But except Naxi people, Yi, Lisu ethnic groups are also the important nationalities in Lijiang. Their own customs, traditions, etc. merged into Naxi culture and form the unique characteristic of Lijiang (like the architectural style).

Dongba religion is the original natural religion developed based on Naxi’s primitive worship and deeply affects Naxi living style. Dongba religion adores nature and ancestor, and keeps the harmonious relationship between people and nature. Naxi ethic not only creates and preserves the Dongba script which is the only living hieroglyph in the world, but also keeps the Naxi ancient music which maybe the oldest music in China or even in the world *(Li, B., 2008)*.

**Resources—tourism**

Lijiang and its surroundings have rich tourism resources which creates the possibility for tourism industry becomes the leading industry of Lijiang economy. Generally speaking, the tourism resources of Lijiang are two mountains (Jade Dragon Snow Mountain and Laojun Mountain), one town (Lijiang Old Town), one lake (Lugu Lake), one river (Jinshan River), one culture (Dongba culture), and one custom (Mosuo custom). In addition to the rich tourism resources, Lijiang also has rich biological resources and hydropower resources *(Lijiang chorography compilation committee office, 2008)*. But compared with the contribution of tourism for the local economy, the contribution of the biological and hydropower resources is less obvious.

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GDP (100 million RMB)</td>
<td>143.59</td>
<td>60.33</td>
<td>31.72</td>
<td>18.39</td>
<td>3.83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary industry (%)</td>
<td>18.12</td>
<td>23.77</td>
<td>33.32</td>
<td>41.82</td>
<td>1.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary industry (%)</td>
<td>38.34</td>
<td>28.51</td>
<td>23.39</td>
<td>26.59</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tertiary industry (%)</td>
<td>43.54</td>
<td>47.65</td>
<td>43.25</td>
<td>31.59</td>
<td>1.17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*(Sources: Lijiang chorography compilation committee office, 2008; Yunnan Bureau of Statistics, 2011)*

Table 6.1 shows the increasing importance of tourism industry (tertiary industry) in Lijiang macro-economy, especially after Lijiang old town became a WHS in 1997. But comparing the economic situation of Lijiang with other cities in Yunnan province or China, Lijiang is not as wealthy as people supposed, even though the tourism development brings a lot of revenue *(Yunnan Bureau of Statistics, 2011)*. It means that the financial support from Lijiang government for the conservation and development of the old town may not be enough.

**World Heritage—Old Town of Lijiang**

According to the World Heritage List, Old Town of Lijiang has three parts. The location of the three components is, from north to the south, Baisha housing cluster (Baisha), Shuhe housing cluster (Shuhe), and Dayan old town (includes the Black Dragon Pool) *(UNESCO, 1997)*. The main part of Lijiang Old Town is Dayan old town which is rooted at the foot of Lion Mountain and its east side is Jinhong Mountain. And the Jade Dragon Snow Mountain is on the north of Lijiang Old Town, which is an important component of the
townscape. Dayan and Shuhe are located in the old town district, but Baisha is located in the Jade Dragon Naxi autonomous county of Lijiang city.

6.2 History and conservation value of Lijiang Old Town

6.2.1 Brief history of Lijiang old town

Because of the geographic location of Lijiang, it is the transit depot of Chinese southwest transportation and trade since ancient time, and also one of the important towns of the Ancient Tea-Horse Road. It has the pivotal role on the ethnic cultures and economy exchange and communication among Tibetan, Han, Bai, Naxi nationalities. Lijiang Old Town was built during the period turning Song Dynasty to Yuan Dynasty (the end of 13th century) and grew during Ming and Qing Dynasty. It has more than 800 years’ history (Yu, 2005; Li, B., 2008; Song, 2005).

The spatial development pattern of Lijiang Old Town is tightly linked with the development of the indigenous people—Naxi ethic, and also reflects the procedure of Naxi adapting and transforming the environment. Lijiang Dam used to be marsh geomorphology and surrounded by mountains. And the only outfall was in the south of the dam. So the spatial development of Lijiang old town moved from higher location—north (Baisha) to the south (Dayan) because of the requirement of the drainage and flood discharge (Zhou and Gu, 2010).

The historical functions of the three regions influence their designated positions and functions in the ‘World Cultural Heritage Lijiang Old Town Protection Plan’. Baisha is the earliest political, religious, commercial and cultural centre of Naxi. During Ming Dynasty, Mu Family moves south to Dayan and starts building Wood Palace and excavating Western River. It means that Dayan replaces Baisha and becomes the new political, economic and commercial centre. At the same time, Baisha starts new religious building construction and becomes the religious centre. Shuhe started recruiting and settling blacksmith and artisan of leatherwork down and constructed the administrative institution. It means that Shuhe becomes the centre of handicraft industry and economy. During Qing Dynasty, Dayan starts the construction of official-type architecture (such as the state district for officers, ancient academy) and excavates the Eastern River. The water system with three rivers and the east area of Dayan old town are formed during this period (Zhou and Gu, 2010; UNESCO, 1997).

6.2.2 The old town’s conservation value

The recognition and evaluation on the value of Lijiang Old Town can date back to 1930s when famous architectural historian Liu Dunzhen did the fieldwork and researched the Naxi folk house style (Cheng, et al, 2010). The value of Lijiang Old Town is generally divided into the layout, architecture, water system (environment) and culture (already mentioned before) here. Because the construction of Dayan old town has been finished during its meridian stage, so the conservation values of Lijiang Old Town will mainly be analysed based on Dayan old town, especially the layout and water system part.

Overall layout

Dayan old town does not have wall. It is said that when the Chieftain Mu decided to build the town, a person told him that if he builds a wall then Mu (in Chinese 木) is trapped inside (forms the Chinese’困’ which has the meaning of ‘sleep, poor, difficulty, get trapped’). So the Chieftain Mu gives up the idea of building a wall for the town (Yang, 2010).

The layout of Dayan old town is different from any other Chinese ancient town. Its pattern is developed based on geographical environment. The town develops along the mountain and water without regular road network. It first has the Square Street and then
expands along the Square Street, which is also the development regularity of other Lijiang settlements, including Shuhe and Baisha. The streets connecting the Square Street develops along the rivers and divides into main roadway, street, alleyway based on the size of tributaries they go with. It forms the road network which is flexible and leading everywhere. So Dayan old town is awarded as ‘has the most scientific layout of ancient architecture complex in China’ (Zhou and Gu, 2010; Huang, 2009; Li and Zhang, 2010).

**Architecture**

The dwellings in Lijiang old town not just absorb the essence of Han, Bai and Zang nationalities, but also have the unique characteristic of Naxi nationality. The folk houses take advantages of gallery courtyard and quadrangle style in the Central Plain and create their own style according to local condition (Huang, 2009; Huang, 1985; Zhuang, 1997).

The material of Lijiang architecture used more mud bricks and hewn stones before but Lijiang is located in the seismic belt, the architectural resistance of earthquake of the architecture built by mud bricks and hewn stones is poor, so the inhabitants gain the experience during the anti-seismic process, and create many construction methods to reduce the earthquake damage (such as the brink column and adobe wall) (Zhuang, 1997).

**Water and bridges**

The traditional functions of Lijiang old town water system are: domestic use water, flood control, fire resistance, and the cleaning function. Nowadays with the development of tourism and increasing number of tourists, the water system in the old town has new function: beautify the environment and regulate the urban microclimate (Zhou and Tang, 2008; Zhuang, 1997).

There are two unique features of Lijiang old town water system which not only attract tourists and scholars’ attention but also reflect the effective utilization of water of Naxi. One is the Three-Fit wells (三眼井), and the other one is the sanitation system of the Square Street (水洗四方街) which probably makes the Lijiang old town become the only square with the sanitation system in ancient China (Li, B., 2008).

The Three-Fit well is constructed making use of the estavel. Spring flows from the highest well to the lowest one. The upper well is drinking water, and the middle one is for washing vegetables and the third one is for washing laundry. Except the strict rule on the position of using water, Naxi people also has oral agreement on the time schedule on using the well. According to the agreement, morning and evening is the time for drinking water. This time is not allowed to use the well to wash vegetables and laundry. After 10 o’clock in the morning, people can use the middle and the third wells. Local people always strictly maintain these customs and habits (Zhuang, 1997; Zhou & Tang, 2008; Li, B., 2008; Li and Zhang, 2010). But after the development of tourism, many businessmen come here to earn money. They do not follow these customs and habits which cause the degradation of the water quality.

**6.3 Conservation perspective**

Naxi nationality is an ethic group which adores nature, pays attention to natural environment protection and its utilization. And Dongba religion plays an important role in this perspective. Since ancient times, Lijiang people have the tradition of protecting the old town. The reason why the old town can exist till now is closely connected with inhabitants’ protection, appeal from insightful persons in various periods, and local government’s attention (Huang, 2009).
6.3.1 Legal structure

As early as 1958, the Construction Bureau and the people’s government of Lijiang Country compiles the Master Plan for Lijiang County in the first time, advances the strategy idea of ‘protects the old town and develops a new town’ (Huang, 2009). The local government makes a lot of efforts to compile policy documents and plans and to set related administrative institutions for protecting the old town. Together with laws and bye-laws at the national and provincial level and conventions and chapters at the international level, the policy documents and plans form a relative well-functioned legal structure for Lijiang old town conservation (Figure 6.2).

The focus point of Lijiang old town conservation changes with time. The project ‘Five-four-three-two-one project for the Lijiang old town conservation’ in 1994 and a series projects for improving old town’s infrastructure before and after Lijiang applies for the World Heritage shows that the focus of the conservation work at that time is the repairmen and maintenance of the old town built environment. These projects have improved the environmental quality, enhanced the old town’s infrastructure construction, maintained the folk houses and kept them in good conditions. After that, each year’s government report it can shows that the conservation focus begins to change to the natural and social environment, not just focuses on the built environment.

The ‘World cultural heritage Lijiang old town protection plan’ (shorten as ‘Protection plan’) (2002) is a plan guiding the old town conservation work from an overall aspect. It mentions that the protection object includes three indivisible components of Lijiang old town—biological system, built environment and social environment. It also identifies the boundaries of the protection zone, buffer zone and the environmental coordinating zone and puts forward related protection or control requirements.

The ‘Regulation for Yunnan Lijiang old town protection’ (shortened as ‘Protection regulation’) (2005) regulates the old town conservation work from legal aspect. It specially points out that local government shall place the old town conservation into local development strategy. It regulates different aspects in the old town, including the maintenance of the folk house, the implementation and renovation of the infrastructure, fire control, water source protection, and environmental sanitation. And as the requirement of the Protection regulation, the World heritage Lijiang old town protection and management bureau (shortened as old town protection bureau) is established.

This bureau, settled in the Dayan old town, is mainly responsible for the protection and management of Lijiang old town. In addition, because the Baisha is in the Jade Dragon Naxi autonomous county, not like Dayan and Shuhe located in the Old Town District, the old town protection bureau sets an office and gives advice on its protection.

Li, A. (2008) summarizes that the protection of Lijiang old town has three layers—point, line, and area. But in the opinion of the author of this thesis, point-line-area three layers protection mainly revolves around the biological system and built environment according to the Protection Plan. In other words, Lijiang old town conservation framework can be summarized as point-line-area three layer protection and the protection of the social environment. Their detailed protection regulations and methods will be explained in the coming part.
### Conservation framework

#### Ownership

Basically the ownerships of the historic buildings are the local government and inhabitants. The public buildings (such as the Wood Palace) and religious buildings are owned by the local government. Except these, local government also own some folk houses which are used as public renting houses. And the rest of the folk houses, most of them are owned by the local inhabitants which mainly are Naxi people.

#### Point level

This level, the protection mainly refers to the protection of traditional dwelling and cultural relics, renovation of public architecture and gardens (such as the Wood Palace,
officer mansion), and the bridges protection. The traditional dwellings are divided into three levels: important protected folk house, protection folk house, and folk house. The protection requirement, from strictly to relative loose ones, corresponds with the classification of the traditional dwellings (Appendix 5).

The restoration and maintenance of the folk house needs to be approved by several departments to get the required permits, including the sub-district office, old town protection bureau and planning bureau. Except the related permits, the design institution and construction company also has requirements. The designers and restoration workers need to be familiar with Naxi culture and its architectural style (Protection regulation, 2005; Zhu and Xiao, 2006; Yunnan Information Newspaper, 2011).

The conservation at the ‘point’ level of preserving the buildings forms the foundation of reusing these historic buildings. Only when the buildings are well preserved, can they be reused and extend their life span. And their utilization will bring economic benefits for local. The trees, bridges, and other elements are important components of the old town. Their protection can be categorised at the point level and has positive effect on the townscape.

**Line level**

The protection of the streets and water system is the main content of this level. First is to protect the spatial structure of the street and water, make sure that the relationship between street and water is of diversity and compatibility. And the consistency of street facade, height difference relations and water’s location, size and direction cannot be changed. Also, the street’s visual corridor and the horizon contour line also need to be protected. For the water, there are strict rules on the length, width, direction, etc. Dumping sewage and garbage into the river courses is forbidden. Owing to the increasing tourists, at certain position of the river courses some mesh obstructions are set to catch floating debris and guarantee the water quality (Protection plan, 2002; Protection regulations, 2005; Li, A., 2008).

The rivers and creeks, streets and street facade, etc. at the ‘line’ level formulate the pattern of the old town. Their protection keeps the spatial structure of the old town and contributes to its integrity, and has positive effect on the environmental dimension of SD.

**Area level**

The area level protection refers to the three levels of protection zones—protection zone, buffer zone, and environmental coordinating zone. As the protection requirements of the folk houses at different levels, different zones also have different restrictions ranging from high level to relatively loose one (Appendix 5). Among the three zones, the area of buffer zone is widening because of the changes in protection requirements. And according to the Protection plan, the environmental coordinating zone is the whole Lijiang Dam except the protection zone and buffer zone.

The conservation of the ‘area’ reflects the increasing awareness of the importance of the transition between the historic town and modern city in China. And the area conservation also refers to the integrity principle.

**Social environment**

According to the Protection Plan (2002), the scope of social environment including the humanistic characteristic reflects from Naxi nationality and other nationalities’ social lives, custom, tradition, arts and crafts, etc. Among the protection measures for the social environment, the most obvious one is that local government primarily rents out the houses at a low price to the person who is working on publicizing and creating the traditional culture. And local government promotes the project of relocating cultural celebrities back to
the old town, for example, the Fang Guoyu former residence, He Zhigang Study, etc. Since 2002, local government has decided to enhance the collection, arrangement, preservation and inheritance work of Dongba culture, Naxi ancient music, folk art and craft, traditional clothes, custom and festival, such as setting up the Lijiang culture seminar, Naxi culture seminar etc. (Lijiang People’s Government, 2004, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011).

The social environmental conservation mainly focuses on the intangible cultural heritage. Through promoting these actions, local people’s awareness of the importance of their traditional culture may be raised. And the popularity of their culture and the old town enhances their pride of their home town.

There are many regulations on other aspects on the purpose of protection, such as the regulation on noise and the transportation in the old town. For the transportation aspect, vehicles are not allowed to get into the old town, except the special vehicles for official duties (sanitation, fire control, police, postal, ambulance etc.) and the small vehicles which have the access permit can get into the old town at the specified time. And bicycles are not allowed to circle in Dayan old town (Protection plan, 2002; Protection regulations, 2005).

To guarantee the well-functioned conservation framework, the financial support is important. As is discussed in Chapter 4, the main financial support of Chinese heritage conservation comes from governmental financial appropriation and revenue, such as entrance fee. But Lijiang Old Town is an old town without wall, which means there is no entrance fee. So just relying on the governmental financial appropriation is far from being enough for the protection. So in 2002 approved by the Yunnan provincial People’s Government, Lijiang starts collecting the Maintenance fee. Besides the maintenance fee, the commercial loan is another important financial resource for the conservation.

6.4 Development perspective

General aspect from comprehensive plans

Tourism development is greatly influencing the development of Lijiang which can be viewed from the changes of city’s character and designated function through different comprehensive plans (Appendix 5). The tourism industry of Lijiang starts in 1985 and becomes the leading industry of Lijiang in 1995 (Duan, 2002a). So in the 1983 version, the character of Lijiang is a town with light industry, but in the 1991 version the character changes into a developing tourism town after the tourism industry starts its development. And in 1995 when tourism industry is identified as the leading industry, the character of Lijiang becomes the important developing tourism city of the northwest part of Yunnan province. And it has been changed to the developing international tourism city after Lijiang Old Town is inscribed on the WHL (Ge, et al, 2009).

Because the new planning law goes into force and many other changes, the Standing Committee of Lijiang People’s Congress decides to revise the 2004 version of the Lijiang Comprehensive Plan. In the Comprehensive Plan of Lijiang City (2010-2030), it states several important guiding principles of the plan, including protecting ecological environment, respecting cultural heritage, promoting the coordinating development of the economy, society and environment of Lijiang, SD, etc. (Lijiang Planning Bureau, 2012). So at least in the political documents, the development of Lijiang follows the principle of SD. But if local government focuses on the Lijiang old town area, how does it work in order to achieve SD?

6.4.1 Tourism

Before the development of tourism in Lijiang, the financial income of Lijiang mainly relies on the lumbering industry and other enterprises which may pollute the environment but have better economic benefits. To protect the environment, local government shuts
down these enterprises and forbids the lumber, and the tourism industry is considered as the alternative industry (Duan, 2002a). After that, the revenue of tourism contributes a lot to local economy which can be viewed from Table 6.1.

The tourism development in Lijiang can be divided into several stages, the division stage made by Wang (2009) is chosen because the change of the relationship between local community and tourism can be found in his work. Currently, the negative impact of tourism on local community is obvious, but this work proves that at certain period there has been good relationship between tourism and local community.

The first stage is the exploratory stage (1981-1990). During this period, Lijiang does not have many tourists and tourism facilities. But because of two books—*The Ancient Naxi (Naxi) Kingdom of Southwest China* (Joseph Rock) and *Forgotten Kingdom* (Peter Goullart), Lijiang is more popular overseas than in China (Wang, 2009). So in this stage, Lijiang has already had some foreigners visiting it, and the number of international tourists is more than the domestic tourists for some times.

The second stage is the involvement stage (1990-1994). During this stage, tourists increase, but the portion of foreign tourists is higher than domestic tourists. So some local inhabitants start offering some simple facilities for tourism, and change their lifestyle to adjust the tourism seasons. Local government clearly states the issue of developing tourism in the agenda, and started establishing the tourism facilities and tourism management institute (Wang, 2009). During these two stages, the conflict between tourism and local community does not arise until the developing stage (1994 till now).

The developing stage is further divided into four sub-stages. It is not necessary for this thesis to know so detailed issues, but one thing is worth mentioning in the first sub-stage (1994-1999). During this sub-stage, the simple eating and living facilities offered by local inhabitants were replaced by the modern facilities (Wang, 2009). Although there is no article or policy document clearly mentioning the time when negative impact of tourism is recognized, it can be assumed that the negative impact of tourism rise during this period or at least at the end of this period on the basis of the conservation history of Lijiang old town.

Bao and Su (2004) do a research on the commercial situation in the streets of Lijiang old town where tourists usually visit, and comparing the data in 2002 with the data done by Yamamura, T. in 2000. They conclude that the shops whose main consumers are tourists were increasing. Although this data is a little outdated, it still shows that the development of Lijiang old town is dominated by tourism. And a policy document directly points out that the shops in the Square Street and several other streets which tourists visit most mainly sell tourism souvenirs (Old town protection bureau, 2003).

To better control and guide the commercial activities in the old town, local government compiles three special plans (Figure 6.2) and implements the mechanism of Admission of Business Operation to try to control the number and scale of shops in the old town. In the protection zone, in principle it will not allow opening new shops and will condense the current number and scale of the shops. And if their business content in the shop does not fit the traditional feature of old town, such as jewellery shop, massage shop, internet bar, etc., will be moved out of the old town (Old town protection bureau, 2003).

Moreover, to make sure that local inhabitants can benefit from the tourism development if the shop assistants in the shops in the old town are more than five persons the local inhabitants must take up more than 70% of people, and if the shop assistants are less than five persons the shop must have one local inhabitant at least (Old town protection bureau, 2003). Through this measure, local government tries to let local inhabitants benefit from the tourism from the job creation aspect.
Generally speaking, the most obvious contribution of tourism in Lijiang old town are reflected in the economic dimension, including the job creation, increased income, revenue, etc. These economic benefits cannot be identified until the developing stage, but also in this stage the negative effects of tourism in local community are identified. The contribution of tourism on other two dimension of SD needs to combine with other aspects, such as the conservation aspect, local community and culture aspect, etc.

6.4.2 Living and culture

Tourism development not just benefits from the economy of Lijiang, but also promotes the cultural heritage conservation. The revenue of tourism and the needs of tourists contribute to the restoration of Wood Palace, Baisha Mural, etc. And the traditional handicrafts, such as hand-made bronze ware, pottery, traditional ethnic clothes, etc., revitalize and come into the tourism market (Duan, 2002a).

The rich intangible cultural heritage not just attracts scholars’ attention, but also attracts many artists’ attention. Until now, Lijiang has three famous cultural brands—Naxi ancient music, dancing-show ‘Lishui Jinsha’, and ‘Impression of Lijiang· Snow mountain’ (Hu, 2011). These show or directly perform intangible cultural heritage, which is a creative work using traditional culture and custom. Especially the ‘Impression of Lijiang· Snow mountain’, all the actors of this show are farmers from ten ethnic groups, and come from villages in Yunnan (SINA, 2006). These three attract a great number of tourists and bring lot revenue for local government.

This development and protection method can clearly demonstrate the intangible cultural heritage, encourage the cultural industry development, and let the local benefit from their traditional culture. Furthermore, a more obvious way for the utilization of local culture can be found in the business in the old town. Local government uses administrative and economic methods to encourage people to utilize their traditional culture. Several areas where the business contents mainly focus on traditional culture (such as an area for ethnic cultural product and an area for hand-made bronze wares and potteries) are set in the old town (Old town protection bureau, 2003). Among these areas, a block is worth mentioning—Lijiang traditional ethnic characteristic block. In this block, the business content must be related to local ethnic culture (such as the local traditional snacks, clothes, traditional handicrafts), and the business runner must be local inhabitants and running follow the traditional way (Old town protection bureau, 2009). The economic method to promote the traditional cultural development is through rent concession and subsidies.

Although the local government makes great efforts to control and guide the business activities in the old town, the negative impact of tourism still exists, and many local inhabitants choose to rent out their houses to businessmen from outside and move to the new town. The three main reasons for local inhabitants moving out during the period of 1987-1999 are crowded houses, inconvenience of living, and yearning for the modern life in new town (Bao and Su, 2004). And after the fast development of tourism, people cannot endure the noisy situation of the old town and are forced to move out is another reason for local inhabitants. Moreover, many people live in the old town are poverty, and a great amount of rental attracts them to rent their houses and improve their living quality (Cai and Gong, 2011). The problem of local inhabitants’ moving out is recognized by local government in 2002 (Duan, 2002b). And the government takes several actions to try to encourage local inhabitants to live in the old town, including distributing living subsidy for local inhabitants, priority arrange local people who has housing difficulties to the houses owned by government and rent it at a cheap price, arranging local inhabitants who lose the jobs to the service position in the town, and established a transportation service centre for local
inhabitants offering free and fast transportation service (such as diver daily necessities), etc. 

(Protection regulation, 2005; Old town protection bureau, 2011).

6.4.3 Other development actions

The popular of Lijiang attracts tens of thousands of tourists come to Lijiang, especially during holiday and the Golden week (October 1st to 7th every year). Most of the tourists will visit Lijiang old town and Jade Dragon Snow Mountain and cause the problem of over-loaded carrying capacity. Especially the Lijiang old town, many people complain about the crowdedness (Cai and Gong, 2011). But the officer from the Old town protection bureau pointed out that the carrying capacity of Lijiang old town is not over-loaded. The bureau spent several years to do the scientific calculation of the old town’s carrying capacity. It turns out that the old town can accept more tourists. And the concern of over-loaded carrying capacity is due to the fact that most tourists concentrate in the Square Street, Xinhua street, etc. which is the core tourism and commercial area with three kilometres long (Interview, 09-02-2012). Then because of the rich tourism resource in Lijiang, the idea of spreading out the tourists and directing them to other scenic spots rises (Cai and Gong, 2011). And for the tourists visiting the core area of the old town (mainly Dayan old town), the tourists are relative less in the eastern part of the Dayan old town, Shuhe and Baisha, so tourists can be directed to this area and lower the tourist density of the core area (Yu, 2005).

The fast increasing tourists, not only causes the over-loaded carrying capacity, but also the degradation of natural environment, especially the Jade Dragon Snow Mountain. With the help of 3S technology (RS, GIS, GPS), it is proved that the forest coverage of Lion Mountain, Jinhong Mountain and other mountains which are important for the townscape is reduced (Wang, et al, 2010). The quality of the surrounding environment of Lijiang old town is vitally important from both the conservation and development perspectives. To improve the environmental quality, local government starts several environmental renovation projects. According to 2004 governmental report, the government puts the environmental renovation project of the Lijiang old town and Lion Mountain in the agenda and since that almost every year’s governmental report mentions the projects related to environmental protection or renovation in progress or in prospect (Lijiang People’s Government, 2004, 2005, 2007, and 2009).

Another important environmental issue for the Lijiang old town is the quality of water. It is an important component of the townscape. But the increasing tourists and tourism activities exert high pressure on it. Moreover, a lot of businessmen are from outside cities/towns. They just consider the old town as a place where they can earn money, and do not take on the responsibility for protecting the environment (Ning and He, 2007). Some of them dump rubbish and waste water into the river which badly pollute the water. Besides the degradation of water quality, the problem of lack of quality water arises because the increased tourism activities and commercial activities raise the demand of water. So in 2005, local government starts the water transfer project to make sure the use of landscape water in the old town. And in 2007, the government mentions that the water quality is improved because of the ecological environmental protection projects (Lijiang People’s Government, 2005 and 2007).

But because author of this thesis is not familiar with environmental quality assessment and lack of related data, so it is hard to judge whether or not these projects work efficiency. But at least, it can be seen that local government react on the problems and take the environmental protection into the governmental agenda.
6.5 Reflection on the case

After the separated analysis of the conservation and development perspectives of Lijiang old town, this part will do the analysis combining the two perspectives following the three pillars model of SD (Figure 3.1 in p.29).

Environmental dimension

There is no doubt that a series of environmental protection projects promoted by local government have positive impact on improving the environmental quality. And the establishment of the buffer zone and environmental coordinating zone is not just the requirement of heritage conservation but also the requirement of SD. The protection of important landscape features (including water, trees, bridges, etc.) contributes to both townscape which attracts a great number of tourists and the quality of the old town’s environment. Moreover, the increasing tourists and their demand of high quality of the townscape raise the awareness of environmental protection.

But the carrying capacity is a doubting problem. The main problem is the lack of standard for judging the carrying capacity is over-loaded or not. Although the Old town protection bureau said through their years’ investigation the carrying capacity of the old town is not over-loaded, it is the fact that people feel crowded in some popular places, such as the Square Street and its surroundings.

Then the suggestion of directing some tourists to other tourism destination leads to another problem: does this suggestion cause the other sites’ carrying capacity to be over-loaded or degradation of the environment? From the point of view of the author in this thesis, the carrying capacity depends on the degree of tourism development and the steering ability of the government. The author of this thesis agrees to the method of guiding tourists to other sites. A simple example can explain it. Baisha is a component of the WHS, but it does not have many tourists visited. Most people who live in Baisha are the old generation. Many young generation move to the old town district to work. If tourists do not visit this site, the local people cannot meet their essential needs (food, income, jobs, etc.). And the young generation prefers to stay in the cities for jobs and better income. Once the old generation passes away, this site will perish.

Economic dimension

The economic contribution of tourism in Lijiang is evident (job creation, increased income, revenue, etc.) and because of the tourism development in the old town, the historic buildings can be used for business (such as shops, restaurants, inns, etc.). It is proved that the tourism development reduces the number of empty houses in the old town (Bao and Su, 2004), which means that tourism can contribute to heritage conservation.

But tourism development also causes other problems. To earn money from tourists many shops change their selling target from local inhabitants to tourists which make people living in the old town inconvenient. And the great number of tourists makes the town unfamiliar or not feeling as home for indigenous people. Then many of them may choose move out. So it is harder and harder to find indigenous people in the old town (Su, 2012).

The tourism development contributing to Lijiang economy can be viewed from another aspect. As is mentioned above, before tourism developed in Lijiang, the city mainly relies on lumbering and other light industries which are harmful to the environmental quality. But the resources of Lijiang are not just limited in tourism and culture. Lijiang has rich biological resources and water energy. The tourism industry improves the economic condition of Lijiang and makes the city possible to start developing the bio-industry and hydro-energy. This reflects the principle of SD of the utilization of the local economic potential.
**Social-cultural dimension**

Mentioning Lijiang, the first impression of most people will be Lijiang old town, WHS. Lijiang old town becomes local identity and Lijiang people is proud of it. And local government knows the importance of the brand. Branding the Lijiang old town and other three cultural shows turn out an effective strategy. Maintaining the folk houses and using them to encourage people to protect and make use of their traditional culture indeed has positive effects in the intangible cultural heritage protection. It keeps many traditional crafts and culture alive, such as Naxi paper, Naxi ancient music, hand-made silverware, etc.

But the conflict between tourism and local community cannot be ignored. Local government realizes this problem in an early stage and takes several actions to prevent and minimize it. In fact, these actions do not seem to work efficiently, such as the living subsidies. The method of living subsidies runs for years. The money of living subsidies per person is less, though the total amount of prepared money seems a lot. Comparing the limited living subsidies with the great amount of rental, many people undoubtedly choose to rent out their houses to businessmen. The high rental is not the only reason for local inhabitants moving out, but it is indeed an important reason. The reasons for local inhabitants to move out are complex, including working location (work in the new town), yearning for modern life, inconvenience, tourists, high rent, etc.

In sum, tourism development in Lijiang has both positive and negative impacts. From the local community’s perspective, tourism development in Lijiang is necessary, and its advantages are more than disadvantages. To the cultural heritage protector’s perspective, the negative impact of tourism cannot be neglected, and they doubt the strategy of developing tourism in historic cities and towns.
7. Dutch in-depth study—the case of Seventeenth Canal Ring area in Amsterdam inside the Singelgracht

7.1 Introduction of the inner city of Amsterdam

General introduction

Amsterdam is located in the Province North Holland (Noord-Holland) and in the west part of the Netherlands (Figure 7.1). It is the largest city and the capital of the country. Amsterdam has the long tradition as the centre of commerce, overseas trade and culture (I Amsterdam, 2012a; Deben, et al, 2004). And it is also an important transportation hub which contributes to the easy accessibility for the international tourists.

![The location of Amsterdam](image1)

![The map of Amsterdam historic centre](image2)

Figure 7.1 Location of Amsterdam World Heritage Site
(Source: IBC, 2012; Canal District World Heritage, 2010d)

Resources—culture

Amsterdam is the most multicultural city in the world and the melting pot of cultures, because it has 180 nationalities. And a large number of the population has the immigrant background. These immigrants bring various lifestyles and religions (Gilderbloom, et al, 2009; I Amsterdam, 2012b). Moreover, Amsterdam, as the centre of culture, offers a great amount of cultural activities and sports events for both inhabitants and visitors including festivals, museums, theatres, etc.

Resource—tourism

Amsterdam is the top ten destinations for tourists and conventions in Europe. The attractions of Amsterdam are diversified including various festivals, sports events, museum, inner city (canal area), etc. Although Amsterdam is a compact city, it still has a lot of green (like gardens, parks) and blue (like canals, rivers) which attracts many nature-loving people. Moreover the increasing number of conferences and business meetings in Amsterdam brings another group of visitors for the city (ATCB, 2009).
In spite of the attraction of Amsterdam, the surrounding of Amsterdam also has many attractions including two WH sites (De Beemster and Amsterdam Defence Line), Zaanse Schans, Zuiderzee fishing towns, etc.

**World Heritage—Seventeenth canal ring area in Amsterdam inside the Singelgracht**

The Seventeenth canal ring area in Amsterdam inside the Singelgracht is inscribed on the WHL in 2010. As is shown in Figure 7.1, the area which property (canal district, Grachtengordel) and the buffer zone inscribed on the WHL is basically the area of the Central District (Stadsdeel Centrum). So the management of this area is the responsibility of the Central Borough of the City of Amsterdam. Because the WH property is hard to separate from the inner city or the historic centre of Amsterdam, and the analysis of the protection methods and development strategies takes the canal district and the buffer zone as a whole is easier than just thinking about the canal district, so in this case study the research area takes the canal district and buffer zone together into consideration which means the Central District is the focus area.

### 7.2 History and conservation value of the inner city of Amsterdam

#### 7.2.1 Brief history of the inner city of Amsterdam

The history of Amsterdam can be traced back to the end of 12th century. During that period and 13th century, Amsterdam is a small fishing village. Because of the growth of commerce and trade in the 14th and 15th centuries, Amsterdam starts its expansion. And then in 16th century, the increasing population and growth of trade, the city needs the expansion. But because of the high cost of expansion, land and house owners opposed to it, people starts to live outside the city. At the end of 16th century, the city government decides to expand itself which leads to the construction of a new port and trading city in 17th century (Wijn, 2007; UNESCO, 2010). After the expansion during 17th century, current layout of the Central District is formulated.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Function of the city</th>
<th>Features</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12th and 13th</td>
<td>Trade and fishing place</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14th and 15th</td>
<td>Growth of commerce and trade</td>
<td>-Need more space for harbours, quays and warehouses;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>-Large expansion in 1425.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16th century</td>
<td>Expand trade (mainly focus on Europe) and shipping</td>
<td>-Overpopulation of the city;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>-Citizens live outside the city.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17th century</td>
<td>Trade (world trade) and industry; Cultural capital of Europe</td>
<td>-3rd expansion in 1613 (west side);</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Golden Age)</td>
<td></td>
<td>-4th expansion in 1662 (east side).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18th century</td>
<td>Finance (capital invested and borrowed), trade declined</td>
<td>-Convert warehouses into apartments</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As is shown in Table 7.1, the development of Amsterdam is largely affected by the maritime trade, and in the 17th and 18th centuries the industry, finance and culture play their roles in the development procedure. These traditional functions contribute to the development nowadays.
7.2.2 Conservation value of the Amsterdam centre

The inscription on the WHL means that the uniqueness of the Amsterdam centre is international recognized. The values of Amsterdam centre can be briefly categorized into three as the Lijiang old town—overall layout, architecture, and water and bridge.

Overall layout

The canal district is a good example of hydraulic and urban planning on a large scale. The canal district is the result of a vast project constructed in the 17th century. The project constructs three main canals in the concentric arcs form and several waterways to connect the canals. This intersecting canal network forms the basis of the urban layout. The real-estate develops alongside the canals. The planed extension attracts other European builders’ attention and influenced other countries’ civil engineering and town planning (UNESCO, 2010; Canal District World Heritage, 2010a).

Architecture

Alongside the canals, this area is dominated by the merchants’ canal houses which vary in height, width and style. Together with the gabled facades in the central district, this area attracts a great number of tourists who are interested in cultural heritage and architectural design. In spite of the historic buildings, the movement of ‘Amsterdam School’ at the beginning of 20th century forms the city’s own architectural style (I Amsterdam, 2012c). The architectures following this style are also attractions for many interested visitors.

In 1421 a big fire destroys one third of wooden houses. After that, the city government forbids the construction of wooden house (Wijn, 2007). And the main construction material becomes brick in the central district.

Water and bridges

The traditional function of the canal network includes transportation and defence (hydraulic and military) which is still functioning nowadays. But now it has more functions—recreation and an important component of the district’s picturesque ambience (UNESCO, 2010; Canal District World Heritage, 2010b).

Because of many canals and waterways, there are a great many bridges in Amsterdam with different style and length. The water and bridges forms an important part of the cityscape.

7.3 Conservation perspective

Before inscribed on the WHL, the Amsterdam centre is classified as a national conservation area (Binnen de Singelgracht) in 1999 and has 6684 national monuments and 1130 municipal monuments (UNESCO, 2010). The legal system and conservation methods are effective enough, and the inscription on the WHL does not need additional rules or stricter regulations (Canal District World Heritage, 2010c; UNESCO, 2010).

7.3.1 Legal system and management structure

Legal system

In 1927 the city of Amsterdam already had its bye-law for the protection of the historic buildings—‘Bye-Law on the Preservation of Monuments and Historic Buildings in the Municipality of Amsterdam’ (Verordening tot behoud kan monumenten in de gemeente Amsterdam) (RACM, 2009). After that, the city of Amsterdam published many bye-laws and policy documents to safeguard its historic centre. Except the laws at the national level, there are a great number of bye-laws and regulatory texts at the municipal level are relevant with the protection of the property (Table 7.2).
The Amsterdam Monuments and Historic Buildings Bye-law (2005) has five chapters and 21 articles. It defines the monuments and historic buildings and regulates the designation procedure. And the bye-law points out the importance of the research of the history of a building. The Amsterdam Central Borough Monuments and Historic Buildings Bye-law (2005) applies for the historic buildings within the Central Borough, both national and municipal listed buildings. And this bye-law adds another category—places of worship. Besides these two differences, the structure of the two bye-laws is basically the same (RACM, 2009).

The latest approval byelaw is the Amsterdam Heritage Bye-law (2010a). It has 7 chapters and 27 articles, concerning the designation of municipal historic monuments and urban conservation area, quality and requirement of archaeological research, the involvement of Committee on the external appearance of historic buildings (Commissie voor Welstand en Monumenten, CWM), and the listed building consent system.

A great number of rules and regulations concerning numerous aspects of protecting the historic centre lead to a complex regulatory structure. The complex structure is easy to make people confused. Moreover, as is mentioned that the first bye-law was published in 1927, the bye-laws and policy documents update frequently which is also easy to let people get lost in it, especially for the outsiders. And the simplification of the regulations seems to be the recent trend (such as from WRO to Wro) (UNESCO, 2010).

Management structure

Apart from the complex regulatory structure, the management of the site involves various departments and forms well-function management structure. As a WHS, several organizations are relevant:

- Cultural Heritage Agency;
- Ministry of Education, Culture and Science (OCM), Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation;
- National UNESCO Committee;
- Stichting Werelderfgoed.nl;
Manager of the heritage site (in this case is the Central Borough, City of Amsterdam) (Cultural Heritage Agency, 2012).

The Central Borough is responsible for general administration, public regulations (building permits, town planning, safety), and the management of public thoroughfares. And the Bureau for Monuments and Archaeology (Bureau Monumenten & Archeologie, BMA) is responsible for the heritage protection.

The Committee on the external appearance of historic buildings (CWM) is also responsible for the conservation, together with BMA. And the hydraulic management is the responsibility of Amstel, Gooi and Vecht Water Authority (UNESCO, 2010).

To better manage the site, the City of Amsterdam and the Ministry of OCM approved the Management Plan which is a comprehensive and operational plan responsible of the BMA. This plan is based on grouping and harmonising all the operational plans and sector actions (UNESCO, 2010).

The legal system and management system of Amsterdam can be traced back to the early of 20th century. And with the long term operation, the city forms a complex and comprehensive structure for the conservation of historic centre. From the perspective of the author of this thesis, the legal system is a little bit complex and some documents update frequently and it is difficult to discern which document is the latest one. For example, the nomination file (RACM, 2009) mentions that the Amsterdam Structure Plan: Opting for an Urban Environment adopted in 2005 has an effect on the conservation, but now the City of Amsterdam has a new structural vision (Structural Vision Amsterdam 2040: Economically strong and Sustainable) adopted in 2010. But from another perspective, the update reflects that local government recognize and response to the changes and take action for them.

On the other hand, although there are a lot of departments and stakeholders involved or relevant to the management of the site, the responsibilities of different bodies are clear. Also, if more than one group is involved in the issue, the bodies will work it out together.

7.3.2 Conservation framework

As is mentioned in Chapter 2.3, the categories of Dutch cultural heritage can be divided into three: monuments and historic buildings, archaeological monuments, and historic landscape and historic setting (in this case it refers to the protected cityscape). Because the archaeological monument is not the focal point, the conservation framework of Amsterdam centre will be analysed based on the rest two groups: historic buildings and cityscape.

Ownership

The ownership of the buildings in the historic centre is complex. The buildings along the canals are mainly residential buildings or warehouse converted into dwellings. These buildings most of them are private owned. And then Central Borough, municipality, and the Government Buildings Agency (Rijksgebouwendienst, Ministry of Interior and Kingdom Relations) own a large number of historic buildings. Besides these bodies, property companies, commercial or industrial companies, religious, philanthropic, museum institutions, and semi-public or non-profit organizations own some buildings too (RACM, 2009; UNESCO, 2010).

Historic buildings

The good condition of historic buildings in the centre is the result of a serious restoration projects which can be dated back to the first half of 20th century. And a great amount of historic buildings in the centre restored at the end of 20th century. During 1993 till 2004, 1,892 historic buildings are restored. And many private buildings are restored
between 2000 and 2006 with subsidies. Even now, there are still several large scale restoration projects, such as the Royal Palace, Central Station, Oude Kerk, etc. *(RACM, 2009).*

As is mentioned in Chapter 5, the protection method of a historic building is tightly linked with the system of permit. In 2012 Wabo goes into force. For historic buildings, the environmental permit is needed for the construction and demolition activity *(BMA, 2012).* The Central Borough is responsible for granting permit, considering the opinion from the BMA. And to simplify the authorization procedure, some activities without affecting the monumental value do not need license since 2012 *(BMA, 2012).* So to better guiding the maintenance work, BMA has developed a set of guidelines for renovation and maintenance.

Besides the guidelines for the restoration, the financial support is another important issue. The financial resources for the restoration of historic buildings are various. At the national level is the National Restoration Fund (NRF) for private owners. And at the provincial level, Prince Bernhard Cultural Fund (Prins Bernhard Cultuurfonds) together with NRF offer low-interest loan for the restoration work. At the municipal level, the City of Amsterdam offers Amsterdam Restoration Fund (Amsterdams Restauratiefonds, ARF). Besides government funds, lotteries are other financial resources for cultural institutions *(RACM, 2009).*

The historic centre designated as an urban conservation area and WHS do not mean that development is not allowed. New development projects are governed by the planning regulations (like land use plan) and are considered to have influence on the conservation area (like external appearance of the building).

From the SD perspective, the historic buildings can contribute to it from the energy efficiency or energy saving aspect. BMA provides guidelines for energy efficiency of monument in its website and has advisors for the owner to consultant with *(BMA, 2012a).*

**Cityscape**

The principle of an overall approach to historic sites influences the protection measures including legal and management structure. It means that there is no distinction between the protection of the property and the buffer zone *(UNESCO, 2010).* And difference with the principle of ‘protection’, the ‘safeguarding’ principle has more effects on Amsterdam which is reflected in the idea of safeguarding the diversity of the built environment and local communities and stimulating the mix-use development *(van Iersel, 2007).*

Apart from the different leading principle, the awareness of protecting the historic centre of Amsterdammers arises for a long time. The City of Amsterdam is the first municipality to establish an aesthetics committee to examine building plans for the city centre *(RACM, 2009).*

There are many factors will influence the cityscape of the centre. Within the centre, the streets, rivers, lighting, etc. are important issues. Maintaining and managing the streets, bridges, embankments, planting, landscape areas, and lighting is the responsibility of the Central Borough *(UNESCO, 2010).*

Green is an important component of the protected cityscape, and the moat pattern with rows of trees is unique. So the BMA and the Bureau of Spatial Planning (Dienst Ruimtelijke Ordening, DRO) develops the green map (including the monumental trees). Moreover, the municipal council and the Central Borough both adopt bye-laws for protecting trees. The felling, moving or planting of a tree cannot be done without a permit (tree-felling permit). Except the legal and instrumental measures, the Central Borough also has other actions related to green scenery, such as a register of listed tree in public space, Green Action Plan, Multi-Year Green Programme, etc. *(BMA, 2012b; RACM, 2009).*
In addition to these issues, the advertising billboards in the centre and high-rise buildings in the surrounding area of the centre will have visual impact on the protected cityscape. For the advertising billboards, the Central Borough already has policy for reducing the cover surface area. And for the high-rise buildings, the DRO publishes the ‘High-rise construction in Amsterdam’ in 2009 which is an important input for the Structural Vision Amsterdam 2040. One of the purposes of this document is to protect the historic centre and the metropolitan landscape as a whole (DRO, 2009).

From the SD perspective, the green and the blue scenery are two important parts of the urban environment and also one of the most attractive scenery of the Amsterdam historic centre. Both of them have related bye-laws and responsible bodies for their protection. And citizens or relevant groups can get involved in the conservation framework, for instance, the publication of some important documents or plans (like land use plan) has to be commented by the public.

7.4 Development perspective

**General aspect**

In 2007, the City of Amsterdam and its surrounding municipalities form the ‘Amsterdam Metropolitan Area’ (AMA). The aim of establishing AMA is to develop a competitive metropolis at the European level and international level (Bontje, et al, 2008). The formation of AMA influences the development strategy of Amsterdam. This is reflected in the *Structural Vision Amsterdam 2040* with the motto ‘Economically strong and sustainable’ and it points out that the region of AMA must have the competition ability in the European and international stage.

For the development of Amsterdam, the Structural Vision Amsterdam 2040 realizes that public space, public transportation and greenery are important factors for the city’s development and also are the strength of Amsterdam. The attraction of Amsterdam includes free-thinking image, historic city centre, urban amenities, economic opportunities, water and greenery. And the quality of life is not only the attraction of the city but also an important economic factor (DRO, 2011). The structural vision sets seven spatial tasks and two of them contribute to the quality of life.

Amsterdam serves as a centre of trade, commerce, culture and knowledge for centuries, together with its attractions and the tolerance attitude, places a good foundation to become a creative knowledge centre. So Amsterdam hosts the largest numbers of creative employment and enterprises in the Netherlands. What is more, the activities of creative knowledge industries concentrate in the historic centre. Most small and medium sized creative knowledge companies are located in the historic centre. Because the sub-centre rises along the A10 ring-road, the importance of historic centre is less dominant. But majority of workplaces are still in or close to the historic centre (Bontje, et al, 2008; Bontje and Pethe, 2010).

7.4.1 Tourism

The *Amsterdam Tourism & Convention Board* (ATCB) is responsible for the tourism development in Amsterdam. Every four years, ATCB formulates a development plan. Currently, ATCB has a strategic plan for the period of 2009-2012—*Strategic Marketing and Communication Plan* (SMCP).

SMCP (ATCB, 2009) not just focuses on promoting the tourism development of Amsterdam but also aims to AMA as a single unified product for tourists and visitors. The plan points out that the strength of Amsterdam and its surrounding area includes historic centre, museums, cultural history, public transportation, tidiness, cycle path, and water. It
also points out that the issues need to be improved, including parking facilities and hotel capacity. And the development of new or revamped tourism attractions works insufficiently. ATCB tries to spread the growing visitors at different time sessions and scenic spots, which means the more efficient utilization of the available capacity. In this way, ATCB hopes it can boost the economy and employment in AMA.

Except the promotion of the tourism market, AMA hopes to promote the region as a centre of national and international Meeting, Incentive, Congress or Exposition (MICE) destination. To attain this objective, the Amsterdam Congress Bureau (ACB) and other partners formulate a multi-years action plan—‘Pro Congress IV’ (ATCB, 2009). If the MICEs are conducted reasonably in some peak months and surrounding towns, local resources will be used more efficiency. It can be expected that the increasing national and international MICEs will contribute to the creative knowledge sector, especially the knowledge sector.

In 2008, groups of visitors cannot find accommodations at certain times in Amsterdam (ATCB, 2009), which calls for the expansion of hotel capacity. However, to improve the situation and to become the most sustainable visitor accommodation sector in Europe, twenty hotels sign the Amsterdam Sustainable Hotels Covenant and face the challenge to obtain the international Green Key certification (City of Amsterdam, 2009).

7.4.2 Living and culture

There are plentiful cultural activities in Amsterdam. Aside from a good many museums, galleries, theatres and concerts, there are a lot of festivals or events which are attractions for both visitors and citizens, such as Grachtenfestival Amsterdam (Canal Festival), Amsterdam Heritage Day, etc. Moreover, in 2013 several iconic institutions in Amsterdam have celebrations for their milestones, such as the 400 years of Amsterdam canal rings. It can anticipate that 2013 the city will hold more events for citizens and attract more visitors to come.

Besides the richness of cultural activities, the housing policy is another aspect to encourage people to live in the centre. The Netherlands has the highest percentage of social rental houses (35%) in the EU, while the centre of Amsterdam shares more than 30% of social rental houses which are controlled by the non-profits not by the government (van Iersel, 2007; Gilderbloom, et al, 2009). The social rental houses let the low income families have affordable housing in the centre. And the data of 2006 shows that an increasing number of people live in the centre (van Iersel, 2007).

Keeping people living in the centre is not enough, it is important to maintain a good relationship between different groups. The historic centre is divided into five neighbourhoods. And the Central Borough creates a platform for residents, businesses and institutions to discuss about the development plans and facing problems. Each neighbourhood has a coordinator who is the contactor of different groups living in the area, and has a neighbourhood cafe (buurtcafe) for the meeting. During the meeting, the groups are involved in preparing the annual plan which covers various topics including public space, construction, education, culture, green, etc. (Central Borough, 2012).

7.4.3 Other development actions

Both citizens and government consider that the green space is an important component of the quality of life. 94% of citizens (2009) enjoy living in Amsterdam, and more and more people appreciate the environment. Amsterdam provides various public green areas which contribute to the quality of life for citizens. But it does not mean that there is no complaint. The noise pollution is one issue, which mainly comes from traffic, construction and demolition noise. To tackle this problem, the City of Amsterdam set the 2009 Noise Action Plan (City of Amsterdam, 2009).
‘Green city’ city’ not only means the various public green spaces in Amsterdam, but also the sustainable mobility in the city. Bicycling is one of the most important means of transportation. Amsterdam has 400 kilometres cycle path and 90% of road network are safe and suitable for cycling (City of Amsterdam, 2009). The safety environment for cycling not only has a positive effect on citizens, but also attracts visitors’ attention as has been mentioned before.

Just as bicycling serves as a symbol for the green city, electric transport is another image for the green city. Amsterdam promotes electric transport through offering grants for businesses to buy electric vehicles and establishing a network of charging points. The owners of electric cars can top up their cars free of charge at these points (City of Amsterdam, 2009). Moreover, improving the public transportation is another important aspect for achieving sustainable mobility.

As is mentioned, SD traditionally focused on environmental dimension and the topic of atmospheric emission whereas the use of fossil fuel is tightly related to these problems. So the use of sustainable energy is an important aspect of SD. For the energy sector, the City of Amsterdam pursues the SD mainly through three ways—sustainable energy (wind-power, solar power and waste energy), energy saving, and the efficiency use of energy and the climate-neutral will be an important criterion for new buildings as well (City of Amsterdam, 2009 and 2010b).

7.5 Reflection on the case
After the study of the conservation and development aspect of Amsterdam, it can be found that both aspects contribute to the SD. But under the three pillars model of SD (Figure 3.1 in p.29), how do they work? The interpretation of SD from the Dutch perspective is the right balance among three ‘Ps’ which refers to the planet, people, and profit (VROM, 2003). This is similar as the three pillars model used in this thesis because the planet refers to environmental dimension, people are linked with the social-cultural dimension, and the profit is relevant to the economic dimension.

Environmental dimension
There is no doubt that the City of Amsterdam takes many actions to safeguard its environment. From the conservation aspect, the inventory of monumental trees and bye-laws on trees and waterways are directly related to the environmental dimension. And the CWM has a positive effect on ensuring the integrity and continuity of the cityscape.

From the development aspect, the high quality of green space and water contribute to both the quality of life and the environment. And they also serve as a precondition for business to settle down in the city.

Besides the aspect of green and blue, the City of Amsterdam pays a lot of attention to the energy sector. The use of sustainable energy will reduce the dependence on traditional energy sources (like fossil fuel) and atmospheric emission. And the efficiency use of energy and saving not only has a positive effect on the environmental dimension, but also has economic benefit. The most direct economic benefit is reducing the annual energy bill for institutions and families.

Moreover, in the survey concluded by ATCB the tidiness of the environment is one of the strengths and attractiveness. But attention is still needed for keeping the tidiness since 2013 has a greater amount of festivals and events and ATCB hopes to attract more visitors to visit the AMA region.
**Economic dimension**

There are a lot of old buildings in the historic centre. Basically the impression of old building is unsustainable is common among people. But it is not the case in Amsterdam for two main reasons. The first one is that making the existing buildings more sustainable is the policy priority. And for reaching this goal, a large-scale insulation programme for existing dwellings is set ([*City of Amsterdam, 2009* and *2010b*]). The second one is that once the buildings are demolished, 90% of the material will be recycled and reused ([*Gilderbloom, et al, 2009*]).

Apart from making the buildings sustainable, the development of the city concerns the SD from the economic dimension mainly in two aspects. The first one is the intensive use and multi-functional use of the space. The intensive use of space is reflected in the requirement of high-rise buildings and underground spaces. But the construction of high-rise buildings needs to consider carefully their visual impact on the historic centre which is not just valued by visitors but also by citizens. And the multi-functional use of space reflects the situation that transforming mono-functional business park to multi-functional space of residential and business.

The second aspect is to improve the public transportation. Amsterdam and its surroundings are intended to be developed as a metropolis region in Europe and internationally. To achieve this goal, a fast, frequent and comfortable public transportation at the regional scale is necessary. And this governmental ambition is reflected in the latest structural vision.

Moreover, Amsterdam has a good foundation for developing creative knowledge industry. Talent, diversity and tolerance are three key factors for influencing creative knowledge industry. Amsterdam is in name and in fact and hosts the largest number of creative knowledge companies ([*Musterd, 2004*]). The survey shows that one of the favourite leisure activities for creative knowledge workers in the historic centre is to walk around the city ([*Bontje, et al, 2008*]). Considering that Amsterdam hosts the largest number of creative employment and creative workers appreciate the historic centre (urban amenities and workplace in or close to the centre), there is no denying the fact that the conservation of the historic centre will be further enhanced.

**Social-cultural dimension**

The quality of life is an important criterion for evaluating the living conditions of citizens and attracting people to settle down. And the quality of public space is an essential component. DRO points out that the design of streets, squares, embankments, etc. must meet high standards. And offering safe and comfortable space for cyclists and pedestrians is important too ([*DRO, 2011*]). The urban amenities are another important aspect, including plentiful cultural and sports activities, shops, cafes, etc. To improve the social atmosphere in some main streets, increasing the quality and diversity of shops and food services is one aspect mentioned by DRO ([*2011*]).

The tolerance attitude is an attracting and selling point of Amsterdam contributing to the social-cultural dimension of SD. The tolerance makes the Amsterdammers have positive attitude towards people with different background and different lifestyles. And the new comers may feel comfortable in this atmosphere and easily merge into the society. Moreover, the tolerance as a selling point will attract talent people to work and live in Amsterdam which keeps the vitality of the city and contributes to its competitiveness.

Amsterdam is not simply a good place for people to live and work but also a popular destination for tourism. And the relationship between tourists and residents is under good condition from ATCB survey and annual neighbourhood plans. There are three reasons to...
explain this situation. The first one is that Amsterdam is a metropolis with diversified economy, so it is not as vulnerable to tourism as small heritage cities (van der Borg, et al, 1996) because tourism is not the leading industry, but just one of the functions of the city. The second one is that Amsterdam is the capital of a democratic country. The principle of public participation and collaboration can be found in a great number of projects, plans, or programmes, etc. The neighbourhood cafe and meeting in the centre for discussing about the development and problems is a good example. The third one is reflected in developing new tourism attractions. ATCB (2009) tries to spread tourist into different districts and surrounding towns gradually. Through this, the residents in the scenic spots are ready for the changes and contribute to keep a balance between residents and visitors.
8. Discussion

The discussion part will answer and analyse the four sub-issues. The sub-issues of national planning system, national cultural heritage conservation structure, and in-depth study of the SD in the heritage sites via case study include the circumstances of two countries, so the comparison analysis of two countries is an important part of this chapter. The result of this chapter contributes to answer the main research question in the next chapter.

8.1 Evaluation of the methodology

The content of the thesis is organized following the research framework (Figure 1.3 in p.9). The formulation of the research framework is on the basis of problem description and research questions. The brief introduction of the starting point of this research and three pillars model of SD leads to the search of related problems in the cultural heritage sites and scientific problems. These problems form the main research question. To find a reasonable answer of the main research question, four sub-issues are set. Based on the sub-issues, the research framework is established in order to work out the main research question better.

Each component within the research framework is tightly linked with each other and contributes to the research. For instance, the result of Chapter 2 helps the exploration of SD indicators narrow into the important SD issues in the historic towns and centres with tourism and living functions. And then, at the end of Chapter 3 the three pillars model of SD indicators is formulated and is used in the rest research. Not to mention that the context study (Chapter 4 and 5) offers the national framework in the planning discipline and cultural heritage conservation discipline for the in-depth studies of China and the Netherlands. Two in-depth studies via Lijiang case in China and Amsterdam case in the Netherlands contribute to the detailed explorations of the relationship between heritage conservation and the development of the site, and the relationship among three pillars of SD under two circumstances. All results of the components lead to the conclusion of the main research question.

To conduct the research, three research methods are employed—literature review, document study, and case study. In addition, to work out a reliable research the information resources are important. For this research, in order to make sure the information is reliable enough and up-to-date the information is found through scientific article searching engines, governmental websites, and important newspaper in two countries.

The research method case study is an important mean for the in-depth studies in two countries. Considering some limits, such as the detailed information offered by governments and language (Dutch articles, governmental reports, etc.), the most important information two cases relying on is different. For the Lijiang case, scientific articles play more important role than governmental documents, even some of scientific articles are written by officers. There are a lot of governmental documents, but the detailed information is still hard to find, such as the results and methods of some actions or projects (environmental protection projects, public rental houses policy). For the Amsterdam case, the English articles related to the historic centre of Amsterdam are relatively less especially the articles meet the research requirements. So the research of Amsterdam is mainly relied on the governmental website and governmental documents. Although the language problem still exists, Dutch government offers some English summaries of important policy documents and programmes, such as national spatial strategy, Amsterdam structural vision, Amsterdam SD programme.

Generally speaking, this research has advantages on offering a holistic view and method to examine the SD of historic towns and centres in two countries, and the comparison study contributes to easier finding the strengths and weaknesses of two approaches. But because
of time and personal ability limited the opinion of local inhabitants is relative weak in this research.

8.2 Sub-issue of sustainable development

The main research of the sub-issue of SD is conducted in Chapter 3, and the context studies (Chapter 4 and 5) also mention several issues related to SD in their disciplines (planning discipline and cultural heritage conservation discipline). The important issues for the SD of cultural heritage sites are answered in Figure 8.1 with three pillars model which is the foundation of the research and is the SD indicator for the analysis of the thesis. In addition, Chinese cultural heritage sites and Dutch cultural heritage sites may have different emphasis points for their SD. So the Table 5.2 and Table 5.4 are established to find the differences between the two countries.

Before explaining the differences, the emphasis points of SD from three dimensions in two countries have similarities, such as the high quality of tourism products, accessibility and infrastructure (economic pillar), natural environmental protection, quality of living environment (environmental pillar), local identity, importance of local community (social-cultural pillar). These similarities mean that some issues are appreciated by people worldwide, and the different circumstances do not have great impact on it.

The differences arise for many reasons, such as governmental ability, economic situation, social-cultural context, etc. In the Netherlands, the efficiency use of resources (especially the land resources) is emphasized several times, such as the reuse of historic buildings, redevelopment of inner-city, and regenerative potential of historic environment. This is because the pre-condition for the Dutch development is a small country with high density of population and the land resources are limited. The issue of balancing costs and benefits among stakeholders arise for another foundational difference between the Netherlands and China—the ownership of land. The private ownership of land in the Netherlands makes the construction or development projects in heritage sites involve many stakeholders. To make sure different stakeholders positively participate in the redevelopment or conservation projects, a good balance between costs and benefits among stakeholders is vitally important. This issue does not point out in the Chinese situation because of the public ownership of land.

On the other hand, in China the issues of awareness of respecting nature and historic authenticity, education and training are emphasized mainly for two reasons. The first one is that the environmental dimension is compromised to the fast economic development. The second one is the existing situation of blindly pursuing modern buildings (consider it as the landmark of the city), demolishing historic buildings and rebuilding a new one, and the lack of experts in the field of cultural heritage conservation. So increasing the public awareness of the importance of natural and historic environment and offering related training are important issues for the SD in Chinese cultural heritage sites. Besides these issues, there are several issues related to the governmental ability for guiding tourism market and activities, such as the tourism market order and macro-control ability. Chinese tourism industry develops so quickly and leaves many problems, for instance, blindly pursuing large-scale tourism service facilities, businessmen higher the price of products (restaurants, shops, etc.), people offering illegal tourism activities (such as cars, guiding services, escaping the entrance fee, etc.). These problems are texting the ability of Chinese government. In addition, China is in the institutional transition and governments are seeking the suitable way for guiding related activities. So these kinds of issues are emphasized repeatedly.
Figure 8.1 Theoretical framework: Three pillars model of SD indicators for the research

*(Based on the content of Chapter 3, made by author)*
In sum, China emphasizes a lot on the tourism related issues showed a strong tourism-oriented approach, while the Netherlands appreciate a lot for the living environment and quality of life which can be considered as the community-oriented. But both countries appreciate the economic dimension for different reasons. In China, the economic benefit of tourism development is necessary for improving local economic situation and living standard. In the Netherlands, the economic benefit is important aspects for attracting people invest on the redevelopment or conservation projects. And cultural heritage is considered as an important aspect for the success of a city in the Netherlands (van Duijn and Rouwendal, 2012).

So why do the three pillars model of SD indicators (Figure 8.1) work, and how does it contribute to the research? In spite of different focuses of two countries, the SD indicators are formulated on the basis of common requirements for reaching SD in historic towns. In other words, these indicators contribute to the SD of Chinese and Dutch historic towns and centres. Furthermore, this research tries to offer a holistic view on evaluating the SD in two countries. So during the formulation procedure, three pillars receive the equal attentions. It is useful in analysing the balance among three pillars of SD under two circumstances. This three pillars model of SD indicators can be considered as the foundation of SD in historic towns, and offer an overview of important issues for the SD of historic towns. If new focused points arise, they can be added to this three pillars model. And this model needs to be adjusted on the basis of different circumstances or different research purposes. What is more, this research is a qualitative research and offers holistic view of SD in heritage sites. It is lack of some detailed assessment or quantitative evaluation methods, such as Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in the environmental dimension. It hopes to be improved in the future research.

8.3 Sub-issue of national planning system

Planning legal system and administrative system

At the national level, the Chinese principle act is the Urban and Rural Planning Law while the Dutch principle act is Wro. In addition, at the provincial and municipal levels in two countries there are many bye-laws or regulations for guiding the planning activities within their territories.

Briefly the Chinese administrative system includes national, provincial, and municipal level. Below the municipal level there is a level of county, in order to better analyse and compare with the Dutch situation, the Chinese situation is mainly concerned with the three levels. And Chinese administrative system is hierarchic structure which means the upper government has more authority, while Dutch administrative system is three tiers government. The provincial and municipal governments have the same statutory power, and the communication among three tiers government is achieved through consensus building.

The administrative system in the planning field, at the national level, in China refers to the MOHURD and in the Netherlands refers to the Ministry of I&M. At the provincial and municipal level, situation in Chinese is a little bit complex because of the different types of regions or cities and related authority, for instance, some of them are the responsibility of the construction department and some of them are the planning bureau. But in brief, there are related departments at each level responsible for the planning activities. On the other hand, the Dutch situation is simpler—provincial and municipal governments are responsible for planning activities. At the municipal level, take Amsterdam as an example, the City of Amsterdam (municipal government) is responsible for the planning within its territory and the DRO is in charge of the detail issues (like compile land use plan).
**Planning technical system and operational system**

The planning framework and the method for the development control are the issues of the planning technical and operational systems. The planning types of China and the Netherlands can be divided into strategic and implementation/operational plan with different descriptions and forms. In China, plans at different level refer to different names (Table 4.3), and only the municipal level has the implementation plan and all levels have the strategic plans. In the Netherlands, under the old act many situations are similar to the Chinese situation, but it changes under the new act Wro. The strategic plan at three levels under the same name (structural vision), and the national and provincial governments can compile their operational plans too. This change occurs because the provincial and municipal governments have the same statutory power and only the municipal government compiles the operational plan. It causes the situation that sometimes the land use plan does not follow the national or provincial strategic plan and makes the national and provincial policy cannot be well implemented.

But China does not have this kind of concern because China is the hierarchic system. So the national and provincial planning departments have the authority to influence the plan compiled by the municipal level on the basis of their plans and interests. This leaves another problem. The approval of plan is greatly influenced by the interest of the approval department and the government at the same level. Once the government change, the interest of the government will change too. It may cause the situation that the plan needs to be revised on the basis of the interest of the new government.

About the development control aspect, the two countries control their development through granting related permits or licenses on the basis of related policy documents and plans.

In sum, the advantages and disadvantages of two systems are obvious. In China, the planning system is rooted in the hierarchic framework. It means that the policy at the upper level can be implemented well at the lower level, and the regional spatial structure can be well organized at the national or provincial level. For instance, in the provincial urban system plan, the functions of different cities are designated from a broad view. It can avoid the functions or features of cities are overlapped with each other. And the hierarchic framework makes sure that municipal government needs to follow the function or feature designated in the provincial urban system plan in order to get the approval from upper level when compiling its comprehensive plan. But the disadvantage of Chinese planning system is obvious—lack of public participation. Although there is the trend of calling public participation, most cases the planning activities are conducted among planners and officers. The lack of public participation means the plan is mainly from experts’ and political aspects. So in the implementation of some projects, some projects may face resistance from local inhabitants.

The Dutch situation is opposed to China. The Dutch planning system is rooted in democracy framework and three tiers system. It means that public participation is important during the complication procedure of a plan and is the advantage of Dutch system. Public participates in the complication procedure means the opinions of citizens are taken into account, and the implementation of the plan may face less resistance. The three tiers system makes municipal government can compile the plan based on its willingness. Municipal government knows more about its situation than other two tiers governments, so the plan on the municipal interest means that local economic potential will be well developed. But it raises the disadvantage: the national and provincial policy will not be implemented well at the local level. Although Wro offers legal instruments for national and provincial governments involving in planning at the municipal level, these legal instruments work
effectively or not needs to be analysed in the future planning activities considering the Dutch society is used to the democracy approach.

**The relationship between cultural heritage and the national planning system**

Both China and the Netherlands take cultural heritage into account in their planning systems, but are shown in different ways. There is a trend in Dutch cultural heritage field that adding cultural heritage/ cultural dimension into spatial planning (Belvedere and MoMo). The cultural heritage and planning are not simply combined, but cultural heritage is considered as an important element during the planning procedure. On the other hand, the relationship between cultural heritage and Chinese planning system is shown in: protection of cultural heritage is the mandatory content of the comprehensive plan, and the need of protection plan for historic cities. But it is more likely that cultural heritage is a single chapter in the plan. Although the planning principle points out the need of considering the local tradition and culture, it is greatly depending on the awareness of the compilation and approval department.

From the opinion of the author, the Dutch approach has positive effect on raising the awareness of the importance of cultural heritage. And combining the cultural history with spatial planning contributes to the formulation of local unique identity and makes the city can be distinguished from others. But this approach has a potential weakness. The local cultural history becomes an element of the plan, and it makes layer men difficult to understand how their cultural history interprets in the plan and is relevant with their daily life. However in Chinese situation, a separated chapter for cultural heritage makes it is easily understand by layer men. But the connection of cultural heritage with other components of the plan is relative weak.

**The relationship between SD and the national planning system**

For the relationship between SD and the national planning system, the most obvious and influential point reflects in the planning principle. The Chinese planning principle mentions the idea of SD which is regulated by the principle act, while the Dutch planning principle or objective refers to sustainability but it is in the form of unwritten rules which common accepted by the experts and public. The planning principles in the two systems have some similarities, including harmonious and SD of society and economy, improving living environment and spatial environment, rational utilization of resources, safe and healthy environment. They are tightly linked with improving the quality of life. But the Chinese principle points out the need of considering the local traditions and unique features which may contribute to the local identity, while the Dutch principle mentions the free choices for inhabitants and multiple functions of the land.

The different principles are because of the different contexts. In China, there are a great amount of cities, towns, and counties. Considering the local traditions during the planning procedure has positive impact on the place making and makes the city can be distinguished from others. It forms the feature and becomes the attractiveness of the site, which contributes to the development of the site. In the Netherlands, the free choices principle reflects the democracy foundation of Dutch society. The multiple functional land use is because the Netherlands is a small country and it needs to make efficient use their resources, which embodies the idea of compact city in the third National policy document *(Alpkokin, 2011)*.
8.4 Sub-issue of national cultural heritage conservation structure

Legal and administrative structure of national cultural heritage conservation

As for the national planning system, Chinese principle act at the national level is the Protection of Cultural Relics Law (2007) and Dutch principle act is the Monuments and Historic Buildings Act (1988). The related provincial and municipal department can formulate their own bye-laws or regulations. And the responsible department in China is the State Administration of Cultural Heritage while in the Netherlands is the Ministry of OCW and the Cultural Heritage Agency within the OCW is an important institution in the Dutch cultural heritage conservation field.

Protection methods of different types of cultural heritage

Before the comparison of the protection methods in these two countries, several issues on their cultural heritage types need to be clear in order to do the analysis and comparison better. In China, the category of immovable cultural relics includes historic buildings and archaeological sites in urban and rural area, and this research limits this type of cultural heritage in the urban area. But in the Netherlands, the categories of historic buildings and archaeological sites are two types, and this research mainly focuses on the historic buildings. So to conduct the analysis better, the Chinese type—immovable cultural relics will further be limited to the historic buildings. But there are some problems when the protection method of the rest of the two types of Chinese cultural heritage (historic neighbourhoods and historic cities) is compared with the Dutch type. From the perspective of the area and function, the historic neighbourhood is similar to the urban and village conservation area; but from the perspective of the protection requirement, the historic city is comparable with the urban and village conservation area. So the analysis will focus on the comparison between historic city and urban and village conservation area. To be a historic city needs at least one historic neighbourhood, so in the comparison, the protection of historic neighbourhood will be merged into the protection of historic city.

The main protection principle of historic buildings in two countries is similar—maintenance and restoration when necessary. But in China, most of historic buildings are owned by the government, so government can guide and control their protection and utilization better. In the Netherlands the situation is quite different. The ownership of historic buildings is complex, but many of them are privately owned. So their protection and utilization is controlled by related permits.

For the protection method of historic cities and urban and village conservation areas in two countries, they both refer to certain plan—in China is protection plan and in the Netherlands is the land use plan. But the redevelopment methods are different. In China, the redevelopment of historic area is governmental-led, and some development companies can influence the redevelopment project. However, the aspect of local inhabitants is neglected. It is mainly for two reasons. The first one is the misunderstanding on the conservation method which causes the situation that transferring local inhabitants out of the historic areas. This situation may happen for another reason: to better commercializing the historic area (such as tourism development, or real estate development). The second one is the commercialization and the tourism impact force local inhabitants moving out, which show in the higher rental, higher price of daily necessaries, and inconvenient life. But the situation in the Netherlands is different because of the complex ownership of the area. The redevelopment project or involves the company (land owner) or involves inhabitants living in and around the area. The involvement of multi-groups in the redevelopment project may longer its procedure, but the result is acceptable by most people.
Financial support is another important issue for protecting cultural heritage. Because most cultural heritage in China is government-owned, its financial support mainly relies on the fiscal budget. The business income is another important financial resource. There is not much fund for the protection. The only one is a special fund for the protection of historic cities. But the Netherlands has a well-functioned financial support system including grants, tax reduction, and other assistance. Moreover, it already has had various types from national to municipal as to the grants support.

The limited financial support in China makes the commercialization and tourism development become an important aspect for gaining financial support for the heritage protection. It also reflects another problem. The financial support will priority grant to the heritage of national importance, so the financial resources of the un-list historic buildings or historic areas remain problematic.

Generally speaking, the protection methods for historic buildings are similar in two countries. But in China, most historic buildings are governmental owned, so it does not emphasize related permits for the restoration work. This approach is good for local government to more efficient guide the restoration work in one aspect. But in another aspect, it leads to a problem—what kind of permit or license is needed for private owners (such as the owner of traditional folk house) to restore or repair their historic buildings is unclear. On the other hand, in the Netherlands 1988 Act clearly points out the necessary permits for related activities such as restoration and demolition. Furthermore, because of the private ownership of land, the redevelopment or conservation project of historic areas involves many stakeholders. So the pressure of local government on conserving historic area is relatively low, because the responsibility of the historic building restoration is distributed among the owners. However, this approach means that local government needs to have a good guidance for the historic building restoration and offer a well-functioned financial assistance for the owners.

8.5 Sub-issue of the two in-depth studies via two cases

Two in-depth studies are conducted in both countries. In China, the in-depth study is through the case of Lijiang old town, while in the Netherlands its in-depth study is via the seventeenth-century canal ring area of Amsterdam inside the Singelgracht.

Conservation values

Although there are a lot differences between Lijiang and Amsterdam, their historic areas have many similarities, especially for the conservation values. The attractiveness and values of two historic areas are all embodied in the overall layout/ spatial structure, architectural styles, water and bridges. But here the overall layout is focused on because it is a good example in the planning discipline. The spatial structure of two cases shows the wisdom of people to adopt and to improve their living environment. But the spatial structure of Lijiang is developed based on its geographic environment which means it is unique and hard to be copied by other cities, while the spatial structure of Amsterdam is a good example of hydraulic and urban planning on a large scale which is follows by other countries.

Heritage conservation system

The heritage conservation systems in both cases show in a comprehensive legal and administrative system. Both cases have bye-laws and plans and responsible departments for guiding their conservation work. The system in Amsterdam is more comprehensive and well-functioned than that in Lijiang. Amsterdam has many bye-laws regulating activities related to the protection of the historic centre, including the aspect of green and blue elements.
Furthermore, the responsibilities among different governmental bodies are clarified in the management plan.

Tourism impacts

The tourism impacts, both positive and negative, can be identified in both cases in all three pillars. In sum, the negative impacts of tourism are more obvious in Lijiang than that in Amsterdam. In the environmental pillar, the three tourism impacts (environmental degradation, spatial transformation, and the appreciation for the historic environment) can be identified in Lijiang case. But the environmental degradation is hard to find in the Amsterdam case, and the spatial transformation is not so obvious whereas the appreciation for the historic environment is shown in Amsterdam. The less obvious of spatial transformation can be viewed from the shops in the centre. In spite of the increasing number of souvenir shops, a lot of shops are still serving local residents. The increasing number of tourists may prevent some people from visiting the historic centre.

In the economic pillar, the requirement of meeting human essential needs will be analysed combined with the economic effects. The effect of tourism—selectivity of conserved buildings is hard to find in both cases. The effects of job creation, increased income, revenue, and changing from serving local community to tourists are obvious in the Lijiang case, but the Amsterdam case needs to be discussed further. The economic situation of Amsterdam is much better than Lijiang and tourism is just one of the multi-functions of the city, so the effects of job creation, increasing income and revenue are not as obvious as Lijiang. And the rest effects (price of the land and property, increased demand for conserving buildings) can be observed in two cases.

In the social-cultural pillar, the effects of being local identity and raising local pride are identified in the two cities. But the effects of conflicting with local living culture and changing local lifestyle are much more obvious in Lijiang than in Amsterdam. This situation reflects the idea that small heritage city is more vulnerable for tourism than large city with diversified economies (van der Borg, et al, 1996). The effect of solidarity of the community is still found in Lijiang, though a lot of Naxi people move out from the old town. Even they move to the new city of Lijiang, they are still concerned about the conservation and development of the old town because the old town is the place where their generations living inside. But this effect needs to be further explored in Amsterdam because many Amsterdammers have immigrant background, are they concerned about the conservation and development of the historic centre, or are they just concerned about the quality of life and the environment’s impact on their life?

The contribution of the historic district to the development of the city

Generally speaking, the contribution of historic district for the development of the city is obvious in Lijiang and Amsterdam. The contribution in the Lijiang case reflects the situation that the tourism development of the old town greatly improves the economic situation of Lijiang and makes it possible to develop other industries like biological industry and hydropower industry. And the contribution in the Amsterdam case reflects the situation that the historic centre is the attractiveness for creative knowledge industry and many creative knowledge workers appreciates and are in favour of the historic centre and the urban amenities in the historic centre are another attractive point for Amsterdam.

8.5.1 Analysis of the SD of the two cases

The previous content answers the sub-issues set in the research questions. And then this part will analyse the SD of the cases pillar by pillar on the basis of three pillars model of SD indicators (Figure 8.1).
Overall reflection

Lijiang in the ancient time is an important transportation and trade spot as well as the centre of culture and economy exchange and communication centre. Its geographical location contributes to its cultural diversity—merging the multi-ethnic groups’ cultures and traditions. But during the modernization and industrialization process, the importance of its transportation position decreases which reflects the fact that before tourism develops the economic situation in Lijiang is poor. The development of tourism industry is necessary (because of shutting down the light industry), and it proves that tourism contributes a lot to local economy. Also, WHS directs the construction to make the city become an international tourism city. But the relationship of the historic functions of three parts of WHS (especially Baisha and Shuhe) and the development of Lijiang is not clear enough. The historic functions of Baisha and Shuhe are only shown in the protection and become the identities of the sites for promoting tourism.

The situation in Amsterdam is quite different. The historic function of Amsterdam as a centre of commerce, trade, finance and culture still greatly influences the development of the city. This function has a positive effect on Amsterdam to become a creative knowledge centre. Amsterdam as a cultural centre is not just famous for the fruity cultural and art history and atmosphere, but also for its cultural diversity. There are a lot of people with different nationalities living in the city, which forms another attractiveness of Amsterdam—tolerance attitude. To enhance the competitive ability of the city, Amsterdam and its surrounding municipalities form the AMA. So later some Amsterdam policy documents (like structural vision, tourism strategic plan) try to improve and enhance related activities and competitiveness at the regional level (AMA). Another important difference between Amsterdam and Lijiang which greatly influence the protection of cultural heritage is the economic situation. From its history, most of Amsterdammers living in the centre are wealthy people (merchants). Although during the 17th century expansion, the neighbourhood is established for working class, there is no denying that the economic situation of Amsterdam is much better than Lijiang.

Considering the two cases for their SD from an overall aspect which is the centre of three pillars model (Figure 8.1), the two cases meet the requirement of connectivity. Many actions or projects in two cases have positive effects or contribution on the two dimensions or all the three dimensions. But the balance among three pillars in the two cases is not managed well. The imbalance among three pillars in more obvious in Lijiang which leads to the situation that mass flow of tourism causes the environmental degradation and local inhabitants move out of the old town. Although the imbalance is less obvious in Amsterdam, it is still easy to find some complaints, like those about too much tourists or tourism related activities and the worry about the city becoming a sleepy village or an open-air museum (van den Berg, 2010; Redactie RNW, 2010 and 2012). Despite this, government still has the ambition for promoting tourism.

Environmental dimension

In the environmental dimension, the first requirement is the protection of natural environment and biodiversity. Lijiang people’s government establishes several environmental renovation or protection projects for the protection. But it is lack of information and data to examine whether or not these projects work well and have positive effects on the degradation of environment. And Lijiang has rich biological resources to gain biodiversity. On the other hand, not many environmental protection projects are found in Amsterdam. But the high quality of green space of Amsterdam is the attractiveness and selling point for attracting talented people to settle down. In the survey done by ATCB (2009), visitors praise the clean environment of Amsterdam, not to mention that the natural
environment attracts natural lovers to visit. All these prove that Amsterdam is also concerned about the protection of natural environment and biodiversity.

The second concern is the quality of urban built environment. Most of citizens living in Amsterdam enjoy living here and appreciate the environment. But there are still complaints about the unsuccessful traffic control and noise control (Redactie RNW, 2012). Generally speaking the quality of urban built environment is satisfied by most citizens. Though similar survey concerning the living environment in Lijiang is not available, the analysis in Lijiang old town is still possible. So for the quality of Lijiang, the analysis will be narrowed into the Lijiang old town. The life of living in the old town is a little bit inconvenience for people mainly due to two aspects: the first one is that vehicle is not allowed to go into the old town from the protection concern (the main material of the street is brick, and too much vehicles are harmful for it) and bicycle are not allowed (probably for the safety of pedestrian), and the second one is more and more shops in the old town cater for tourists and make it harder and harder for people to buy their daily necessities. But from another point of view, the clean street, water and trees, and unique architectural style form a beautiful townscape, together with its culture, also attract some people who are in favour of it to settle down. So the quality of the built environment in the old town is a mixture of feelings.

The third concern of maintaining the fabric of existing buildings and the idea of ‘setting’ is demonstrated in the conservation framework of both cases. In Lijiang it is reflected in the physical environment protection (point, line, and area level), while in Amsterdam it is reflected in the CWM and the concerns of the cityscape which public can lodge an appeal if they think certain project may have a negative effect on the cityscape of the centre.

The forth requirement is about the buffer zone and environmental coordination zone. Amsterdam establishes the buffer zone but does not set the environmental coordination zone. But because of the overall approach, the protection requirement for buffer zone and the WH property is treated equal. And in practice, the new development outside the buffer zone still consider its visual impact on the centre which reflects in the policy document about the high-rise construction (DRO, 2009). Although both zones are set in Lijiang, there is still a problem. But whether or not the whole Lijiang Dam should be included in the environmental coordination zone remains a big problem. In other words, the development in Lijiang needs to consider its relationship with the old town. But actually, many modern buildings in the new city of Lijiang are not in coordination with the old town and have less visual impact on it. The principle of setting two zones will contribute to the better transition from the historic area to the modern city. But as for the Lijiang case, whether or not its environmental coordination zone really contributes to its better transition needs to be explored further.

**Economic dimension**

For the economic SD, the historic function of Amsterdam greatly influences and contributes to Amsterdam for being a creative knowledge centre, and its historic function still works nowadays (like centre of culture, finance). And now Amsterdam as the centre of AMA tries to enhance its competitiveness at the regional scale, such as improving the regional public transportation. Just as Amsterdam makes full use of its economic potential, Lijiang is working toward this direction. As is mentioned before, Lijiang used to be a poor county but tourism development greatly improves its economic situation. The local government is also aware that the economic development is not stable simply depending on tourism. So now its economic situation is improved and the local government starts to utilize its rich biological resource and hydropower resource.

The other requirement of reusing historic buildings can be found in two cases. Amsterdam has certain permit and fund for changing the purpose of historic buildings, not
to mention that reusing historic building is an important aspect in the Dutch cultural heritage conservation. The Lijiang case is proved by the research of Bao and Su (2004). Their research shows that after tourism development the number of empty houses reduced.

**Social-cultural dimension**

The requirements of SD in the social-cultural dimension will be categorized into four groups. The social justice, equitable assesses, and procedural equity are to be formed and analysed as the first group. The requirement of public participation is a part of political system, so it will be analysed together and forms the second group. The third group is the administrative system which includes the requirement of ‘local government’ while the last group is the social system.

The first group works better in Amsterdam than in Lijiang. The social justice reflected in the relationship between tourists and local community is problematic in both cases, because the complaints about too many tourists arise in two cities. But the situation in Lijiang is much more obvious and serious than that in Amsterdam. And concerning the equitable assess, both cities do not have walls to prevent people from coming, so in theory local community and visitors are equitable assess to their historic area. But as is mentioned before, more and more shops in the old town sell souvenir and serve tourists, so there is no need for local community to come. On the other hand, Amsterdam still has many facilities serving citizens, such as cafe, restaurants, shops (clothes, electronic products, etc.), supermarkets, etc. Moreover there are many cultural activities which attract citizens to come and people easily gain access to the information from the City of Amsterdam. These situations are also related to the requirement of procedural equity (people are treated fairly and openly). But the fairly requirement still needs to be critique further, one example is the issue of replacing diesel engine of boats in the centre. The houseboat owners annoyed by the smoke of tourist boats, and the owners of tourist boats resist replacing their engines (Redactie RNW, 2012). And in the Lijiang case, the local community finds it harder and harder to buy daily necessities in the old town, which is a problem of the open treatment. The worse thing is that in some main streets which are also popular with tourists shops are only allowed to sell tourism products. As for the access to some information (like information about tourism development and heritage conservation) the open treatment is problematic too. Two professors the author talks with both say that it is difficult for them to gain some detailed information from the related departments.

The second group—political system shows different situations in two cases. The Netherlands as a democracy country has the tradition of cooperation among different stakeholders (for instance, the third expansion of Amsterdam is prevented by merchants) and two other examples can provide evidence. The first one is that during the complication procedure of Structural Vision Amsterdam 12 weeks are left for the public to give comments, and the second one is the neighbourhood cafe meeting for discussing about the development of the neighbourhood. On the other hand, Lijiang works towards this direction. There is a meeting organized in 2011 inviting several important officers and many presenters to discuss about some issues related to the development of Lijiang old town (Yunnan Information Newspaper, 2011). This shows the ambition of local government towards better public participation. But for the effective public participation, the easy access to some required or necessary information is important which refers to the requirement of being ‘treated openly’ mentioned before. Another issue needs to be mentioned is the way for public to have their comments and get the reasonable reaction from the related departments. Not just for Lijiang but also a common situation in China, this issue is missing or not well-functioned. A simple example will show this problem: the Urban and Rural Planning Law (2007) points out that before the complication department sending the plan for approval, it needs to publish the draft and lets the public and experts comment on the
plan; but how to give comments and how the local government reacts to these comments is unclear (such as the revised comprehensive plan of Lijiang).

The third group of administrative system is another aspect reflecting the ability of local government. Both the people’s government of Lijiang and the City of Amsterdam show their ability of facing changes (flexibility) and self-correction. But some actions show their limited management and guiding ability, such as the unsuccessful traffic and noise control in Amsterdam, and the failure of encouraging indigenous people to live in the old town. Also, the social systems (the forth group) both in Amsterdam and in Lijiang need to be improved, especially in Lijiang. The tourism development of Lijiang keeps receiving critiques on its negative impact on local community. This situation does not improve, and now it is harder and harder to find Naxi people in the old town (especially in the Dayan old town). Although there are also complaints about tourism in Amsterdam, the City of Amsterdam displays its ability to prevent some disharmonious development. For instance, the issue of the resistance of tourist boats on replacing the diesel engine, local government plans to only allow electric boat in the Herengracht (Redactie RNW, 2012).

From the planning perspective, the requirement of dynamic process is hard to judge because the missing in-depth information on the planning process of some important plans, especially in the Lijiang case. But the requirements of long-term planning and acceptance of change and development can be observed in both cases. In Lijiang it is reflected in the comprehensive plan as for long-term development and strategic development plan every five years, while in Amsterdam it is reflected in the Structural Vision Amsterdam planning for the development until 2040 and several short term projects for promoting SD in different aspects.

In sum, two cases are embodied in the national structures which are introduced in the context studies. The laws and administrative departments in the planning and cultural heritage conservation disciplines at the national level influence the management of Lijiang and Amsterdam at the local level. So they are not repeatedly mentioned in the cases. However, the in-depth studies offer more detailed conservation methods and explore the possibilities of reaching SD in historic towns and centres from the conservation and development aspects. For instance, Lijiang case demonstrates that private owners of folk houses need to get approval from related departments for the restoration and maintenance of their houses, which is the missing piece at the national heritage conservation structure. In the Amsterdam case, CWM plays an important role in examining the influence of new project on the consistent external appearance of historic centre. The suggestions of CWM are taken into account when the City of Amsterdam grants permits. These kinds of methods fill the gap between the national policy and local situation.
9. Conclusion

In this part, the answers for the main research question will be addressed. Later, the suggestion for further research will be put forward.

9.1 Conclusion

The starting point of this research is that more and more development problems, especially the negative impacts of tourism development, are found in historic towns and centres and the awareness of the importance of cultural heritage on local SD is increasing. Considering the different circumstances of China and the Netherlands and rare comparison study of these two countries, this research decides to conduct a comparison study with the approach of offering a holistic view of examining the SD of historic towns and centres. To seeking the possibility of reaching SD in historic towns and centres, a suitable evaluation model is needed. The three pillars model of SD is chosen to use among various models and assessment methods. Based on the finding problems in historic towns and scientific research filed, the objective of the research raises and main research and four sub-issues are set. This leads to the formulation of research framework (Figure 1.3 in p.9). The research framework divides the research into four parts. The theoretical framework part I consists three chapters and is the foundation of the research: Chapter 2 helps the author narrows the research target into the type of inhabited historic towns, and Chapter 3 forms the three pillars model of SD indicators in historic towns which is the theoretical framework of the thesis. The theoretical framework part II is the context studies of China and the Netherlands including two chapters. This part offers the planning system and cultural heritage conservation structure at the national level in two countries, and forms the national structure which the in-depth study is embodied. And then the third part in-depth studies via Lijiang case in China and Amsterdam case in the Netherlands explore the detailed methods of two countries dealing with the SD of historic towns. It fills the gap between national policy and local actions. At the end, all three parts lead to the final part—Discussion and conclusion. After the discussion, four sub-issues are answered and contribute to answer the main research question better.

So how China and the Netherlands under two different circumstances reconcile the conflict between the conservation and development in their cultural heritage sites and balance the relationship among the three pillars of SD? The conflict between the conservation and development needs to consider from two aspects. The first aspect is from the protection of the physical environment (including the protection of historic buildings and the built environment) and development. The protection of historic building makes it possible to reuse the building which prolongs its life span. And the good condition of the physical environment in the historic district offers the opportunity to develop industry like tourism or creative knowledge centre and contributes to the development of the city directly (revenue) and indirectly (identity, characteristic of the city, attractiveness). The mechanism for protecting physical environment of a heritage site is well-developed in two countries. This is due to two main reasons. The first one is the development of conservation principle at the international level. Especially for the WHS, the protection of physical environment works better than that of the un-listed sites because the principle of integrity is an important criterion for being a WHS. The second one is that it is commonly recognized about the potential contribution of the historic environment for local development.

The second aspect is from the social-cultural aspect which involves emotional feeling and makes it the most difficult to reconcile the conflict. The most obvious conflict is that local communities consider the great number of tourists as the disturbance of their daily life. In many case (such as Venice and Salzburg), even there is no physical obstacle to prevent local inhabitants to access to the heritage site, but emotionally local inhabitants feel it is
unnecessary for them to go to the heritage site. The conflict in this aspect is more serious in China than that in the Netherlands. In China, many redevelopment projects of historic towns are tourism-oriented (such as Zhouzhuang and Phoenix old town). The aspect of local community is easily compromised to the tourism development. There is a trend that involving local community in the tourism development of historic towns (such as the redevelopment of Shuhe), but this method effective or not needs further research. Furthermore, this trend is still tourism-oriented. The living function of historic town is neglected easily. The fundamental reason is the financial resources. The financial resource of cultural heritage in China is mainly from the expenditure of local fiscal budget. The protection of historic cities (towns, villages) is much more complex than that of historic buildings. In other words, it needs more money to support the conservation projects. But the economic situations of many historic towns are not well enough to support their conservation projects. So the tourism development is a suitable development strategy for current Chinese situation.

In the Netherlands, the conflict in the second aspect exists but not as serious as that in China. There are two main reasons for minimizing this kind of conflict. The first one is the well-functioned financial support system. The second one is the privately ownership of land. The redevelopment of a heritage site involves several stakeholders, including people living in and around the heritage site. To work out a redevelopment project, it needs to negotiate among different groups of people and finds an acceptable solution for all participations. This procedure may spend long time for reaching the agreement, but it makes sure that the project receives less resistance and local community can prepare for the changes.

The balance among three pillars of SD in the cultural heritage site does not manage well in both China and the Netherlands. In China, the SD emphasizes more on the economic dimension. For the environmental dimension, it shows the tendency that local government takes actions after the environmental problem arises. In other words, local government is not pro-active for the environmental issues. This situation is due to the fast economic development makes the environmental dimension is compromised. For the social-cultural dimension, it has two aspects: the first one is the living function in the historic towns which is neglected in most cases; the second one is the intangible cultural heritage. Chinese government is working on collecting and preserving important intangible cultural heritage, including traditional culture, customs, festivals, rituals, etc. But the issue remains—how to well preserve the intangible cultural heritage, keeping them in the museums, or revitalizing them in daily life and finding the inheritors, or considering them as selling points for tourism development, etc.

In the Netherlands, the SD of the heritage site focuses more on the economic dimension too. Its economic dimension emphasizes the competitiveness of the city and efficiency use of resources. But the environmental dimension is not compromised to the economic development. The quality of living environment is an important attractiveness for the development of a city, for instance, Amsterdammers enjoy living in Amsterdam because of its environmental quality. The situation in social-cultural dimension in the Netherlands is different from that in China. It emphasizes the quality of life, such as urban amenities for inhabitants. But the cultural history (including traditions, customs, etc.) is not received enough attention. So two recently policy documents (Belvedere and MoMo) try to combine the cultural history with spatial planning. This action may contribute to form the local identity which can distinguish the city from others and enhance the attractiveness for the city’s further development.

Based on the situation of two countries, the economic dimension can be considered as the pre-condition of the conservation and development of historic towns and centres. For the historic towns with economic problems, they need the economic benefits of tourism to
improve their economic situation. After their economic situations improve, they can consider how to better preserving their historic towns and future development or alternative development strategy except tourism (Lijiang). For the historic towns with better economic situation, the economic benefits of preserving historic towns can attract further investments from interested groups. The well preserved historic towns and centres become the identities and attractiveness for future development of the site (Amsterdam. Since the economic dimension is more like the pre-condition for the development of historic towns, local government shall pay more attention on the environmental and social-cultural dimensions in order to keep a good balance among three dimensions of SD.

Generally speaking, the programme of WH already receives many critiques (see Keough, 2011). One of them is that WHL becomes a selling point or brand for tourism industry. Being a WHS means the increasing number of tourists, together with the economic benefits. It tests the ability of local government to manage and steer the great number of tourists and tourism activities. Furthermore, local government needs to pay more attention on local community, including improving the living quality in the heritage site, the heritage site still serving local inhabitants, and minimizing the negative impact of tourism on local community, etc. Also, local inhabitants need to aware of the changes and prepare for it. In addition, the intangible aspect of the heritage site, including history, traditional culture, custom, etc., needs to receive more attention. The protection of the intangible aspect is much more difficult than the physical aspect. Especially the small heritage sites, they are more vulnerable for the changes.

Based on this research, the idea of SD will help historic towns to reach a better future which is satisfied by local inhabitants and visitors. The SD means the development in the sites needs to consider three dimensions (environmental, economic, and social-cultural dimensions). Furthermore, the SD in historic towns needs to take the relationship between conservation and development into account. So a suitable SD evaluation indicator will help local government examine its policies and actions and see whether or not these actions contribute to the site’s SD. This research develops the three pillars model of SD to examine the SD of historic towns in two countries. With the help of the model, the strengths and weaknesses of two approaches are identified easily. In a word, the idea of SD has contribution on reconciling the conflicts in historic towns, and the evaluation method of three pillars model has positive effect on reviewing the development of the sites.

9.2 Suggestion for further research
The suggestions for further researches will be given in three groups: Lijiang case, Amsterdam case, and the context study. For the Lijiang case, the first issue is about the problem of some out-of-date information, such as the number of indigenous people living in the old town and their profiles (separated data on three areas: Dayan, Shuhe, and Baisha), number and types of shops, restaurants, hostels, etc. and their spatial pattern, environmental quality assessment (methods and detail data), etc. Some of them may be conducted by local government or related department. But the detailed information is not open to the public, which makes the scholars difficult to do their research. The second issue is about the situation of Naxi people moving out from the old town. Why they move out and how to attract them move back, or how to strengthen the living atmosphere in the old town need to be done further research into.

For the Amsterdam case, the suggestion is mainly concerned about the profile of the citizens living in the historic centre (such as Amsterdammers with immigrant backgrounds, indigenous people, and people living and working in the city from other cities in the Netherlands and from other EU cities), whether their different backgrounds affect their concern about the conservation and development of the historic centre or not, and whether
their focus issues will be different or not. This kind of issues may have had related
discussions or research already, but probably in Dutch and it is rare in the articles at the
international level.

The last vital suggestions are put forward for the context study. In the Chinese situation,
the further research could include the possibility and potential mechanism for better
involvement of the public in the planning procedure and heritage conservation work, the
financial support system for protecting and developing cultural heritage site, and the
alternative development strategy for the historic cities or towns besides tourism.

In the Dutch situation, the further research could include whether Wro improves the
conditions sufficiently or not, the national and provincial governments’ implement of the
policy of their interest and their involvement in the municipal spatial development, and the
trend of combining cultural heritage and spatial planning as well as how it works in practice
and how the result reflects this trend.

In addition, the most obvious negative effect of being a WHS due to a great number of
tourists, so the further research on how to guide and manage the tourism development in a
WHS better is necessary.
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Ping, K., 2008. Social quality in the conservation process of living heritage sites. PhD. Delft University of Technology.


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Appendix 1 List of international cultural heritage conservation documents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adoption year</th>
<th>Organisation</th>
<th>Document</th>
<th>Important information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1931</td>
<td>CIAM (International Congresses of Modern Architecture)</td>
<td>Athens Charter</td>
<td>-Has a chapter for the building and area with historic values; -The value and basic principle for the preservation; -The education value for future generation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1964</td>
<td>ICOMOS</td>
<td>Venice Charter</td>
<td>-Definition and aim; -5 principle for conservation; -5 principle for restoration.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1972</td>
<td>UNESCO</td>
<td>World Heritage Convention</td>
<td>-Definition of cultural and natural heritage; -National and international protection; -Intergovernmental committee for the protection of the World Cultural &amp; Natural Heritage; -Fund &amp; international assistance; -Education.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1975</td>
<td>ICOMOS (4th General Assembly)</td>
<td>Resolution of the International Symposium on the Conservation of Smaller Historic Towns</td>
<td>-Smaller historic towns’ classification, characteristic, specific dangers; -Five strategies are suggested; -Future needs stronger and more comprehensive national and regional legislation to encourage the conservation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1976</td>
<td>UNESCO</td>
<td>Nairobi Recommendation (Recommendation Concerning the Safeguarding and Contemporary Role of Historic Areas)</td>
<td>-Comprehensive set of standards and principles for historic environment conservation (legal, administrative, technical, economic, and social measures)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1982</td>
<td>ICOMOS (ICOMOS-IFLA)</td>
<td>Florence Charter on Historic Gardens</td>
<td>-Definition of historic gardens; -Strategies for its maintenance, conservation, restoration, reconstruction, and use; -Legal and administrative protection.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year</td>
<td>Organization</td>
<td>Document Title</td>
<td>Summary</td>
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<tr>
<td>1982</td>
<td>ICOMOS</td>
<td>Tlaxcala Declaration on the Revitalization of Small Settlements</td>
<td>Conclusions: moral obligation, non-renewable resource, respect for the traditions and specific ways of life, regional planning, substitutes; 9 recommendations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1987</td>
<td>ICOMOS</td>
<td>Washington Charter for historic towns and urban areas</td>
<td>Complement the Venice Charter (emphasis on monument); Integrating preservation objectives into planning policy; Community participation; Social and economic aspects.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>ICOMOS</td>
<td>Nara Document on Authenticity</td>
<td>Broader understanding of cultural diversity and cultural heritage; Cultural and social values; and respect other cultures, values; No fixed criteria for evaluating authenticity, evaluate in its cultural context.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>ICOMOS</td>
<td>Charter on the Built Vernacular Heritage</td>
<td>Importance of vernacular building, force of globalization, community support; 5 principles for conservation; Guidelines for practices (research and documentation, preserving traditional craft and building skills, adaptive re-use, training);</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>ICOMOS</td>
<td>Principles for the Preservation of Historic Timber Structure</td>
<td>7 basic principles; Recommendations on the inspection, recording, documentation, monitoring, maintenance, interventions, repair and replacement, forest reserves, material, technologies and training.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>ICOMOS</td>
<td>International Cultural Tourism Charter: Managing Tourism at Places of Heritage Significance</td>
<td>Relationship between tourism, heritage, and living culture of the host community; Relationship between conservation and tourism; 6 principles for cultural tourism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>UNESCO</td>
<td>Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural</td>
<td>Basic principles; Practical rules; State cooperation system.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year</td>
<td>Organization</td>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Description</td>
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<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>UNESCO</td>
<td>Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage</td>
<td>-Practical measures at the national and international level; -Fund.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>UNESCO</td>
<td>Declaration Concerning the International Destruction of Cultural Heritage</td>
<td>-States and individual responsibilities; -Protection during peacetime and armed conflict; -Public awareness.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>ICOMOS</td>
<td>Xi’an Declaration on the Conservation of the Setting of Heritage Structures, Sites and Areas</td>
<td>-Contribution of setting to the significance of heritage monuments, sites and areas; and understand the setting; -Planning tools and practices for conserving setting; notice the affecting changes; -Cooperation and awareness.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>ICOMOS</td>
<td>Charter on the Interpretation and Presentation of Cultural Heritage Site</td>
<td>-7 objectives; -7 principles.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>ICOMOS</td>
<td>Quebec Declaration on the Preservation of the Spirit of Place</td>
<td>-Spirit of place (tangible and intangible), contributes to making places; -Connect intangible heritage with non-tangible concepts of material place; -Threats (climate change, tourism, armed conflict, urban development); -Safeguard (legal, education, digital technologies) and transmit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>ICOMOS</td>
<td>The Valletta Principles for the Safeguarding and Management of Historic Cities, Towns and Urban Areas</td>
<td>-Changes (in natural, built, social environment; intangible heritage); -Intervention respect for tangible and intangible heritage values and quality of life (10 points);</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year</td>
<td>Organization</td>
<td>Document Title</td>
<td>Strategies (12 points)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>ICOMOS</td>
<td>Paris Declaration on Heritage as a Driver of Development</td>
<td>-The role in the context of SD; -Heritage and regional development; -Tourism and development; -Heritage and economics; -Stakeholders.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Appendix 2 List of Chinese and Dutch World Heritage Sites

### Table 1 Chinese World Cultural Heritage Site

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inscription year</th>
<th>Province, City(s) and Provinces/Municipalities</th>
<th>World Heritage Site in English</th>
<th>World Heritage Site in Chinese</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1987</td>
<td>Beijing Municipality &amp; Liaoning, Shaanxi, Gansu, Jilin, Hebei, Shanxi, Inner Mongolia, Ningxia, Xingjiang, Sichuan, Qinghai, Beijing, Tianjin Municipalities</td>
<td>Imperial Palaces of the Ming and Qing Dynasties in Beijing and Shenyang</td>
<td>明清故宫 (北京故宫，沈阳故宫)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Shaanxi</td>
<td>Mausoleum of the First Qin Emperor</td>
<td>秦始皇陵及兵马俑坑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gansu</td>
<td>Mogao Caves</td>
<td>莫高窟</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Beijing Municipality</td>
<td>Peking man site at Zhoukoudian</td>
<td>周口店北京人遗址</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Liaoning, Jilin, Hebei, Shanxi, Inner Mongolia, Shaanxi, Ningxia, Gansu, Xingjiang, Sichuan, Qinghai, Beijing, Tianjin Municipalities</td>
<td>The Great Wall</td>
<td>长城</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>Shandong</td>
<td>Mount Taishan (mixed heritage)</td>
<td>泰山</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Anhui</td>
<td>Mount Huangshan (mixed heritage)</td>
<td>黄山</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>Hubei</td>
<td>Ancient building complex in the Wudang Mountains</td>
<td>武当山古建筑群</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tibet</td>
<td>Historic ensemble of the Potala Palace, Lhasa</td>
<td>拉萨布达拉宫历史建筑群</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hebei</td>
<td>Mountain Resort and its outlying temples, Chengde</td>
<td>承德避暑山庄及其周围寺庙</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Shandong</td>
<td>Temple and cemetery of Confucius and the Kong Family Mansion in Qufu</td>
<td>曲阜孔庙、孔林和孔府</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>Jiangxi</td>
<td>Lushan national park</td>
<td>庐山国家公园</td>
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(Source: UNESCO, 2012a)
### Appendix 3 List of famous cities of historical and cultural value (China)

**Table 1 The first approved list (02-08-1982)**

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**Table 2 The second approved list (08-12-1986)**

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**Table 3 The third approved list (04-01-1994)**

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<td>肇庆</td>
<td>广东</td>
<td>佛山</td>
<td>广东</td>
<td>梅州</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guangdong</td>
<td>Leizhou</td>
<td>Guangxi</td>
<td>Liuzhou</td>
<td>Hainan</td>
<td>Qionghshan</td>
<td>Guangdong</td>
<td>Leshan</td>
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<tr>
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<td>雷州</td>
<td>广西</td>
<td>柳州</td>
<td>海南</td>
<td>琼山</td>
<td>四川</td>
<td>乐山</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sichuan</td>
<td>Dujiangyan</td>
<td>Sichuan</td>
<td>Lanzhou</td>
<td>Yunan</td>
<td>Jianhu</td>
<td>Yunan</td>
<td>乐山</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>四川</td>
<td>都江堰</td>
<td>四川</td>
<td>泸州</td>
<td>云南</td>
<td>建水</td>
<td>云南</td>
<td>魏山</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Tibet</td>
<td>Jiangmu</td>
<td>Shaanxi</td>
<td>Hsiyinang</td>
<td>Shaanxi</td>
<td>Hanzhong</td>
<td>Gansu</td>
<td>天水</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>西藏</td>
<td>江孜</td>
<td>陕西</td>
<td>咸阳</td>
<td>陕西</td>
<td>汉中</td>
<td>甘肃</td>
<td>天水</td>
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<tr>
<td>Qinghai</td>
<td>Tongren</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>青海</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 4 The latest approved famous cities of historical and cultural value (since 04-01-1994)
Because of the adjustment of administrative region, Qiongshan (Hainan province, in the 3\textsuperscript{rd} approved list) was merged with Haikou (in the latest approved famous cities of historical and cultural value).

Table 5 The number of famous cities, towns, villages of historical and cultural value in each provinces

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Province</th>
<th>Historical cities</th>
<th>Historical towns</th>
<th>Historical villages</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>municipality directly under the central government (ancient towns and villages is in these municipality’s administrative region)</td>
<td>1\textsuperscript{st} list: 1 2\textsuperscript{nd} list: 3</td>
<td>1\textsuperscript{st} list: 3 2\textsuperscript{nd} list: 4 3\textsuperscript{rd} list: 4 4\textsuperscript{th} list: 8 5\textsuperscript{th} list: 7</td>
<td>1\textsuperscript{st} list: 1 2\textsuperscript{nd} list: 1 3\textsuperscript{rd} list: 1 4\textsuperscript{th} list: 2 5\textsuperscript{th} list: 2</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anhui</td>
<td></td>
<td>2\textsuperscript{nd} list: 3 Latest: 2</td>
<td>1\textsuperscript{st} list: 2 2\textsuperscript{nd} list: 2 3\textsuperscript{rd} list: 3 4\textsuperscript{th} list: 3 5\textsuperscript{th} list: 2</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fujian</td>
<td></td>
<td>1\textsuperscript{st} list: 1 2\textsuperscript{nd} list: 2 3\textsuperscript{rd} list: 1</td>
<td>1\textsuperscript{st} list: 1 2\textsuperscript{nd} list: 1 3\textsuperscript{rd} list: 3 4\textsuperscript{th} list: 3 5\textsuperscript{th} list: 2</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gansu</td>
<td></td>
<td>2\textsuperscript{nd} list: 3 3\textsuperscript{rd} list: 1</td>
<td>2\textsuperscript{nd} list: 1 3\textsuperscript{rd} list: 3 4\textsuperscript{th} list: 2 5\textsuperscript{th} list: 1</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guangdong</td>
<td></td>
<td>1\textsuperscript{st} list: 1 2\textsuperscript{nd} list: 1 3\textsuperscript{rd} list: 4 Latest: 1</td>
<td>2\textsuperscript{nd} list: 2 3\textsuperscript{rd} list: 3 4\textsuperscript{th} list: 3 5\textsuperscript{th} list: 2</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guangxi</td>
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<td>1\textsuperscript{st} list: 1 3\textsuperscript{rd} list: 1 Latest: 1</td>
<td>2\textsuperscript{nd} list: 1 3\textsuperscript{rd} list: 2 4\textsuperscript{th} list: 1 5\textsuperscript{th} list: 1</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Guizhou</td>
<td></td>
<td>1\textsuperscript{st} list: 1 2\textsuperscript{nd} list: 1</td>
<td>2\textsuperscript{nd} list: 2 3\textsuperscript{rd} list: 2 4\textsuperscript{th} list: 2</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hainan</td>
<td>Latest: 1</td>
<td>3\textsuperscript{rd} list: 1 4\textsuperscript{th} list: 3</td>
<td>3\textsuperscript{rd} list: 2 4\textsuperscript{th} list: 1 5\textsuperscript{th} list: 4</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hebei</td>
<td></td>
<td>1\textsuperscript{st} list: 1 2\textsuperscript{nd} list: 1 3\textsuperscript{rd} list: 2 Latest: 1</td>
<td>2\textsuperscript{nd} list: 1 3\textsuperscript{rd} list: 1 4\textsuperscript{th} list: 2 5\textsuperscript{th} list: 2</td>
<td>18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Heilongjiang</td>
<td>3\textsuperscript{rd} list: 1 3\textsuperscript{rd} list: 1 Latest: 1</td>
<td>3\textsuperscript{rd} list: 1 4\textsuperscript{th} list: 1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>He’nan</td>
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<td>1\textsuperscript{st} list: 2 2\textsuperscript{nd} list: 3 3\textsuperscript{rd} list: 2 Latest: 1</td>
<td>2\textsuperscript{nd} list: 2 3\textsuperscript{rd} list: 1 4\textsuperscript{th} list: 3 5\textsuperscript{th} list: 1</td>
<td>17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Province</td>
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<td>2nd list:</td>
<td>3rd list:</td>
<td>4th list:</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hubei</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunan</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inner Mongolia</td>
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<td>Jiangsu</td>
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<td>Jiangxi</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jilin</td>
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<td>Ningxia</td>
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<td>Qinghai</td>
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<td>1</td>
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<td>Shaanxi</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shandong</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shanxi</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sichuan</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6</td>
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<td>Tibet</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Xinjiang</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yunnan</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
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Zhejiang

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>3rd list</th>
<th>Latest</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
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<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latest</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total: 119 181 169 469

(Source: Central People’s Government, 2012; State Administration of Cultural Heritage, 1982 and 1985)

Figure 1 The draft of the number of historical cities, ancient towns and historical villages in each provinces

(Based on Table 5, made by author)
Appendix 4 Some principles and requirements for sustainable development

Sustainable development is a process of achieving human development through five principles:

- Inclusiveness (human development over time and space);
- Connectivity (an embrace of ecological, social and economic interdependence);
- Equity (intergenerational, intra-generational and interspecies fairness);
- Prudence (duties of care and prevention: technologically, scientifically and politically); and

And the equity principle of sustainable development is further developed into five sub-issues:

- Futurity (intergenerational equity);
- Social justice (intra-generational equity);
- Transfrontier responsibility (geographical equity);
- Procedural equity (people treated openly and fairly); and
- Importance of biodiversity (interspecies) (Haughton, 1999).

‘Our Common Future’ states that the pursuit of sustainable development requires:

- A political system that secures effective citizen participation in decision making.
- An economic system that is able to generate surpluses and technical knowledge on a self-reliant and sustained basis.
- A social system that provides for solutions for the tensions arising from dis harmonious development.
- A production system that respects the obligation to preserve the ecological base for development.
- A technological system that can search continuously for new solutions.
- An international system that fosters sustainable patterns of trade and finance, and
- An administrative system that is flexible and has the capacity for self-correction (WCED, 1987, Article 81).

Nine critical issues for sustainable development objectives:

- Reviving growth;
- Changing the quality of growth;
- Meeting essential needs for jobs, food, energy, water, and sanitation;
- Ensuring a sustainable level of population;
- Conserving and enhancing the resource base;
- Reorienting technology and managing risk;
- Merging environment and economics in decision making;
- Reorienting international economic relations; and
- Making development more participatory (WCED, 1987, Article 28).

United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) illustrated the concept of sustainable development should comprise:

- Help for the very poor;
- The idea of self-reliant development within natural resource constraints;
- The idea of cost-effective development using non-traditional economic criteria;
- The great issues of health control, appropriate technology, food self-reliance, clean water and shelter for all; and
- The notion that people-centred initiatives are needed (Tolba, 1984, cited in Lélé, 1991).

To reach sustainable development in urban environment, Satterthwaite gave five broad categories of environmental actions:

- Controlling infectious and parasitic diseases and the health burden they take on urban populations;
- Reducing chemical and physical hazards within home, the workplace and the wider city;
- Achieving a high-quality urban environment for all urban-inhabitants;
- Minimising the transfer of environmental costs to the inhabitants and ecosystems surrounding the city; and
- Ensuring progress towards what is often termed ‘sustainable consumption’ (Satterthwaite, 1997).

Table 1 Related issue for a comprehensive plan under the principle of SD (Berke and Conroy, 2000)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic of SD</th>
<th>Operational principles of SD</th>
<th>Important elements of a plan</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Reproduction (not just the duplication of the status quo, but also a fostering of</td>
<td>- Harmony with nature;</td>
<td>- Housing;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>revitalization);</td>
<td>- Liveable built environments;</td>
<td>- Transportation;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Balance among environmental, economic, and social values;</td>
<td>- Place-based economy;</td>
<td>- Environment;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Link local to global concerns, and</td>
<td>- Equity (improve the conditions of low-income populations, equitable access to social and</td>
<td>- Energy;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Dynamic process (extends from the formulation of a plan).</td>
<td>economic resources);</td>
<td>- Land use;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Polluters pay; and</td>
<td>- Economic development;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Responsible regionalism.</td>
<td>- Public facilities.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2 Strategies for Chinese SD (State Council, 1994)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Economic dimension</th>
<th>Environmental dimension</th>
<th>Social dimension</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Sustainable agriculture and rural development;</td>
<td>- Conservation and sustainable use of natural resources;</td>
<td>- Population control;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Sustainable development of industry;</td>
<td>- Conservation of bio-diversity;</td>
<td>- Establishment of sustainable consumption</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Transportation and communications; and</td>
<td>- Resisting and reversing desertification;</td>
<td>patterns;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Sustainable energy production and consumption.</td>
<td>- Protection of the atmosphere; and</td>
<td>- Eradication of poverty;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Environmentally sound management of solid wastes.</td>
<td>- Improvement of health and sanitation;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Development of sustainable human settlements;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Disaster mitigation.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Seven key challenges set by the European Union Sustainable Development Strategy:
- Climate change and clean energy;
- Sustainable transport;
- Sustainable consumption and production;
- Conservation and management of natural resources;
- Public health;
- Social inclusion, demography and migration;

Twelve sustainability themes of Sustainable Action (2003) in the Netherlands:
- Poverty reduction;
- Effective global governance;
- Good global financing structures and trade;
- Good water management and access to clean drinking water;
- Sustainable energy management (clean, reliable, affordable);
- Health and safety;
- Sustainable agriculture;
- Biodiversity;
- Population (ageing and migration);
- Sustainable mobility;
- Sustainable production and consumption;
- Knowledge (VROM, 2003).
Appendix 5 Additional information of Lijiang city

Table 1 The protection requirements of different levels folk house (Zhu and Xiao, 2006)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Folk house’s protection level</th>
<th>Protection requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Important protected folk house</td>
<td>- Carefully protect, be clear about the main protected body and implement the protection measures;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Improve environment, make every effort to recover the traditional</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
features, the alteration, demolition and application are forbidden;
-When doing the repairing work, it must follow the original style at the original site, and is forbidden to make changes to the original structure, floors, direction and material;
-It must have detailed design when do some necessary repair, maintain, strengthen, add infrastructure etc.;
-The repair work follows the principle ‘restoration as what they had been’

**Protected folk house**

- In principle, the requirement is the same as the important protected folk house, be clear about the main protected body and implement the protection measure;
- Improve environment, try as much as possible to recover the traditional features, any random alteration, demolition and application are forbidden;
- When doing the repairing work, it should follow the original style at the original site, and should not make changes to the original structure, floors, direction and material;
- It must have the plan and necessary design when do some necessary repair, maintain, strengthen, add infrastructure etc.;
- The repair work follows the principle ‘restoration as what they had been’

**Common** folk house

- The protection, maintain follows uniform requirements, improve environment, and it is not allowed to demolish or destroy unauthorized;
- The internal is allow to add infrastructure and do necessary change to meet living needs, but the new material and infrastructure should try the best to hide;
- The external should try the best to keep the traditional size, style, decoration, and use the traditional material and colour;
- It should have detailed plan when do every maintain, strengthen, internal transform etc.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Protection area</th>
<th>Protection requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Protection zone** | -All historical buildings and historical environmental elements are forbidden to demolish in the protection zone. Based on the function adjustment and characteristic requirement, they shall be repaired following the principle of keeping its authenticity and integrity, and improve their internal facilities;  
-When do the renovation and function adjustment of the houses and facilities in the protection zone, their exterior appearance shall keep as the past;  
-All new construct or reconstruct buildings or structures in the protection zone, must meet related regulations and requirements. |
| **Buffer zone** | -The buffer zone including the peripheral district of the protection zone is allowed to construct, but the style, size, height, colour and shape of the buildings and structures are strictly controlled;  
-In the buffer zone, it is not allowed to build the facilities whose style do not have direct relationship with the old town. The building which is |

*Table 2 The requirements for different protection areas (Protection regulation, 2005; Old town protection bureau, 2009)*
necessary to be rebuild, or necessary to build a new one, their style, size, height, colour and form shall correspond with the surrounding;
- All new construct or reconstruct buildings or structures in the buffer zone, must meet related regulations and requirements.

Environmental coordinating zone

- The environmental coordinating zone is an area whose main content is protecting the natural topography and coordinating the landscape. The environmental coordinating zone of Lijiang old town mainly has two areas: new town and environmental protection area;
- In the environmental coordinating zone, it is not allowed to do the construction which is not coordinated with the old town environment;
- The new town includes Lijiang new town and new district of Yulong County. Their construction follows the principles of combining with nature, human scale, and the green space has its own features. The new town area tries to form the characteristic of the plateau mountain and water city which has cultural taste, friendly and human scale;
- The environmental protection area includes the natural environmental feature whose main body is mountain, water and idyll, and the biological system composing by them. The environmental protection area can be further divided into mountain protection area, water protection area, and the idyll protection area.

Table 3 The changes of the character and designated function of Lijiang city (Ge, et al, 2009; Lijiang Planning Bureau, 2012)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Designated function of the city</th>
<th>Character of the city</th>
<th>Important issues</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- The county is the political, economic and cultural centre of its administrative region;</td>
<td>- The centre of Naxi culture;</td>
<td>- The 1983 version of the Lijiang comprehensive plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- A town with rich landscape resources and has the opportunity to establish the Jade Dragon Snow Mountain Scenic Area;</td>
<td>- A light industry town mainly relies on processing of agricultural, forestry and pasture products;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Tourism started its development in 1985; Lijiang designated as the National famous cities of historical and cultural value. 1991 version of the Lijiang comprehensive plan—Political, commercial, business, cultural and scientific research centre of the county; Main body of the national famous city of historical and cultural value; One of the main area of the Jade Dragon Snow Mountain Scenic Area; The supporting area of the Nankou industry sites; A developing tourism town.

Tourism started its development in 1985; Lijiang designated as the National famous cities of historical and cultural value. 1991 version of the Lijiang comprehensive plan—Political, commercial, business, cultural and scientific research centre of the county; Main body of the national famous city of historical and cultural value; One of the main area of the Jade Dragon Snow Mountain Scenic Area; The supporting area of the Nankou industry sites; A developing tourism town.

Tourism started its development in 1985; Lijiang designated as the National famous cities of historical and cultural value. 1991 version of the Lijiang comprehensive plan—Political, commercial, business, cultural and scientific research centre of the county; Main body of the national famous city of historical and cultural value; One of the main area of the Jade Dragon Snow Mountain Scenic Area; The supporting area of the Nankou industry sites; A developing tourism town.

Tourism started its development in 1985; Lijiang designated as the National famous cities of historical and cultural value. 1991 version of the Lijiang comprehensive plan—Political, commercial, business, cultural and scientifi
A high-quality international tourism city; World Heritage Site;

An important higher education base of Yunnan; important higher service industry for the Great Shanghai-Yunnan-Sichuan-Tibet tourism-leading modern service industry for the Great south-west part.

An ecological industry base, clean energy base; An important site for the opening-up of Chinese cultural and creative industry base; The development and distribution area of the tourism-leading modern service industry for the Great Shangri-La (involving Yunnan, Sichuan, and Tibet provinces);

A high-quality international tourism city with unique ethic characteristics and integrated mountain, river, field, urban and rural area as a whole; An ecological industry base, clean energy base; An important site for the opening-up of Chinese cultural and creative industry base; The development and distribution area of the tourism-leading modern service industry for the Great Shangri-La (involving Yunnan, Sichuan, and Tibet provinces);

An important higher education base of Yunnan; important higher service industry for the Great south-west part.

An ecological industry base, clean energy base; An important site for the opening-up of Chinese cultural and creative industry base; The development and distribution area of the tourism-leading modern service industry for the Great Shangri-La (involving Yunnan, Sichuan, and Tibet provinces);

A high-quality international tourism city; World Heritage Site;

2010 version of the Lijiang comprehensive plan