

P-1 Heritage value and conservation – a panel discussion with three UNESCO World Heritage Gardens

P.Y. Tan¹, R. Deverell², L. Trainotti³, and T. Choo¹

¹ Singapore Botanic Gardens, Singapore

² Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, UK

³ University of Padua (Orto Botanico di Padova), Italy

Duration: 60 minutes

Target audience: Botanic Gardens managers whose site and/or work portfolio includes a heritage aspect (management, conservation, education, etc).

Objectives: Participants will get the chance to learn about and discuss the topic of heritage with three UNESCO World Heritage Gardens. We hope to provide perspectives on our Gardens' UNESCO journeys, the value and challenges of heritage conservation, as well as provide some insight into the thinking and approach that our Gardens take when it comes to heritage.

Abstract: To date, there are three Botanic Gardens on the UNESCO World Heritage List: the Botanical Garden (Orto Botanico) of Padua, recognised for being the world's first botanical garden; the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, a historic landscape garden that has had a significant and uninterrupted contribution to the study of plant diversity and economic botany; and the Singapore Botanic Gardens, a cultural site that demonstrates the evolution of a British tropical colonial botanic garden into a modern world-class scientific institution. In addition to the work required to conserve these sites for their heritage value, all three Gardens also fulfil the suite of contemporary functions associated with being respected academic institutes and important public spaces for recreation and learning. This session brings together leaders of these three Gardens for an interactive panel discussion on the topic of heritage value and conservation.