Post Conflict Heritage in Asia; shifting geographies of cultural aid

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In a number of post-conflict situations in Asia the dynamics of aid and development have shifted significantly in recent years. The rise of China has been the key catalyst for a new era of intra-regional assistance and economic support between regional neighbours. In the area of cultural aid, the rise of intra-regional assistance has supplemented - and in some cases - replaced the international civil society sector, which to date has been typically comprised of western non-governmental agencies. A key factor in this shift has been the recent surge in Asian tourism, which now accounts for 70 per cent or more of visitor arrivals to a number of countries in the region. This dramatic and long-term shift in global tourism is directly impacting the cultural recovery of a number of post-conflict countries across Asia in unexpected ways. To illustrate this, the paper draws upon examples from Sri Lanka, Cambodia and Laos.