



**DELEGATION PERMANENTE
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Subject: Submission of Report on Progress for Kaesong – DPR Korea

Dear Mr. Kishore Rao,

I have the honor to submit herewith the Report on Progress in the implementation of the Decision 37 COM 8B. 30 adopted by the Intergovernmental committee for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage.

Availing myself of this opportunity, I wish you every success in your noble work for preservation of world cultural properties, the common wealth of humankind.

Please accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest considerations.

JON In Chan

Ambassador

Deputy Permanent Delegate

Kishore Rao (Mr)
Director, World Heritage Centre
UNESCO
Paris, France

Report on progress in the implementation of the decision 37COM
8B.30 adopted by the Intergovernmental Committee for the
Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage

National Authority for the Protection of Cultural Heritage
Democratic People's Republic of Korea
12. 2014

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Foreword

The protection and management of World Heritage which constitutes the common treasure of the humanity as a whole for their outstanding universal value is not only the commitment of each state party towards the Convention concerning the Protection of Cultural and Natural Heritage but also the noble obligation for all nations having World Heritage benefiting thus all the people of the world.

In its 37th session, the Intergovernmental Committee for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, hereinafter referred to as “the World Heritage Committee”, adopted the decision 37COM 8B.30 for the inscription of *the Historic Monuments and Sites in Kaesong* on the World Heritage List and recommended the State Party, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, to give consideration to the following:

- a) Developing tourism management and interpretation plans for the nominated property components;
- b) Further developing the monitoring system to ensure coordination between the monitoring bodies.

The National Authority for the Protection of Cultural Heritage, hereinafter referred to as “the NAPCH” which is a national governmental body for the unified guidance of the protection of all national heritages shared the view that the abovementioned recommendations raised very important points, and adopted decision to conduct its implementation involving all other related governmental bodies.

This report outlines the progress made in the implementation of the decision 37COM 8B.30 adopted by the World Heritage Committee.

On the process of further developing the monitoring system to ensure coordination between the monitoring bodies

Being the view that the further developing of the monitoring system to ensure coordination between the monitoring bodies as recommended by the World Heritage Committee in its decision 37COM 8B.30 is important in strengthening the protection and management of the World Heritage as well as the overall national heritage, the NAPCH set out for the implementation thereof at the national level.

As a result the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, with the aim of further enhancing the monitoring system to ensure coordination between monitoring bodies thus effecting the strengthening of protection and management of the World Heritage and the overall national heritage, adopted the decision to establish department in the governmental bodies at national and local levels (the NAPCH and the provincial authorities) until 2015, the task of which lies in the monitoring of the status of conservation of the World Heritage and the overall national heritage, and controlling all activities within protection areas (incl. the buffer zone of the World Heritage). The establishment of such departments shall make further contributions to the protection and management of the World Heritage and the overall national heritage in compliance with national laws and policies and the requirements and spirit of the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage.

(Since about the national framework of laws and environment for the protection of the Kaesong heritage were dealt with in detail in the nomination dossier, further explanations have been avoided.)

On the process of developing tourism management and interpretation plans for the nominated property components

Sharing the same view that the developing of tourism management and interpretation plans for the nominated property components as recommended by the World Heritage Committee in its decision 37COM 8B.30 is important in the sustainable development of tourism that goes with the protection and management of the heritage, the NAPCH is directing great effort for the implementation of the abovementioned recommendation in close cooperation with other governmental authorities related to tourism.

Tourism, in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, has long been steadily continuing its development under the correct policy and unified guidance of the State.

With the establishment of the Travel Bureau in September 1953, a state organization in charge of international tourism, travel information centres were set up in great cities and different service facilities including hotels were also built.

To date, many forms of resources and business activities related to tourism have been developed laying the basis for further development of tourism at domestic and international levels. With the creation and improvement of the environment for systematic research, study and education in the tourism sector the educational activities on theoretic and practical aspect of tourism have been strengthened, and research studies for tourism management activities reflecting the specific national context and world tourism trends are being carried out and the introduction of those results actively sought for.

Since 1987 the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is a Full Member of the UNWTO (World Tourism Organisation of the UN) and the National Tourism Administration of the DPR of Korea, the successor of the Travel Bureau, is playing the key role in actively fostering international tourism in contact with about 200 travel entities.

In particular, the historic city Kaesong embracing *The Historic Monuments and Sites in Kaesong* has long been one of the main tourist resorts in the DPR of Korea and as such service facilities needed for tourism have been and are being developed.

However, in the face of the potential increase of tourism activities in and around the World Heritage area, there are many pending issues to be discussed and solved to make the management of its tourism comply with the protection of the World Heritage and the sustainable development of tourism itself.

To this purpose,

- The National Authority for the Protection of Cultural Heritage (NAPCH) designated the task of formulation of the Kaesong Tourism Management Plan (incl. the Interpretation Plan) to the Korea National Heritage Preservation Agency hereinafter referred to as "the KNHPA". It is a scientific research and advisory body of the NAPCH and played key role in the whole nomination project for the Kaesong heritage, the World Heritage.

- As a UNESCO project the “Training Workshop on Tourism Management at the Historic Monuments and Sites in Kaesong” was co-hosted by the NAPCH and the UNESCO Beijing Office in Pyongyang and Kaesong in July 2014, and the objectives and strategies for the management of tourism at the World Heritage site in Kaesong discussed.

The participants of the workshop were stakeholders in Kaesong and members of the related institutions such as the NAPCH, the KNHPA, the Department of National Heritage Protection of the Kaesong People’s Committee (local authority), the Management Office of National Heritage of Kaesong, the Management Office of the Mausoleum of King Wang Kon, the State Planning Commission, the State Pricing Commission, the State Administration of Designing, the National Administration of Tourism, the Pyongyang College of Tourism, the Ministry of Urban Management, the Ministry of Land and Environmental Conservation.

Preceded by the presentations from the international expert and the UNESCO officer, the experts from the KNHPA made presentations on the current status of tourism and its analysis of the World Heritage site followed by presentation and discussion of draft vision, objectives and strategies for the tourism management. It resulted with new drafts of the vision, the objectives and the strategies for the tourism management as below:

Vision

The vision of this management plan is to develop Kaesong into a model of high quality heritage-based tourism destination in Asia while ensuring complete protection of its cultural heritage resources and its environment, enhancing the quality of life of the residents and providing a rewarding experience to visitors.

Objectives

- 1. To maintain *the Historic Monuments and Sites in Kaesong*, World Heritage site, in accordance with the World Heritage Convention**
- 2. To ensure adequate protection to all associated cultural and natural resources in accordance with international principles and standards**
- 3. To provide tourism services that satisfy visitor’s expectations**
- 4. To provide adequate visitor facilities meeting international standards**
- 5. To provide interpretation that conveys the site’s heritage values to diverse visitor segments**
- 6. To ensure comfortable and safe visitor movement while visiting the site**

7. **To contribute to the improvement of local residents' quality of life with benefits from tourism**

Strategies

1. **To foster knowledge of tourism by the heritage-related officials and stake holders at national and local level**
2. **To keep the management plan of the heritage sites as the main guideline in all to ensure conservation of the sites**
3. **To ensure close contact and coordination between the National Authority for the Protection Cultural Heritage, the National Administration of Tourism and the People's Committee of Kaesong**
4. **To enhance the monitoring of tourism resources**
 - a. **Building hotels in planned way**
 - b. **Satisfying the demands of visitors in terms of accommodation, restaurants, guiding, transportation and commodity services which shall principally be conducive to promoting recognition of the Korean tradition and culture**
 - c. **Setting up of new facilities such as restaurant, shop, parking lot, emergency medical service, toilet etc. in appropriate places**
 - d. **Providing adequate and safe conditions and services for the visitors**
5. **To create systematic and diverse learning opportunities through thematic interpretation and presentation of the sites**
 - a. **Updating of interpretation materials with emphasis on the OUV of the sites while integrating themes that are diverse and of interest**
 - b. **Mapping out of the visiting order and routes for each site in keeping with the content of the interpretation material**
6. **To promote a heritage site centred cultural tourism as one of the drivers for positive development in Kaesong**
 - a. **Provision of diverse employment opportunities for local residents thorough tourism activities**
 - b. **Establishment of a tourism revenue management system directly contributing to the management of sites and the quality of people's livelihood**

The workshop promoted deeper understanding of the concept, the importance and the

direction of the tourism management leading, thus, to the consensus among the participants on the need of a concerted effort for the formulation of the management plan and the interpretation plan involving key state bodies related to protection and management of heritage and tourism.

The workshop also led to the decision to complete the tourism management plan in close contact and cooperation with the UNESCO Beijing Office, a sub-regional field office of the UNESCO.

To this effect, a timeline for formulation of the tourism management plan (incl. interpretation plan) was mapped out jointly by the UNESCO Beijing Office and the KNHPA which is the scientific research and advisory body of the NAPCH. The timeline is annexed to this document.

- By the measure of the Government of the DPR of Korea the NAPCH was assigned the task of completing the tourism management plan (incl. the interpretation plan) according to the timeline involving officials and experts from the KNHPA, the National Administration of Tourism, the Pyongyang College of Tourism, the Ministry of Urban Management and the Ministry of Land and Environmental Conservation. The implementation of the task is in progress.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea, herewith, reaffirms its strong commitment to the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage and shall formulate and implement the Kaesong Tourism Management Plan (incl. the Interpretation Plan) that answers to the expectation of a World Heritage site.

Annex

Work Plan and Timeline for KTMP (2014-2016)

Time	Action	By
Aug 2014.	1. Review of current tourism systems and trends in DPRK 2. Review of international principles, standards and practices of tourism management at heritage sites	Working team of KTMP
Sep 2014.	1. Consultative meeting 2. Establishment of KTMP committee 3. Review of international principles, standards and practices of tourism management at heritage sites	1. All stakeholders 2. NAPCH, Working team of KTMP
Oct 2014.	1. Review of international principles, standards and practices of tourism management at heritage sites 2. Preparation for the outline of the KTMP	Working team of KTMP
Nov 2014.	1. Detailed KTMP outline(heading and subheadings, bullet points and paragraphs) 2. Consultative meeting to review the detailed KTMP outline 3. Preparing the report on the progress of the KTMP (in Korean)	1. Working team of KTMP 2. All stakeholders
Dec 2014.	1. Translation of the report on the progress of the KTMP into English 2. Preparing the draft KTMP	Working team of KTMP
Jan 2015.	1. Submission of the report to the UNESCO	Working team of KTMP
Feb 2015.	1. Finish the first draft of KTMP 2. Consultative meeting	1. Working team of KTMP 2. All stakeholders
Mar 2015.	Translation of the first draft of KTMP into English	Working team of KTMP
Apr 2015.	Translation of the first draft of the KTMP into English	Working team of KTMP
May 2015.	1. International expert's recommendation on the KTMP 2. Revise of the KTMP	1. International expert 2. Working team
June 2015.	1. Revise of the KTMP 2. International expert's recommendation on the KTMP	1. Working team of KTMP 2. International expert
July 2015.	1. Receipt of World Heritage Committee Decision on 1 Feb 2015 DPRK progress reporting 2. Finish final draft of KTMP	1. UNESCO World Heritage Centre 2. Working team of KTMP, International expert
Aug 2015.	1. Consultative meeting 2. Translation of KTMP into English 3. Editing of KTMP (Korean)	All stakeholders Working team of KTMP

Time	Action	By
Sep 2015.	1. Editing of KTMP (Korean) 2. Compilation of KTMP (Korean)	Working team of KTMP
Oct 2015.	1. Editing of KTMP (English) 2. Compilation of KTMP (English)	Working team of KTMP
Nov 2015.	1. Compilation of KTMP (English) 2. Printing of KTMP	Working team of KTMP
Dec 2015.	1. Printing of KTMP 2. Submission of KTMP to the Cabinet for approval	Working team of KTMP NAPCH
Jan 2016.	Completion of the KTMP	NAPCH