

## State of Conservation Reports by the States Parties

Historic Monuments and Sites in Kaesong (Democratic People's Republic of Korea)  
(Identification number: c 1278 rev)

### 1. Executive Summary of the report

The inscription of the *Historic Monuments and Sites in Kaesong* on the World Heritage List at the 37<sup>th</sup> session of the World Heritage Committee (Phnom Penh, June 2013) was a significant event contributing to the cultural wealth of the humanity as a whole as well as adding to the honor and pride of entire Korean nation. As it is a due obligation for all the States Parties to conserve and manage World Heritage property in conformity with the spirit of the World Heritage Convention, the DPR Korea is actively endeavouring for the conservation and management of the *Historic Monuments and Sites in Kaesong*, a World Cultural heritage, in an effort to fulfill its noble responsibility and obligation towards the humanity.

The World Heritage Committee at its 37<sup>th</sup> session adopted a decision in which it recommended the DPRK to develop tourism management and interpretation plans for the inscribed property. In an effort to implement the decision the National Authority for Protection of Cultural Heritage (NAPCH) which is the central guidance organ for protection of national heritage in the DPR Korea has undertaken due activities in a phased way in close cooperation with UNESCO Beijing Office between August 2013 and December 2015. As a result, the Tourism Management Plan for the *Historic Monuments and Sites in Kaesong* could have been completed in December 2015.

Furthermore, the Kaesong City People's Committee of the North Hwanghae Province, the local government authority of Kaesong where the property is situated, is actively engaging citizens and dedicated management agencies in the activities for protection of the property. In particular, between March and April 2016, regular repairs and improvement of environment at World Heritage sites and other historic sites of the city were conducted while adhering to the principle of not impairing the authenticity and Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage property.

The Hamhung Branch of the State Academy of Sciences has conducted conservation treatments on the murals at the Mausoleum of King Wang Kon.

The NAPCH and the Kaesong City People's Committee are closely working together for strengthened monitoring and control over World Heritage sites; all development activities in the core zones are under strict prohibition; restricted development activities in the buffer zones are only allowed under permission of the National Heritage Protection Department of the Kaesong City People's Committee.

All forms of repair and conservation activities at World Heritage sites, as well as development activities and others within the World Heritage property zones are based on the *Guidelines for Protection and Management of the Historic Monuments and Sites in Kaesong* which was adopted in 2013.

## **2. Activities for the Implementation of the Decisions of the World Heritage Committee**

The World Heritage Committee, in the decision 37COM8B.30 at its 37<sup>th</sup> session, recommended the DPRK to develop tourism management and interpretation plans for the nominated property, and in the decision 39COM7B.62 at its 39<sup>th</sup> session, encouraged the DPRK to proceed with the development, adoption and implementation of the tourism management and interpretation plans in close cooperation with UNESCO Beijing, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, and to submit the World Heritage Centre an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above.

In response to the decision of the World Heritage Committee, the NAPCH, in close cooperation with UNESCO Beijing Office, organized an international training workshop on tourism management geared to the preparation of the Tourism Management Plan for Historic Monuments and Sites in Kaesong in July 2014 both in Kaesong and Pyongyang, with the active participation of relevant institutions and officials from national and local level. The workshop achieved its objective of raising awareness and deepening understanding of the concepts and significance of tourism management as well as of practical issues in tourism management and interpretation.

As a follow-up to the workshop, a practical meeting hosted by NAPCH took place involving all major institutions at national and local level concerned in the protection of the property. Here, it was agreed to jointly conduct the preparation of the Plan with the NAPCH being the overall organizer and coordinator of the project. It was also agreed to carry out preparation work in close cooperation with UNESCO Beijing Office and ICOMOS expert.

The NAPCH being the organizer and coordinator of the project took steps to form a joint team of preparing the Plan involving officials and experts from KNHPA, National Tourism Administration, Pyongyang College of Tourism, Ministry of Urban Management, Ministry of Land and Environment Protection and Kaesong City People's Committee, and commenced with the preparation of the Plan.

The preparation of the Plan was carried out in active collaboration with ICOMOS expert recommended by the UNESCO Beijing Office, and the Office itself following the timeframe drawn out together. The Plan was revised and supplemented several times in the course of collaboration with the ICOMOS expert and UNESCO Beijing Office.

Thus the Tourism Management Plan incl. the interpretation of the Historic Monuments and Sites in Kaesong was finally completed in December 2015.

Commissioned by the Government, in February 2016, the NAPCH commenced with a pilot project for the purpose of examining the efficacy of the Plan by

implementing the Plan on phase-by-phase basis.

So far, the project yielded positive results attesting to the effectiveness of the Plan as well as contributing to the creation of favourable environment for cooperation among various stakeholders in their work of protecting sites and management of tourism.

In Kaesong, road signage at road branches leading to World Heritage sites have been renewed and/or replaced on adequate places, and the roads were repaired. Furthermore, visitor path at sites have been rationally redefined and interpretation revised befittingly. Service facilities such as restaurants and hotels, particularly the Kaesong Folklore Hotel has seen improvement, all leading to positive tangible results.

For adequate interpretation of the property a framework for active cooperation between visitor/tourist guides and site managers are widely encouraged and organized.

Based on this, the NAPCH is currently engaged in getting the endorsement of the Plan by the Government. Thus, the Plan is foreseen to be endorsed and effective in 2017 with the legal enforcement by “The Law on Protection of National Heritage of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea”

### **3. Protection and Management Activities and Conservation Intervention**

#### **3-1. Protection and Management Activities**

After the inscription of the property on the World Heritage List in 2013, the Kaesong National Heritage Protection and Management Office and the Management Office for Mausoleum of King Wang Kon, which are full-time management organs responsible of the World Heritage sites, achieved a number of good results in terms of improving the conservation and management of sites under direction and support by the NAPCH and the Kaesong City People’s Committee.

What is notable here is that the Kaesong City People’s Committee giving priority to the conservation and management of the historic sites of the city including the World Heritage property initiated an all-inclusive mass campaign between March and April 2016. More than fifty thousand of Kaesong citizens participated in the campaign resulting in repair and environmental improvement of 24 historic sites including the World Heritage property. The campaign focused also on the target of making this serve as a valuable opportunity to enhance the sense of pride among citizens, and to foster their enthusiasm for active engagement in the management and protection of the sites, bringing about positive results at the same time.

The following table illustrates the details of activities for the protection and management of the World Heritage property during this campaign.

Property	Activities
Kaesong Walls	<p>Restoration of the stone wall section (2000m) from the Tochal Gate to Mt. Songak</p> <p>Improvement of the areas on both sides of the wall to 5-10 meters</p>
Manwoldae and Kaesong Chomsongdae	<p>Repair of the 4 grand staircases in front of the site of Hoegyong Hall</p> <p>Turfing</p> <p>Repair of the access road to the sites</p>
Kaesong Namdae Gate	<p>Repair of the ridge</p> <p>Repair of two-pillar gates</p> <p>Leveling the pavements of the archway</p>
Koryo Songgyungwan	<p>Outer triple gate: replacement of the eroded pillars</p> <p>Myongryun Hall: replacement/repair of eroded rafters, <i>pujons</i> and roof tiles, and removal of grass on the roof</p> <p>Inner triple gate: replacement of the eroded rafters</p> <p>East dormitory: replacement/repair of eroded rafters, pillars and roof tiles, removal of grass on the roof and repair of the walls</p> <p>West dormitory: replacement/repair of eroded rafters and roof tiles, removal of grass on the roof and repair of the walls</p> <p>Taesong Hall: repair of the roof ridge</p> <p>Other buildings: repair of the roof, and replacement of eroded rafters.</p> <p>Fence: restoration of the damaged part due to freezing, white- washing</p>
Sungyang Sowon	<p>Repair of the walls and ceiling of the shrine</p> <p>Repair of the roof tiles of the buildings and fence</p> <p>Repair of the access road and courtyard</p>
Sonjuk Bridge and Phyochung Monuments	<p>Sonjuk Bridge: river improvements, turfing, making of flower beds, replacing of the pavement with granite stones and repair of the stele-houses.</p> <p>Phyochung Monuments: replacement of eroded rafters and <i>pujons</i>, repair of roof ridge and roof tiles, repainting, and repair of the roof of triple gate</p>
Myongrung Cluster	<p>Repair of the stone elements</p>

	Turfing Improvement of the visitors' roads
Seven Tombs Cluster	Repair of the stone elements Repair of the mounds
Mausoleum of King Kyonghyo(Kongmin)	Repair of the stone part of the mounds Improvement of the visitors' roads Masonry work for drainage Turfing

All the repair and environmental improvement activities have been conducted in accordance with the *Guidelines for Protection and Management of the Historic Monuments and Sites in Kaesong* adhering to the principle of preserving authenticity in terms of traditional design, techniques, materials and methods.

### 3-2. Current Conservation Issues and Conservation Intervention at the Mausoleum of King Wang Kon

At present, there exist conservation issues affecting the mural paintings in the tomb such as detachment of renders, their lack of cohesion to the base as well as among themselves and separation between paint layer(s) in the shape of bubble, and inhabitation of microorganisms on mural surface, etc.

For this, the conservation experts from the Hamhung Branch of the State Academy of Sciences undertook conservation treatments on the east, south and north walls of of the burial chamber from August 22 to September 8 2015. First of all, to stop the renders from separation and to consolidate them hydraulic lime (like *Ledan*) was applied. Soluble deposits on murals such as mud, carbonates and microbiological stains were located and washed away using special detergent (like AB57), and cleaning of the whole surface of murals conducted. After this polycarbamide siloxane and hardener were additionally applied for consolidation of fragile part.

- 4. There is no intention to undertake any potential major restorations, alterations and/or new constructions within the property and buffer zones which may affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property.**

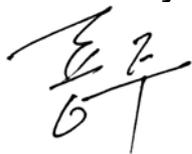
### **5. Public Access to the State of Conservation Report**

The report can be uploaded for public access on the World Heritage Centre's

State of Conservation Information System.

**6. Signature of the Authority**

RYONG Ju

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of stylized, cursive letters that appear to be 'R', 'J', and 'U'.

Director General

National Authority for Protection of Cultural Heritage

Democratic People's Republic of Korea