

CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE
CULTURAL HERITAGE: CHINA
SACH SoC 2015-3/5

WORLD HERITAGE
(C1443)

**REPORT ON THE STATE OF CONSERVATION OF
THE GRAND CANAL
(China)**

STATE ADMINISTRATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA
NOVEMBER 2015

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Upon inscription of the Grand Canal on the World Heritage List in 2014, Chinese government, in strict compliance with the *Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage* (the Convention) and its *Operational Guidelines* as well as the resolution of the 38th World Heritage Committee, makes continuous efforts in conservation and management of the Property to protect its OUV and authenticity and integrity. These efforts include:

- ✧ perfection of the coordination and management mechanism through slight readjustments to parts of the buffer zone based on the surroundings and latest archeological findings;
- ✧ improvement of the monitoring and documentation systems at both national and property site levels and preparation and implementation of the management system;
- ✧ further identification of the historical period of canal sections through study on ancient chronicles, geographic maps and archeological findings and other relevant materials;
- ✧ standardization and enhancement of the conservation and management of the setting and landscapes pursuant to the *Guideline for the Grand Canal Landscape Protection and Coordination*;
- ✧ compilation and management of the tourism planning concerning the Grand Canal properties and launch of conservation and utilization of the traditional villages and historic conservation areas along the canals;
- ✧ expansion of fund resources based on increasing government input for property

conservation, development of special planning, water quality maintenance and property monitoring;

- ✧ improvement of water quality through pollutant source control, environmental improvement, construction of sewage treatment facilities and upgraded monitoring and regulation in cities along the canals;
- ✧ programs and trainings themed canal property awareness and conservation to build up conservators' understanding of the property values and their competence;
- ✧ International seminars centering research, conservation and presentation of the Property to expand international exchange and cooperation.