


WHV – Forgotten Fortress

Namhansanseong, Republic of Korea

◆ Cultural property inscribed on the World Heritage List since 2014

05/08/2016 – 14/08/2016


 Namhansanseong was designed as an emergency capital for the Joseon dynasty (1392– 1910), in a mountainous site 25 km south-east of Seoul. Built and defended by Buddhist monk-soldiers, it could accommodate 4,000 people and fulfilled important administrative and military functions. Its earliest remains date from the 7th century, but it was rebuilt several times, notably in the



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early 17th century in anticipation of an attack from the Sino- Manchu Qing dynasty. The city embodies a synthesis of the defensive military engineering concepts of the period, based on Chinese and Japanese influences, and changes in the art of fortification following the introduction from the West of weapons using gunpowder. A city that has always been inhabited, and which was the provincial capital over a long period, it contains evidence of a variety of military, civil and religious buildings and has become a symbol of Korean sovereignty.

Project objectives: The project, running for the second consecutive year at the newly inscribed site, aims at promoting active participation and diffuse the value of World Heritage in Korea, targeting in particular the role of youth and a wider awareness about the need for community participation in World Heritage preservation. The project will also provide an opportunity for intercultural learning to the local youth through World Heritage education and exchanges, and promote towards the local community the key values and crucial role of heritage for sustainability.

Project activities: The volunteers will be performed in manual work to collect garbage around the World Heritage inscribed areas in Seongnam, and in particular in the zones heavily affected by the presence of restaurants and bars that see massive afflux of tourists, with a strong impact on the environment of the site. A World

Heritage Youth camp will also be organised, composed of two principal activities: on one side a dedicated forum for youth will involve young people from the youth centers installed in the Seongnam area, with presentations and discussions on World Heritage key concepts and values, and the introduction of other World Heritage sites by the Korean and international volunteers. On the other side, a public awareness campaign will take place over two days at a very famous restaurants' area within the World Heritage site zone, using non-formal education tools such as World Heritage quiz, collecting symbolic fingerprints signatures for heritage protection, interviewing Korean and foreign tourists.

Partners: Eunhaeng-dong Youth Culture Center and Seongnam city youth foundation.