

## WHV – Enhance the Environment of Temple and Cemetery of Confucius and the Kong Family Mansion in Qufu

*Temple and Cemetery of Confucius and the Kong Family Mansion in Qufu, China*

◆ Cultural property inscribed on the World Heritage List since 1994

20/07/2016 – 05/08/2016



Confucius, a renowned philosopher, politician and educator in ancient China whose system of belief involving philosophy, politics and ethics (subsequently known as Confucianism) has exerted profound influence on Chinese culture, was revered as the Sacred Model Teacher for Ten Thousand Generations by Chinese emperors. Located in his birthplace, Qufu City of Shandong Province, China, the



© Vincent Ko Hon Chiu

Temple of Confucius was built to commemorate and offer sacrifices to Confucius in 478 BC. The Temple houses more than 1,000 stelae made at different times, and precious objects such as Han stone reliefs, carved pictures depicting the life of Confucius, and the stone dragon carvings of the Ming and Qing dynasties. The Temple is the prototype and model for all the Confucius temples widely distributed in countries in East Asia and Southeast Asia, particularly in terms of layout and style.

**Project objectives:** The project, organized for the fifth consecutive year at this site, aims at raising awareness about the preservation of Confucius birthplace and the importance of the Chinese traditional culture symbolized by the Temple and Cemetery of Confucius and the Kong Family Mansion as World Heritage. The activities target in particular the local residents, the school teenagers, and the numerous tourists visiting the property.

**Project activities:** The volunteers will perform manual work at the site to improve the site's environment, such as cutting the grass and trimming the tree around the

inscribed monuments, and cleaning and painting some of the damaged parts. The volunteers will gain a hands-on experience of Chinese traditional lacquer, rubbing process and carving, and familiarize themselves with the six arts representing Confucius teaching: Rites, Music, Archery, Charioteering, Calligraphy, and Mathematics. They will also conduct educational work at the school campus, in order to share with the students their knowledge of World Heritage conservation, and encourage the local teenagers to join in the volunteer work for World Heritage preservation and sustainable development.

**Partners:** Qufu Culture Relics Management Office, Qufu Xingtian Middle School, and LLYX Culture Exchange Center