

# ICOMOS

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON MONUMENTS AND SITES  
CONSEIL INTERNATIONAL DES MONUMENTS ET DES SITES  
CONSEJO INTERNACIONAL DE MONUMENTOS Y SITIOS  
МЕЖДУНАРОДНЫЙ СОВЕТ ПО ВОПРОСАМ ПАМЯТНИКОВ И ДОСТОПРИМЕЧАТЕЛЬНЫХ МЕСТ

Our Ref. GB/AS/1541/IR

Charenton-le-Pont, 20 December 2016

H.E. Mr Yang Shen  
Ambassador, Permanent Delegate  
Republic of China to UNESCO  
Maison de l'UNESCO  
1, rue Miollis  
75732 Paris Cedex 15

World Heritage List 2017

**Kulangsu: A historic international settlement (China) – Interim Report**

Dear Sir,

As prescribed by the revised Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention and its Annex 6, the Advisory Bodies have been requested to submit a short interim report for each nomination by 31 January 2017. We are therefore pleased to provide you with the relevant information outlining issues related to the evaluation process.

The ICOMOS technical evaluation mission to "Kulangsu: A historic international settlement" was carried out by Dr KARIYA Yuga (Japan) from 16 to 21 October, 2016. The mission expert highly appreciated the availabilities and support provided by the experts in your country for the organisation and implementation of the mission.

On 29 September, 2016, a letter was sent by ICOMOS to request further information on the following issues: Disaster Preparedness, Gardens, and Conservation. Please convey our thanks to all the officials and experts for the additional information you provided on 4 November 2016 and for their continued cooperation in this process.

At the end of November 2016, the ICOMOS World Heritage Panel evaluated the cultural and mixed properties nominated for inscription on the World Heritage List in 2017. The additional information, together with mission and desk review reports were carefully examined by the Panel members. This process will conclude in March 2017.

We thank you for the availability of your Delegation to the meeting held on 26 November, 2016 with some representatives of the ICOMOS Panel. During the last part of its meeting, the ICOMOS Panel has identified areas where it considers that further information is needed.

Therefore, we would be pleased if the State Party could consider the following points:

## **Justification for inscription**

The nominated property is a standing witness to mutual reference and cultural fusion between Chinese and diverse other cultures that materialized in an organic urban fabric, and a slow transformation. Its built heritage boasts many architectural styles including traditional southern Fujian style, veranda colonial style, western classical revival style, modern style and art deco, as well as their fusion in the unique Amoy Deco Style. Its diversified Historic Gardens, both independent and affiliated with Historic Buildings, reflect combined layouts and features of both Chinese and Western styles demonstrating the interaction and integration of different cultures. ICOMOS considers that the

nominated property meets criterion (ii), and the conditions of authenticity and integrity. However, criterion (iv) may be demonstrated but needs to be further developed to be justified on the basis of the additional information provided in November 2016 on the gardens and in particular the way in which the urban form developed on the island.

#### **Protection**

Fifty-one Representative Historical Buildings and Gardens have been selected to represent the core of the values of the nominated property. However, in terms of protection, only individual structures are protected as historic monuments at the highest national level, others at provincial and local level and yet other sections of the island are not currently covered by any heritage designation status. ICOMOS would appreciate to have a better justification for this difference in the legal protection of the heritage and its actual implications. If not formally entirely protected, how the State Party envisage to enforce development control on the complete island?

#### **Tourism management**

The ratio of the number of available beds per daily number of visitors is very low, and will get critical in case of inscription of the property on the World Heritage List, with an official expected cap of 65,000 persons per day against a number of permanent residents around 13.500 plus some 4.000 floating inhabitants on a property surface area of some 316 hectares. An overall management strategy and plan for tourism is urgent and should be designed, assessing the carrying capacity of the nominated property taking into account the analysis of where tourists spend their daytime, how long last their visit, what can be offered to them in the wider setting, and what are the daily peak load in Kulangsu, as well as how tourism provides benefits to the local communities without spoiling the property. Taking into account the numbers mentioned by the State Party, the effects of tourism are likely to threaten the property if no proactive action is undertaken.

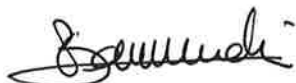
Could the State Party consider the preparation of a tourism management strategy to avoid the negative impacts of this ratio and provide ICOMOS with the details of such a strategy and the calendar for its completion and implementation?

We look forward to your responses to these points, which will be of great help in our evaluation process.

We would be grateful if you could provide ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre with the above information by **28 February 2017 at the latest**, the deadline set out in paragraph 148 of the Operational Guidelines for supplementary information on nominations to be received. Please note that any information submitted after this date will not be considered by ICOMOS in its evaluation for the World Heritage Committee. It should be noted, however, that while ICOMOS will carefully consider any supplementary information submitted, it cannot properly evaluate a completely revised nomination or large amounts of new information submitted at the last minute. So we request to keep your response concise and respond only to the above requests.

We thank you for your support of the World Heritage Convention and the evaluation process.

Yours faithfully



Gwenaëlle Bourdin  
Director  
ICOMOS Evaluation Unit

Copy to: Xiamen Kulangsu Scenic Area Administrative Committee  
UNESCO World Heritage Centre