

**WORLD CULTURAL HERITAGE
THE GRAND CANAL
(C 1443)**

**STATE OF CONSERVATION (SOC)
2017**

State Administration of Cultural Heritage, P.R.China

Nov. 2017

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1. Profile of the world heritage

The Grand Canal

Location: Beijing, Tianjin, Hebei province, Jiangsu province, Zhejiang province, Anhui province, Shandong province, Henan province of China

Year of Inscription: 2014

Criteria: Criteria (i), (iii), (iv) and (vi)

Profile:

The Grand Canal forms a vast inland waterway system in the north-eastern and central eastern plains of China, passing through eight of the country's present-day provinces. It runs from the capital Beijing in the north to Zhejiang Province in the south. Constructed in sections from the 5th century BC onwards, it was conceived as a unified means of communication for the Empire for the first time in the 7th century AD (Sui Dynasty). This led to a series of gigantic worksites, creating the world's largest and most extensive civil engineering project ensemble prior to the Industrial Revolution. Completed and maintained by successive dynasties, it formed the backbone of the Empire's inland communications system. Its management was made possible over a long period by means of the Caoyun system, the imperial monopoly for the transport of grain and strategic raw materials, and for the taxation and control of traffic. The system enabled the supply of rice to feed the population, the unified administration of the territory, and the transport of troops. The Grand Canal reached a new peak in the 13th century (Yuan Dynasty), providing a unified inland navigation network consisting of more than 2,000 km of artificial waterways, linking five of the most important river basins in China, including the Yellow River and the Yangtze. Still a major means of internal communication today, it has played an important role in ensuring the economic prosperity and stability of China over the ages.

2. The Decision of the World Heritage Committee

Decision : 40 COM 7B.33

The Grand Canal (China) (C 1443)

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **38 COM 8B.23** adopted by the Committee at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),

3. Notes the efforts made by the State Party in the implementation of the recommendations of the Committee, and requests the State Party to:

1. Continue its reflection and work for the protection of the surroundings of the Grand Canal to guarantee the sustainable maintenance of the attributes of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), and specifically:
 1. study whether an adjustment will be required to the buffer zones in the sectors of the property which are not affected by the request for a minor boundary modification under examination at the present session,
 2. confirm that the regulatory standards in force for constructions apply to all the buffer zones and are effectively taken into consideration by the municipal development plans,
 3. further develop the concept of a “visual corridor”, for example by defining priority cones of vision and protecting them, if necessary, from the negative impact of new buildings,
2. Continue the identification work concerning the historical and archaeological signification of constitutive elements of the property,
3. Inform the Committee of the effective functioning and results of the different components of the property, in particular:
 1. the monitoring system for the Grand Canal that has recently been established,

2. the maintenance and improvement policy for water quality in the different sectors of the property,
 3. conservation and policy programmes for the traditional villages and urban zones of a historic character alongside the Grand Canal,
 4. tourism development and coordination programmes,
 5. training programmes and activities aimed at strengthening the capacities of staff concerned with the conservation, valorisation and promotion of the property;
4. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2017**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018.

Decision : 40 COM 8B.38

Examination of minor boundary modifications of cultural properties already inscribed on the World Heritage List

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/16/40.COM/8B.Add and WHC/16/40.COM/INF.8B1.Add,
2. Approves the proposed modification of the buffer zones of six component parts of **The Grand Canal, China**;
3. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:
 1. considering whether or not the other component parts forming the Grand Canal serial property necessitate buffer zone adjustments,
 2. continuing environmental and landscape conservancy efforts, for example by defining prioritised vision cones for the properties and protecting them from the impact of new buildings.

3. Executive summary of the state of conservation report

The Chinese government has always attached great importance to conservation and management of the Grand Canal (C 1443). President Xi Jinping and other state leaders of China have personally made direct instructions and written replies on the protection of the physical fabric of the cultural heritage of the Grand Canal, the ecological environment control, the value presentation and passing down of the cultural connotation of Grand Canal. With attentions and great support from the state leaders, the governments at all levels and related departments along the Grand Canal have further enhanced conservation and management of the Grand Canal, and carried out a great deal of works, strengthened the inter-provincial coordination mechanism, overall planning and macro guidance at the state level, consolidated and improved the legal system of the Grand Canal, upgraded the two-tier (government - property) monitoring and management system and implemented a number of cultural heritage conservation and presentation projects. What's more, great efforts have been made on the plan implementation, buffer zone management and control, property monitoring system upgrade, environment and landscape conservation, historical and archaeological studies, water quality maintenance and improvement, tourism development and professional training to improve the overall quality of the conservation and management of the Grand Canal.

4. Progresses in conservation and management

The State Administration of Cultural Heritage (SACH) and Beijing, Tianjin, Hebei, Jiangsu, Zhejiang, Anhui, Shandong and Henan, 27 prefectural governments and the cultural, construction and planning departments have, strictly in line with the Decisions: 40 COM 7B.33 and 40 COM 8B.38 at the 40th Session of the World Heritage Committee held in 2016, enhanced the Grand Canal conservation management, monitoring and early warning and presentation interpretation, and done a lot of works. See the following for details:

4.1 Sustainable maintenance of carriers of the outstanding universal value (OUV)

Quotations of the Decision: 40 COM 7B.33 of the World Heritage Committee:

“(1) Continue its reflection and work for the protection of the surroundings of the Grand Canal to guarantee the sustainable maintenance of the attributes of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), and specifically:... b. Confirm that the regulatory standards in force for constructions apply to all the buffer zones and are effectively taken into consideration by the municipal development plans; c. Further develop the concept of a “visual corridor”, for example by defining priority cones of vision and protecting them, if necessary, from the negative impact of new buildings;”

“(3) Inform the Committee of the effective functioning and results of the different components of the property, in particular: ... c. conservation and policy programmes for the traditional villages and urban zones of a historic character alongside the Grand Canal.”

Quotations of the Decision: 40 COM 8B.38 of the World Heritage Committee:

“(2) Continuing environmental and landscape conservancy efforts, for example by defining prioritised vision cones for the properties and protecting them from the impact of new buildings.”

4.1.1 Planning implementation. In the preliminary preparation stage of the Grand Canal nomination, the Chinese government has formulated and publicized a

three-level property conservation planning system covering the three tiers from the central government to the provincial governments and the prefectural governments. In 2012, the Inter-Provincial and Ministerial Consultation Group for the conservation of the Grand Canal - the Grand Canal consultation administration of the central government of China - publicized and implemented the *General Plan for the Conservation and Management of the Grand Canal (2012-2030)* and submitted it to the World Heritage Committee and the World Heritage Center for review and approval. The document was examined and approved. In the process of implementing tasks concerning conservation, management, presentation and utilization, and the neighboring area protection and construction control, China has included the abovementioned planning into the urban and rural economic and social development plans of the related areas as the essential basis for formulating administrative decisions related to the Grand Canal. Efforts have been made to continue the conservation, presentation and utilization and environmental control strictly in line with the planning, and give priority to management of construction and environmental control projects of the buffer zones.



Jiangsu Section of the Grand Canal

Meanwhile, the related areas have formulated the key section planning and controlled detailed planning within their respective administration according to the characteristics of the property and actual requirements of conservation and management within the framework of the state-level, provincial and prefectural planning. For example, involved cities and prefectures of Zhejiang province have actively formulated the special planning for the conservation and management of the Grand Canal on the basis of the *General Plan for the Conservation and Management of the Grand Canal (2012-2030)* and detailed the management and control provisions and related technical indicators of the buffer zones, further enhanced integration of the cultural heritage conservation and management plan with the urban and rural construction plan, transportation and water conservancy development plans to realize efficient seamless connection of such plans. Hangzhou proposed a framework of conservation by section, by classification and by tier, and built a three-tier system consisting of the master plan, sub-region plans and sub-plans. At the level of controlled detailed planning, Hangzhou has detailed the conservation standards according to characteristics of different components of the Grand Canal. Henan province has urged the cultural heritage administration, planning department and water conservancy department to establish a “joint approval” mechanism to enhance cross-sectoral and inter-region coordinated management under the guidance of the planning.

4.1.2 Legal system. In 2012, the Ministry of Culture publicized and implemented the *Administrative Measures for the Protection of the Grand Canal*, which well defined the basic strategy of unified planning, hierarchical accountability and section-based management for the conservation and management of the Grand Canal. The cities with district administrative division where the Grand Canal is located have publicized the local regulations and established a relative mature legal system for the conservation and management of the Grand Canal. With successful inscription of the Grand Canal on the World Heritage List, the SACH has entrusted professional institutions to launch the special assessment of the implementation of the

Administrative Measures for the Protection of the Grand Canal since 2016. The assessment is under processing. The ultimate goal of the work is to provide basis and technological support for the amendment of the *Administrative Measures for the Protection of the Grand Canal* and a feasibility study report for upgrading the measures to the higher level legal document.

Moreover, the areas along the Grand Canal have amended and improved the laws and regulations concerning conservation and management of the Grand Canal in line with requirements on the conservation and management of the world cultural heritage. For example, Shandong province promulgated the *Administrative Measures of Shandong Province for the Conservation of the Shandong Section of the Grand Canal*, Luoyang promulgated the *Administrative Measures of Luoyang for the Conservation of the Grand Canal*, Hangzhou, Ningbo and Jiaxing of Zhejiang province promulgated the *Regulations of Hangzhou for the Conservation of the World Heritage of the Grand Canal*, *Measures of Ningbo for the Conservation of the World Heritage of the Grand Canal* and the *Regulations of Jiaxing for the Protection of the World Heritage of the Grand Canal*; Yangzhou, Wuxi and Changzhou of Jiangsu province promulgated the *Measures for the Protection of the Yangzhou Section of the World Cultural Heritage of the Grand Canal*, *Measures of Wuxi for the Protection of the World Heritage of the Grand Canal* and *Measures of Changzhou for the Protection of the World Heritage of the Grand Canal*. Huaibei of Anhui province released the *Administrative Provisions of Huaibei for the Protection of the World Heritage of the Grand Canal*.

4.1.3 Conservation and maintenance. Most works of conservation and maintenance of the physical fabric of the cultural heritage of all components of the Grand Canal have been completed during nomination of the property. For the physical fabric of the property, efforts have been made to timely identify potential risks by continual tour inspection and monitoring to ensure the safety of the property through strengthening daily maintenance and prevent deterioration of potential risks in recent years.

In order to further improve the neighboring ecological environment, some areas along the Grand Canal have, upon agreement of the SACH, launched the ecological

environment improvement programs of the key sections such as Nanxun Section and Hangou East Section under the guidance of the *General Plan for the Conservation and Management of the Grand Canal (2012-2030)*. As for properties under the priority protection of the state level, provincial and municipal level that have not been inscribed on the World Cultural Heritage, the SACH has guided the related parties to implement conservation and maintenance programs. Beijing restored the physical fabric of the Jiulong Pond of Baifuquan Ruins, Dulongwang Temple, Yuntong Bridge, and City Walls of Zhangjiawan; Huaian of Jiangsu province launched the conservation program for the ruins of the City Wall (North Gate Section) of Qingjiangpu and the ruins of the wooden sluice gate of Huaian Section, Yangzhou implemented the foundation reinforcement and conservation program of Zhenguo Temple of Gaoyou; Liaocheng of Shandong province implemented the conservation programs for the hydraulic facilities on the Yanggu Section such as the Taochengpu Sluice Gate, Shuimen Bridge and the Stone Bridge of Zhangqiu Canal.

Meanwhile, measures have been taken to ensure conservation and management of the traditional villages and urban zones of a historic character in the neighboring area of the Grand Canal to accord with the conservation and management requirements of the Grand Canal and the World Cultural Heritage by linking up the *General Plan for the Conservation and Management of the Grand Canal (2012-2030)* and the state-level, provincial and prefectural plans and the planning for the related cultural and historical cities, towns and villages. On the other hand, the Chinese government is promoting construction of the “beautiful villages” and “unique towns” with the purpose of improving the infrastructure, ecological environment and landscape. The efforts have improved the conservation state of the traditional villages and urban zones of a historic character along the Grand Canal, and made them popular cultural space, ecological landscape and leisure venue and created good social benefits. For example Zaozhuang of Shandong province has combined conservation of the Grand Canal with tourism development of ancient towns of Taierzhuang, leading to a good social response and the property has given play to its social value.



Intangible Cultural Exposition Park of Taierzhuang Section of Zhong Canal (Yuehe River of Taierzhuang)

4.2 Progresses in research of history and archaeology

Quotation of the Decision: 40 COM 7B.33 of the World Heritage Committee:

“(2) Continue the identification work concerning the historical and archaeological significance of constitutive elements of the property.”

The SACH has always attached great importance to the fundamental role of the research work of history and archaeology in the conservation of cultural heritage. In recent years, driven by the Grand Canal conservation and nomination efforts, the SACH has actively guided and encouraged different disciplines to join the related research concerning the Grand Canal and has attracted a batch of experts to engage in the fundamental research of the Grand Canal from the disciplines such as history, archaeology, geography, water conservancy, shipping, landscape, building and urban planning. They created a batch of academic achievements that reflect the historical and cultural value of the Grand Canal. Centering on the 2000-year old Grand Canal, the “Canal Study” has been extended to the evolution of dynasties, demographic transition, economic development and ecological evolution. It has attracted growing attentions and formed a sustainable and strong academic research atmosphere.

Meanwhile, a series of new achievements have been made in the archaeological works. Important discoveries have been made in the ruins of the wooden sluice gate of Huaian Section and the ruins of the City Wall of Qingjiangpu. Beijing has carried out archaeological works in Chengqing Lower Gate. These newly discovered archaeological sites further enriched the cultural connotation and empirical carriers of the Grand Canal. At the same time, under the supervision and guidance of the SACH and experts of cultural heritage of China, the conservation plans for the abovementioned sites have been formulated in line with the international heritage conservation concepts. Such plans have been approved by the SACH and will be implemented.

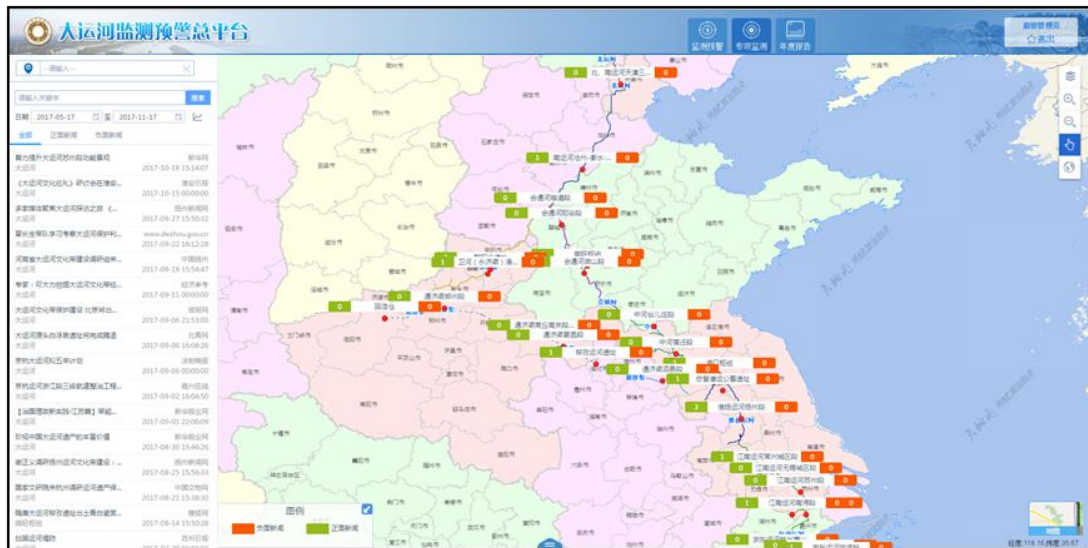
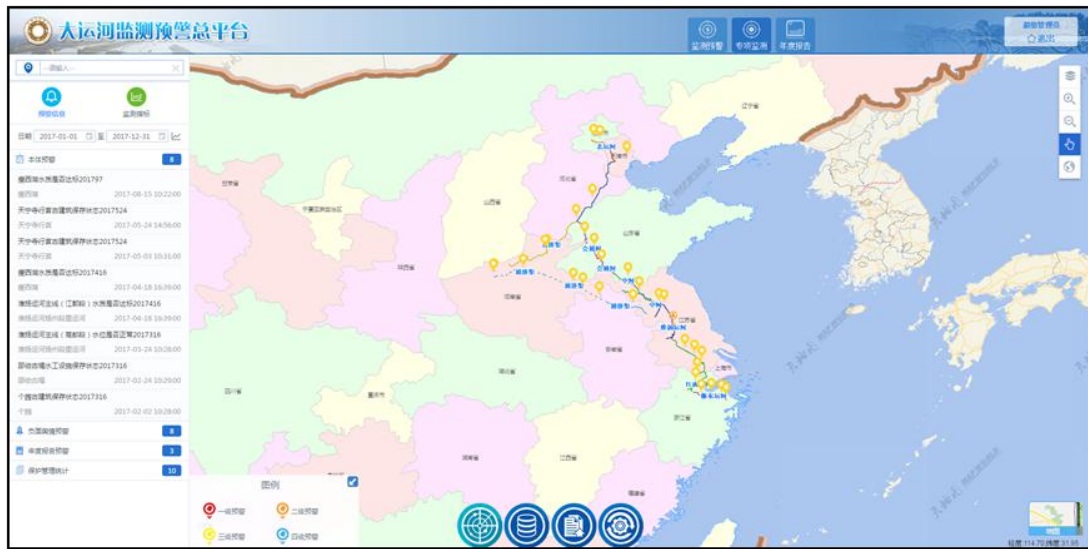
4.3 Property monitoring and water quality maintenance and improvement

Quotation of the Decision: 40 COM 7B.33 of the World Heritage Committee:

“(3) Inform the Committee of the effective functioning and results of the different components of the property, in particular: a. the monitoring system for the Grand Canal that has recently been established; b. the maintenance and improvement policy for water quality in the different sectors of the property; c. conservation and policy programmes for the traditional villages and urban zones of a historic character alongside the Grand Canal; d. tourism development and coordination programmes; and e. training programmes and activities aimed at strengthening the capacities of staff concerned with the conservation, valorisation and promotion of the property.”

4.3.1 Operation of the monitoring system. On the basis of the established two-tier monitoring system during nomination of the Grand Canal, the SACH appropriated funds consecutively from 2015 to 2017 to organize professional institutions to improve the state-level monitoring master platform and the platform of property area and enhance the daily operation and maintenance, including necessary maintenance of the hardware and software of the Grand Canal monitoring master platform to ensure stable operation; efforts have been made to urge various areas concerning the Grand Canal to regularly report the progresses and continuously update the master platform

data, match the data of the Grand Canal monitoring master platform and the monitoring and management platforms built by these areas, and carry out investigation, guidance and supervision, and continue the monitoring data statistics and analysis. Moreover, Shandong province has explored to set up a provincial monitoring archive platform for the Grand Canal to further enhance the grassroots monitoring capacity of the Grand Canal.



大运河监测预警总平台

基础数据库

序号	遗产名称	基础数据库名称	基础数据库类型	文件类型	上传时间	操作
1	大运河	大运河申遗点——遗产要素分布图(1)	遗产要素分布图	图片类	2017-10-12 09:54:31	查看 删除
2	大运河	大运河申遗点——运河沿线——遗产要素分布图	遗产要素分布图	图片类	2017-10-11 09:00:04	查看 删除
3	大运河	大运河申遗点——运河沿线——运河沿线——遗产要素分布图(1)	遗产要素分布图	图片类	2017-10-12 10:08:47	查看 删除
4	大运河	大运河申遗点——运河沿线——运河沿线——遗产要素分布图	遗产要素分布图	图片类	2017-10-12 09:52:01	查看 删除
5	大运河	大运河申遗点——运河沿线——运河沿线——遗产要素分布图(1)	遗产要素分布图	图片类	2017-10-12 10:08:04	查看 删除
6	大运河	大运河申遗点——运河沿线——运河沿线——遗产要素分布图	遗产要素分布图	图片类	2017-10-12 10:08:04	查看 删除
7	大运河	大运河申遗点——运河沿线——运河沿线——遗产要素分布图(1)	遗产要素分布图	图片类	2017-10-12 10:08:04	查看 删除
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14	大运河	大运河申遗点——运河沿线——运河沿线——遗产要素分布图	遗产要素分布图	图片类	2017-10-12 10:08:04	查看 删除
15	大运河	大运河申遗点——运河沿线——运河沿线——遗产要素分布图(1)	遗产要素分布图	图片类	2017-10-12 10:08:04	查看 删除

State-level monitoring master platform of the Grand Canal

山东省世界文化遗产监测管理平台——大运河

遗产监测 预警信息 遗产监测 监测报告 工程项目 遗产档案

输入遗产要素名称或关键字

全球遗产 226个遗产要素

- 运河 详细... 所属地区: 微山县 所属河段: 会通河段 遗产分类: 河道遗产
- 伊家河 详细... 所属地区: 枣庄市 所属河段: 中运河 遗产分类: 河道遗产
- 韩庄运河 详细... 所属地区: 枣庄市 所属河段: 中运河 遗产分类: 河道遗产
- 孙家湾闸 详细... 所属地区: 聊城市 所属河段: 鲁运河段 遗产分类: 运河水工设施
- 明马家城水石坝 详细... 所属地区: 德州市 所属河段: 鲁运河段 遗产分类: 运河水工设施
- 明马家城河 详细... 所属地区: 德州市 所属河段: 鲁运河段 遗产分类: 河道遗产
- 明马家城坝 详细... 所属地区: 德州市 所属河段: 鲁运河段 遗产分类: 运河水工设施
- 北厂直冲闸址 详细... 所属地区: 德州市 所属河段: 鲁运河段 遗产分类: 运河附属设施

明马家城水石坝

所属河段: 运河水工设施
所属地区: 鲁运河段
所属河段: 鲁运河段
所属地区: 德州市
所属河段: 鲁运河段
遗产分类: 运河水工设施

位置描述: 山东省德州市位于鲁运河西北约6000米, 二屯镇于村附近, 鲁运河南岸
保护范围: 坝下及坝上考古工作成果具体实施保护范围
建设控制地带: 坝下及坝上考古工作成果具体实施保护范围

描述: 明马家城水石坝, 遗址位于鲁运河西北约6000米, 二屯镇于村附近, 属运河东岸, 地理坐标: 东经116°17'10.6", 北纬37°29'32.7", 海拔26米, 占地约1000平方米。明马家城水石坝长十二丈, 最高处宽三丈, 坝顶比河滩高一丈六尺。



Shandong provincial monitoring platform of the Grand Canal

4.3.2 Whole line tour inspection. Considering the vast spatial dimension of the Grand Canal, the SACH has entrusted the secretariat of the Alliance of Cities for the Conservation and Management of the Grand Canal, i.e. the Grand Canal Conservation and Management Office, to carry out the annual tour inspection along the whole line of the Grand Canal since 2015 to further master the conservation state of different sections and supervise and examine the works of the conservation and management organizations of different areas. The tour inspection covered 85 sections and sites in the 31 property areas of the Grand Canal. The inspection included the conservation state of the physical fabric, the water quality protection, neighboring construction control and landscape conservation. For potential risks discovered in the tour inspection, the SACH has designated staff to make responsive monitoring and urged the areas concerned to make correction. Such efforts have timely removed the potential risks that may endanger the safety of the Grand Canal and ensured the outstanding universal value of the world heritage.

4.3.3 Water quality monitoring and improvement

Water quality monitoring and improvement and other programs involving ecological environment have long been a focus that the Chinese government has vigorously

enhanced in recent years. Under the supervision of the SACH, the areas concerned have made a variety of exploration and attempts concerning the water quality monitoring and supervision and made interim achievements. Tianjin and other cities have established the cooperative ties with the local water affairs bureaus to carry out the water quality monitoring. The “River Director System” has been explored in various area to promote the comprehensive water control. In November 2013, Zhejiang province established the “River Director System” under which “the leaders of the Party and the local governments at all levels are in charge of the control and management of rivers within their respective administration”, and strengthened the accountability system to promote improvement and long-term efficient management of the water environment. As an important part of the inland watercourses of Zhejiang province, the Grand Canal has become a focus of the River Director and the water quality and water environment have been continuously improved. Jiangsu and Shandong provinces jointly implemented the “Thunder Action”, under which the provinces effectively cracked down the sand excavation in the Luoma Lake and the Zhong Canal and improved the water quality of the rivers. Anhui province is rebuilding the shanty areas along the Grand Canal to reduce drainage of domestic waste and sewage, better the landscape along both banks and the water quality of the rivers.



Sanitation engineer on the Canal of Guyang Town, Weishan, Shandong province

4.4 Property presentation, interpretation and tourism development

Quotation of the Decision: COM 7B.33 of the World Heritage Committee:

“(3) Inform the Committee of the effective functioning and results of the different components of the property, in particular:...d. tourism development and coordination programmes.”

Efforts have been made to improve the presentation and interpretation of the world cultural heritage of the Grand Canal, and the capacities of the property to provide cultural services. The SACH has instructed various areas to further improve the presentation of the property. Since 2015, some areas alongside the Grand Canal have launched the presentation programs of the Grand Canal around the Yangzhou Ancient Town and the Sixian Section of Tongji Canal. Meanwhile, some cities alongside the Grand Canal have designed and built a batch of Canal Leisure Parks, Canal Culture Exhibition Centers and other public spaces themed on the culture of the Grand Canal, with the ruins of the Grand Canal as core and emphasis on the environment improvement. Residents alongside the Grand Canal have experienced the positive

changes of the living environment brought by the conservation and utilization of the Grand Canal. Some Canal culture spaces with high quality landscape, distinctive presentation themes and rich utilization functions have gradually formed the special commercial and cultural creation clusters and become important tourist destinations while enriching and facilitating the daily life of residents alongside the Grand Canal.



Canal Library by the Suzhou Section of the Grand Canal

4.5 Property conservation and management training

Quotation of the Decision: COM 7B.33 of the World Heritage Committee:

“(3) Inform the Committee of the effective functioning and results of the different components of the property, in particular:...e. training programmes and activities aimed at strengthening the capacities of staff concerned with the conservation, valorisation and promotion of the property.”

From November 22 to 28, 2015, the SACH held the Grand Canal World Cultural Heritage Conservation and Management Training Course; from September 15 to 21, 2017, the SACH held the Grand Canal Cultural Heritage Conservation and

Inheritance Training Course to train directors of the provincial administration institutions of the eight provinces and municipalities and the 31 components. In the form of expert lecturing, on-site teaching and experience exchanges in combination, the training covered the conservation state and general requirements, implementation of the master plan for conservation and management of the property, safety state and supervision requirements of the cultural heritage, presentation and interpretation of the values and connotations of the cultural heritage, the international canals and conservation and management case study and the cultural heritage conservation, revitalization and utilization case study. Meanwhile, the provinces, cities and prefectures alongside the Grand Canal have carried out professional training, academic exchanges and consultation in various forms according to their respective requirements.

4.6 Necessity for modification of the buffer zones of other sites

Quotation of of the Decision: 40 COM 7B. 33 of the World Heritage Committee:

“(1) Continue its reflection and work for the protection of the surroundings of the Grand Canal to guarantee the sustainable maintenance of the attributes of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), and specifically: a. study whether an adjustment will be required to the buffer zones in the sectors of the property which are not affected by the request for a minor boundary modification under examination at the present session;...”

Quotation of the Decision: 40 COM 8B. 38 of the World Heritage Committee:

“(1) considering whether or not the other component parts forming the Grand Canal serial property necessitate buffer zone adjustments.”

With prudent study and consultation with the governments at all levels alongside the Grand Canal, the SACH decided that it was not necessary for the moment to make a minor boundary modification of the property area and buffer zones of the components of the world cultural heritage of the Grand Canal. In future the SACH will continuously enhance conservation of the world cultural heritage of the Grand Canal,

monitor and assess effectiveness of the management of the property area and buffer zones according to the actual situation of the conservation and management and carry out in-depth investigation and demonstration of the necessity of the minor boundary modification of the property area and buffer zones. When necessary, we will, strictly in line with the *Operational Guideline*, submit the requirements and proposals for the minor boundary modification of the property area and buffer zones of the Grand Canal according to the designated procedures to the UNESCO World Heritage Committee and the World Heritage Center for review.

It is the reply herein.

