

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/1498/IR

Charenton-le-Pont, 21 December 2018

H. E. Mr Lee Byong Hyun
Permanent Delegation of the Republic of Korea to
UNESCO
Tour Montparnasse
33, avenue du Maine
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World Heritage List 2019

**Seowon, Korean Neo-Confucian Academies (Republic of Korea) –
Interim report and additional information request**

Dear Ambassador,

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 2019. We are therefore pleased to provide you with the relevant information outlining issues related to the evaluation process.

The ICOMOS technical evaluation mission to “Seowon, Korean Neo-Confucian Academies” was carried out by Zheng Jun (China) in September 2018. The mission expert highly appreciated the availabilities and support provided by the experts in your country for the organization and implementation of the mission.

On 10 October 2018, a letter was sent by ICOMOS to request further information regarding the description, comparative analysis, integrity and authenticity and management. Please convey our thanks to all the officials and experts for the additional information you provided on 06 November 2018 and for their continued cooperation in this process.

At the end of November 2018, the ICOMOS World Heritage Panel evaluated the cultural and mixed properties nominated for inscription on the World Heritage List in 2019. The additional information provided by the State Party, together with mission and desk review reports were carefully examined by the Panel members. This process will conclude in March 2019.

We thank you for the availability of your Delegation to the meeting held on Friday 23 November 2018 with some representatives of the ICOMOS Panel. The exchanges during this meeting were of great help for the discussions at the ICOMOS Panel meeting. Following the completion of their deliberations, the ICOMOS Panel has identified areas where it considers further information is needed.

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

Justification of criterion (iv)

The Nomination dossier documents the justification for the nominated property being an outstanding example of a Neo-Confucian educational ensemble reflecting the localization of Neo-Confucian concepts in Korea. While the ICOMOS Panel has understood that the layout of the Korean seowon is distinctive from Neo-Confucian academies in other countries, the ICOMOS Panel would be pleased if the State Party could provide further explanation about

the distinctiveness of the building architecture compared to academies in other countries in order to enhance the justification of this criterion.

In particular, the ICOMOS Panel has noted that the Comparative Analysis considers comparable properties in China, especially shuyuan. However, the information provided is somewhat limited. The ICOMOS Panel would be pleased if the State Party could enhance the Comparative Analysis in order to include a greater number of relevant shuyuan, and to produce a consolidated and more detailed analysis of them in relation to Seowon in order to reinforce the justification of criterion (iv).

Protection of landscape and distant views

The Nomination dossier stresses the importance of the landscape surrounding the seowon as part of Neo-Confucian teaching and practices. This can include landscape elements close the buildings as well as more distant landscape elements such as mountains. While not always in the nominated property or Buffer Zone, but rather in the wider setting of the property, a key question is how distant landscape elements outside the Buffer Zone can be protected and managed because of their important link to the seowon.

The ICOMOS Panel would be pleased if the State Party could indicate whether such links to distant landscape elements are known and documented, and how the links are protected?

Overall integrated management of the property

It is noted that each of the components has a comprehensive maintenance plan, and that the role of the Seowon Foundation is to facilitate the integrated management of the nine components as a single property. While at present there is no overarching management document for the nominated property, it is understood the State Party proposes to develop such a document after possible World Heritage inscription.

The ICOMOS Panel would be pleased to receive, if available, information on the timeframe for completion of an overarching management document for the property.

Enhanced interpretation of the overall property

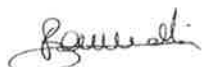
It is noted that some interpretation of the overall nominated property is currently provided at each component, and that enhanced interpretation is proposed. The ICOMOS Panel would be please if the State Party could provide further information on the nature, scope and timeframe for this enhanced interpretation of the overall nominated property.

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 2019 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 would be grateful if the State Party could keep its 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

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 UNESCO World Heritage Centre