

WHV – The Grand Canal Flowing from History to the Future

The Grand Canal, China

Cultural property inscribed on the World Heritage List (2014)

PROJECT DATES

08 June - 22 June 2024

THE SITE - The Grand Canal is a vast waterway system in the north-eastern and central-eastern plains of China, running from 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 construction sites, creating the world's largest and most extensive civil engineering project prior to the Industrial Revolution. It formed the backbone of the Empire's inland communication system, transporting grain and strategic raw materials, and supplying rice to feed the population. By the 13th century it consisted of more than 2,000 km of artificial waterways, linking five of China's main river basins. It has played an important role in ensuring the country's economic prosperity and stability and is still in use today as a major means of communication.

OBJECTIVES - A new partner of the Initiative, the Heritage Conservation and Management Office at the Grand Canal will implement actions to raise residents' awareness and ability to protect the Grand Canal, and form a community of interest in environmental sanitation and industrial development.

ACTIVITIES - Through the interaction with the volunteers, the project will provide the community a space to express their perspectives on the conservation and development of the Grand Canal and its related cultural heritage. Awareness raising activities will further promote the local understanding of the multi-dimensional needs of the Canal culture and management, engaging community stakeholders to become local actors of the site's protection and promotion.

PARTNERS - Asian Academy for Heritage Management, World Historic and Cultural Canal Cities Cooperation Organization, Professional Committee on Preventive Conservation of Architectural Heritage, China Association for Conservation Technology of Cultural Heritage, School of Architecture, Southeast University, Yangzhou China Grand Canal Museum, Yangzhou Tourism Bureau; Yangzhou Dongguan Street Community, Yangzhou Garden Art Research Association, Yangzhou Intangible Cultural Heritage Protection Association; Left Zither and Right Book Intangible Cultural Heritage Cultural Exchange Center, Guangling District, Yangzhou City, Jiangsu Tianrun Engineering Construction Co., Ltd.

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