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UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL
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CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD
CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Twenty-eighth session
Suzhou, China
28 June – 7 July 2004

Item 17D of the Provisional Agenda: Follow-up to Periodic Reporting in Asia and the Pacific

SUMMARY

This document summarises the achievements of the first cycle of Periodic Reporting for the Asia-Pacific region and presents the follow-up strategy and activities elaborated by the World Heritage Centre, in line with the two regional programmes – Action Asia 2003-2009 and World Heritage – Pacific 2009 – adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 27th session in July 2003.

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1. The Periodic Reporting Exercise in brief:

39 States Parties from Asia (27) and the Pacific (12) participated in the exercise. 88 World Heritage properties inscribed on the World Heritage List up to and including 1994 (55 cultural and 33 natural and mixed) were reviewed. 4,000 pages of national and site-specific reports were read, synthesized and analyzed by the World Heritage Centre, in co-operation with the Advisory Bodies and UNESCO Field Offices. National Focal Points for Periodic Reporting were appointed in each country for cultural and for natural heritage, thus enabling a strong participatory approach. Between 2001 and 2003 five national workshops, seven sub-regional / regional workshops, and three meetings with the Asia-Pacific Permanent Delegations to UNESCO were organized.

2. Following the presentation of the results of the Periodic Reporting Exercise to the World Heritage Committee at its 27th session, the Committee adopted the *Synthesis Regional Periodic Report* and the Regional programmes “Action Asia 2003-2009” and “World Heritage – Pacific 2009”. These programmes are focused on the following objectives:

- a) Capacity-building in the preparation of nomination dossiers and in site management planning;
- b) Poverty alleviation and community participation through the preservation of heritage;
- c) Thematic studies for a more representative World Heritage List;
- d) Dissemination of information on World Heritage in the region.

3. As a result of this first Periodic Reporting exercise, a publication entitled *The State of World Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region, 2003* was published in 2004 together with a CD-Rom, which contains the summaries of the national Periodic Reports. Country and site profiles, good models of official World Heritage documents, best practices and case studies are being collected and digitalized to be disseminated through the new World Heritage Centre website.

4. In addition to these achievements, the Periodic Reporting exercise successfully provided an assessment of the application of the *World Heritage Convention* by the States Parties involved in the exercise. It also provided a real time picture of the state of conservation and the management and monitoring arrangements of the Asia-Pacific World Heritage properties inscribed on the World Heritage List before or in 1994. Finally, it enhanced regional co-operation and exchange of information and experiences between States Parties in the region concerning the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention* and heritage conservation.

5. The follow-up activities to the Periodic Report in the Asia-Pacific Region have been elaborated according to the regional programmes adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 27th session, taking into account the comments and recommendations of the Asia-Pacific States Parties.

6. The following phased approach has been adopted:

<i>Follow-up Activity</i>	<i>Agenda</i>
PHASE I 1. Distribution of the paper and CD-Rom versions of the Periodic Report publication; 2. Dissemination of the information gathered during the Periodic Report on the new website of the World Heritage Centre, including country and site profiles, models of Tentative Lists, nomination files, international assistance requests, site management plans, visitor plans, and presentation of best practices and case studies in conservation and management of World Heritage properties; 3. Organization of sub-regional follow-up workshops in Central Asia (Kazakhstan), South Asia (Pakistan) and the Pacific (New Zealand); 4. Organization of sub-regional follow-up workshops in South East and North East Asia. The strategy adopted during this phase focuses on dissemination of the information collected during the first Periodic Report, and identification of sub-regional or national needs to be addressed in priority. Phase I will also address the needs of States Parties to identify indicators to monitor and measure the state of conservation of World Heritage properties and establish measurement systems, which will then be used in the next reporting round of the region.	July 2004 2004-2005 Autumn 2004 Early 2005

PHASE II 1. Implementation of the national and sub-regional action plans identified during the sub-regional workshops, with particular focus on: a) Revision of the statements of significance with re-examination and possible revision of site boundaries and management zones; b) Revision of the Tentative Lists to address more thoroughly the objectives of the Global Strategy; 2. Organization of training workshops to enhance conservation and management skills in the region, as well as thematic studies to identify new types of World Heritage, by the World Heritage Centre, in co-operation with the UNESCO Field Offices, the Advisory Bodies, regional institutions and leading international conservation NGOs. The strategy adopted during this phase emphasises capacity-building of local and national authorities involved in World Heritage conservation and management. The assessment of the operational activities undertaken during this phase will serve as one of the performance indicators of the two regional World Heritage programmes for the region.	2005-2008
PHASE III 1. Preparation for the next Periodic Report to the World Heritage Committee, in consultation with the national focal points, the concerned site managers and the Advisory Bodies; 2. Assessment of the results of the regional World Heritage programmes. The strategy adopted during this phase takes stock of the results of the second phase to elaborate recommendations for the next cycle of Periodic Reporting in the region.	2007-2009 2009

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The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Takes note of the progress made in the implementation of the Regional Programme for the Asia-Pacific States Parties and in responding to the priority needs identified through the Periodic Reporting exercise in the region;*
2. *Thanks the Japanese Government for supporting the publication of the Periodic Report for the Asia-Pacific region;*
3. *Requests the World Heritage Centre to report, for the consideration of the World Heritage Committee at its 30th session, on the outcomes of the sub-regional meetings foreseen in 2004 and 2005.*