

# **OWHC/UNESCO Workshop on People-centered Conservation Principles for World Heritage Cities and Towns**

(24~26 September 2014 / Gyeongju, Republic of Korea)

## **General Information**

### **1. Background**

In Asia and the Pacific region alone, there are over 300 World Cultural Heritage sites and over 200 municipalities which host some of the region's most notable World Heritage sites. There have been demands for a network in order for communication and networking. As a result of the decisions of UNESCO Asia-Pacific Mayor's Forum for World Heritage Cities in 2012 and OWHC Board Committee in May 2013, the Asia and Pacific Regional Secretariat was officially established in Gyeongju, Republic of Korea.

For the last few decades, the discourses for the heritage preservation and management mainly focused on the technological and institutional aspects. This top to down approach caused the separation between local people and their heritage. An Australian scholar Gordon Grimwade criticizes this "expert-centered management" saying "it is as if the common people played no role in the development of society and culture." As a result, ordinary people have been only considered as groups of audience or subjects of education or even enlightenment.

However, there has been some progress in the evolution of the notion called "People-centered Conservation". In terms of the study of the cultural policy, the People-centered Conservation is not a new concept. There have been a lot of discussions on this matter. In the results of the 35th World Heritage Committee, for example, the significance of the participation of the local community was again emphasized. UNESCO Bangkok office has been highlighting this institutional framework of the sustainable preservation of cultural heritage in Asia Pacific Region. This is officially emphasized in 2012, Kyoto vision, produced at the Closing Event (2012) of World Heritage Convention. Having examined the past achievements in Asia, as well as Korea, the notion of People-centered preservation principle needs to be emphasized in close coordination with local cultural, political and social

development policies. Therefore, now is an opportune moment to develop the notion from the context of Asia and the Pacific.

Experts play a key role in setting the agenda for giving a intellectual depth and logic in order to build a common agreement of "People-centered Conservation" Recognizing the important role experts play, mayors from around the region have been invited to convene at Asia-Pacific Workshop on People-centered Conservation Principles for World Heritage Cities and Towns, hosted by the city of Gyeongju, Republic of Korea, home to the "Gyeongju Historic Areas" World Heritage property containing significant archaeological findings dating back to the Silla Dynasty.

Reflecting the challenges of managing the future of Historic cities, the proposed overall theme of the Workshop is "Toward the People-centered Conservation of the World Heritage Cities and Towns in Asia and the Pacific"

## **2. Host**

- Gyeongju Municipal Government

## **3. Organizers**

- OWHC Asia Pacific Regional Secretariat
- Korean National Commission for UNESCO
- UNESCO Bangkok Office

In collaboration with

- Cultural Heritage Administration, Gyeongsangbuk-do Provincial Government, UNESCO Bangkok Office, Korean National Commission for UNESCO  
World Heritage Institute of Training and Research for the Asia and Pacific Region

## **4. Venue /Date**

Gyochon Academy, Gyeongju, Gyengsangbuk-do, Korea

24 September 2014

## **5. Objectives of the Meeting**

- Reflecting the concept of people-oriented conservation from the context of world heritage in Asia and the Pacific,
- Reconsidering the existing and dominant preservation/management systems in the world heritage cities,

- Finding the successful cases to be shared among world heritage cities,
- Drafting suggestions to be addressed at the Mayors' meeting

## 6. Tentative program Schedule

### Tuesday 23 September 2014

Arrival of Participants (Swiss Rosen Hotel Gyeongju)

### Wednesday 24 September 2014

09:00 - 09:30	<b>Registration</b>
09:30 - 10:00	<b>Opening Ceremony</b> - Gyeongju, OWHC-AP, UNESCO Bangkok Office, Korean National Commission for UNESCO
10:00 - 10:30	<b>Keynote Paper</b> - UNESCO Bangkok office
10:30 - 12:30	<b>Session 1</b> Concept and Definition -Korea
12:30 - 14:00	<b>Lunch Break</b>
14:00 - 15:00	<b>Session 2</b> Methods -WHITRAP
15:00 - 16:00	<b>Session3-1</b> Cases 1
16:00 - 16:30	<b>Coffee Break</b>
16:30 - 17:30	<b>Session3-2</b> Cases 2
17:30 - 18:30	<b>Wrap-up Session</b> - Draft of Statement
18:30 - 19:00	<b>Closing Ceremony</b>
19:00 -	Dinner and leaving for the hotel

### Thursday 25 September 2014

09:00 - 13:00	<b>Attending the Mayors' Roundtable (Panel Session)</b>
13:00 - 14:30	<b>Lunch</b>
14:30 - 19:00	<b>Mayors' Roundtable (Panel Session)</b>
19:00 -	<b>Welcoming dinner</b>

## **Friday 26 September 2014**

- 09:00 - 12:30     **OWHC-AP Session**
- Working mechanism (proposed by regional coordinator)
  - Future cooperation and joint activities (proposed by regional coordinator)
- 12:30             **Adaptation of Gyeongju Declaration**
- 12:30 - 13:00    **Closing Ceremony**
- 13:00 - 14:30    **Lunch Break**
- 14:30 -           **Field trip**

## **Saturday, 27, September 2014**

Departure of the Participants

### **7. Paper Preparation**

We request the invited experts to present the paper for 5 or 6 pages(Around 1500 words) regarding on the main theme and a case study on the world heritage cities and towns. The paper should focus on one of the following areas of "People-centered Conservation"

- Definition
- Methodology
- Case Study

**We kindly request you to submit the paper by 20th of August**

After the workshop, participants will also be advised to attend the Mayors' meeting through 25-26 September in order to support mayors at the meeting intellectually.

### **The Examples of Reference materials**

- World Heritage Convention and its operational guideline, 1972, UNESCO
- Kyoto Vision, 2012, UNESCO
- The Valletta Principles for the Safeguarding and Management of Historic Cities, Towns and Urban Areas, 2011, ICOMOS
- Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape, 2011, UNESCO
- Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, 2005, UNESCO

### **8. Financial Arrangements**

Hosts provide a roundtrip flight (economy class) and local hospitality (accommodation, meals, and local transportation) during the official working days (23-27 September)

## **9. Travel Arrangements**

### **(1) Air Ticket Arrangements**

For the invited experts, flight tickets will be borne and arranged by OWHC.

### **(2) Reception at Incheon/Gimhae International Airport and local transportation**

- At Incheon/Gimhae International Airport, participants will meet a staff member from the travel agency at the arrival lobby on the first floor

### **(3) Visa**

Participant is kindly requested to apply for a valid visa for the trip to the Republic of Korea.

## **10. Accommodation**

Rooms have been booked for participants at the Swiss Rosen Hotel Gyeongju for the duration of the event. The room charges for the participants (including breakfast) will be covered by the hosts during the official schedule. Please be advised that personal expenses (such as room service, mini-bar, phone calls, etc.) will not be covered.

### **Swiss Rosen Hotel Gyeongju**

242-19 Shinpyong-dong, Gyeongju-si, Gyeongsangbuk-do

South Korea 780-290

Phone: 82-54-748-4848

Fax: 82-54-745-1999

Email: [swissrosen@gmail.com](mailto:swissrosen@gmail.com)

Website: <http://www.swissrosen.co.kr>

## **11. Insurance**

It is the responsibility of each participant to ensure that they have the proper insurance coverage prior to entering the Republic of Korea.

## **12. Climate and Clothing**

The weather is usually mild and clear. However, there are occasional hot days due to the geographic factors. Therefore, it would be highly recommended to bring light short sleeves clothes and light Jacket together.

### **13. Working Language**

Official working language is English.

### **14. Correspondence**

**All inquires should be directed to:**

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