



# Achievements and Significances of the World Heritage Inscription of the Gyeongju Historic Areas and Baekje Historic Areas

## Introduction

Korea has two World Heritage properties listed as “Historic Areas”: one is Gyeongju Historic Areas inscribed in 2000, and the other is Baekje Historic Areas inscribed in 2015. If we count North Korea’s heritage as well, Kaesong Historic Areas was inscribed in 2013. Although under a slightly different name, “Historical Relics in Pyongyang” was added to the World Heritage tentative list in 2000, with a similar character. This brings the total count of Historic Areas on the Korean peninsula to four.<sup>1</sup> Unlike serial nominations that combine different components with similar characteristics, or a single nomination, Historic Areas is once the ancient capital of nations and thus has royal palaces and tombs of outstanding values densely located within the area. Depending on how well the properties are preserved, the chances of being inscribed as World Heritage increases.

Gyeongju Historic Areas was inscribed as World Heritage when the World Heritage system was not as well known to the world as it is today. Also, the inscription of the Gyeongju Historic Areas came after the 1995 World Heritage inscription of Seokguram Grotto and Bulguksa Temple, which are Shilla’s core

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\* For non-English words including Korean ones, the new (revised) Romanization convention established by the Ministry of Culture, Sports, and Tourism of Korea is basically used in the *Review of Korean Studies*. However, for the place names of world heritages in this manuscript, the Romanization convention and the usage of the World Heritage Committee or Cultural Heritage Administration of Korea are exceptionally adopted since they have been already worldwide known.

1. The royal palaces, tombs and other relics of the of Hwanin and Jiban, the capital of early Goguryeo, have been inscribed as World Cultural Heritage in 2004 under the title “Complex of Koguryo Tombs.” This also fits within the description of Historic Areas and therefore could be included in the list of Historic Areas on the Korean peninsula. However, since the properties of the ancient capital and the royal tombs of Goguryeo are located in Liaoning and Jilin of China, they have been inscribed with China being its State Party. Accordingly, they were not included in the scope of the current paper.

Buddhist relics. The full picture of the culture of Gyeongju, Silla's capital for close to a millennium, can be better appreciated when the two World Heritage properties work together. That could be the reason for Silla's royal palaces and tombs to have been additionally inscribed as World Heritage, joining Seokguram Grotto and Bulguksa Temple.

Baekje Historic Areas as World Heritage is composed of royal palaces, tombs, Buddhist temples, and fortresses that remain in Gongju, Buyeo, and Iksan. It, however, does not present the full spectrum of history of Baekje, as the property only covers the last 200 years, or one third of the entire history of Baekje. Despite such shortcomings, Baekje Historic Areas is an exemplary case where three local governments worked together and overcame various obstacles to succeed in the inscription of Baekje Historic Areas as World Heritage. For the remaining two thirds or five hundred years of its history, Baekje's capital was Hanseong, the current Seoul. Immediately following the successful inscription of Baekje Historic Areas in 2016, work began and is still on-going to add the Baekje sites from the Hanseong period to the already inscribed Baekje Historic Areas.

To be inscribed on the World Heritage list, work has to meticulously follow the upstream process and the operational guidelines that have been set forth to implement the World Heritage Convention. The preparation of the nomination dossier focuses on providing the World Heritage Committee with an efficient description of the justification and validity of the property to be inscribed as World Heritage. Above all, it is critical to prove the outstanding universal value (OUV) of the nominated property.

In order to prove the OUV, a comparative analysis is conducted to describe the universality and excellence of the property as to why it must be inscribed as a heritage to be shared by all humanity. Furthermore, the nominated property must meet the criteria for selection and have its authenticity and integrity acknowledged, as well as present diverse elements needed for the continued protection and management of the value of the property under a practical conservation and management plan and the active participation of the local community.

This paper will present Gyeongju Historic Areas and Baekje Historic Areas which are inscribed as World Heritage, by reviewing their nomination dossier to revisit the criteria and values and to briefly discuss its implications.

## Gyeongju Historic Areas

### *Description of Property*

Gyeongju Historic Areas is studded with diverse heritage that shows us the history and culture of Silla. The property comprises five distinct areas depending on the nature of the relics: Mt. Namsan Belt has Buddhist cultural treasures; Wolseong Belt contains ancient palace sites; Tumuli Park Belt has mausoleums for kings; Hwangnyongsa Belt represents the Silla temples; and Sanseong Fortress Belt is the core of defense of the *wanggyeong* (capital).

At the center of Mt. Namsan Belt sits Gyeongju Namsan. It is an oval shaped mountain, 8 km long from south to north and 4 km wide from east to west, while connecting Mt. Kumosan (468 m above sea level) and Mt. Kowisan (494 m above sea level) with 40 valleys. Namsan (Historic Site No. 311) has prehistoric relics as well as many relics from Silla. Najeong 蘿井, a mythical well which appears in the ancient founding myth of Silla; Namsan Mountain Fortress, which was the heart of defense of the ancient capital; many royal tumuli; and Poseokjeong Pavilion, an abalone shaped stone watercourse, are all located in this area. The site is also scattered with numerous Buddhism relics including the ruins of 122 temples, 53 stone statues, 64 pagodas, and 16 stone lanterns. These Buddhist monuments demonstrate how Namsan was viewed as the ideal utopia of Buddhism 佛國土 for the Silla people. The Mt. Namsan Belt is an excellent outdoor museum, where one can still breath in the beauty of the Silla dynasty.

Wolseong Belt includes the following sites: the ruined palace site of Wolseong; Gyerim woodland, which is told in the legends as the birthplace of the founder of the Gyeongju Kim clan; Anapji Pond and the ruined Imhaejeon Palace, both of which have been built during the period of unification of Silla; and Cheomseongdae Observatory, known to be the oldest observatory in East Asia. From the early relics showing how Silla grew to be an ancient kingdom, to the monuments demonstrating the golden years of the Silla culture following the unification of the Three Kingdoms, the above-mentioned sites represent the long history of Silla.

Tumuli Park Belt has tombs of the royal family and the noblemen of the times. Differing in sizes, they form clusters here and there. Their structure and types are also quite diverse: double wood coffins covered with gravel, tumuli with stone slabs, pit burial tombs, and others. The large sized double wood

coffins covered with gravel represents the royal tombs such as Cheonmachong and Hwangnamdaechong. The excavations from these tombs have revealed rich grave goods including the golden crown and other glamorous artifacts and hence demonstrate the burial practices of the times.

Hwangnyongsa Belt consists of two Buddhist temples: the ruins of Bunhwangsa Temple and Hwangnyongsa Temple. Hwangnyongsa is one of the best temples of Silla and is acknowledged as the birthplace of Buddhism in Silla, as well as the epitome of both religion and art of the dynasty. The excavated site of the temple demonstrates its grandeur as the guardian temple of the kingdom and provides valuable information on the history of Buddhism and the urban planning of the Silla *wanggyeong* (the then-term of the capital).

Sanseong Fortress Belt includes the Myeonghwal Mountain Fortress. Being the last nation to form an ancient kingdom among the three kingdoms, Silla built many fortresses along the east coast and at other strategic points in the inland roads to defend itself from outside enemies, including the Japanese pirates. The Myeonghwal Mountain Fortress is a stone wall fortress built to the east of Wolseong in order to defend the outskirts of the ancient capital. Stretching out 4.5 km along the ridges at an elevation of 259 m, the fortress is 10 meters in height and has an outer wall that is 5 meters in height. Based on the documented records, the fortress is estimated to have been completed around the year 400.

### *Justification of Inscription*

#### **Significances**

Gyeongju is the ancient capital of Silla (57 BCE-935 AD). It has inherited the Buddhist relics and the *wanggyeong*<sup>2</sup>-related relics that embody the history of the ancient kingdom. Excavation continues to reveal the size of the ancient capital and all of its glory.

Namsan was worshipped as one of the five sacred mountains and revered as having spiritual powers, thereby being the rites place for state affairs.

Since Buddhism was introduced to Silla, Namsan became engraved as the representation of Sumeru, the Heavenly Mountain of Buddha Land to the Silla people and thus had numerous Buddhism monuments remaining in the area. It is literally a treasure house of Buddhist art and for the study of its teachings.

Wolseong (Half Moon Palace) and other ruins of palaces; numerous temple and fortress sites including the site of Hwangnyongsa, the largest temple of Silla; huge mounds and royal graves, wells, and woods that intrigue us with the legends of the progenitor of the Gyeongju Kim clan; ancient walls and sites of bridges, such as Iljeonggyo Bridge and Woljeonggyo Bridge that demonstrate the level of civil engineering of the times; and of course the Cheomseongdae, the most exquisite example of an astronomical observatory in East Asia, all make up the long list of important and valuable heritage of Silla.

#### **Comparative analysis**

Gyeongju served as the capital of a kingdom for almost a millennium, an unparalleled record in world history: Buddhism and ancient city relics as well as tumuli dotted around its grounds. The densely located tumuli and stone monuments have survived centuries. The tumuli found all over the *wanggyeong* clearly demonstrate the strong authority enjoyed by the royal family and noblemen of the times. The ruins of its main palace, the Wolseong Palace sites still stands majestically, as well as the site of the ruined Imhaejeon Palace, a detached palace next to the now partially restored Anapji Pond. Compared with Japan's Historic Monuments of Kyoto Buddhist Monuments in the Horyuji Area, and Historic Sites and Monuments of Ancient Nara, which are all registered in the UNESCO world heritage list, Gyeongju Historic Areas excels in the number and density of the remains, their variety, and the overall status of preservation.

#### **Present status of conservation**

Along with the monuments of the *wanggyeong*, Mount Namsan preserves numerous important Buddhist cultural relics, including Buddha's statues, pagodas, and the temple sites, as well as the Gyerim woodland, which is told in the legends as the birthplace of the founder of the Gyeongju Kim clan.

The Gyeongju area has survived a millennium and maintains its cultural

2. Different ancient kingdoms of Korea have different terms for a capital. *Doseong* 都城 is the most common title while Baekje used "*wangdo*" 王都 and Silla used "*wanggyeong*" 王京 referring to its capital.

heritage in excellent condition. Numerous historical records testify their values and significance; studies in the field of archeology, art history, and history in general have produced ample academic research.

### **Inscription criteria**

The nomination dossier for the World Heritage inscription lists the following three criteria for Gyeongju Historic Areas:

Criterion (i): Gyeongju Historic Areas can be regarded as an outdoor museum housing copious cultural properties centered on Mt. Namsan and adjacent areas. The area's cultural properties are mostly from the 6<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> centuries, displaying quintessence of Shilla arts through Buddha's statues, temple sites, and royal and other tumuli.

Criterion (ii): Gyeongju, the capital of Shilla, is spread around the western, northern and southern hems of Mt. Namsan. Thus, its urban planning cannot be settled without considering Mt. Namsan. Mt. Namsan is a cultural and religious sanctuary of Gyeongju. It is also admired as a wilderness park of beautiful slopes and valleys with its woods and rocks. The Shilla people harmoniously laid out their living quarters and religious sites on and around Mt. Namsan. Having a well-kept park along with numerous cultural heritage in the center of the city presents an excellent example of good urban landscaping.

Criterion (vi): The Gyeongju Namsan and surrounding historical relics are sacred places containing the birthplace of Bak Hyeokgeose, the founder of the Shilla Kingdom and historical vestiges from throughout the period. Many temples enshrine statues of Buddha and the area has blossomed as the epicenter of Buddhism religion for the Shilla people.

The World Heritage inscription was originally made under these inscription criteria. However, in the actual decision by the World Heritage Committee in 2000, Criterion (ii) solely was considered critical, but Criteria (i) and (iv) not considered. Unexpectedly, Gyeongju Historic Areas was judged to meet Criterion (iii) in its final recommendation.

Criterion (ii) states that World Heritage has to "exhibit an important interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the

world, on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town-planning or landscape design"; and Criterion (iii) states that it has to "bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization which is living or which has disappeared." So, the World Heritage Committee has acknowledged that Gyeongju Historic Areas exhibits important interchange of human values within the East Asian culture on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town-planning, or landscape design and bears unique and exceptional testimony to the cultural tradition of the Silla dynasty at the same time.

The successful inscription of Gyeongju Historic Areas as World Heritage was read as the first achievement to have the representative relics of the Silla history and culture inscribed as World Heritage with regard to the ancient three kingdoms of the Korean peninsula, Goguryeo, Baekje, and Silla, and their historical and cultural remains.

### ***Protection and Management***

Most of the cultural remains on Mount Namsan and in other heritage belts in Gyeongju Historic Area are well-preserved; many are protected by the designation as national or provincial treasures, historic sites, or cultural properties, and they are subject to a regular annual check-up on their status through a protection and management program. The stone monuments including the Buddha's statues and pagodas are well retained. In the case of the ruined temple sites, ongoing excavations provide evidence for more accurate restoration of the sites.

As for the protection and management entities of Gyeongju Historic Areas, the Cultural Heritage Administration (CHA) is responsible for establishing and enforcing policies at the national state level. The National Research Institute of Cultural Heritage under the wing of CHA conducts academic research and field surveys, accumulates the research results, and reflects them on the conservation and management plan. The City of Gyeongju is directly responsible for more specific operations of conservation and management.

The financial funding for the protection and conservation of Gyeongju Historic Areas relics comes from the cultural heritage repair and conservation project funds from the central and local governments' budget, following a pre-determined formula.

The legal protection of the relics and monuments is conducted under the Cultural Heritage Protection Act, ordinance for cultural heritage protection of the Gyeongsangbuk-do, National Park Law, Building Act, and National Land Planning and Utilization Act. The City of Gyeongju has the Cultural Heritage Division—Policy Team which is in charge of the work related with the World Heritage inscription and management. The Asia Pacific Team within the Division for Ancient Capital Management is in charge of public relations and exchange programs related to the World Heritage.

## Baekje Historic Areas

### *Description of Property*

Baekje is an ancient kingdom that lasted 700 years from 18 BCE to 660 CE. It was founded near the basin of Hangang River by the immigrants originating from Goguryeo and grew into a centrally-controlled kingdom that occupied the southwestern regions of the Korean peninsula. Its first capital was in the Songpa district of the today's Seoul. In 475 CE, Baekje was invaded by Goguryeo; the then capital Hanseong fell and Baekje had to move its capital to the then Ungjin (currently Gongju). In 538 CE, King Seong moved the capital one more time to Sabi (currently Buyeo), with the goal of reviving the glory of the kingdom. The history of Baekje is divided by these three successive capitals periods.

Baekje Historic Areas constitutes a serial property comprising archaeological resources associated with the years after the capital was moved to Ungjin, until the end of the kingdom (475-660 CE). Capital cities in the ancient kingdoms were political, economic, and religious centers of the kingdoms as well as the embodiment of its cultural standards. Notable features of the ancient capital cities of East Asia were their royal palaces, royal tombs, Buddhist temples, and the military defense fortresses. A royal palace was composed of governance areas and residential areas. Royal tombs were constructed adjacent to the capital city, displaying the legitimacy and divinity of the royal family. The temples were founded both to strengthen royal sovereignty with religious authority and to develop cultural cohesion throughout the kingdom. And on the outskirts of the capital, fortresses were built to protect the capital.

The nominated property includes eight components: Gongsanseong Fortress and Royal Tombs in Songsan-ri, Gongju as the representatives of the

Ungjin period; Archaeological Site in Gwanbukri and Busosanseong Fortress; Jeongnimsa Temple Site; Royal Tombs in Neungsan-ri; Naseong City Wall; and the Archaeological Site in Wanggung-ri and Mireuksa Temple Site, which are associated with the secondary capital built in Iksan during the later Sabi period.

### *Justification of Inscription*

#### **Inscription criteria**

Baekje Historic Areas submitted its nomination dossier for World Heritage inscription under the following three criteria, based on their OUV:

Criterion (ii): The archaeological sites and architecture of the Baekje Historic Areas exhibit the interchange between the ancient East Asian kingdoms in Korea, China and Japan in the development of construction techniques and the spread of Buddhism.

Criterion (iii): The setting of the capital cities, Buddhist temples and tombs, architectural features and stone pagodas of the Baekje Historic Areas contribute in forming exceptional testimony to the unique culture, religion and artistry of the kingdom of Baekje.

Criterion (iv): Baekje Historic Areas is one of the earliest examples clearly expressing the innovative city design, marking the start of outer walls encircling the entire city in East Asia, together with the vast influences of Buddhism in the central city layout, attesting to the functions of the religion as the ruling ideology. The advanced development of architectural technology is also explicitly presented in the monumental buildings adorned with roof tiles and stone pagodas.

The World Heritage Committee, in 2015, decided that the Baekje Historic Areas meets Criteria (ii) and (iii), which is the same as those accepted in the nomination of the Gyeongju Historic Areas. It acknowledged that the archaeological sites and architecture of Baekje Historic Areas exhibit the interchange between the ancient East Asian kingdoms in Korea, China, and Japan in the development of construction techniques and the spread of Buddhism, while also presenting an exceptional testimony to the unique culture

and history of the lost kingdom of Baekje.

The relics of this historical area is spread out in Gongju, Buyeo, and Iksan. Deciding on which sites were to be included in the World Heritage nomination was by no means an easy task. From the very beginning, the three local governments and two provincial governments were challenged with the work of presenting an integrated management system for the property that is so dispersed; the achievement definitely deserve high praise. However, it also leaves some room for regret in that the nomination only covered the last two centuries out of the entire seven hundred years of Baekje's history. At the time of inscription, Seoul did not put in enough effort to include the Baekje relics of Seoul for the nomination, nor did it succeed in garnering public support for the nomination. So, it was not possible to include the relics of Seoul in the nominated property. Under such circumstances, the current nomination is limited in presenting a full spectrum of the history and culture of Baekje. As time passed, public opinion surfaced calling for the addition of the Baekje heritage in the Seoul area to the existing inscription, and the Seoul Provincial Government is currently working on the documents for the nomination.

### **Authenticity and integrity**

World Heritage inscription relies heavily on whether the nominated property has an OUV and also whether it has authenticity and integrity.

Authenticity refers to the trustworthiness and sincerity towards a value that is either innate or gained in history. The concept of authenticity first surfaced in the 1960; in the 1964 Venice Charter, it was emphasized that "It is our duty to hand them on in the full richness of their authenticity." UNESCO adopted the World Heritage Convention in 1972 and its operational guidelines in 1977. In Article 9, it states, "properties may be understood to meet the conditions of authenticity if their cultural values (as recognized in the nomination criteria proposed) are truthfully and credibly expressed through a variety of attributes including: form and design, materials and substance, use and function; traditions, techniques and management systems, as well as location and setting." The definition of authenticity has been specified in that "authenticity is not confined to the original form and structure of a heritage, but also includes alterations and additions in the later stage that forms artistic and historical values along with the passage of time." In 1994, the Nara Document on

Authenticity was written up and added spiritual elements to the list of six: form and design; materials and substance; use and function; traditions, techniques, and management systems; location and setting; language and other forms of intangible heritage; spirit and feeling; and other internal and external factors.

Baekje Historic Areas has guarded its authenticity in terms of the individual property and also at the level of urban planning as a whole. The components of the nominated property are eight archeological sites verified from excavations that have been carried out over a long period of time. Since these sites remained beneath the ground for over a millennium, their authenticity has never been threatened. In all, Baekje Historic Areas satisfies the condition of authenticity stipulated in the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention and the Nara Document on Authenticity in terms of the forms and designs, materials and substances, tradition, techniques, and management systems, and location and settings.

Integrity is the criteria used to judge whether; the property includes all necessary elements to express the OUV of the nominated property; the property site is large enough to fully represent the characteristics and features of the property; and the state of conservation is adequate, free from threats of further development or neglect.

The fortress walls, palace sites, outer city walls, royal tombs, and Buddhist temples, which are the compulsory components of ancient capital cities, comprise the OUV of Baekje Historic Areas and are included in the property in its entirety. The sites preserve important evidence of the basis of Baekje structures and their technical advances and developments in an intact form. All the components of the property are individually recognized as state-designated heritage, and all three cities are recognized as an ancient capital city providing for the holistic and consistent conservation policies and measures.

### ***Protection and Management***

#### **Protection and management system**

Baekje Historic Areas, a nominated serial property composed of eight components, is owned by the government. The components are protected and managed under the Cultural Heritage Protection Act of Korea. The buffer zones have been designated as cultural heritage areas under the Cultural Her-

itage Protection Act and as a special protection zone under the Special Act on the Preservation and Promotion of Ancient Cities, and thus necessary legal and administrative measures are in place. The respective local governments have also enacted their own cultural heritage protection ordinances, including the Chungcheongnam-do Designated Cultural Heritage Protection Ordinance (2002, as amended) and the Jeollabuk-do Cultural Heritage Protection Ordinance (1999, as amended).

The factors that may affect the conservation and protection of Baekje Historic Areas are development pressure, environmental pressure, natural disasters, and the activities of residents and visitors. However, the elements that may potentially affect or cause threat to the OUV of Baekje Historic Areas rarely exist because the nominated property is all designated as National Cultural Heritage and any development activities within the sites are strictly prohibited by the Cultural Heritage Protection Act. Most of the privately-owned land has been acquired by the government and almost no residents remain within the property. Also, as most of the nominated property is located either on the hillside or in the mountainous terrain, potential risk of being exposed to the negative environment that may occur is relatively minimal. The nominated property has not been greatly affected by natural disasters until now, and central and local governments have been establishing and operating responsive manual to take measures for natural disasters that may occur. As for the anticipated tourism pressures even after the inscription on the World Heritage List, it has sufficient capacity in most cases and is manageable through the effective management by identifying-and-controlling visitors appropriately.

### **Integrated management system**

In a serial nomination, where the properties are located in different municipalities, having an integrated management system to facilitate cooperation among the relevant local governments is critical for the protection and management of the properties. In 2011, the CHA committee on cultural heritage has combined Historic Areas of Gongju, Buyeo, and Iksan, which have been on the World Heritage Tentative List separately, into Baekje Historic Areas and decided to work on its inscription. CHA, provincial governments of Chungcheongnam-do and Jeollabuk-do provinces, and local governments of the City of Gongju, Buyeo, and Iksan all came together to sign an MOU.

Baekje Historic Areas Nomination Office was founded in May 2012, following the ordinances enacted by Chungcheongnam-do and Jeollabuk-do provinces, as an institution that integrates and coordinates local governments. This institution has been replaced by the Baekje Historic Areas Conservation and Management Foundation in September 2014, again to change its name to the Baekje World Heritage Center in January 2016, following a successful inscription as World Heritage. The center is an independent organization, jointly invested by Chungcheongnam-do and Jeollabuk-do provinces, and the City of Gongju, Buyeo, and Iksan.

Baekje World Heritage Center has been established with the goal of a systematic and integrated management, utilization, and the expansion of Baekje Historic Areas. The Center is responsible for the following activities: implementing UNESCO recommended agenda; regular reporting to UNESCO; integrated monitoring (of the property); establishing the integrated management basic plan for Baekje Historic Areas, as well as its integrated management and utilization: historical, cultural, and tourism content development and operation; and overall PR and promotion activities for Baekje Historic Areas both at home and abroad.

Baekje Historic Areas is currently being conserved and managed by the Baekje World Heritage Center, CHA at the central government level, the provincial governments of Chungcheongnam-do and Jeollabuk-do provinces, and the local governments of the City of Gongju, Buyeo, and Iksan. Also in place are the Local Community's Council for the World Heritage in each of the three regions.

The protection and management plan for the property is being further strengthened with time. A serial nomination particularly requires an integrated management system that enables cooperation among the relevant entities for proper management of the property.

Finance associated with Baekje Historic Areas can be broadly divided into "expenditure for the restoration and maintenance of cultural heritage," "expenditure for the conservation and promotion of ancient cities," and "expenditure for other related projects." These expenditures involve different sources of finance and different routes for applying for such funding. The budget for the conservation and management of Baekje Historic Areas is composed of state expenditure, provincial government expenditure, and municipal government expenditure, based on a set ratio.

## Monitoring

The purpose of monitoring is to maintain and manage the OUV, integrity, and authenticity of the nominated property. Recognition of the key indicators is very important as they are used in the analysis of the overall conservation status and management of and threats to the property. There are diverse key indicators, including the monitoring of external changes to each property, number of visitors and residents in the property zone, and the size of new buildings in the buffer zones.

Eight components of Baekje Historic Areas have already been designated as cultural heritage sites since 1960 and have been under regular monitoring for conservation and management. When establishing plans for property management and repairs, conservation status is thoroughly analyzed, accompanied by examinations by experts, accurate site measurements, and safety check-up and diagnosis. In addition, regular monitoring activities are being carried out by private organizations composed of members of the local community.

## Conclusion

The paper reviewed the overview, justification of inscription, and the protection and management system of Gyeongju Historic Areas and Baekje Historic Areas as World Heritage. Recapping what has been described in the nomination dossier, the paper presented overall achievements and significances of the inscription of the two areas.

Gyeongju Historic Areas, which was inscribed as World Heritage in 2000, comprises five distinct areas: Mt. Namsan Belt has Buddhist culture treasures that represent the history and culture of Silla; Wolseong Belt contains ancient palace sites; Tumuli Park Belt has mausoleums for kings; Hwangnyongsa Belt is the epitome of Silla temples; and Sanseong Fortress Belt is the core of defense of the *wanggyeong*.

Gyeongju has held its status as the ancient capital of Silla for almost a millennium, yet its relics and monuments remain in good condition. They are designated as national and provincial cultural heritage and protected under legal and systematic measures. The World Heritage Committee has acknowledged that Gyeongju Historic Areas exhibits important interchange of human values

within the East Asian culture on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town-planning, or landscape design, and bears unique and exceptional testimony to the cultural tradition of the Silla dynasty.

Baekje Historic Areas constitutes a serial property comprising eight components that has archaeological resources associated with the years from Ungjin becoming the capital until the end of the kingdom (475-660 CE).

The nominated property includes: Gongsanseong Fortress and Royal Tombs in Songsan-ri, Gongju as the representatives of the Ungjin period; Archaeological Site in Gwanbukri and Busosanseong Fortress; Jeongnimsa Temple Site; Royal Tombs in Neungsan-ri; Naseong City Wall; and Archaeological Site in Wanggung-ri and Mireuksa Temple Site, which are associated with the secondary capital built in Iksan during the later Sabi period. All have remained buried underground and thus can be said to have maintained their authenticity. The fortress walls, palace sites, outer city walls, royal tombs, and Buddhist temples, which are compulsory components of ancient capital cities, comprise the OUV of Baekje Historic Areas and are included in the property in its entirety, demonstrating its integrity. All the components of the property are individually recognized as state-designated heritage and protected under the Cultural Heritage Protection Act, as well as other acts and ordinances of the local governments.

The World Heritage Committee in 2015 decided that Baekje Historic Areas met Criteria (ii) and (iii), the same as the criteria accepted in the nomination of Gyeongju Historic Areas. It acknowledged that the archaeological sites and architecture of Baekje Historic Areas exhibit the interchange between the ancient East Asian kingdoms in Korea, China, and Japan in the development of construction techniques and the spread of Buddhism, while also forming an exceptional testimony to the unique culture and history of the lost kingdom of Baekje.

The Baekje World Heritage Center was established in January 2016, following a successful inscription as World Heritage. It replaced the Baekje Historic Areas Conservation and Management Foundation, which in turn was born in September 2014, from the Baekje Historic Areas Nomination Office of 2012. The center is an independent organization, jointly invested by Chungcheongnam-do and Jeollabuk-do provinces, and the City of Gongju, Buyeo, and Iksan.

In a serial nomination, where the properties are located in different

municipalities, having an integrated management system to facilitate cooperation among the relevant local governments is critical for the protection and management of the properties. Since more serial nominations are being prepared for World Heritage inscription, the need for having an integrated management system will unquestionably increase.

In July 2021, Korea added another World Heritage to the list; a serial nomination of the Getbol, Korean Tidal Flats, has four components of tidal flats along the southwest coast of the Korean peninsula. Korea now has altogether 15 World Heritages of 13 cultural and 2 natural ones. Many local governments are passionately conducting research and surveys to nominate the heritage in their regions as World Heritage. While the inscription is not a magic wand, the process of working together as a community to develop the overall values of the heritage and to establish proper conservation and management measures makes a positive contribution all in all. There will still be development- and tourism-related pressures following the World Heritage inscription. We hope that such pressures will be wisely handled, along with the continued protection and management of the existing World Heritage and further successes in promoting Korea's heritage with outstanding universal values.

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