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Zhengzhou Zurich Norwood Payneham & St Peters ~Where Culture and Heritage are at Home~

Cover Photo: The Parade, Norwood circa 1910

Greetings from the Mayors of
New Member Cities

Gongju (South Korea), Lviv (Ukraine), Minsk (Belarus)



WORLD HISTORICAL CITIES

The League of Historical Cities Bulletin

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epartment of Urban Planning & Environment ty of Norwood Payneham & St Peters,



Fourth Avenue, St Peters - one of the City's many Historic Conservation Zones

The City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters is passionate about its heritage.

Located just five minutes drive from the central business district of Adelaide in South Australia, our City enjoys a strong sense of place, wholly supported by an ongoing commitment to celebrating, conserving and promoting our unique cultural and built heritage.

Ideally situated between the Mount Lofty Ranges and the Adelaide Plains, the traditional home of the Kaurna Aboriginal people, Norwood Payneham and St Peters is today home to approximately 36,000 residents and more than 6,000 businesses.

The City has a rich and distinctive modern history with a long tradition of historical firsts. These draw on the stories of three uniquely South Australian communities, including Kensington and Norwood - the first township in Australia outside the City of Adelaide to be granted municipal government, the prestigious residential town of St Peters, with its elegant villas and cottages amid tree-lined streets, and the beautiful meandering River Torrens Valley in the north, known as the garden city of Payneham.

Cultural Vitality

These communities represent a distinctive culture for the City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters, which has developed since the first Europeans began settling in South Australia from the 1830s. Post-war immigration saw many Italian, Greek and German families move into the City, with later migrants arriving from China, Malaysia, India and Hong Kong and more recently from African nations.

Each of these migrant groups brought their own set of heritage and cultural beliefs, which impacted positively to develop a strong sense of place and belonging. This is reflected in an easy going lifestyle, cosmopolitan atmosphere, and strong focus on creative expression, with conservation and preservation of the unique features of our built environment a major priority.

Cultural Expression

The City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters strives to maintain a peaceful, accepting and culturally rich community. The City achieves this in part through its dynamic Cultural Heritage Program. Operating since 1994, it grew out of concern that the City's history as one of South Australia's oldest inner-urban areas, was not being adequately documented, preserved or protected.

The Program includes conservation of the City's Civic Collection, consisting of 1,853 historic artifacts, a rich program of cultural heritage events, and cultural heritage tourism. Installation of an Historic Signposts Trail, which covers twenty key historic locations across the City, is extremely popular with locals and visitors alike, as is the unique "Cultural Walk" which runs along the length of The Parade, Norwood - the City's main boulevard and one of Adelaide's most visited streetscapes. The Cultural Walk features 16 bold, bronze footpath plaques honoring





Left: One of 20 Historic Signposts situated throughout the City

Right: Former South Australian Premier and social reformer, Don Dunstan, with a plaque created in his honor on The Parade, Norwood -one of 16 plaques which make up the City's Cultural Heritage Walk.

individuals who have helped build the City's historical and cultural identity, such as South Australia's reforming premier Don Dunstan, author and illustrator May Gibbs, and the founder of the Josephite Order, Blessed Mary MacKillop.

Culture as a Strategic Outcome

Although a focus since 1994, the City's commitment to cultural heritage has recently been fully embedded in *City Plan 2030*: *Shaping Our Future*; the long term strategic plan which sets the direction for the preferred future of our City over the next twenty years and beyond.

City Plan 2030 is unique in that it introduces a fourth Pillar of cultures into the standard triple bottom line approach of social, economic and environmental sustainability, integrated across all of the Council's operations, to ultimately foster community well-being through outcomes based upon social equity, economic prosperity, environmental sustainability and cultural vitality.

A pleasant, liveable, well-designed and sustainable urban environment, is part of this long term Vision and will be achieved, in part, through ensuring new developments complement our City's existing built heritage and character areas, as well as ensuring that the City's strong history and culture is embedded in all of the Council's services and programs. One of the most visible and attractive characteristics of our City, is its unique physical representation of early settlement in South Australia, some of which date back to the early 1850s. In addition, the City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters, has one of Adelaide's best concentrations of early, mid and late-Victorian residential buildings, ranging from small settler cottages to large Italianate villas and mansions, built of bluestone, sandstone and red brick, with hipped corrugated iron roofs.

Complementing this residential character are many pre-World War I small-scale shops and other buildings of the same period, such as churches and community halls, scattered throughout the City.

Protecting Built Heritage

These historic properties which help define the history, identity and cultural importance of the City, are protected on three different levels: State Heritage Places, Local Heritage Places and Contributory Items within Historic (Conservation) Zones. State Heritage Places are defined as places which reflect the important aspects of the history and culture of South Australia. The assessment and listing of these places is the responsibility of the State Government. Based on designated criteria, such places must demonstrate a capacity to yield information which will contribute to an understanding of South Australia's history.

The City's Local Heritage Places are those considered to have local heritage value, playing an important role in identifying and preserving the community's collective identity, in its economic, cultural, aesthetic and historic context. Local Heritage Places include buildings, structures and monuments. The Council identifies Local Heritage Places and lists these sites within its Development Plan on a Local Heritage Register. Before sites are listed, a qualified Heritage Architect must be satisfied that the place fulfills one or more conditions, such as displaying historical, economic or social themes of importance to the local area.

The Council has also designated special historic precincts as Historic (Conservation) Zones because of their distinct historic character, contributed by the consistency in built form which has resulted from, in part, the construction of buildings during the same era, as evident along 'The Avenues' in St Peters. (See a picture at the bottom on page 2)

These precincts are complemented by surviving examples of older buildings, known as Contributory Items, which when assessed singularly, do not meet the criteria for a State or Local Heritage Place, but as a collective group, make a significant contribution to the historic and architectural character of the area and the overall cohesion of a Historic (Conservation) Zone.

Approximately twenty per cent of the City's total building stock of both residential and commercial buildings, is protected by a document which contains the Council's development policies. These buildings include 73 State Heritage Places, nearly 700

Local Heritage Places and nearly 1500 Contributory Items, from a total of more then 17,000 buildings across the City. Each of these has greater controls relating to demolition, alteration and extension, when

compared to other properties.

For example, owners of Local Heritage Places must obtain development approval from the Council before they modify, demolish or build additions to the property, such as verandahs, fences and garages. The building's exterior, viewed from the street, must not be altered from its original appearance. The regulations recognize that the retention of heritage places and areas is of social, cultural

and aesthetic value to the whole community, not just the individual residents affected by the controls.

Supporting Heritage Conservation

To help residents fulfill their obligations under the controls and to encourage the maintenance of heritage properties, the Council works closely with owners to support the retention of historic sites. It achieves this through its Heritage Incentive Scheme introduced in 2005.

The Scheme, which receives financial assistance from the State Government, offers a free Heritage Advisory Service to owners of registered properties offering expert architectural advice on building, maintenance, conservation and renovation proposals, as well as guidance on possible funding sources and assistance with development applications.

Owners of Local Heritage Places, who are also eligible to apply for a grant of up to A\$3,000 (or for Contributory Items, up to A\$1,500) have undertaken heritage restoration projects including restoration of front facades, roof restoration and re-pointing of stonework. There have been some excellent examples of heritage conservation throughout the City as architects and owners combine their expertise to find solutions which don't compromise the integrity of each building's original built form. Whether as a direct result of the Incentive Scheme or not, refurbishment of a number of the City's landmark hotel buildings has been part of the conservation works which have been undertaken over the last three years.

These significant renovation projects, which have included two landmark buildings The Maid and Magpie Hotel and the Oriental Hotel (pictures on the right) both places where milestone moments in the City's history have occurred, have significantly enhanced the precincts in which they are located and ensure their preservation for future generations.

The Heritage Incentive Scheme, which is currently being reviewed, has been responsible for disbursement of approximately A\$100,000 in restoration funding, allocated to a total of 89 heritage restoration projects over the last

three years.

The effect of both the Cultural Heritage Program and the Heritage Incentive Scheme for the City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters, has been to create a vibrant and progressive City, which as well as embracing change, also respects its rich history and culture.



A painting showing a view of the City looking toward Norwood in 1839. Part of the City's Civic Collection which contains 1853 historic artifacts.



The historic Maid & Magpie Hotel, before it was refurbished.



...and after refurbishment was completed in 2007.



The historic Oriental Hotel, before it was refurbished.



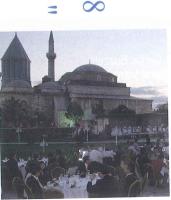
...and after refurbishment was completed in 2008.

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Review of the 11th Conference held in Konya, June 10-13, 2008 from Kyoto, "A Revitalization of Kyoto, the City of Culture and Art "



Dinner at the garden of Mevlana Museum

A Revitalization of Kyoto, the City of Culture and Art by Daisaku Kadokawa, Mayor of Kyoto

Kyoto City flourished as the capital of Japan for more than 1000 years, since its founding in 794 until it was relocated to Tokyo in 1869. Today, it is a historical city that is representative of Japan. Kyoto has a population of 1.47 million and attracts about 50 million tourists both from within Japan and abroad annually, seeking to enjoy the history and charm found within.

There are more than 3000 designated Important Cultural Objects within the city, including various national treasures and important cultural assets. The "Historical Monuments of Ancient Kyoto" were listed by UNESCO in 1994, as a World Heritage Site. This includes 17 shrines, temples and castles.

Kyoto became the capital in 794. From 794 to the end of the 12th century was a period of 400 years, when a nobility culture led by the emperor flourished and matured. The features of each historical period are preserved in the many world heritage sites, such as the Kamigamo Shrines, Kiyomizu Temple, and Byodoin. These historical structures are built of wood, and Japanese culture is often referred to as a culture of wood. Eventually, most parts must be replaced. These parts should use the same material and techniques as when built. Therefore, it is necessary to hand down not only the objects itself, but also the design, techniques and the spirit of the original buildings. To make this possible, the city of Kyoto has established a "Leaning center for conservation techniques of historic buildings" where we are training the future experts for the maintenance and renovation of the buildings. As well, the city works to take good care of its forests and grow trees for lumber.

It was during the period, that the Gion festival - one of the festivals that represent Japan today - was started. The festival was said to have begun as a prayer for the extermination of the plague when it hit the city in the middle of the 9th century. Keeping to the more than 1000 year old tradition, the Gion festival is carried out over the course of the whole month of July, with the climax reached during the parade of floats. On that day, 32 floats parade through the main streets of Kyoto for the crowd of citizens and tourists. The floats are decorated with exotic tapestries and other ornaments that have been brought from many countries such as China, Belgium and also Turkey, to name a few. The visual and historical value of these ornaments has led some people to call these floats "moving museums".

You may understand the importance of the Gion festival felt by the people, from the fact that there are about 1,500 different festivals across Japan today that have been founded with varying degrees of influence from it. The festival was repeatedly interrupted by fires and other reasons, and there was even a period when the festival was forced to cancel. However, the tradition of the Gion festival has been kept alive by the enthusiasm of Kyoto



Mr. Daisaku Kadokawa, Mayor of Kyoto and the President of the League of Historical Cities at the Round-table Forum.

citizens. In 2003, the UNESCO General Assembly adopted the "Convention for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritages". For its monumental first to be registered, the Gion festival is to be nominated from Japan.

The period from the 12th to 16th centuries was the era of the samurai warriors. Zen flourished in this period and some world heritage sites showing the features of this period include Zen sect temples such as the Golden Pavilion, Silver Pavilion, and Ryoanji, which is famous for its dry landscape style Zen rock garden.

Kozan-ji, another world heritage site houses a picture scrolls known of "Chojujinbutsu-giga", (depicting animals such as frogs, rabbits and monkeys frolicking as if they were human,) drawn somewhere around the turn of the 12th Century. They are said to be the first examples of manga, the world famous and highly appreciated Japanese originated pop culture. Some techniques of manga, such as putting phrases into word bubbles and expressing quick motions by drawing lines, have been passed down to this day from these scrolls. With this background, the City of Kyoto opened the "Kyoto International Manga Museum" in 2006, where manga are collected, exhibited and researched as well as to promote the development of contents industry.

Kyoto is also known as a cradle of the arts. From the 14th to 15th centuries, festivities based on folklore, rituals of rice planting and other religious activities came together and cumulated in the form of Noh presentations. Noh is a stage art with chanting and dancing, depicting beauty, both subtle and profound. It depicts the inner psychological world of "God, Love and Pathos". For example, a typical Noh stage will have a historical figure show up in the form of a ghost retracing the epic details of love or war during his or her lifetime. This Noh has been passed down more than 600 years since its completion, mainly within Kyoto. It was proclaimed a masterpiece in the first "Proclamation of masterpieces of the oral and intangible heritages of humanity" by UNESCO in 1998.

It was also during this period from the 15th to 16th centuries in Kyoto, when the delicate aesthetics of hospitality were born and

perfected. These include Chado or the "tea ceremony", and Kado or "flower arranging", which expresses the brilliance and mutability of nature and life by arranging flowers. Kodo or "incense burning", which is about indulging oneself in the silent and secluded world, away from daily life by enjoying fragrances, was also completed during this period. Not only are these traditional arts still thriving in the daily lives of the Japanese people today, but they are also spreading to the people in overseas and even fostering non-Japanese masters.

At the beginning of the Edo period, which began in the 17th century, the center of politics moved to Tokyo. Yet, one of the world heritage sites - Nijo-jo castle - was built, and Kabuki plays were proclaimed as masterpieces in the early 17th century. Thus Kyoto still maintained its place as the center of culture, and subsequently the center of manufacturing, keeping the traditional skills necessary to support such culture, such as architectural techniques and crafts.

In this way, the City of Kyoto, where both physical and intangible cultures have accumulated over the years, is implementing policies aimed at the preservation and utilization of precious cultural assets, supporting both the inheritance of traditional cultures, and the creation of new cultures.

Underlying these policies is the 1978 "Declaration of Kyoto as a City Open to the Free Exchange of World Cultures" and the 2007 "Plan for revitalization of Kyoto as a capital of culture and art". The Declaration has a phrase that describes what Kyoto aims for: "We must communicate widely with the world and through international exchanges Kyoto must continue to create her own unique culture".

As for the culture and art policies in the plan, the City of Kyoto will support artists, educate children and encourage citizen participation utilizing the various cultural assets and resources we have. We will implement urban and community development policies to encourage new cultures while protecting cultural assets. These efforts include giving out information on Kyoto in Japan and abroad and stimulating the growth of basic cultural and artistic resources for the city.

As for one recent initial measure to protect our cultural assets, last September we began to conserve the views and landscapes that can be seen from the shrines and temples registered as world heritage sites.

This is the project we are carrying forward as "A new policy for scenery preservation", which includes policies that limit building height and design, protect views, landscapes and borrowed landscapes, regulate outdoor advertisement, as well as work toward conserving and regenerating historical cityscapes. We are enforcing those polices with our eyes looking 50 years, 100 years ahead into the future. Also, in order to avoid losses caused by fires, the City of Kyoto, the owners of the cultural assets and the local

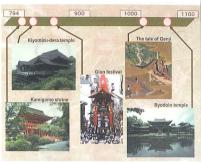
residents mutually cooperate and hold emergency drills. As well, citizen rescue systems have been formed to protect cultural assets. At present, more than 200 locations are involved in this project.

Kyoto is unique in that the city has been creating the newer modern cultures based on older traditional ones, like the manga that was born from the ancient picture scroll. In a way, Kyoto could be called a city of innovation. Even now, Kyoto is making efforts to create new cultures by providing the opportunities to complete and to collaborate with different genre of arts such as with Noh, Kyogen or Japanese traditional comic plays, Houbu or Japanese traditional dances, and Hougaku or Japanese traditional music, as well as with the Kyoto Symphony Orchestra, the only orchestra owned by a local government in Japan, and which includes western music and modern dances in its programs.

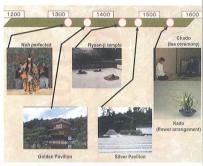
Kyoto is also a center of food culture as the city attracted people and a great variety of ingredients. Even today, the various food styles such as western, Chinese, Asian and our traditional Japanese foods compete with each other to reach new distinguished heights, and that competition is contributing to the further development of our food culture.

The City of Kyoto is also making efforts to encourage the citizens and visitors to reevaluate the Japanese arts and culture and to be familiar with them, while maintaining traditional arts such as Chado and Kado and performing arts such as Noh, in attractive environments like Kyoto's shrines and temples. Furthermore, the City is hosting classes where children can learn and experience the authentic arts and cultures from visiting artists and specialists in the schools. In this way, we hope to encourage citizen support and especially, to encourage these artists and specialists to educate children to be the artists and supporters of the future. In doing so, Kyoto may say it will have secured its future as the city of culture and arts.

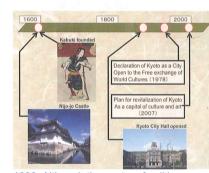
Nowadays, the world is beginning to recognize cultures and arts as having influence on people and society and that this influence is a strong and positive national influence. Since early times, it was not politics nor economy, but culture that counted most for Kyoto to earn the status as an important and influential city both at home and abroad. These characteristics of Kyoto, which predate the present trends, are also common to other historical cities. Now we are being asked to make use of these characteristics in urban planning. From these viewpoints, I intend to protect the precious cultural assets and outstanding traditional cultures, while handing them down to the next generation. At the same time, I will create Kyoto as a city where citizens and people from home and abroad can gather, and where people can feel Japanese culture with all five of their senses.



794-1100, when a nobility culture led by the emperor flourished and matured.



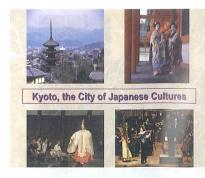
1200-1600, the era of the samurai warriors. Zen flourished in this period.



1600- Although the center of politics moved to Tokyo, Kyoto still maintained its place as the center of culture



2007 Plan for revitalization of Kyoto as a capital of culture and art





Parade in Baekje Cultural Festival,

The Secretariat is pleased to announce that five cities has become new member cities of the League of Historical Cities such as Gongju (South Korea), Liviv (Ukraine), Minsk (Belarus), Odessa (Ukraine) and Osmangazi (Turkey). As for Gongju, Lviv, Minsk and Odessa, the Secretariat asked the Board members to evaluate their membership via internet and they were approved in April this year. Osmangazi attended the 11th Conference and made a presentation at the Board of Directors' Meeting held on June 12 in Konya and was approved as a member city on the same day. In this issue, the Secretariat would like to introduce the greetings from the Mayor of Gongju, Lviv and Minsk.

City of Gongju (South Korea)

Jun-Won Lee Mayor



We are grateful to everybody who gave us, Gongju in South Korea, a chance to participate in the League of Historical Cities as a member.

Gongju is the city which has kept a thousand-year culture of Baekje and tradition as an ancient capital of Baekje for 64 years (from 475 A.D. to 538 A.D.) and has had long historical background and wonderful cultural heritage as a center of administration of Chungcheong Area since 1602 for 330 years. Especially, discovery of the Tomb of King Muryeong who was the 25th king of Baekje from 462 A.D. to 523 A.D. in 1971 was one of the greatest discoveries in history, not only for Korea



Tomb of the 25th King of Baekje

City of Lviv (Ukraine)

> Andriy Sadovyy Mayor



Lviv is a unique city which has managed in the course of its development to preserve not only its numerous architectural monuments and building ensembles, but also the historic urban planning design of its centre.

The city's architecture took shape throughout many centuries and was influenced by cultures of western and eastern Europe, which together with the culture and traditions of the Ukrainian people, created an original urban environment. Lviv's characterist but also for World. It revealed itself perfectly to the world as that way it had been before over 1500 years. Guem River which has a beautiful meaning, "Silk" passes across the center of Gongiu, and Gongju has been developed more and more, harmonizing with the modern culture as a strategic point of transportation for the network of roads to everywhere. At the same time, we hold Baekje Cultural Festival on every October in order to cherish the tradition of culture of Baekje. We think our traditional culture and history preciously as all the other parts of world do and devote ourselves to prepare for inviting other members of the League of Historical Cities to hold a Great Baekje Festival in 2010.

Gongju is ready to make every effort as a member city for developing of the League of Historical Cities.

Official Website: http://www.gongju.go.kr/



Guem River flowing through Gongju city

architectural styles span many eras, from the ancient Rus' of the thirteenth century through Gothic, Renaissance, Baroque, Rococo, Empire, Art Deco, and modernist periods. In 2006 Lviv celebrated its 750th anniversary, the first written account of the city having appeared in 1256. ensemble of the historic centre of Lviv was inscribed into the UNESCO World Heritage list in 1998.

Today Lviv is one of the most popular and frequently visited destinations in Ukraine. A steady annual growth rate in tourist and hotel service industries has been recorded in recent years. Currently, the city of Lviv is preparing the ground for the creation of a long-term strategy for the continued development of the city, which will consist of, among others, a management plan for the historic centre. The management plan

will address such issues as establishing a system of continuous monitoring of the city's historic buildings, raising public awareness of heritage values, engaging the local community in caring for their heritage monuments, attracting private investment in conservation and tourism, providing a proper infrastructure for international tourism, and ensuring that sustainable solutions are instituted to mitigate the impact of tourism on the heritage resource.

As Mayor, I am pleased and honored to be able to introduce Lviv as a new member of the League of Historical Cities. We look forward to working with other League members to build closer ties and learn from one another's experiences. Lviv is open to new growth opportunities, giving its citizens a chance to prosper and its visitors many reasons to return!

Official Website: http://www.city-adm.lviv.ua/











City of Minsk (Belarus)

Mikhail Pavlov Mayor

Dear colleagues, dear members of the League of Historical Cities!

On behalf of the citizens of the City of Minsk I would like to express my sincere gratitude for the honor to be the first Belarusian city to be admitted to the League of Historical Cities.

Minsk is one of the oldest cities in Europe its first written mention dates back as early as 1067 - before that of Warsaw and Moscow, Berlin and Stockholm. Its strategic location at the crossroads has been historically and culturally important. For its more than nine-century-old history Minsk enjoyed a fame of a major commercial center and a melting pot of cultures that received its town privileges to selfgovernment as early as 1499, as well as witnessed numerous devastating episodes that often left the site in ruins, and its citizens with no asylum. But the City just like the fabulous bird Phoenix rejuvenated, rose up from the ashes on the very same place to become the largest of the Belarusian municipal areas, a modern dynamic European capital, a major center of culture, science, education, vast economic development which however is not devoid of its old charm and beauty.

Today we celebrate the city's rich cultural and historical heritage that is represented by

carefully preserved and integrated into present day urban landscape architectural and archeological sites, vast library and museum collections, park complexes. The urban architectural ensemble Nezavisimosti Avenue in Minsk built in neoclassic traditions is an example of the integrated approach in organizing a city's environment by harmoniously combining its architectural monuments, its planning structure, landscape and natural or manmade spots of vegetation.

We recognize the protection and restoration of historical heritage of Minsk as one of the priorities of municipal policy for sustainable city development and we look forward to close cooperation with the member cities of the League in exchange of valuable experience and knowledge acquired by each of the Historical cities, thus jointly enhancing and enriching the world historical and cultural heritage.

Dear friends, welcome to Minsk!



City Hall and Cathedral of Saint Virgin Mary



Nezavisimosti Avenue

Official Website: http://www.minsk.gov.by/



Minsk Old and New

rchitectural Heritage, Mayor's Office of Budapest City: Katalin K



MSc Architect / Head of Departme the Protection of Architectural Heri Mayor's Office of Budapest City

The 11th World Conference of Historical Cities was held on 10-13 June 2008 in Konya, Turkey.

It proved to be a good decision to hold the conference in such a venue - a place of deep mentality which was the cradle of sciences and arts already in the ancient times of human civilization.

One could experience the amazing variety of natural and cultural values here which offered a perfect background to the basic idea of the meeting: "Living Cultural Heritage in Historical Cities".

The well- chosen theme and the place formed an excellent synthesis.

All these were supplemented by the competent and useful presentations of the speakers.

Due to the professional organization the rich program was personal, relaxing and inspiring. The atmosphere of the meeting made it memorable for a long time.

In the round table forum of the conference I made a presentation with the title: "Citizen participation in the revitalization of World Heritage cities: Successes and failures".

The World Heritage area of Budapest comprises the so-called "historical quarters" where the majority of the building stock is constituted of dwelling houses.

Before 1990 the flats were state properties while after 1990 they were transferred to private possession.

It was a basically positive change but the new ownership also raised specific problems.

The City of Budapest assists the owners in their - mainly financial - problems.

Initiating and implementing renovations is the task of the owners that is of the civil sphere yet the financial and professional support of the Municipality can increase both the quantity and the quality of the renewal process in Budapest.

Increasing ownership awareness and ambition for preservation and development of values results in the development and revitalization of the condition and architectural feature of the buildings and in the evolution of the proprietor community.

The raising problems are connected with the present, in the future their reduction and stopping can be expected.

Each year a photo exhibition is being opened on the Day of Budapest, on 17th November where the best examples of the renovations implemented with the assistance of the City of Budapest are displayed.

I, as one of the first members of the founding member city of Budapest have got an experience of 12 years in the field of international activities in the League of Historical Cities.

At the same time as Coordinator of the Central and Eastern European Regional Secretariat of the Organization of World Heritage Cities I have learned a lot at the regular meetings of the two organizations.

In my opinion the League of Historical Cities is becoming more and more well-known among the specialists of the historical cities. It is an organization to whom the World listen. Its increasing significance originates partly from its openness which could be experienced in the Konya meeting, too.

Finally I have to thank for this wonderful conference the Turkish and Japanese organizers and I wish a successful work to all the members of the League of Historical Cities.

The League of Historical Citie Secretarial

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The 12th World Conference of Historical Cities in 2010 City of Nara, Japan

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The Great Buddha Temple