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Gongju, the City of Long History and Culture

Cover Photo: Gongsanseong Fortress built in Baekje period

Invitation to the 12th World Conference of Historical Cities

12 - 15 Oct., 2010 in Nara Japan



WORLD HISTORICAL CITIES

The League of Historical Cities Bulletin

No.54: March 2010

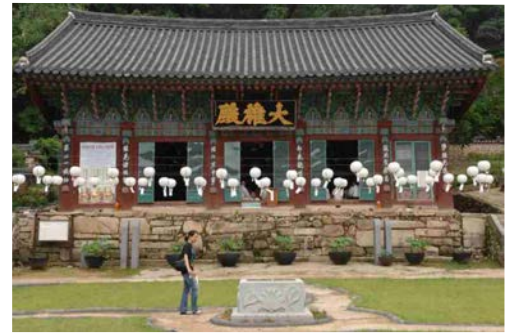
Gongju, the City of Long History and Culture

Gongju, a city and rural composite town located in the center of the southwestern part of Korea, is a city of long history dating back to the Paleolithic Age as well as the home of brilliant and splendid cultural traditions. Boasting of its beautiful landscapes such as Mount Gyeryong, the spiritual mountain of the nation, located nearby and the Geumgang, also known as Silk River, flowing through the city, Gongju is the strategic point of the metropolitan transit system with roads stretching in all directions.

Gongju, which developed the splendid culture of the Baekje Kingdom as its capital city for 64 years (475 A.D. ~ 538 A.D.), has retained numerous cultural heritages and today maintains its thousand-year old history and traditions. Gongju was the central city of the Chungcheong area for 330 years after 1602 and is proud of its long history, still home today to numerous cultural heritages.

Cultural Heritages Representing Gongju

Like the capital of the kingdom, Gongju has numerous cultural heritages scattered in and around the city. More than anything else, the royal tomb of King Muyeol (462 ~ 523), the 25th King of the Baekje Kingdom, which was excavated in 1971, is the first one wherein the identity of the buried person was verified, in which sense it carries significant archeological and historical values. The brick-built tomb of



Gapsa Temple, founded in 420 during Baekje period, is one of Korea's most historic temple.

King Muyeol which resembled the tombs of the southern kingdom of ancient China, and articles found in the tombs such as ceramics of Chinese origin and items made of pine trees of Japanese origin provide valuable data indicating the internationality of the society of the Baekje Kingdom, which had engaged in active trade with China and Japan at the time. Gongsan Fortress, which was built to defend the capital of the Baekje Kingdom, has withstood winds and rains over the span of 1,500 years and is still reminiscent of the Baekje Kingdom in the beautiful natural settings.

A thousand-year old Buddhist temple Gapsa, which was established by Buddhist monk Ado in the first year of the reign of King Gui of the Baekje Kingdom (420), was counted as the best temple at the time, and Magok Temple, built in 1651, was known as one of the safest refuges from



Magok Temple, built in 1651, is a head temple of the Jogye Order of Korean Buddhism in Gongju

Gongju, the City of Long History and Culture

External Cooperation Section, City of Gongju, Republic of Korea



Geum River flowing through Gongju City

wars and acts of God and an excellent place for the safe-keeping of valuables. These are some of the cultural heritages which represent Gongju.

In the outskirts of Mount Gyeryong where Lee Sam Pyeong, who was called the ancestor of Japanese ceramics was born, young ceramic workers dedicated to the art of making ceramics have formed a village and are working hard even today to restore, inherit and develop Buncheong Ware from Mt. Gyeryong Kilns.

Museums in Gongju

Gongju carefully preserves its own history and culture in local museums. Gongju National Museum holds 10,000 artifacts including 12 national treasures which were excavated from the Tomb of King Muryeong, who was the 25th King of Baekje from 501 to 523, and 10 treasures from local areas, showcasing the history and culture of the Baekje dynasty.

Seokjang-ri Museum displays the artifacts and the life of the Paleolithic Age and helps visitors understand the peoples that emerged and resided on the Korean Peninsula from prehistoric ages. Gyeryong-san Natural History Museum is home to the most artifacts among Korean natural history museums and is particularly proud of its dinosaur hall, which showcases life-size dinosaur fossils, and a mummy hall.

Gongju as a Global Education City

Gongju, as a global education city, has three universities including Gongju National University, 61 high and middle schools and 43,000 students in attendance. Gongju, which won first place in the National High School Assessment, is now fostering many talented students.

Gongju is also raising its status as an education city by establishing the Korean Education and Culture Center for 7.5 million Korean nationals abroad to establish an identity as a Korean and to inspire national pride.

World Festival

The city of Gongju holds a variety of culture and arts festivals every year. The annual Baekje Culture Festival, in particular, will be developed as the Great Baekje World Festival this year with the theme of the revival of the fantastic 700 year-old kingdom of Baekje.

For 30 days from September 18, 2010 to October 17, 2010, people from over 20 countries will be invited to participate from all over the world. As a momentum for this year's festival, Gongju is going to develop

the Baekje Culture Festival as an international festive event to show the superiority of the history and culture of Baekje Dynasty to the world, with all citizens of Gongju being involved in the preparation for this event.

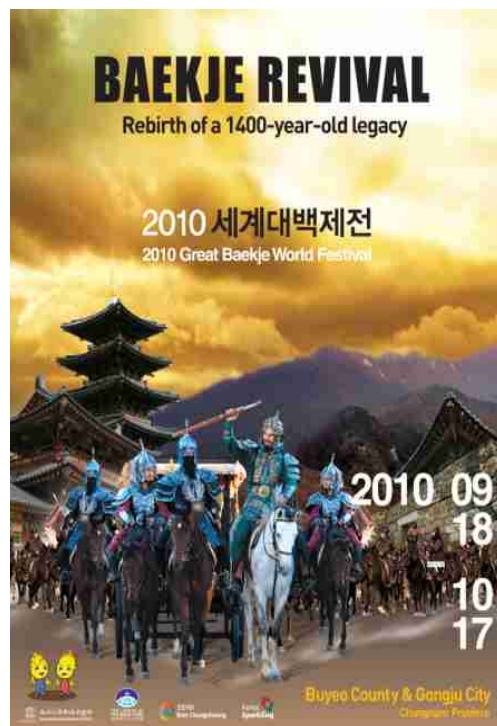
The City of Gongju Fulfills the Covenant of the League of Historical Cities

Gongju, a member city of the League of Historical Cities, is one of world's historic cities, where ancient tradition and culture come alive. The city makes the effort to systematically preserve its ancient capital and cultural assets and also continues to create new culture and art as well.

Gongju provides a variety of cultural experiences for visitors through the creation of cultural spaces and the establishment of cultural networks.



Parade in Baekje Culture Festival, Gongju



Poster image of The Great Baekje World Festival



Gongju National Museum



Seokjang-ri Museum



Gyeryong-san Natural History Museum

For further information

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Invitation to the 12th World Conference
 of Historical Cities
 to be held in Nara, Japan from 12 to 15 Oct., 2010



Nara maintaining its History -Harmonious Coexistence. (Kofuku-ji Temple viewing from an alley way)

<The 12th World Conference of Historical Cities>

Period : 12-15 October 2010 (Pre-conference tour will be provided on 11 Oct.)
Theme : "Succession of Historical City with Creative Revitalization"

Conference Venue:

Nara Prefectural New Public Hall

(<http://www.shinkokaido.jp/> AM on 12 Oct. for opening ceremony & keynote lecture),

Nara Centennial Hall (<http://www.nara100.com> PM on 12 Oct. onwards)

Program:

Day 1 (12 Oct.)

AM Opening Ceremony
 Keynote Lecture
 PM Youth Forum
 Workshop

Day 2 (13 Oct.)

AM Workshop
 PM Round Table

Day 3 (14 Oct.)

AM Excursion to Heijo Palace Site
 PM General Overview for the Session
 General Assembly of LHC
 Closing Ceremony

Day4 (15 Oct.)

Post-conference Tour to Kyoto (Sponsored by the City of Kyoto)
 including Lunch hosted by the President of LHC, Mayor of Kyoto

*During the 12th World Conference of Historical Cities, a painting contest "This is our eternal cultural heritage" entered by children and its exhibition will be held.

(Please note that this program is subject to change)

Registration:

<Registration Fee>

Registration to be made by the end of June 2010: **JPY50,000** per person

Registration to be made on and after July 1st: **JPY80,000** per person

*The registration fee covers the followings:

Participation for the conference including excursion and Kyoto tour, Accommodations charge (for 3 nights) in Nara and Meal expense.

JPY20,000 will be charged for those who do not need accommodation.

<Method of Registration>

1. Internet
2. Fax or post the registration form

*Registrations are available from April 2010 (for internet, from May 2010).

For more information, please visit the official website at <http://wchc2010-nara.jp/>

Contact:

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<Presenters Wanted ! >

City of Nara invites persons interested in making a presentation based on the following themes in the Round Table and Workshop of the 12th World Conference of Historical Cities.

Those who wish to make a presentation, please contact the 12th World Conference of Historical Cities Secretariat (City of Nara) at +81-742-34-1965(Fax) or info@wchc2010-nara.jp

*Please note that Round Table is for Mayors and Administrative officials and Workshop is for experts and specialists.

Main theme: "Succession of Historical City with Creative Revitalization"

Round Table (Meeting for Mayors and Administrative officials)

<Theme 1>

"Unique City Planning Utilizing Its Historical Characteristics -Establishment of Identity"

<Theme 2>

"City Maintaining Its History -Harmonious Coexistence"

Workshop (Meeting for experts and specialists)

<Theme> "System Designing to Succeed Culture of Historical City"

*Topic 1: Technical Succession

*Topic 2: Disaster Prevention of Historical City

The sub-themes for the 12th World Conference of Historical Cities have been decided as written in the bottom part of the page 4. The following is the summary of the presentation made by Mr. Ikuo Tanabe, Director General of the Planning Committee for the 12th Conference at the board meeting about the themes. The Secretariat hopes the following helps readers understand the idea of those themes well.

<Round Table>

Unique City Planning Utilizing Its Historical Characteristics -Establishment of Identity

In the past, people have been evaluating historical cities by referring to historical progress of the cities. From the viewpoint of making the ideal future of the historical cities, however, it may be time for us to think of plans for the future. In the contemporary world with a change at a bewildering pace, the process of establishing the identities of historical cities under the residents' cooperation should awaken their pride in the historical cities, thus showing the historical cities the right way to their future.

The history of a city is useful for the identity formation of the city. And it is important to foster an awareness of each citizen toward establishing the identity of the historical city so that the citizens can tackle it positively.

This roundtable meeting provides leaders of the world's historical cities with an opportunity to talk about the identity formation methods of their cities.

City Maintaining Its History

-Harmonious Coexistence

A historical city has an accumulation of precious cultural heritage. The efforts of people in the past with their idea of harmonious coexistence have been supporting the cultural heritage.

Nara Park, which the City of Nara should be proud of, is regarded as a typical example of the above.

Various elements related to the symbiosis of the historical city are condensed here. For example, there are temples and shrines registered as World Heritage Site, where traditional events have been held continuously. Also we can see the natural surroundings with the primeval forest on Mt. Kasuga and coexistence with a protected species such as deer. The present Nara Park formed on harmonious coexistence sends out many messages for peace to us as an ideal model.

We expect that the participants will introduce what kinds of symbiosis are developed in the world's historical cities and that the messages of peace will be transmitted to the world from this conference.

<Workshop>

System Designing to Succeed Culture of Historical City

Topic 1: Technical Succession

A number of arrangements are required to foster human resources who protect the cultural heritage of historical cities and to hand down techniques from generation to generation in order to improve and maintain the value of historical cities. The possession of parts and materials that support the arrangements are required as well. We can say that these requirements are social structural problems that cannot be solved at the level of individual efforts.

For example, the periodic reconstruction of Kasuga Taisha Shrine of Nara has been continuing over 1,000 years, the reconstruction works are performed at 20-year intervals in order to hand down techniques from generation to generation.

Additionally, local communities have been supporting intangible folk cultural heritage that includes visible entertainments. We must establish the system to hand down traditional cultures in contemporary society where we live. The system exists on the condition that we find the value of protecting the cultural heritage and that we foster the sense to protect the cultural heritage as the lifestyle of the residents of historical cities.

Topic 2:

Disaster Prevention of Historical City

Cultural heritage is always exposed to risks, such as disaster and theft. An approach from the viewpoints of both hardware and software is required to establish a system that protects cultural heritage from disaster.

From the view point of hardware, it is necessary for the governments and local public entities to prepare disaster prevention measures. In addition, in the software aspect, it is important for the residents of historical cities to have a strong and positive will to protect their cultural heritage by themselves.

The cultural heritage of each local area has been closely connected to the lives of the community, as a core of local identity and contributes to the attractive city planning of the area.

Now, the comprehensive disaster prevention measures are in demand, which organically connect the local arrangements and administrative plans for the protection of cultural heritage.

This workshop meeting is an opportunity where the participants are expected to discuss their pioneering approaches and action assignments.

Description of Sub-Themes for the 12th World Conference of Historical Cities to be held in Nara, Japan from 12 to 15 Oct., 2010



A scene of "Kasuga Bugaku" Participants will enjoy the viewing after dinner on the second day of the conference.

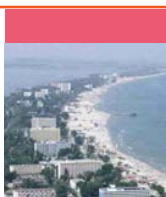
*Photo: Courtesy of Nara City Tourist Association

Greetings from the mayors of
new member cities
Constanta, Kanazawa, Sarajevo and Veliko Turnovo

The Secretariat is pleased to announce that four cities have become new member cities of the League of Historical Cities namely Constanta (Romania), Kanazawa (Japan), Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina) and Veliko Turnovo (Bulgaria). Their memberships were approved at the LHC Board of Directors Meeting 2009 held last October in Nara, Japan. The followings are the greetings from the Mayors of the above cities. The League enlarged membership to 84 cities from 55 countries.

**City of Constanta
(Romania)**

**Radu Stefan Mazare
Mayor**



We kindly thank you for accepting Constanta as a full member of The League of Historical Cities.

I am truly convinced that, beside the other new members accepted, Constanta will contribute, through new project and views, to a better knowledge of the history as well as today's realities and tight cultural, economical and tourism relationships.

Constanta (pronounced Constantza) is located in a region of Romania called Dobrogea which is the land between the Danube River to the west and Black Sea to the east. The history of the city goes back to 657 BC when it was the Greek controlled town of Tomis. Numbers of inscriptions found in the town and its vicinity show that Constanta lies where once Tomis stood.

Tomis was later renamed to Constantiana in honor of Constantia, the half-sister of



**City of Kanazawa
(Japan)**

**Tamotsu Yamade
Mayor**



Kanazawa is located in the coastal area along the Sea of Japan, half-way up the main island of the Japanese archipelago. It is a mid-sized city with a population of about 450,000.

Kanazawa is blessed with clean water and a lush green landscape that changes with every season. Our citizens enjoy the city's distinctive atmosphere, which is created by historical buildings and traditional culture.

The history of Kanazawa dates back to 420 years ago, when Lord Maeda of the Kaga clan established a town around Kanazawa castle. The Kaga clan had the second largest fiefdom after the Tokugawa Shogunate government, and

Constantine the Great (274-337).

Situated at the crossroads of several commercial routes, Constanta lies on the western coast of the Black Sea, 185 miles (298 km) from the Bosphorus Strait.

Constanta is now an important cultural and economic center, worth exploring for its archaeological treasures and the atmosphere of the old town center. Its historical monuments, ancient ruins, grand Casino, museums and shops, and proximity to beach resorts make it the focal point of Black Sea coast tourism. Regional attractions include traditional villages, vineyards, ancient monuments and the Danube Delta, the best preserved delta in Europe.

Developed upon the ancient ruins of the Greek stronghold Tomis, Constanta has always been a centre of ethnic and spiritual diversity, a pole of economic exchanges in the Black Sea region and in South-Eastern Europe.

In closing, I strongly consider our acceptance in The League of Historical Cities to boost the interest of other members to target their view to Constanta, thus contributing to our cultural exchanges for the mutual benefit.

Official Website:

<http://www.primaria-constana.ro/>



played an important role as the region's political, economic and cultural center. The city has not been damaged by any war, including World War II.

Thus, the original structure of the town has been preserved, and its historical buildings still exist, and many traditional cultural activities and crafts have been passed down and developed through the generations. We believe that it is our responsibility to preserve the characteristics of the city as valuable assets, and to add more value to them for the future.

Through the activities of the League of Historical Cities, we would like to carry out exchanges with cities all over the world that value their distinctive cultures and traditions, in view of furthering our mutual growth. We will focus on issues that we share with other historical cities, and on the importance of peace as a factor in the preservation of historical assets; our city has not been damaged by wars.



We will offer information about the history, traditions, academic pursuits and culture of Kanazawa both in Japan and abroad, and cooperate with other historical cities to contribute to world peace.

Official Website:

<http://www.city.kanazawa.ishikawa.jp/>

City of Sarajevo **(Bosnia and Herzegovina)**

Alija Behmen
Mayor



It is an honor and a pleasure for me to address you regarding the admission of the city of Sarajevo to the respectable association of the LHC. I am convinced that Sarajevo will actively cooperate with the League of Historical Cities, protecting cultural heritage, promoting friendship and mutual understanding, and thus contribute for achieving world peace.

Having existed for centuries at the borders of civilizations (ancient Mediterranean, Central European, Byzantine and Ottoman culture), this country, its people and its cities have sometimes been used as an outpost, but much more common as a bridge of understanding between the East and the West.

The continuity in the city development was interrupted by the First world war, which was sparked by event that happened right here in Sarajevo, when the gunshot aimed at prince Franz Ferdinand near one of Sarajevo's bridges echoed throughout the world.

The next time when Sarajevo was in the center of attention of the whole world was in 1984, when Sarajevo hosted the famous 14th Winter

City of Veliko Turnovo **(Bulgaria)**

Rumen Rashev
Mayor



It is a great honor that Veliko Turnovo, the old capital of Bulgaria is elected as the new member of the League of Historical Cities, where 84 cities from 55 countries are members. I hope that the new membership of our town in the League will promote and further develop the process of preservation the historical heritage of the member cities as well as to stimulate the beneficial partnership and cooperation between the cities.

Veliko Turnovo is the historical and spiritual capital of Bulgaria. The first Bulgarian Constitution was ratified here and in 1908 Bulgarians declared their independence. This amazing city is a literary, cultural and religious center for whole South-Eastern Europe during the Middle ages. Today it is a vital tourist, administrative, cultural and academic center.

The uniqueness of Veliko Turnovo as a cultural and historical center stems from the fact, that



Olympic Games. Sarajevo was at the time the capital of Bosnia and Herzegovina, one of the six republics of Yugoslavia. This period left the city a legacy of numerous sports objects and modern settlements.

Unfortunately, only eight years later, the image of the Olympic spirit, optimism and prosperity that was sent out into the world was replaced by images of horrible devastation of the city and three years of suffering for its citizens after B&H was internationally recognized as an independent and sovereign country in 1992.

Still, regardless of the scars on the face of Sarajevo, this city still keeps the spirit of mutual respect of various national and religious communities and cherishes the culture of coexistence. I am proud to be mayor of the city where in a circle of a hundred meters one can see the minarets of the Bey's mosque, the towers of the Heart of Jesus cathedral, the Old Orthodox Church and the Old temple synagogue, where one can hear Adhan and church bells at the same time, where members of various ethnicities and religions live with each other, and not next to each other.

Today, Sarajevo is a cosmopolitan city, readily and optimistically looking at future, eager for new challenges that lie ahead. And I am sure that these challenges will be more easily met through an exchange of experience with friendly cities - members of the League of Historical Cities.

Official Website: <http://www.sarajevo.ba>

the town dates back to more than 7000 years ago as an active center of rich heritage manifestations and glory and, therefore, following some contemporary researches, the town is called the third Rome and the second Constantinople. Veliko Turnovo offers the most visited cultural and historic sites which make tourism a significant part of the region's economics.

We hereby, as the citizens of Veliko Turnovo and a member of the League of the Historical Cities, should respect our diverse cultural identity and transform it into a powerful mechanism to enhance the cultural cohesion and stimulate the historical cities to revitalize their cultural heritage through applying modernization tools for conservation and restoration for the benefit of all citizens.

Though the member cities of the League are different entities, their efforts should be united into the credo of mutual cooperation to improve the environmental and historical heritage, protect the cultural identities and stimulate tourism perspective among different countries.



Preserving the Traditional Urban Landscape of
 Kyoto and the Kyo-Machiya Revival Program
 President of Kyoto Center for Community Collaboration : Hiroshi Mimura



Hiroshi Mimura
 President of Kyoto Center for Community
 Collaboration,
 Emeritus Professor, Kyoto University, Japan

New Urban-Landscape Policy

Kyoto, a historic capital city of Japan, has survived the vicissitudes of its life for 1200 years. Today, it continues to be very lively city with its population 1.5 million. As the city was not generally damaged during the WW 2nd, old palaces, shrines, temples, gardens, and villas remained intact. Most of them were preserved and by now designated as cultural assets or world heritage sites.

However, at the same time, many historic urban districts where merchants, craftsmen, and artisans formed their communities for long time have received very little attention to their streetscape preservation. They are private properties, and therefore, hard to be regulated for the preservation. It has been considered that these districts should remain open to economic developments.

In 2007, the City of Kyoto changed its Urban Landscape Policy drastically. The historic districts are now designated as the important landscape elements which embody the traditional lifestyle including the Gionmaturi-Yamaboko Festival registered as an intangible world heritage .

Even the buildings on private properties must be in balance with the historical city landscape. Their height and design are made strictly regulated.

Kyo-Machiya: New Appreciation toward Traditional Wooden Houses

Since its establishment in 1997, the Kyoto Center for Community Collaboration (KCCC) has recognized that traditional wooden houses in the city, called Machiya in general or Kyo-Machiya for the ones in Kyoto, which have been built repeatedly for more than 5 centuries by commoners, form the prototype that structures traditional streetscape. Based on this recognition, the KCCC operates the following programs:

- 1) Studies on the typology and local distribution of Machiya, 2) Researches on owners' and residents' needs toward Machiya, 3) Workshops to promote the public recognition and support toward the preservation of Machiya,

- 4) Consultation and management support services for the preservation and the new usage programs for Machiya. Also a new fund by public and private contributors for the model renovation projects was started. 5) Development of various kinds of technology which utilizes traditional wooden building culture, including the technology for the safety under fire and earthquake , and create new construction methods toward low carbon society.

Enlarging the Network of Collaboration

The most important outcome of these programs is the enlarged network of collaboration. The programs linked owners, residents, people in the communities, professionals in the various related fields, NGOs, faculty members and students of universities/colleges , and public administrative agencies. Our KCCC has become a place shared by them, like a square in the city. We empower the sustainable urban settlement by promoting a wide array of community activities and by training expert coordinators for these activities. We also work with cities of the world which share the preservation issues with Kyoto.

This year, the 12th Historical Cities Congress will be held in Nara , Japan. Kyoto is only 40 minutes from Nara by rapid trains. Your visits to our city Kyoto are most welcome.

<Related URL>

Kyoto City Landscape Policy by six languages:
<http://www.city.kyoto.lg.jp/tokei/page/0000061889.html>

Kyoto Center for Community Collaboration:
<http://www.kyoto-machisen.jp/fund/>



Left:
 "Machiya Revival in Kyoto" Booklet (Edited by KCCC, Published by Mitsumura Suiko Shoin)

Below:
 New Building Design harmonized with Streetscape (photo: City of Kyoto)



The League of Historical Cities Secretariat

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

Period: 12 - 15 Oct., 2010

Theme: Succession of Historical City with Creative Revitalization

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Gango-ji Temple / A stone statue of Buddha
 Photo : Courtesy of Nara City Tourist Association