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IMPERIAL CITADEL OF
THANG LONG



PRESERVATION OF The Cultural Heritage Complex of Thang Long-Ha Noi 2010-2013

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PROJECT PROFILE

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Ha Noi Flag Tower

BACKGROUND AND OVERVIEW OF THE PROJECT

CHAPTER I



1. Overview of the Imperial Citadel of Thang Long

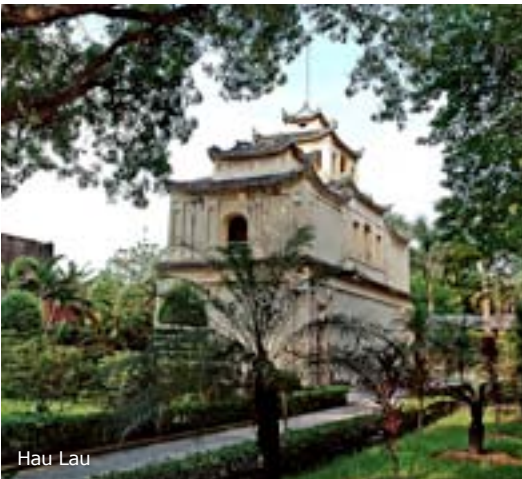
Thang Long is the ancient name of Ha Noi, the capital city of Viet Nam. In 1010, Ly Cong Uan, the founder of the Ly Dynasty, relocated the capital from Hoa Lu to the Dai La Citadel, later renamed Thang Long, marking the establishment of the independent State of the Dai Viet. The city served as the political and economic center during the Ly Dynasty (1009-1225), Tran Dynasty (1225-1400), early Le Dynasty (1428-1527), Mac Dynasty (1527-1592) and restored Le (1592-1789). Although during the Nguyen Dynasty (1802-1945) the imperial capital was moved to Hue, Thang Long, later renamed Ha Noi, still remained an important political center in Northern Viet Nam. Thang Long Citadel continuously symbolized the political power for over 1,000 years and bore witness to the long cultural traditions of the local people as well as intercultural exchanges in the Red River Delta.

The Imperial Citadel of Thang Long is comprised of two parts, the central axis of the Nguyen Dynasty's Ha Noi Ancient Citadel and the Archaeological Site at 18 Hoang Dieu. There lay the administrative, political and domestic center of imperial power, as well as the Emperor and the royal family. During French colonial period, the area became the headquarters of the French military power in Indochina.

While architectural remains and artifacts reveal the history of the Citadel stretching over 1,000 years, many of its structures



Decorative roof tile in the form of bodhi leaf



Hau Lau



Kinh Thien Palace

have yet to be revealed. Those that still remain today, such as the foundation of the Kinh Thien Palace, Doan Mon and Bac Mon, built during the Le Dynasty, or other architectural structures built during and after the French colonial period, reflect the history of the citadel, the complexity of successive historical and cultural events, as well as the philosophical and religious ideas associated with the site and Vietnamese history. This poses enormous challenges to the further study, as well as the protection, conservation and promotion of the Citadel.

In 2002, archaeological remains were discovered during the preparations for the construction of the new National Assembly Hall at 18 Hoang Dieu. Following the discovery, construction work was put on hold to allow for further archaeological investigation. Acknowledging the importance of the site, the Government of Viet Nam commissioned the Institute of Archaeology to conduct archaeological excavations. In December that year, the Institute started excavation work in an area of 19,000m². The excavation revealed evidence of the complexity of ancient structures, such as multi-layered traces of palaces from different historical periods.

The responsibility for site management rests with the Ha Noi Ancient Wall-Co Loa Vestiges Preservation Center (later renamed Thang Long Ha Noi Heritage Conservation Center, or Thang Long Center in short), in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism, and the Viet Nam Academy of Social Sciences. Thang Long Center, established in October 2006, is mandated by the Ha Noi People's Committee for overall management of the Thang Long Imperial Citadel.

In 2010, the Central Sector of the Imperial Citadel of Thang Long-Ha Noi, including the central axis and the archaeological site at 18 Hoang Dieu street, was inscribed in the UNESCO World Heritage List. The challenges to protect the integrity of the property include the lack of a full understanding about the heritage values of the site, balancing the pressure of socio-economic development in Ha Noi with heritage preservation and the need to better promote the outstanding universal values of the site to the public.

2. Background of the project

Thang Long Imperial Citadel was one of the first sites in which remains of one of Viet Nam's first cities were discovered in such a large scale. One of the major challenges to the preservation and promotion of the values of Thang Long Imperial Citadel is that much is still unexplored about the history of different structures and multiple layers of cultures existing at the site. It is important that the remains are studied in order to better understand the values of the site and its historical context throughout centuries.

A large area of the excavated site discovered in 2002 remained unearthed and exposed. Several parts of the remains have already collapsed. Environmental effects including humidity and groundwater discharge pose considerable threats to the site. Although temporary protection measures such as roofs and plastic sheets were put in place, it was urgent that appropriate conservation measures be identified to prevent further deterioration of the remains. Equally important, conservation measures needed to be incorporated in a comprehensive management plan which ensures the balance between heritage preservation and sustainable development.

In 2006, the Prime Minister issued Memo No.98/TB-VPCP regarding the strategy for the conservation of the archaeological site of 18 Hoang Dieu as part of the Cultural Heritage Complex of Thang Long. One of the important strategies put forth by the Government of Viet Nam is to foster multilateral partnerships for the preservation and promotion of the heritage complex. This is concretized by the strategic bilateral cooperation with the Japanese Government, which was first initiated during Prime Minister Koizumi's visit to the Imperial Citadel of Thang Long in October 2004.

In 2006, the Japanese Government commissioned a team of specialists to conduct preliminary investigations of the site and discussed a joint project for preserving the property. In 2007, the



Japan-Viet Nam Cooperation Committee on the preservation of the Cultural Heritage Complex of Thang Long was established. The Committee is co-chaired by Mr. Nobuo Kamei, cultural properties specialist at the Agency for Cultural Affairs and Ms. Ngo Thi Thanh Hang, Vice-Chair of the Ha Noi People's Committee.

In mid-2007, UNESCO received funding from the UNESCO/Japanese Funds-in-Trust for the Preservation of the World Cultural Heritage to prepare a project for the preservation of the Cultural Heritage of Thang Long-Ha Noi. UNESCO and Japanese counterparts tentatively agreed that this project would focus on (i) archaeological and historical research to define the outstanding values of the heritage, (ii) urgent conservation measures at the excavated areas and (iii) development of a plan for management and protection of the site. Within this framework, a preparatory mission was conducted from 14-17 August 2007 with participations of Vietnamese experts and Government officials and international experts from Japan (National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Nara Women's University), Italy (Lerici

Foundation), France (observers from École Française d'Extrême-Orient) and UNESCO. Discussions between international and national experts during the missions emphasized the importance of value assessment of the site, conservation measures, a comprehensive management plan and capacity building for Thang Long management staff.

In January 2010, the UNESCO/Japanese Funds-in-Trust project "Preservation of the Cultural Heritage Complex of Thang Long-Ha Noi" officially commenced. Major counterparts involved in project implementation included Thang Long-Ha Noi Heritage Conservation Center, the National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo (NRICPT) and the UNESCO Ha Noi Office. Japanese and Vietnamese experts have jointly implemented project activities including the value assessment, conservation study and management plan development. A training component was incorporated in each major activity in order to enhance the capacity of Vietnamese management staff and researchers and to facilitate the exchange of knowledge between Japanese and Vietnamese experts.



Preparatory mission in August 2007

3. Objectives of the project

The main goal of the project is to develop a consistent and comprehensive management system for the preservation and promotion of the Cultural Heritage Complex of Thang Long in order to ensure its long-term conservation and contribution to sustainable development of the community. Three major objectives were identified as follows:

- Support scientific studies for a value assessment of the Citadel, in particular archaeological and historical studies at the 18 Hoang Dieu Street site, as well as socio-economic studies.
- Propose conservation measures for the protection and enhancement of the excavated areas by conducting the necessary research, including surveys of the soil and the climate.
- Build capacity of Vietnamese experts and managers in the fields of history and urban archaeological methodology, heritage conservation, management and development.

In achieving these goals, at the beginning of the project a detailed plan of operation was approved by all three implementation counterparts. The description of project objectives and expected results is as follows:

Speech by H.E. Mr. Sakaba Mitsuo, Ambassador, Embassy of Japan, at the opening ceremony on 20 January 2010

“In 2006, the Japan-Viet Nam Joint Committee for preservation of Thang Long Royal Heritage was set up in order to create a scheme for the experts of the two countries to promote cooperation to safeguard and restore this heritage...

...Against this background, I am of the view that the Project for Preservation of Thang Long Citadel is a typical case in point of the friendly ties between Japan and Viet Nam. It is expected that through the Japan Trust Fund, the cooperation exchange between our two countries will further develop and bring tangible outcomes in the field of preservation and restoration of the heritage.

”



a. Support for the scientific studies for value assessment

These activities aim to enhance scientific studies of the site and thus deepen the understanding of the values of the site by: (i) compiling and analyzing historical materials such as written records, drawings, maps and photographs of the site, and (ii) conducting comparative studies of the imperial sites in and outside Viet Nam, (especially those in East Asia), (iii) conducting archaeological survey at the site, and (iv) carrying out socio-economic studies of the heritage. Working groups consisting of both Vietnamese and Japanese experts were established for each component.

b. Support for the conservation measures carried out on the 18 Hoang Dieu site

It is necessary even on a temporary basis, to protect the exposed surface, as an emergency measure by covering it with protective sand layers and then by soil, once the excavation survey and documentation works are finished. At the same time a plan of conservation should be prepared while testing the protective measures applied to the exposed surface.

c. Support for the preparation of a management plan

The preservation and promotion of the heritage requires a comprehensive management plan clearly defining zoning controls while taking into account the archaeological importance of the underground remains. The plan should also be based on (i) a heritage mapping and a well-defined list of buildings and other structures for protection including both ancient and modern architectural structures, and (ii) an assessment of the social values and economic potential of the site. This would also require a thorough assessment of institutional capacity and capacity building exercises for the heritage management authority.

Each component is implemented as a joint endeavour by Japanese and Vietnamese experts, management staff and UNESCO. The ultimate governing body of the project is the Steering Committee consisting of high level authorities and heritage managers. The Committee, which meets annually, is responsible for overall implementation progress and approving the annual work plan and budget. The Project Management Unit is responsible for daily management of project activities in accordance with the annual work plan. Semi-annual progress reports are submitted to UNESCO by both NRICPT and Thang Long Center in order to monitor project implementation.



Speech by Ms. Ngo Thi Thanh Hang, former Vice-Chair of Ha Noi People's Committee, at the opening ceremony on 20 January 2010.

“The Central Sector of the Imperial Citadel of Thang Long-Ha Noi constitutes an invaluable heritage not only for the capital city but also for the whole nation. Vestiges of these structures discovered underground still bear invaluable testimony to the uninterrupted development of Thang Long as a capital city, heroic nation's construction and salvation of the Vietnamese people.”

Speech by Ms. Katherine Muller Marin, Representative of UNESCO to Viet Nam and Head of UNESCO Ha Noi Office, at the second Steering Committee meeting on 24 February 2011.

“This project is a relevant example of a tripartite partnership and highlights the cooperation between the Government of Japan, Viet Nam and UNESCO, in which our overall commitment in supporting and preserving the world's cultural properties has been proven by concrete actions and achievements. The project has been implemented thanks to the generous financial support from the Government of Japan, which we acknowledge and highly appreciate.”





1 2 Project opening ceremony on 20/1/2010





1. Enhanced understanding of the heritage through scientific studies

1.1. Historical research

One of the most outstanding values of the Imperial Citadel of Thang Long is the complexity of the successive historical and cultural events, and philosophical and religious ideas associated with the site. On the one hand, this endows the site with immense importance to understanding the national history while posing significant challenges to historical researchers on the other. Firstly, the database of historical research of the Imperial Citadel of Thang Long remained weak and uncoordinated. Secondly, most of academic research into the history of the Citadel by Vietnamese researchers is only available in local language, which significantly hampers the potential of international cooperation in historical research. And most importantly, findings about the history of the Imperial Citadel of Thang Long which spanned over a period of over 1000 years remained rather fragmented.

The project addresses the issue of the database of historical research by collecting important research papers about the Imperial Citadel of Thang Long-Ha Noi in both Vietnamese and Japanese. The team consisting of Japanese and Vietnamese experts later translated the selected papers into Vietnamese and Japanese. This activity was carried out from March 2010 until the final product was published in July 2012 in a bilingual volume of research papers.



Historical workshop "The Central Sector of the Imperial Citadel of Thang Long" in August 2012

The final publication includes fourteen papers including those written by renowned scholars such as Prof. Phan Huy Le, Prof. Le Van Lan, Prof. Momoki Shiro and Prof. Ueno Kunikazu. The collection of research papers touches upon a number of important issues regarding the history of the Citadel such as the location and scope of the central axis, how the archaeological site of 18 Hoang Dieu is situated in the Citadel throughout dynasties, or the building materials used in the Ancient Citadel.

In parallel to translation activities, the historical research team conducted in-depth study into the history of the heritage deploying two main approaches, desk review from different sources on Thang Long and comparative analysis of the site with other ancient citadels in Viet Nam and China. Main questions that the Japanese and Vietnamese researchers aimed to answer consist of (i) the historical record of the Imperial Citadel of Thang Long and (ii) the influence of the Dai La Dynasty on Thang Long in the Ly-Tran Dynasty in terms of spatial planning, walls and architecture.

Firstly, analysis of unearthed bricks found in the Imperial Citadel of Thang Long dated 809 A.D confirmed the hypothesis that the history of the Citadel dated to the early 9th century. However, what requires further investigation

is the connection between excavated artifacts in the Six Dynasties period with architectural remains at the site in order to confirm the Citadel's role as the Center of political power in the Sui Dynasty. Additionally, a thorough examination of archaeological findings and Chinese historical materials enabled the team to suggest that in the Dai La period, the An Nam La Thành Citadel (under the domination of the Tang Dynasty) was situated in the same location as the later Imperial Citadel of Thang Long, at least since the governorship of Zhang Boyi in the late 8th century. Secondly, further study into the history of the Imperial Citadel in the Ly Dynasty, the very period that Thang Long was founded, highlighted that there were areas lying between the Citadel wall and the Forbidden area (Cấm Trung) and known as "Inside the Citadel" (Thành Nội). The reexamination of ancient texts also found influence of the Luoyang Citadel on the names of central palaces (Càn Nguyên and later renamed Thiên An) and major gate pavilions (Ngũ Phượng lâu or Five Phoenixes). The researchers also suggested that the archaeological site of 18 Hoang Dieu and Kinh Thien Palace were located in the Center of the forbidden area during the Ly-Tran period. While more questions still need to be resolved with regards to the "roads" and "drains" found at the archaeological site of 18 Hoang Dieu,



Field study in China in August 2011

above findings have brought to light basic issues of the history of the property.

Finally, the comparative analysis depicts an overall picture of the historical context of the Imperial Citadel of Thang Long and offers interesting implications for the spatial planning and architecture of the site. In August 2011, the research team headed by Prof. Momoki Shiro (Osaka University) and Prof. Nguyen Quang Ngoc (IVIDES) conducted a field trip to important Chinese capitals including Kaifeng, Luoyang and Chang'an. Such cities were chosen for field trips due to the assumptions of the plausible impacts of ancient Chinese citadels on the Imperial Citadel of Thang Long. The exercise is important in the sense that there was a lack of Vietnamese experts in Chinese archaeology and history while Japanese experts have developed extensive experience and research network in the subject matter.

After the field trip, the research team was able to collect numerous materials on the spatial plan of Chinese citadels, the architectural structures of the gates, walls or pavilions and royal decorations on tiles. Basing on such preliminary findings, Vietnamese researchers were able to develop a number of research papers such as "The facade and the geographic position of the Protectorate General of Annam

under the T'ang Domination" or "The Influence of the Models of Luoyang and Kaifeng upon the Masterplan of Thang Long during the Ly-Tran Period" by Pham Le Huy, researcher at Viet Nam National University, Ha Noi.

Findings of the comparative analysis clarify the similarities in architectural structures and names of palaces between the Citadel and that in Kaifeng-Luoyang. However, the team also noted names and structures that were not present in Chinese ancient citadels, indicating the uniqueness of the Citadel. In general, the findings confirm that the Imperial Citadel of Thang Long did not simply inherit the model employed in Chinese Citadels such as Kai Feng, Luoyang or Chang'an, however, it is a harmonious combination of various exquisite cultural elements.

This activity contributes to fostering mutual understanding and knowledge exchange between Vietnamese and Japanese scholars and enhancing academic research into the history of the Citadel. This exercise also addresses the issue of language barriers which act to hamper the bilateral cooperation in historical research between the two countries. The collection of papers published in a bilingual edition shall enable researchers of Viet Nam and Japan to gain multiple approaches to and diverse aspects of the subject matter.



1.2. Archaeological research

Inscribed in the World Heritage List partly for bearing exceptional testimony to ancient civilizations, the Imperial Citadel of Thang Long exhibits multiple layers of archaeological and architectural structures spanning over a period of 1000 years. Given the haziness surrounding the history of successive civilizations associated with the Citadel, continued archaeological research is essential to establish a clear connection between archaeological remains at the site and different historical periods.

The project built on the achievement of Japanese-Vietnamese cooperation in developing a consistent and accurate local coordinate system which has enabled archaeologists to conduct comprehensive spatial analysis. The basic axis of the system connects two central points including the center of Kinh Thien Palace and Doan Mon Gate. Spatial analysis based on the local coordinate enabled archaeologists to identify the situation of the central axis of the Imperial Citadel of Thang Long in the Le Dynasty spreading from Doan Mon Gate to the Dragon Steps of Kinh Thien Palace, measured 149.08 meters long.

With regards to excavation activities, Vietnamese archaeologists excavated six pits with an area of 100m² in 2011 near to Kinh Thien Palace, proceeding with an area of 500m² in 2012 in the North of Doan Mon Gate and expanding to an area of 500m² in the first six months of 2013. The implementation strategy of the archaeological component involves cooperation between Japanese and Vietnamese researchers, especially young researchers, in excavations. Young Vietnamese researchers had an opportunity to be directly involved in the excavation in the area between A and B zone or D7 area with the supervision of Japanese experts.

Reexamining and reassessing archaeological features found at the site, the Vietnamese experts were able to confirm the results of previous surveys, which identified some remains belonging to the Dai La period. Additionally, various methods for archaeological excavations

and interpretation were employed, which can contribute to more accurate examination and interpretation of future excavations.

From 2010 to 2013, the Vietnamese archaeologists excavated numerous artifacts dated to different dynasties such as a two-meter long water drainage and brick pillar foundation from the Nguyen Dynasty, the foundation of the Royal Path and Đan Trì yard from the Le Dynasty, brick walls and a large water drainage from the Tran Dynasty, mud foundation from the Ly Dynasty and roof tiles and pottery dated to the Dinh, early-Le and Dai La periods. Noticeably, the large-scale archaeological excavations in 2011-2013 revealed pillar foundations of the Ly Dynasty in the surrounding area of Kinh Thien Palace. This indicates the potential for discovering more remains of architectural structures of the Ly Dynasty in the Central Axis.



1 2 Conservation of burials in E area

The excavation activities undertaken in the project represent the first time archaeologists have studied the continuity of cultural impacts from 7th-9th century to present in the area of Kinh Thien Palace. A layer of 40-60cm depth with evidence of the Dai La period (7th-9th century) was found under the mud layer and architectural foundation of the Ly Dynasty. Archaeologists later concluded that the Central axis of the Imperial Citadel of Thang Long exhibits the existence of the Dai La culture, and later the culture of Dinh and early-Le Dynasty, Ly Dynasty (11th-12th century), Tran Dynasty (13th-14th century), Le-Mac-Le Trung Hung (15th-18th century) and the Nguyen Dynasty (19th century).

Notably, there were a large number of excavated artifacts dated to the Tran Dynasty clustered intensively at the Doan Mon Gate-Kinh Thien Palace area, bearing significant differences to architectural remains of the Ly Dynasty. What remains as an on-going discussion between Japanese and Vietnamese team members is that whether this suggests a significant departure from the architectural structure and spatial planning in the Ly Dynasty. The architectural remains of the Tran Dynasty were classified into three different periods situated next to each other at the site. However, at the moment, archaeologists have not been able to precisely define the historical records and the spatial structure of the palaces.

The component was concluded with two technical workshops on ancient roof tiles, ceramics and roofing techniques. One of the main topics of discussion was the interpretation of newly excavated architectural remains and examination of ancient roof tiles such as those from the Dai La and Ly periods as well as from the corresponding dynasties in Japan and China. The topic of ancient roofing at the Citadel remains an interesting area yet to be thoroughly explored. This exercise is hence essential to share research methodologies and available literature on ancient roofing techniques, roof tile production and ceramics.

While the archaeological findings have uncovered unequivocal evidence relating to the different cultures and historical periods exhibited by the Imperial Citadel of Thang Long, this should only be considered as the starting point for continued research into the property. Challenging questions posed to archaeologists are still being looked into including the interpretation of the hexagonal and large octagonal structures excavated in the A, C and D zone and ancient roofing techniques.



Inventoried bricks and tiles from the Le Dynasty excavated from H1 and H3 pit



Archaeological workshop in September 2012



Archaeological workshop in January 2013



Socio-economic workshop on 03/03/2013

1.3. Socio-economic study

The socio-economic study component aims to investigate the public awareness of the Cultural Heritage Complex of Thang Long-Ha Noi and equip policy makers with appropriate interventions to promote the values of the site in accordance with the ultimate goal of sustainable development. Specifically, the study looks into the perceived values of the heritage complex and how to balance preservation of the property and sustainable development in the lens of a wide range of stakeholders including local community, young students, international and national visitors, researchers and heritage management staff. On the one hand, the research component illuminates the reciprocal relationship between the heritage and relevant stakeholders and aiming at improvement and reconstruction on the other.

The team is headed by Prof. Yoshiharu Tsuboi, School of Political Science and Economics, Waseda University and Prof. Nguyen Quang Ngoc, Director of the Institute of Vietnamese Studies and Development Sciences. The unified proposal of socio-economic study by Japanese and Vietnamese experts identified the quantitative method of questionnaires and in-depth interview as the major research methodologies deployed in the study. The survey sample includes local community living around the heritage site, students, international and national visitors, tour operators, researchers and heritage

management staff. In brief, the research team focused on the perceived values of the property (i.e. potential for tourism development, heritage education), current status of heritage promotion and recommendations for improved heritage management.

Prior to the survey, in 2011 Prof. Tsuboi had several consultation meetings with high-profile researchers including Prof. Phan Huy Le and Dr. Nguyen Xuan Thang (President of the VASS) to discuss the existing coordination mechanism between relevant institutions involved in the management of the Imperial Citadel of Thang Long. The in-depth discussions highlighted the lack of a consistent framework for cooperation between State-governing bodies related to the sites such as Thang Long-Ha Noi Heritage Conservation Center, Research Center for Imperial City, Ministry of Construction and Ministry of Defense.

Findings of the study indicate that the majority of respondents reported having visited Thang Long only once (66.25%). Noticeably, 20.5% of them reported not having visited the site, which was mainly due to a lack of free time and, more importantly, inadequate information about the heritage site. Although 70% of respondents revealed that they would revisit the site, however, the main reason for the second visit is for research and related work. Given the importance of the Imperial Citadel, it indicates that the heritage has yet



to attract a wide range of visitors, evidenced by the low degree of repeated visits and the inadequate heritage information targeting the public.

A majority of respondents agreed on the urgency for better promoting the property. Besides a lack of insightful information about the Imperial Citadel of Thang Long, respondents also gave a low score to the existing interpretation system at the site including sign boards, panels and guides. Poor interpretation of the site contrasts with the important educational values attached to the Citadel. 97% of respondents agreed that the property represents national identity and that educational programs about the Citadel will enable young generations to better appreciate traditional culture and values.

In order to improve the preservation and promotion of the Imperial Citadel of Thang Long, the survey results suggest greater investment in conservation activities and educational programs about the Citadel incorporated in schools' curricula. Suggested promotional channels for the heritage include the Internet, improved exhibitions and promotional booklets or guidebooks. Respondents acknowledged the potential for tourism development in the heritage area, suggesting an improved interpretation system, interactive activities to enhance visitors' experience and designing souvenir products.

In March 2013, a workshop on the socio-economic values of Thang Long Citadel was organized by IVIDES and Thang Long Center. The research report produced by IVIDES in cooperation with Japanese experts was presented at the workshop giving a detailed account of research activities of this component and findings from the quantitative and qualitative survey. During the workshop, researchers and heritage managers discussed intensively how to bridge the site and the community, especially young people and tourism companies. Concrete measures were proposed by the project team such as regular educational programs and engaging tourism companies in activities promoting heritage values.

The above findings depict a substantial gap between the perceived values of the heritage and the current status of heritage promotion. Existing information about the heritage and interpretation facilities are still far from meeting the public's expectation of a nationally represented heritage like the Imperial Citadel of Thang Long. It has been widely agreed that sustainable heritage preservation involves making the site and its programme come alive. Adequate information, interactive and diverse education programs and insightful interpretation will contribute to enriching the experiences of visitors to the site. This will also enhance public awareness about the heritage and empower the community to join hands in preserving and promoting its values.

2. Improved conservation of remains

This sub-project includes two interrelated components (i) study of conservation measures for remains through continuous meteorological surveying and soil water movement observation; and (ii) analysis of current condition and conservation measures of indoor and in-situ artifacts through examination of conservation measures for unearthed wooden artifacts.

2.1 Conservation measures of archaeological remains

Excavations in the C and D zone of the archaeological site 18 Hoang Dieu were conducted in 2002-2004 unearthing a large number of artifacts from the Dai La Period (7th-8th century) until the Le Dynasty (16th-18th century). Unearthed artifacts and architectural remains in these areas are exposed and covered by roof. Therefore, they are placed under pressure by continual threats such as termites, temperature, wind, water evaporation and salt deposited on the surface of the remains. Protecting unearthed artifacts and remains requires thorough observation of soil moisture movement and climate survey.

Continuous meteorological and soil moisture observation were carried out from 2010-2013. An equipped meteorological monitoring station donated by the Japanese government had been readily in use at the archaeological site. The monitoring station allows extensive measurement of seven meteorological parameters including temperature, humidity, solar radiation, precipitation, wind direction, wind speed, and air pressure in 10-minute intervals. Concurrently, five water sensors were buried in zone D4 of the archaeological site of 18 Hoang Dieu.



Meteorological data were regularly retrieved and compiled from the data logger by staff of the Institute of Archaeology. Such data would be then sent to Japan via email for analysis. Besides, staff of the Institute of Archaeology received intensive training in monitoring of the equipments and the importance of soil studies to outdoor exhibition of remains.

Time-series data obtained from this exercise enabled the research team to identify major factors threatening the stability of the artifacts and provide information for conservation measures. It was found that humidity in the archaeological site is rather high (over 85%) and fluctuates considerably between seasons. The team further investigated the connection between changing humidity with major threats to the artifacts which may result in cracking soil surface, reducing soil plasticity, salt deposits or mold. The analysis enabled researchers to conclude that the key to conserving architectural remains at the site is the preservation of soil structure. The team hence suggested more investment in studying major factors impacting the changes in soil structure.

Climate survey results revealed a significant gap between the outdoor temperature and that in the roofed area. Although plastic roofs prevent wind from affecting the artifacts, it also increases the temperature underneath, which in turn accelerates water evaporation on the soil surface. It was concluded that the existing conservation measure of roofing can only provide temporary protection.



Data collection and analysis

The research team took one step further by conducting pilot conservation techniques. The method adopted was reburying remains with a 20cm deep layer of sandy soil and observing and comparing soil moisture movement between the remains left unburied and the reburied ones under the same climatic conditions. Recorded data show that in the case of reburied remains, the moisture movement rate drastically decreased thanks to the low level of unsaturated hydraulic conductivity. This indicates that the method of reburying remains has proved to be an effective conservation measure for the remains excavated at the archaeological site of 18 Hoang Dieu.

The team also tested conserving bricks by using water repellence chemicals and reinforcing treatments and later compared the results upon exposing the bricks. Four bricks samples were provided by the Institute of Archaeology for analysis. The bricks installed on an exposure tester in the D zone of the archaeological site of 18 Hoang Dieu went through a one-year exposure test. The purpose of this activity is to evaluate the effectiveness of chemical treatment to prevent or reduce the deterioration of the brick remains. After conducting necessary tests, the test bricks proved to be more weather resistant than others. However, it is warned that given the high level of solar radiation and rainfall in Ha Noi, this weather resistance may not be sustained in the long run.

The process of soil and climate surveying and experimental conservation constitutes a solid starting point for Vietnamese researchers to develop the most appropriate conservation measures for the wide range of remains and artifacts found at the site.

In 2013, pilot conservation of burials in the E zone was conducted. Vietnamese archaeologists completed the inventory and conservation of burial E27.MO40, one of 41 burials from the Dinh and early Le Dynasties. The burial was conserved and regularly monitored in the D zone storage. Conservation results indicate that the burial is in good condition and can be used for exhibition purposes.



Training for two Vietnamese staff on conservation of wooden artifacts in Japan in 2010

2.2. Current condition analysis and conservation measures of in-door and in-situ artifacts

Wooden artifacts constitute a large proportion of archaeological items excavated at the heritage site. Some of them remain buried with architectural remains while others were retrieved from the site. These cultural assets are continually threatened by environmental impacts given that no long term protective measures are adopted. The project contributes to addressing the pressing need of preserving in-door and in-situ wooden artifacts by investigating the current state, existing storage methods and wood properties.

Wooden artifacts excavated at 18 Hoang Dieu archaeological site are diverse. The team has documented a total of 3291 timber artifacts unearthed between 2002-2009 with varied shapes and historical records. The collection of wooden artifacts was then classified into 6 main groups basing on their functions and shapes:

- a) Group 1: artifacts related to the construction of residential buildings, walls, drainage system (pile, wooden foundation, wooden panels...)
- b) Group 2: artifacts related to components of architectural structures (columns, rafters, tips, shuttering, strings, door railing, stairs...)

c) Group 3: artifacts related to woodworking or masonry tools (plane, chisel, clod-breaker, hoes, spade...)

d) Group 4: artifacts used in daily life (box, jar, bucket, water bucket, palanquin, lacquer trays, shuttle, wooden clogs, boat...)

e) Group 5: Natural wood such as tree stems, branches (twig types, bamboo stump, flexible plants...)

f) Group 6: artifacts with undefined functions.

Two methods of conservation were applied for wooden artifacts including in-situ conservation and immersing them in water tanks or special storage facilities. Condition analysis of the wooden artifacts showed that those stored in water tanks are in good conditions and regularly monitored. The most important issue is related to in-situ artifacts under adverse environmental and climatic impacts. In-depth observation of exposed wooden artifacts at the archaeological site revealed the prevalence of wood shrinkage and swelling and termite attacks given the changing moisture level in Ha Noi. This poses considerable threats to the protection of wooden artifacts for moisture changes and termites can lead to irreversible deterioration of wood.

In order to establish a sound scientific foundation for future treatment of wooden artifacts, the research team conducted in-depth analysis of the wood characteristics of wooden

artifacts unearthed at the site. Ten samples from in-situ wooden artifacts were retrieved and analyzed by the joint team of Japanese and Vietnamese experts. By identifying the physical properties of the wood, researchers gained basic understanding of the deterioration behaviours and degree of shrinkage or swelling before proposing appropriate conservation measures.

Interestingly, the analysis confirms that *Sến mật* was widely used in architectural structures of the Ly Dynasty, contributing to the study of the history of the Imperial Citadel. Equally important, future research into the volumetric mass density of different wood types can bring to light the construction techniques deployed in ancient Dynasties.

With regards to conservation measures, Japanese and Vietnamese researchers have pointed out the possibility of using a thermostatic water bath and a drying oven for testing protective treatment for excavated wooden artifacts such as resin impregnation. Staff of the Institute of Archaeology have received introductory training on using this equipment. The Institute has acknowledged that intensive investment is required for continued research and implementation of immediate actions to protect the artifacts from adverse biological and environmental impacts.



Discussion on excavated roof tiles and ceramics



Conservation of wooden artifacts of group 1, 5 and 6 in water tanks

3. Development of a comprehensive management system

The UNESCO Operational Guideline for the 1972 Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage clearly encourages each nominated property to develop their own management plan specifying how the Outstanding Universal Values of the site should be preserved. As an inscribed heritage site, one of the immediate tasks for its preservation and promotion in line with UNESCO's guidelines is developing a comprehensive management plan. The plan will serve as the legitimate management tool to address short and long term conservation issues such as research, conservation, heritage education, tourism development and institutional enhancement.

The management plan builds on a comprehensive assessment of institutional capacity and management structure of the Thang Long Ha Noi Heritage Conservation Center conducted by the Institute of Conservation of Monuments and NRICPT. The report of the Institute indicates that while being responsible for both management and conservation of the heritage, the Center experiences a critical shortage of staff specialised in preservation and restoration. Moreover, in the long term when the Center takes over the archaeological site of 18 Hoang Dieu, it is essential that the capacity for conservation of artifacts be

enhanced. Finally, the institutional assessment conducted by Japanese experts identifies that the absence of a clear cooperation mechanism between research institutes and the Center is a critical obstacle to effective preservation and management of the site.

Building on the inputs of the initial assessment and extensive desk review, a working group consisting of staff of the Thang Long Center and Institute of Conservation of Monuments worked intensively under the supervision of the Lead Consultant and Japanese experts from early 2011 to late 2012. In the course of two years, the draft plan was consulted with international experts, renowned scholars, heritage managers, Ha Noi Municipal authority and the community.

At the end of 2012, the management plan was finalized, based on feedback received from the Steering Committee and relevant experts. The draft Management Plan took into consideration UNESCO recommendations and the Government of Viet Nam's commitments made upon the inscription of Thang Long Imperial Citadel as a World Heritage site. Along with this management plan, an action plan (2012-2016) was finalized by the Thang Long Center and UNESCO Ha Noi, outlining concrete activities to be implemented in the next five years. Upon completion, the Management Plan was submitted to Ha Noi People's Committee along

Vision statement – Management Plan

The heritage of the Thang Long Ha Noi Imperial Citadel represents and embodies the convergence of the aspirations of the peoples of Viet Nam from the founding of the nation, through centuries of determination and struggle, resulting in the social and cultural unity of the present day. As such, the preservation of the Citadel is essential for the safeguarding of Vietnamese identity, and for conveying the cultural values embedded in this place to the people of our nation as well as to the rest of the world, as befits its status as a World Heritage Site.

This Management Plan sets out an implementation strategy to guide the long-term protection, conservation and presentation of the accrued, composite historic values and continued significance of the Citadel and its associated artifacts, within its setting, and with due regards to its integration into the physical, cultural, social, economic and political life of the Ba Dinh Political Center.

Emphasizing measures intended to ensure the authenticity and integrity of the Thang Long Ha Noi Imperial Citadel as a true and faithful repository of archaeological, architectural and art factual knowledge attesting to the historical narrative of the Vietnamese State, this Management Plan serves as a good-practice model for the protection, conservation and overall management of other cultural heritage sites in Viet Nam, relating to the historical development of the nation.



with the concrete Action Plan. The approval will guarantee that budget be allocated for the implementation of the management plan and its action plan.

The objective of the Management Plan is not limited to protecting the integrity of the Citadel such as structures, monuments or archaeological relics. To a wider extent, the fundamental goal of the Plan is to ensure the historical values and cultural and spiritual elements embodied in the heritage are preserved with a view to sustain their authenticity. So doing requires the State-governing body to focus on six main areas including (i) heritage management (ii) conservation of monuments, artifacts and landscapes (iii) research on the heritage (iv) capacity building (v) public education and (vi) promotion of heritage values. UNESCO also provided funds to develop a separate Disaster Risk Management Plan to ensure that necessary preparedness measures are taken to protect the site from the increasing intensity and frequency of natural disasters.

The development of the Management Plan is a concerted effort by a number of stakeholders including national authority, national and international researchers, heritage managers and the community. This allows the plan to comply with latest international standards of heritage management. Beyond the formal institutions, the component also gathers broad participation in order to ensure the legitimacy of the plan. As such, the Plan can be an important tool to obtain thorough shared understanding of the property by all stakeholders and ensure a certain level of transparency in the heritage management system.

Another prominent feature is that activities taken place within the course of the whole project strictly adhere to the focus areas of the plan. Therefore, the Plan is built on the on-going research activities and partly reflects the findings and policy implications of research components. For instance, implemented upon the completion of the Management plan, the introduction of GIS system to staff of Thang Long Center was the first step to concretize commitments set forth in the Management Plan and contributed to a comprehensive management system. The application of GIS is an effective tool to assist the process of cultural heritage resource management through systematic documentation and monitoring.

One of the achievements of the GIS component to the overall management system is firstly the completion of base maps compatible for GIS application at the site. GIS was a new tool to the management of the Imperial Citadel and the existing base maps were found to be incompatible with the GIS mapping system. The process of creating a vector map lasted over a year, involving Japanese experts, staff of Thang Long Center, an independent surveying company and experts of the University of Geology and Mining. After several attempts of conducting the measurement survey since 2011, in September 2013, the corrected base map was revised by experts and handed over to Thang Long Center.

In parallel to the development of the GIS base map, the GIS working group conduct pilot development of the GIS database for the area surrounding Doan Mon Gate and an archaeological pit. In doing so, the team went through a series of trainings on GIS concepts, software and use of equipment delivered by Japanese and Vietnamese experts. In October 2012, using the project's budget, Thang Long Center purchased essential equipments for the basic GIS system. A GIS room and facilities were installed. The exercise enabled the GIS working group to utilize the computer-assisted information management tools to bring together fragmented data from different sources such as photographs, printed maps or drawings into a unified data bank.



Archaeological training on excavation and archaeological research in January 2011

4. Capacity building for sustainable development

Integrated in each project component are capacity building activities for Vietnamese researchers and heritage managers through continuous exchange of knowledge and skills on an international sharing platform. In each capacity building activity, Vietnamese experts were offered an opportunity to discuss with Japanese experts and obtain updated knowledge and hands-on experience in heritage preservation and management.

This sub-project of historical research provided an important training opportunity to younger researchers, who will play major roles in the future international cooperation. Besides, it would also contribute to the accumulation of technical vocabulary in Japanese and Vietnamese, which would facilitate international cooperation and training for experts in this field.

Underlying the achievements of archaeological research is continuous sharing of knowledge and skills between Vietnamese and Japanese experts. Rather than formal training, capacity building activities were undertaken as on-the-job training in which excavation was jointly conducted by Japanese and Vietnamese

experts. The discussion about interpreting unearthed remains has remained an active and on-going academic topic between archaeologists of both countries. Besides, excavation techniques such as identification of remains, establishment of a survey grid, photographing and reporting were shared with Vietnamese experts, especially young researchers. This activity will allow a batch of young Vietnamese archaeologists to enhance their international exposure, engage themselves in the active academic environment and later play an effective role in decision making.

Conservation techniques were also the targeted area of capacity building. Training activities designed for this component include on-the-job training at the site, mini-workshops and study tours for technical experts. On-the-job training has enabled Vietnamese experts to master the modern equipments and techniques required for complex climatic and soil moisture survey conducted at the site. Besides, training on the use of modern conservation equipments including thermostatic water bath and a drying oven for wooden artifacts was delivered to

staff of the Institute of Archaeology so that the Vietnamese experts can later spearhead future conservation project at the site. Finally, the study tour designed for researchers of the Research Center for Imperial City presented Vietnamese experts with an opportunity to improve their knowledge and broaden research network in a world-class research environment for wood conservation technology.

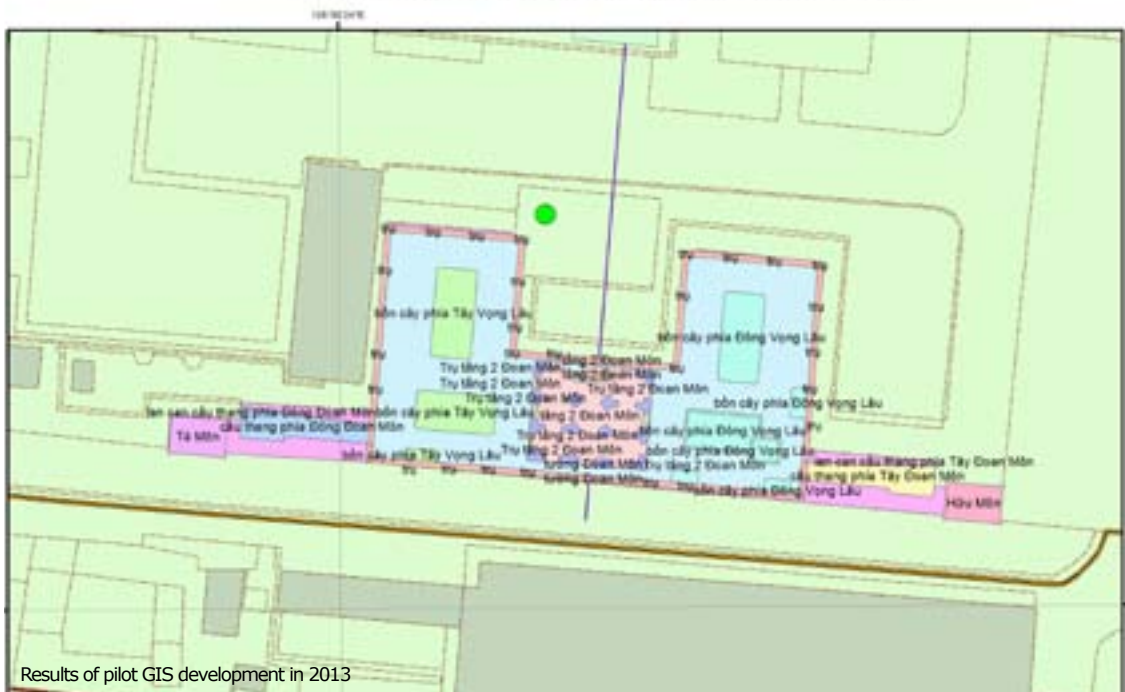
Besides capacity building in technical areas, the project also enhanced management capacity of Thang Long Center with an aim to foster the development and implementation of the Management Plan. In 2012, two senior staff of the Center went on a study tour to Japan. On this occasion, they visited a number of historic and cultural monuments and museums in Japan and held discussions with Japanese heritage management staff. The activity provided Vietnamese management staff with critical case studies of balancing cultural heritage management and urban development and developing educational programmes at heritage sites.

One of the policy recommendations put forth in the socio-economic study is to strengthen

the existing interpretation system and the capacity of heritage guides. In August 2013, staff of Thang Long Center received training on Public Use Planning methodology to develop a site interpretation plan and tourism products for the heritage site. During the three-day training, staff of Thang Long Center worked intensively on key messages for the interpretation plan and identified major tourist attractions and plausible products at the site. The participants have also identified the critical gap in the existing database of visitor information which is vital for any tourism development plan at the site.

Capacity building is identified in the Management Plan as the key to help Thang Long Center to effectively manage the heritage. Since the existing pool of experience in heritage management and preservation is still limited, the substance of this work is equipping Vietnamese experts with basic skills and techniques and bringing them to a wider academic and professional knowledge sharing platform. So doing creates the foundation for future human resources development initiated by the Center.

MẶT BẰNG TẦNG 2 VỌNG LẬU ĐOAN MÔN





Doan Mon

5. Promotion of the heritage values

Although the objective of promoting the values of the heritage among the public was not explicitly incorporated in the original workplan, the project has taken on a series of activities to maximize the use of results achieved under the research components and to provide newly acquired knowledge to a public audience. To this end, UNESCO Ha Noi and Thang Long Center have collaborated with a wide range of stakeholders such as international volunteer organizations, the private sector and other museums in Viet Nam.

With the coordination and facilitation of UNESCO and Thang Long Center, the international volunteer organization, Volunteer for Peace (VPV), spearheaded public awareness raising initiatives targeting young students in Ha Noi. International volunteers actively led awareness raising workshops formally or informally at the site and schools. In each mini-workshop, students were equipped with basic knowledge of the Imperial Citadel of Thang Long through varied interactive activities. At the site, Thang Long Center in cooperation with VPV volunteers organized an exhibition about the heritage for students of secondary schools in Ha Noi. On this occasion, students were able to gain more insightful knowledge into the site through videos and visual story telling. The ultimate goal of the activities is to enable young students to develop a sense of belonging and responsibility for the preservation and promotion of their own heritage. Mutual exchange between international and national youngsters has played a crucial role in fostering the learning process.

The most wide-reaching awareness raising activity of the project was the “UNESCO World Heritage Eco Learning” programme organized by Panasonic Viet Nam in cooperation with UNESCO



UNESCO World Heritage Eco Learning programme in July 2012



International Workcamp by Volunteer For Peace in October 2011

and Thang Long Center in July 2012. This program attracted over 400 students in Ha Noi to visit the Imperial Citadel of Thang Long and learn about the history of the site and the importance of protecting the heritage from environmental impacts. Students were then encouraged to concretize their understanding by drawing pictures which represent their views on heritage preservation. Through the drawings, children voiced their concerns and proposed solutions to preserve the values of the heritage site and their living environment. This activity proved essential not only for developing critical thinking and creativity of young students but also for empowering them as future decision makers responsible for preservation of heritage.



UNESCO World Heritage Eco Learning programme in July 2012

In October 2013, Thang Long Center with the support of UNESCO Ha Noi opened a Learning Corner with a number of activities in a programme known as "I am An Archaeologist" for children to enrich their knowledge about historical and cultural values of Thang Long-Ha Noi and to develop their life skills. The project is also part of UNESCO's effort to build the capacity of World Heritage site museums in Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia, a component of which aims at developing public and educational programmes. Run by Thang Long staff, the Learning Corner offers various learning materials including those about the meanings of excavated artifacts at the Imperial Citadel of Thang Long and interactive



Guidebook about the Imperial Citadel of Thang Long

The logo is driven by three main visuals. They are Bodhi leaf, the dragon and Doan Mon. The main colour is an earthy tone symbolizing the values of the Citadel and its artifacts remaining underground.



activities for young students to gain hands-on experience. Titled "I am An Archaeologist", the activity allows children to be involved in archaeological excavations through which they could observe real artifacts and participate in field work at excavated sites. The program, which will be a permanent learning activity at the site, will contribute to attracting a larger pool of visitors, promoting history and traditional cultures to the public and having people involved in the protection of the world's cultural heritage.

Another important output of the project at the end of the year 2013 is the completion of the identity package including logo and tag line for the Imperial Citadel of Thang Long-Ha Noi. By presenting the Center and the heritage through a consistent image to the public, the logo and key messages attached to it contribute to maintaining the identity in accordance with the outstanding universal values of the heritage.

A set of tailored souvenirs for the Imperial Citadel of Thang Long was finalized. This corresponds to the completion of the reception area at the site in early 2014. By that time, those souvenirs will be on sale for visitors. The design and first production of souvenirs are supported by UNESCO, however, in the coming year the Center will invest its own funds in sustaining the production of souvenir products. The Center cooperated with a private company to produce a guidebook introducing the Imperial Citadel of Thang Long. Targeting both international and national visitors, the guidebook is not solely a souvenir product. It also aims to provide basic knowledge about the property to the public in a comprehensive and innovative way. Similar to other souvenirs on sale, the first production of the book was funded by the project's budget and the Center will invest in mass production moving forward.

Finally, the core feature of awareness raising activities held within the course of the project was mobilizing young people around the care and management of the heritage. For future generations who will later become decision-makers, the process of empowering them to preserve and promote heritage starts with meaningful learning and enhancing life skills. In essence, the future of heritage depends critically on the understanding and actions of young people of tomorrow.





1



4

1 2 3 4 The Learning Corner "I am An Archaeologist" at the Imperial Citadel of Thang Long





1. Conclusion

Thus far, the project has contributed substantially to the ultimate goal of preservation of the Cultural Heritage Complex of Thang Long-Ha Noi. Such contribution is evidenced by enhanced understanding of the values of the heritage, improved conservation measures for remains and artifacts, the development of a comprehensive management system, capacity building and promotion of the heritage to a wider public.

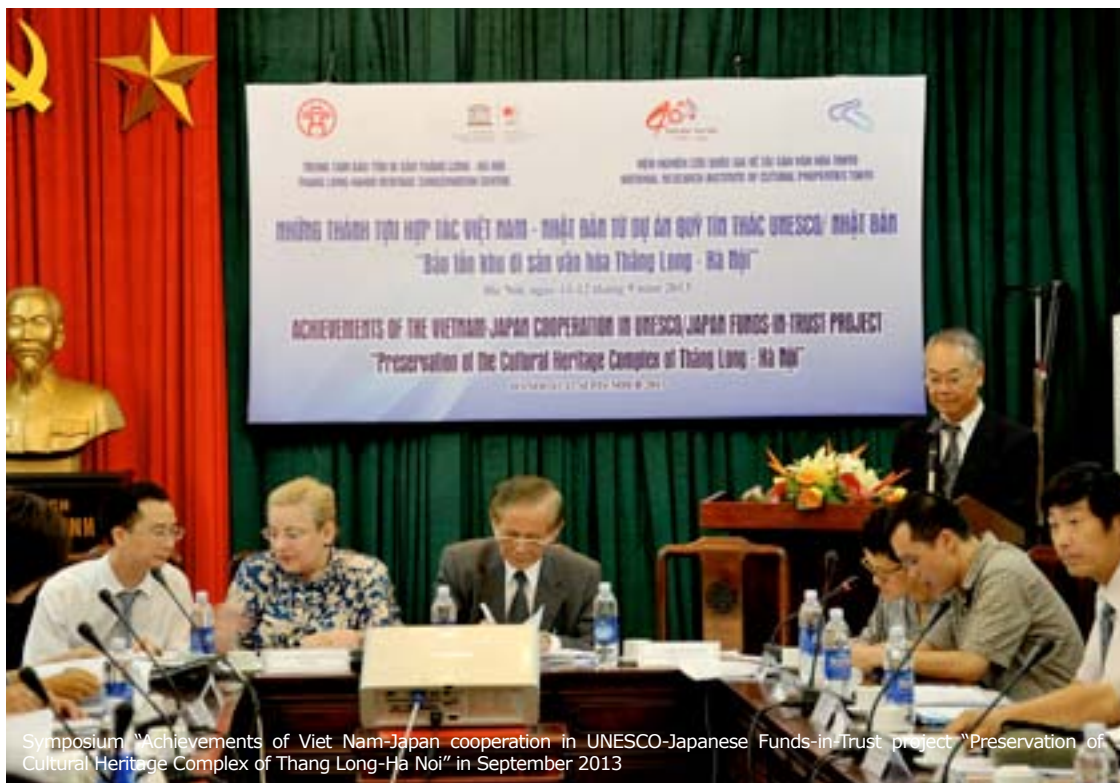
The project contributed firstly to clarify some previously uncertain aspects of the history of the Imperial Citadel of Thang Long. While the importance of the heritage in national history is widely accepted, little was known to answer the simple question: "When was the Imperial Citadel dated?" Although historical and archaeological research undertaken during the course of the project has yet to provide an absolute and thorough answer to the question, researchers have found solid evidence for the historical records of the Citadel dated in the 9th century. Historical and archaeological research has also shed further light on the spatial planning, architecture, construction techniques and structures of the Citadel throughout different historical periods. So doing has enabled researchers to identify the sophistication of the ancient architecture, which was not solely borrowed from or influenced by major Chinese Citadels, but also contained its own unique characteristics to result in a distinct traditional identity.

Speech by Mr. Nobuo Kamei – Director General, NRICPT-at the Symposium “Achievements of Vietnam-Japan cooperation in UNESCO-Japan Funds-in-Trust project ‘Preservation of Cultural Heritage Complex of Thang Long-Ha Noi” on 11/9/2013

“ *The next objective is developing appropriate conservation measures for the World Heritage, Imperial Citadel of Thang Long-Ha Noi. A grandiosity of architectural remains is supposedly lying underground of the surrounding areas. We recommend Viet Nam to keep this in mind and come up with appropriate measures.*

The project has come to its end, however, I understand that Japanese and Vietnamese experts will continue their cooperation in studying conservation measures for unearthed wooden artifacts, preservation of architectural remains and GIS development. We remain hopeful that the achievements of the projects will constitute a solid foundation for future research into ancient citadels of Viet Nam. ”

Conservation is another critical component of the continuous process of cultural heritage management. Given that excavation started in 2002 and little had been done towards systematic conservation of the remains, the conservation component of project was of paramount importance. Thanks to the two-year continuous surveying, researchers were able to identify the major environmental and climatic factors such as unstable humidity and high temperature which have an adverse impact on the sustainability of the remains and artifacts. More importantly, the project team also successfully conducted pilot conservation of remains by reburying artifacts under a thick layer of sandy soil. Positive results of the pilot test signify a promising strategy for preserving remains and artifacts at the excavated site. With regards to wooden artifacts being preserved outdoors or in-situ, researchers were able to identify physical properties of different types of wood. Measures for treatment of wooden artifacts were discussed with the Center for future conservation projects.



Symposium “Achievements of Viet Nam-Japan cooperation in UNESCO-Japanese Funds-in-Trust project “Preservation of Cultural Heritage Complex of Thang Long-Ha Noi” in September 2013



Study trip in My Son in July 2013

The completion of the Management Plan and introduction of the GIS mapping system are critical to the development of a comprehensive management system of the Imperial Citadel of Thang Long-Ha Noi. The use of modern electronic and computer-based information technologies in safeguarding heritage is a decisive step towards improved heritage management in the face of drastic urban development. Noticeably, the Management Plan, the end result of a two-year continuous discussion involving a wide range of stakeholders, represents a systematic approach to heritage preservation as well as economic and social development. Taking into account the importance as well as the fragility of the heritage, the Plan stipulates that the conservation responsibility comprises not only actions to extend the life of the heritage but also transmission of heritage information and maintenance of heritage values.

As such, capacity building and transmission activities were also important components of the project. While capacity building is crucial for the Center to pioneer heritage management and conservation initiatives, transmission of heritage values is indispensable to sustainable development. With regard to capacity building, the project has facilitated technical transfer and knowledge exchange between Japanese and Vietnamese researchers and contributed to building an enabling environment for Vietnamese experts to engage themselves in the international academic and professional forums. As for transmission, while the project

Speech by Ms. Katherine Muller Marin, Representative of UNESCO to Viet Nam and Head of UNESCO Ha Noi Office, at the closing ceremony on 18/12/2013

“Today’s challenges are too complex for any organization or individual to respond to on their own terms. I believe that the four-year UNESCO/Japanese Funds-in-Trust project has created a solid foundation for future cooperation in heritage conservation and management. Let us hope that the ties we have already established remain strong and continue to grow as we advance towards the ultimate goal of sustainable development”

did not explicitly include this component in its original workplan, the project team has realized the importance of gathering the public, especially young people, around the care for heritage. Community-oriented projects conducted at the site also contributed to raising the awareness of the public about the values of the heritage and potential threats to its preservation. Young students were then engaged in educational programmes to join hands tackling the challenges of heritage preservation and promotion.

Given the importance and complexity of the Imperial Citadel of Thang Long-Ha Noi, its preservation is never a short-term process conducted by a single public organization. Rather than aiming to tackle thoroughly the challenges posed to the inscribed property, the four-year UNESCO/Japanese Funds-in-Trust project has created a solid cornerstone for future conservation and management activities. The project represents a noteworthy case study of a multilateral partnership for cultural heritage management which is characterized by cooperation between Japanese and Vietnamese experts, civil society organizations, the State governing body and with the coordination of UNESCO. The solutions to irreversible changes in the face of rapid urban development require the valorization of each element of the heritage, transmission of its values and empowering future generations to be the driving force for its continued preservation. Such work requires concerted efforts of all stakeholders involved.



2. Recommendations

2.1. Continued research into the heritage values

At the end of the project, researchers have put forth numerous issues about the Citadel which have yet to be thoroughly understood. Such issues include further clarification of specific intervals of the broader Dai La Period through architectural remains found at the site, investigation of structures within the Citadel's walls and identification of the link between different construction materials from the Six Dynasties Period and architectural remains. Furthermore, continued archaeological research in a wider area is needed to fully understand the entire structure and spatial planning of the site throughout the different dynasties.

Doing so requires further multilateral cooperation between researchers and combined historical-archaeological efforts to more fully assess the value of the property. Continued comparative analysis of the Imperial Citadel of Thang Long with other ancient citadels in the region such as Chengdu, Nanjing and Yangzhou is also of great importance to better understand the history of the site. Finally, publishing research articles in foreign languages is needed to connect Vietnamese researchers to global academia and to enable international efforts on historical and archaeological research into the values of the Citadel.

2.2. Improved conservation measures

The current situation of the outdoor unearthed artifacts requires urgent conservation measures. At the end of the project, the possibility of purchasing conservation equipments was discussed between Japanese and Vietnamese partners. Given the urgency of the task, it is recommended that the immediate conservation workplan should take into account the equipment required for preserving these artifacts.

Although some equipment was supplied and trainings were conducted through the Grant Assistance for Cultural Grassroots Projects, the issue of conserving unearthed metal artifacts was not fully dealt with in the course of the project. Vietnamese partners should take initiative in sustaining the impact of the assistance received through continual investment in maintenance of devices and training for staff.



2.3. Implementation of the Management Plan

The completion of the Management Plan marks an important milestone in the ongoing protection of the integrity and authenticity of the heritage. Making the Plan a reality requires that Thang Long Center strengthen its cooperation mechanism with relevant stakeholders such as related research institutes and municipal departments. A comprehensive mechanism for cooperation is important as the Center takes on the overall management of the whole heritage area. State authority in the management of the Citadel should be Thang Long Center as focal point to avoid overlap in levels of management. Sustaining the cooperation momentum achieved in the project will be instrumental for the Center in continuing the value assessment of the site and in leading conservation initiatives.

It is recommended that the Center further develop its GIS mapping system, building on the results of the project. The GIS team, consisting of Thang Long staff, is well equipped with knowledge and skills to extend the GIS system to other areas of the site. More investment in GIS devices and continual training will enable the Center to complete its GIS system and acquire a crucial computer-based tool for the management and conservation of the property.

A comprehensive interpretation system and diverse education programmes are other important elements of the Management Plan

to promote effective communication of the site's heritage values to the wider public. After the training on Public Use Planning methodology, it is recommended that Thang Long Center develop an extensive database of visitors, based on which a comprehensive communication programme can be devised. With the introduction of the Learning Corner, the Center is expected to reach out to a wider base of visitors, especially young students. Continual maintenance and innovation of the Learning Corner is of crucial importance. In addition, the Center should consider expanding cooperation with other museums and heritage centers in Viet Nam to diversify the contents of educational activities at the site.

Continual investment in capacity building for staff in all aspects of heritage management is needed. A significant strength of Thang Long Center's human resources lies in the dynamism and willingness to learn of the staff, the majority of which are relatively young. On the other hand, they lack experience in conservation and heritage management. Thus, creating opportunities for continually improving staff capacity should be a priority of the Center in both the short- and long-term. A few topics that the Center should target in future capacity building programmes include administration management, computer-based applications and heritage conservation.

FACTS AND FIGURES

1

Management Plan of the Cultural Heritage Complex of Thang Long-Ha Noi
Action Plan for the preservation and promotion of the Cultural Heritage Complex of Thang Long-Ha Noi 2012-2016
Local coordinate system for the Citadel
Base map applicable for GIS system
Bilingual book introducing the Imperial Citadel of Thang Long-Ha Noi for visitors
Identity package for the Cultural Heritage Complex of Thang Long-Ha Noi including a logo
Photo exhibition with educational activities
Disaster Risk Management Plan

6

Major scientific studies
Joint Vietnamese-Japanese working groups
Scientific workshops presenting research findings

16

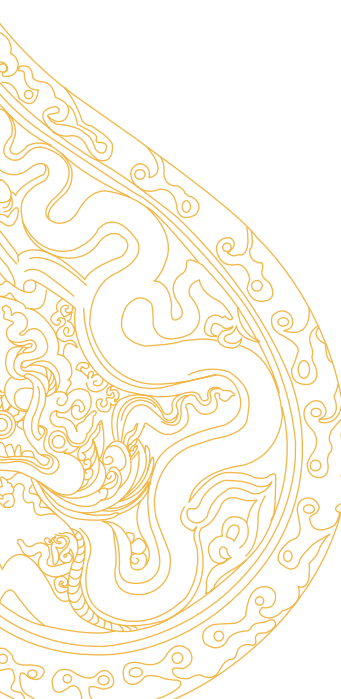
Training workshops organized

36

Japanese experts

49

Vietnamese experts



155

People trained on archaeological and conservation studies and GIS and Management Plan development

2

Publications on research findings of the Heritage

9

Sets of souvenir products for the Citadel

4

Mini-workshops on the heritage for students of universities and high schools in Ha Noi

160+

Students in Ha Noi participating in mini-workshops

400+

Students visiting the Citadel in UNESCO World Heritage Eco learning program

24

International and national counterparts



For more information on UNESCO Culture Program and possibilities to join hands to promote the role of culture for sustainable development in Viet Nam, please contact:

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