

# THAILAND

## Historic City of Ayutthaya and Associated Historic Towns

### II.1 Introduction

**Year of Inscription** 1991

#### Organisation Responsible for the Report

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Regional Office of Fine Arts, Pra Nakorn Sri Ayutthaya Province  
Bureau of Archaeology  
Fine Arts Department
- Ayutthaya Historical Park  
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### II.2 Statement of Significance

**Inscription Criteria** C iii

#### Statement of Significance

- Proposed as follows:  
“The historic city of Ayutthaya and associated historic towns (...) are the evidence of the highest prosperity of a Southeast Asian civilization in the 14<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> centuries AD. Ayutthaya, founded in 807 AD, was the second capital of the Kingdom of Siam after Sukhothai. It was one of the important economic and trade centers of the region. The economic prosperity of Ayutthaya resulted in the flourishing of all sorts of arts and culture, which are still evident nowadays.”

#### Status of Site Boundaries

- Attempts have been made to extend the preserved area in order to provide a buffer zone, but the immediate realization of this buffer zone is impeded by the closeness of the contemporary city of Ayutthaya.

### II.3 Statement of Authenticity / Integrity

#### Status of Authenticity/ Integrity

- Restorations of the historic city of Ayutthaya and associated historic towns started in 1854-1868, long before its inscription on the WH List.

- “However, after becoming a World Heritage in 1991, the Fine Arts Dept. improved the Plan

to cover a broader area and aspects. The Plan is known as the Master Plan of the Historic City of Ayutthaya, which aims to maintain the integrity and uniqueness of this World Heritage site.”



### II.4 Management

#### Administrative and Management Arrangements

- Management of the property is governed within the framework of two national laws: (i) ‘Act on Ancient Monuments, Antiques, Objects of Art and Nations Museums’ B.E. 2504 (1961), amended in B.E. 2535 (1992); (ii) ‘Regulations of the Fine Arts Department Concerning the Conservation of Monuments’ B.E. 2528.
- \* The ‘City Planning Act’ of 1975 reinforces the legal framework for the protection of the property through zoning regulations.

#### Present State of Conservation

- “In 1993, the Master Plan on the Conservation and Development of the Historic City of Ayutthaya was devised to provide a framework and guidelines. It is comprised of 5 major plans as follows: (i) Archaeology, History, and Ancient Monuments; (ii) Development and Improvement of Infrastructure; (iii) Improvement of Environment and Landscape; (iv) Development and Improvement of Community; (v) Relocation and Improvement of Land Use.

#### Staffing and Training Needs

- The staff at the Ayutthaya Historical Park is divided into academic and administrative staff. Both should be provided with additional training on site management and local community involvement.
- A scientific laboratory conducts regular research on matters related to restoration and preservation of the site’s monuments.

### Financial Situation

- The budget for the preservation and management of the Historic City of Ayutthaya is allocated by the Government of Thailand, but is insufficient to cover the financial needs when compared to the budget framework of the 'Master Plan on the Conservation and Development of the Historic City of Ayutthaya'.
- Entrance fees at the Ayutthaya Historical Park totalled 25.81 million Thai Baht (US\$ 598,840). \* No information on the date of this figure is provided.
- \* Since the emergency assistance request of US\$ 30,000 granted in 1996 to undertake emergency support and consolidation work on monuments at the Ayutthaya Historical Park deteriorated by the 1995 floods, no international assistance has been requested for the historic city of Ayutthaya.
- The Ayutthaya Historical Park has received financial assistance from American Express Co Ltd. for the reviving of monuments after the 1995 flooding.
- \* International Assistance from WHF: none.

### Access to IT

- Staff members have five PCs with Internet and email access at their disposal.
- Visitors have on-site Internet and email access.

### Visitor Management

- Tourist facilities at the Ayutthaya Historical Park include: printed and video documentation as well as exhibitions on the WH Site; parking spaces, restrooms, a website; telephone, telegram and currency exchange services.

## II.5 Factors Affecting the Property

### Threats and Risks

- The historic city of Ayutthaya being an island city on Chao Praya river, the major threat to its preservation and management is the risk of flooding.
- \* The increase of visitors might constitute a threat in the near future if no specific visitor management plan is implemented.

### Counteractive Plans

- To prevent the regular flooding from damaging the monuments both within and outside of the City island, an anti-flooding system is in construction. At present, the system within the City isle has been successfully set up.
- A system preventing flooding inside the preserved monuments area has also been set up according to the Master Plan's recommendations. The first of two phases of this plan has successfully been implemented.

## II.6 Monitoring

### Monitoring Arrangements

- The personnel of the Ayutthaya Historical Park is responsible for conducting all monitoring activities.
- A formal monitoring system to control and supervise the preservation and restoration of the historic city of Ayutthaya is currently being established by the Fine Arts Dept. in charge of the management of the WH property.

### Monitoring Indicators

- No information provided.

## II.7 Conclusions and Recommended Actions

### Conclusions and Proposed Actions

- "The historic city of Ayutthaya and associated historic towns is being preserved and managed to maintain its integrity."
- The proposed expansion of the preserved area to provide a buffer zone between the historic and the modern cities of Ayutthaya should take place as soon as possible.
- Similarly, amendments to the 'Master Plan on the Conservation and Development of the Historic City of Ayutthaya' are planned in order to change the ancient city of Ayutthaya into the Ayutthaya Historic Park.

### \* No State of Conservation Reports