

# **Rethinking of the Associative Value of the World Cultural Heritage and the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ)**

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Since I am not an expert of the DMZ, I am not going to go into detail of the DMZ and its heritage, however, I have been involved in the evaluation of all the World Cultural Heritage nominations for eight years, I have a considerable experiences for the requirements of the World Cultural Heritage inscription, I would like to discuss the DMZ from that particular viewpoint.

As you know, ICOMOS is one of three advisory bodies for the UNESCO in terms of World Heritage matters, that is clearly stipulates in the World Heritage Convention in 1972. All the nomination dossiers are forwarded to the ICOMOS for its evaluation, and with the ICOMOS recommendations whether it should be accepted, referred back to the State Party for further information, deferred, or rejected.

In the Article 24 of the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention (hereafter referred as the 'Operational Guidelines'), stipulates that nominated cultural heritage should be considered of 'outstanding universal value', that is to meet one or more of the following criteria;

- (i) represent a masterpiece of human creative genius; or
- (ii) exhibit an important interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town-planning or landscape design; or
- (iii) bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization which is living or which has disappeared; or
- (iv) be an outstanding example of a type of a building or architectural or

- technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history; or
- (v) be an outstanding example of a traditional human settlement or land-use which is representative of a culture (or cultures), especially when it has become vulnerable under the impact of irreversible change; or
  - (vi) be directly or tangibly associated with events or living traditions, with ideas, or with beliefs, with artistic and literary works of outstanding universal significance (the Committee considers that this criterion should justify inclusion in the List only in exceptional circumstances and in conjunction with other criteria cultural or natural) .

It is obvious that the criterion (vi) is the only one which is not directly indicates material value of outstanding universal significance. It clearly stipulates the associative value of human history and human activities both positive and negative.

When we review the current World Heritage List, we can find a series of monuments and sites which have been inscribed in the List under the criterion (vi).

In Asia, for example, there are 39 Monuments and Sites which are enlisted under the criterion (vi), such as Cultural Landscape and Archaeological Remains of the Bamiyan Valley (Afghanistan, 2003 C(i)(ii)(iii)(iv)(vi)), The Great Wall (China, 1987, C(i)(ii)(iii)(iv)(vi)), Magao Caves (China, 1987, C(i)(ii)(iii)(iv)(v)(vi)), Mausoleum of the First Qin Emperor (China, 1987, C(i)(iii)(iv)(vi)), Peking Man Site at Zhoukoudian (China, 1987, C(iii)(vi)), Temple and Cemetery of Confucius, and the Kong Family Mansion in Qufu (China, 1994, C(i)(iv)(vi)), Ancient Building Complex in the Wudang Mountains (China, 1994, C(i)(ii)(vi)), Historic Ensemble of the Potala Palace, Lhasa (China, 1994-2000-2002, C(i)(iv)(vi)), Lushan National Park (China, 1996, C(ii)(iii)(iv)(vi)), Mount Wuyi (China, 1999, N(iii)(iv), C(iii)(vi)), Mount Qincheng and the Dujiangyan Irrigation System (China, 2000, C(ii)(iv)(vi)), Imperial Tombs of the Ming and Qing Dynasties (China, 2000-2003, (i)(ii)(iii)(iv)(vi)), Ajanta Caves (India, 1983, C(i)(ii)(iii)(vi)), Ellora Caves (India, 1983, C(i)(iii)(vi)), Sun Temple, Kanarak (India, 1984, C(i)(iii)(vi)), Group of Monuments at Mahabalipuram, 1984, C(i)(ii)(iii)(vi)), Churches and Convents of Goa, (India, 1986, C(ii)(iv)(vi)), Buddhist Monuments at Sanchi, (India, 1989, C(i)(ii)(iii)(iv)(vi)), Mahabodhi Temple Complex at Bodh Gaya (India, 2002, C(i)(ii)(iii)(iv)(vi)), Borobudur Temple Compounds (Indonesia, 1991, C(i)(ii)(vi)), Sangiran Early Man Site (Indonesia, 1996, C(iii)(vi)), Persepolis (Iran, 1979,