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# Inscription of Hanyangdoseong – Bukhansanseong - Tangchundaeseong to the World Heritage List

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## Direction

With the aim of achieving UNESCO World Heritage status for South Korea's iconic fortress heritage, "Hanyangdoseong – Bukhansanseong - Tangchundaeseong," Seoul City places an emphasis on “heritage protection and management” and “heritage value promotion.”

### Seoul's Policy for World Heritage Inscription

- **"Hanyangdoseong – Bukhansanseong - Tangchundaeseong"** represents the pinnacle of capital fortress construction on the Korean Peninsula, utilizing natural environments.
  - "Hanyangdoseong – Bukhansanseong - Tangchundaeseong" is a fortress heritage built in the 18th century to safeguard the capital city of Joseon, Hanyang.

This heritage exemplifies the culmination of the gradual evolution of fortifications in the Korean capital over the ages, demonstrating the excellence in fortress construction on the Korean Peninsula while making the most of the natural environment's advantages.
- **Based on the Cultural Heritage Administration's recommendation for integrated inscription, efforts are underway to develop a new Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) that encompasses Hanyangdoseong, Bukhansanseong, and Tangchundaeseong for inscription.**
  - Since 2012, Seoul has been actively pursuing policies to inscribe Hanyangdoseong as a World Heritage Site. Starting in 2019, the city has been striving to gain recognition for its outstanding universal value by combining Bukhansanseong, Tangchundaeseong, and Hanyangdoseong into a single heritage, following the Cultural Heritage Administration's recommendation.
- **For the World Heritage Site inscription, collaborative research and promotional activities are underway with relevant local governments (Gyeonggi Province, Goyang City).**
  - In pursuit of World Heritage recognition, Seoul City, Gyeonggi Province and Goyang City, as the authorities responsible for heritage protection and management, have formed an inscription promotion team and enlisted expert researchers to jointly conduct research to meet the inscription criteria and continue cooperation for heritage value dissemination.
- **"Hanyangdoseong – Bukhansanseong - Tangchundaeseong" was selected as a candidate for inscription in April 2023 and is currently undergoing preliminary evaluation by ICOMOS as of April 2024.**
  - In December 2022, these efforts led to the site's inclusion in the Tentative List, followed by its selection as a candidate for inscription in April 2023.

In September, a request was submitted to UNESCO to comply with the newly introduced

preliminary evaluation system.

Building upon the preliminary evaluation results in October 2024, efforts will continue to enhance comparative studies with globally renowned fortress heritage sites and establish integrated protection and management plans, aiming for inscription as a World Heritage Site.

## **Seoul's Strategy for World Heritage Inscription**

- **Establishing a systematic maintenance, repair, and protection management plan to preserve the heritage's original form**
  - Despite experiencing partial damage due to factors like modernization in the early 20th century and the Korean War, the heritage has undergone systematic restoration and protection efforts. To preserve its original form, an integrated preservation and management plan was established in 2012. This plan involves identifying site conditions, construction techniques, and heritage characteristics. When necessary, repairs and maintenance are carried out to ensure seamless management.
  - In such cases, detailed status surveys of the repair sections are conducted based on documentary and archaeological research results. Specific repair plans are formulated, and construction is executed with approval from the Cultural Heritage Administration to maintain the heritage's integrity.
- **Demonstrating value through comparative research with renowned fortress heritages worldwide**
  - "Hanyangdoseong - Bukhansanseong - Tangchundaeseong" originated with the construction of Hanyangdo Fortress in the 14th century and was expanded in the early 18th century with the addition of Bukhansanseong and Tangchundaeseong, enhancing the capital's defense capabilities. Comparative research with other capital fortifications in East Asia and historical capital fortifications on the Korean Peninsula is conducted to extract the outstanding universal value of the heritage.
- **Additionally, Seoul City will continue its collaborative efforts with Gyeonggi Province and Goyang City in tasks such as academic research, heritage site maintenance, external cooperation, and education and promotion for World Heritage inscription, ensuring the seamless execution of these endeavors.**