

**SOLO DECLARATION
ON THE SAFEGUARDING AND PROTECTION OF HERITAGE**

We, the Representatives of the Cities of the Members of Euro-Asia Regional Secretariat of the Organization of World Heritage Cities (OWHC) participating in the International Conference of Euro-Asia World Heritage Cities in Solo on October, 25th-28th, 2008:

1. Acknowledging that cultural diversity and multi-culture understanding are basic foundation to create a harmonious world. The understanding and appreciation of the rich and diverse cultural heritage can contribute to multi-culture understanding and friendship across regions and countries. It will significantly contribute to reduce and settle tension and conflicts across the world;
2. Acknowledging that culture as the totality of human values, creative thinking and works, should be understood and developed as fundamental strength to shape the future;
3. Underscoring that the outstanding cultural works of the past should be maintained and preserved so that current and future generations can learn, understand, and enjoy the wisdom and experience from the past. Cultural heritage produces inspiration and motivation, as well as economic potential and inputs for further cultural development;
4. Underscoring that the cities should be a living space of which people can continuously improve their quality of life. Cities should create harmonious urban space, environment, develop the economy for the people's welfare, as well as develop dynamic and vibrant social and cultural life;
5. Understanding that cities are becoming more complex. It requires balanced and sustainable physical, economic, social and cultural development, supported by qualified human resources;
6. Noting that some cities with invaluable cultural heritage, have not been fully preserved, maintained, and appropriately utilized their assets despite their significant physical, economic, social and cultural values;

declare and call upon to support:

1. The balanced and sustainable physical, economic, social and cultural development, by utilizing the lessons learned and experiences of the past, and developing dynamics to respond to the present and future challenges;
2. The need to safeguard and protect cultural properties and develop harmonious living culture, which shape the distinctive image of the cities, and encourage a vibrant cultural life in various levels of the community. A clear policy, strategy, and implementation program need to be developed in each city;
3. The need to utilize the wisdom and lessons learned from the heritage to enhance quality of life and the people's welfare, and to strengthen the basis for creative and sustainable development;
4. The significance of improving and strengthening cooperation among cities in order to consolidate various efforts in conserving and developing productive and

- dynamic heritage cities, based on inter-community, inter-city and inter-country understanding;
5. The need to develop sustainable tourism which will benefit the economy, enhance inter-cultural understanding, strengthen the value of tolerance, freedom and democracy as well as powerful educational tool on environmental matters and heritage;
 6. The desire to promote the community's understanding and appreciation on history and culture through formal and non-formal education, media, and various activities in daily life as well as the need to encourage and facilitate the community initiatives on various heritage conservation movement;
 7. The importance of local, national, regional, and international efforts in safeguarding, protecting, preserving, and revitalizing traditional culture and knowledge. To this end, it is urgent to expedite the establishment of international instrument which has been discussed under the auspices of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) as well as social and cultural strengths, to support such efforts and prevent misuse, misappropriation and misexploitation of the cultural assets;
 8. The urgency for states, who have not yet done so, to ratify the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage at their earliest convenience, which will allow intangible heritage elements from all countries and from all cities and town to be proposed for inscription on the list of the Convention;
 9. The urgency to formulate and develop programs on technical cooperation, database on national heritage, information, communication, and education as well disaster preparedness and disaster risk management.

We, the participants of the Conference noted the success of the Conference and expressing our appreciation to the Government of Republic of Indonesia and the Organization of World Heritage Cities (OWHC) for facilitating this conference and special appreciation to the City of Solo for its role and contributions as the host of the International Conference of Euro-Asia World Heritage Cities, its endeavor in developing a cultural city which unites the potentials of nature, tangible and intangible cultural heritages, as well as its relentless efforts to establish a network of heritage cities across Indonesia including its intention to organize periodic expo, workshop and cultural events.

Done in Solo, Indonesia, on the 28th of October, two thousands and eight.