

Seto Inland Sea and Coastal Places of Scenic Beauty for New World Heritage

Takino, Hideo

The people's Alliance to Protect the Environmental of the Seto Inland Sea, Japan

The total registered world heritage defined by the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972) includes 690 items at the end of 2000; cultural: 529, natural: 138, complexed: 23, in Japan cultural: 9, natural: 2.

After reception of applied registration from joined nations, the World Heritage Committee dispatches the NGO professional members of IUCN to the applied site to survey and issues evaluation report.

As for the applied cultural heritage, including complexed ones, similarly it examines the reports made with aid by ICOMOS. The committee consists of related NGOs and makes final decision.

The Seto Inland Sea Conservation Special Measures Law defines, "the government should transpass the beauty and benefit of Seto Inland Sea as the incomparably beautiful place not only domestically but globally.....to our descendants".

The conservation of nature is the most critical and common subject of all human beings. The Japanese government should apply registration of Seto Inland Sea and the peripheral places of scenic beauty to UNESCO.

If the whole area of national park and nationally-designated, prefectural parks and other nature conserved coastal area or sanctuaries of creatures are registered and classified as "core zone" of natural heritage and other sea area, as "buffer zone", and is controlled and protected properly, these heritage value will be outstandingly enhanced. Around the coastal area, along with Itsukushima Shrine there are many scenic spots, remains and buildings worth for cultural heritage nominee. Now citizen movement to register "Tomo-no-Ura" in Hiroshima Pref. is gaining its momentum. The application may pass the examination regarding protection control system set by domestic law. But Japanese and related local governments that hesitates to set strict regulation on development of Seto coastal area deny this application of registration to the World Heritage.