

MEMORY OF THE WORLD REGISTER

Huang Di Nei Jing (《黄帝内经》)

(*Yellow Emperor's Inner Canon*)

(P.R. China)

Ref N° 2010-15

PART A – ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

1. SUMMARY

Huang Di Nei Jing (《黄帝内经》 *Yellow Emperor's Inner Canon*) is the earliest and most important written work of Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM). It consists of 2 parts: *Suwen* (《素问》 *Plain Questions*) and *Lingshu* (《灵枢》 *Miraculous Pivot*), each of which includes 9 volumes and 81 chapters with a total of more than 800,000 Chinese words. This documentary heritage was compiled over 2,200 years ago during the Warring States period (475-221 BC) in Chinese history. It is regarded as the fundamental and most representative medical text based on which TCM was systematically recorded, standardized, developed, recognized and nowadays being applied by and to people of different countries and races.

Huang Di Nei Jing is invaluable in the following aspects:

- a) It summarizes the theory and practices of TCM before the 2nd century BC. It is the first masterpiece introducing comprehensively the concepts and practices of preventive medicine and of preservation good health, which coincide with the bio-psycho-social model advocated by modern medical science. The documented details of diagnosis and treatment methods such as the theory of channels-collaterals and acupuncture-moxibustion therapy, and the principles as well as the dos and don'ts in preserving good health through proper nutrition and harmony between human spirit and the environment are time-honoured with significant impact on medical and pharmaceutical studies and practices.
- b) The emphasis of *Huang Di Nei Jing* on disease prevention and treatment at the early stage converge with the health concepts of the 20th and 21st century advanced by the World Health Organization (WHO). Its coherent theories and non-intrusive treatment methods prove to be innovative and sustainable sources of medical knowledge for continuous research and development of health care that benefits mankind over time and across boundary.
- c) Through cultural exchange and communication over the centuries, *Huang Di Nei Jing* was introduced to Japan, Korea, Vietnam and many European countries and regions. It has drawn enormous interests in and inspired wide research and development of TCM worldwide. Although the pioneering theories and practices it advocates dated some 2200 years ago, they are still embraced and applied nowadays. In fact *Huang Di Nei Jing* remains a prescribed reference for the study of TCM. Anyone who learns, practices or receives treatment from TCM owes to the wisdom of this landmark classic.
- d) *Huang Di Nei Jing* expounds the concept of health with the philosophic thinking of Taoism and Confucianism. Many consider it one of the most important classics of Taoism. Through medical discoveries and inventions, TCM as recorded in *Huang Di Nei Jing* offers a holistic approach to human life by explaining cogently how the environment, human life-style and the state of human spirit affect the quality of human existence. Thus the significance of this documentary heritage lies not only in systematic recording and preserving the thousand years of TCM theory and practices; it also provides inspiring perspectives of life and living as well as new cognitive methods reflective of the ancient culture and civilization of the Orient.

Huang Di Nei Jing is highly regarded by medical practitioners, therapists and all those who are interested in TCM or Chinese philosophy throughout the world. No similar works of its kind could compare to this documentary heritage in terms of its historical importance and far-reaching impact. The edition nominated for inscription in the Memory of the World Register was carved and printed in 1339 by Hu's Gulin Sanctum using the woodblock printing technique. It is the earliest and the most well preserved authoritative version of *Huang Di Nei Jing* now extant.

2. NOMINATOR

2.1 Name (person or organization)

National Library of China

2.2 Relationship with the documentary heritage nominated

The National Library of China representing the State is the owner and keeper of the nominated documentary heritage.

2.3 Contact person (s)

Mr. LIN Shi-tian
Rare Books Department of the National Library of China

2.4 Contact details (include address, telephone, fax and email)

Address: Rare Books Department of the National Library of China,
No. 33 Zhongguancun South Street, Beijing, 100081,
Republic of China
Telephone: 86-10-88545825
Facsimile: 86-10-68716449
Email: linst@nlc.gov.cn

3. IDENTITY AND DESCRIPTION OF THE DOCUMENTARY HERITAGE

3.1 Name and identification details of the items being nominated

Huang Di Nei Jing (《黄帝内经》 *Yellow Emperor's Inner Canon*) preserved by the National Library of China located at No. 33 Zhongguancun South Street, Beijing, 100081, Republic of China.

3.2 Description

3.2.1 General Description

Huang Di Nei Jing consists of 2 parts, *Suwen* (《素问》 *Plain Questions*) and *Lingshu* (《灵枢》 *Miraculous Pivot*), each of which includes 9 volumes and 81 chapters with a total of more than 800,000 Chinese words. It is in the size of 20.4 cm ×12.4 cm with 14 lines in each page, carrying 24 characters per line. Each chapter of the book is a comprehensive and independent document covering several themes. The version nominated for inscription in the Memory of the World Register was printed and published by Hu's Gulin Sanctum in 1339 using the woodblock-printing technique. It is the earliest and the best-preserved version of its kind now extant.

Suwen (《素问》 *Plain Questions*) gives comprehensive explanations of health preservation, physiology, pathology, diagnosis, etiology, pathogenesis, medicine application, treating principles and the activation of “Qi” circulation based on the unique concept of unity of man and nature, and the holistic idea of unity of body and mind. *Lingshu* (《灵枢》 *Miraculous Pivot*) expounds the anatomic structure of human body, the concept of *zang-fu* (organs) and clinical practices including the theory of channels and collaterals, location of acu-points, acupuncture facilities as well as acupuncture-moxibustion techniques.

According to the studies of many scholars, *Huang Di Nei Jing* was not compiled by a single author within a limited period of time; rather, it was the fruit of the joint efforts of many experienced and dedicated physicians over the centuries. The major part of the book was completed with various editions in the Warring States period of Chinese history (475-221 BC) with supplements and revisions made in the following Qin Dynasty (221-206 BC) and Han Dynasty (206 BC- 220 AD). Thus the book is an agglomeration of medical theories and clinical experiences before the Qin and Han Dynasties.

The name of the book, *Huang Di Nei Jing* (《黄帝内经》 *Yellow Emperor's Inner Canon*), can be found in ancient literature such as *Qilue* (《七略》 the earliest Chinese Bibliography) and *Hanshu: Yiwenzhi* (《汉书·艺文志》 *Chronicles of the Han Dynasty: Bibliography of Art and Literature*) completed around 250 BC and 111 BC respectively. It is therefore indicated that *Huang Di Nei Jing* has a history of more than 2,200 years. Huang Di, the Yellow Emperor, is also known as the Father of Chinese civilization. Undoubtedly, the title of the book reflects its value and authority.

3.2.2 Catalogue or registration details

Huang Di Nei Jing is registered in:

a) *The National Directory of Precious Ancient Books (Guojia zhengui guji minglu)*, National library of China, China National Center for Protection of Ancient Books Beijing: National Library Press, 006272

b) *The Catalogue for Ancient Rare Books in China (Zhongguo guji shanben shumu)*, Compilation committee for Catalogue for Ancient Rare Books in China, Shanghai: Shanghai Chinese Classics Publishing House, 1996, P.176

c) *The National Library of China Public Access Catalogue*, at -

http://opac.nlc.gov.cn/F/H5398N2PBBPMGKUPESXY4QLN9VC2I14M9NUYMXVJ71MTF9E5UE-02780?func=full-set-set&set_number=214809&set_entry=000002&format=999

d) *The General Catalogue for Chinese Medical Classics* in China, Shanghai Lexicographical Publishing House, 2007, p.1 (*Zhongguo zhongyi guji zongmu*)

3.2.4 History/Origin/Background/Provenance

The original *Huang Di Nei Jing* was compiled in the 2nd century BC and had been copied in bamboo slips, silk scrolls and paper until officially published during 9th and 10th centuries AD. It was further edited by the government authorized Bureau of Revising Medical Works of the Northern Song Dynasty (960-1127). The National Library of China acquired the nominated copy which was printed in 1339 by woodblock printing. It was catalogued with other rare books in the *Beijing Library's Ancient Rare Books Bibliography* (1987). In 2000, the bibliographical data of the book was entered into machine-readable database of the National Library of China. Readers can access the information about the book on the website of the Library.

3.2.5 Assessment of physical state and storage condition

Given this documentary heritage has been in existence for over 600 years, the paper is aged and slightly torn in one page. It is kept on shelves in a temperature and humidity controlled stockroom for rare books in the Chinese National Library. Copies in microfilm and CD ROM are available for public access.

3.2.7 Referees

a) Professor Li Zhi-zhong
Member of State Cultural Relics Authentication Committee,
Professor at Nanjing University,
Head of Development & Research Institute of the National Library of China and the Chief Expert of the National Library of China.

Address : Rare Books Department,
The National Library of China
No. 33 Zhongguancun South Street
Beijing, 100081
People's Republic of China

b) Professor Yu Ying'ao
Research Fellow and Professor at the Institute for the History of Chinese Medicine and Medical Literature, China Academy of Chinese Medical Sciences,
Member of the National Leadership Group for Ancient Rare Books
Address : Institute for the History of Chinese Medicine and Medical Literature

China Academy of Chinese Medical Sciences
16 Nan Xiao Jie, Dongzhimen Nei
Beijing, 100700
People's Republic of China

c) Mr. Liu Chang-lin
Research Fellow of Chinese Academy of Social Sciences,
Editorial Board Member of *Basic Theory Sub-Volume of Traditional Chinese Medicine Encyclopedia*,
Vice-president of China Confucius Foundation,
Director of Academic Committee and Assistant Dean of Qufu Confucius College.

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Fengtai District
Beijing, 100079
People Republic of China

4. JUSTIFICATION FOR INCLUSION/ ASSESSMENT AGAINST CRITERIA

4.1 Authenticity

a) Confirmation by the State Records

The earliest reference to *Huang Di Nei Jing* was found in *Hanshu* (《汉书》 *Chronicles of the Han Dynasty*), which was compiled officially by the well-known historian Ban Gu during the reign of Liu Zhao, the Hedi Emperor of the Han Dynasty. It was also mentioned in *Hanshu: Yiwen Zhi: Fangji Lue* (《汉书·艺文志·方技略》 *Summary of Techniques, Bibliography of Art and Literature in Chronicles of the Han Dynasty*) that there were in total 7 medical classics in China including *Huang Di Nei Jing* (《黄帝内经》 *Yellow Emperor's Inner Canon*). The other classics were all lost. Only *Huang Di Nei*

Jing is still available.

b) Revision by Government Authority

As mentioned in Section 3 of this submission, *Huang Di Nei Jing* was not compiled by a single author within a limited period of time; rather, it was the fruit of the joint efforts of many experienced and dedicated physicians over the centuries. The major part of the book was completed with various editions in the Warring States period of Chinese history ((475-221 BC). Supplements and revisions were made in the following Qin Dynasty (221-206 BC) and Han Dynasty (206 BC- 220 AD).

This documentary heritage was further edited by the Imperial Bureau of Revising Medical Works of the Northern Song Dynasty (960-1127), which was established in 2nd year of Jiayou reign (1057) of the Renzong Emperor of the Northern Song Dynasty by His Royal order. Well-known scholars, such as LIN Yi, GAO Bao-Heng and SUN Qi were responsible for the revising and editing of the book.

c) The Nominated Version

The nominated version of *Huang Di Nei Jing* (《黄帝内经》 *Yellow Emperor's Inner Canon*) was printed and published in 1339 by the Hu's Gulin Sanctum using the technique of block carving and printing. It survives overtime and was evaluated and acquired by the National Library of China in 1954. Since then this documentary heritage has been preserved among other rare books in the Library without change of custody. Its authenticity is unquestionable.

4.2 World Significance, uniqueness and irreplaceability

a) World Significance

Huang Di Nei Jing is the most seminal and representative medical work in written form for Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM). It summarizes the Chinese medical achievements of thousands of years by incorporating theories, concepts and clinical experience into a coherent framework with standardized terminology that facilitates understanding and continuous development. More importantly it articulates a treasure of ancient knowledge on the natural way to health with detailed practical advice on preventive medicine, ways of preserving good health and methods of diagnosis and treatment of diseases. Compiled some 2,200 years ago, it laid down the foundation and inspired further development of TCM not only in China but also in its neighbouring countries and beyond. This documentary heritage is held as the provenance and origin of traditional medicine for Japanese Kampo medicine, traditional Korean medicine, Vietnamese medicine as well as the source of the more recent alternative medicine and therapy in the West.

As early as the 6th to 10th Century, students from Korea, Japan and the Arab countries were sent to China to study science and technology including medical sciences. *Huang Di Nei Jing* was their principle text, which was brought back to their countries for further dissemination.

Huang Di Nei Jing has wide and far-reaching influence on the research, development and application of TCM, contributing particularly to the maintenance of health and providing alternative treatment for different diseases. Since the middle of the last century, the book has been translated into many foreign languages, including English. It is considered the common spiritual wealth of mankind. The theoretical system of preventive medicine of TMC including the visceral manifestations, channels and collaterals, etiology, pathogenesis, diagnostics and differentiation of syndromes, the therapeutic methods and principles represented by acupuncture-moxibustion as well the use of herbal medicine based on this documentary heritage are recognized and applied in guiding TCM and its related practices all over the world.

b) Uniqueness

Huang Di Nei Jing is the earliest and the most comprehensive written work of Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) and a major classic of Taoist theory and life style dated back to some 2200 years ago. It is also the first medical text comprising innovative medical theory and practices and using standardized terminology that are still applicable. It departs from the old shamanistics beliefs that disease is caused by demonic influences but instead closely relates to diet, emotion, life style, environment, age and heredity. In short this documentary heritage has been regarded as the fundamental doctrinal source for TCM to this day. It has inspired research and study not only in TCM in Eastern Asian countries but also affects the growth of alternative medicine and therapy in other parts of the world.

The version nominated for inscription in the Memory of the World Register was printed in 1339. Its unique layout and classification reflects the ancient literary style and advance techniques in paper-making, bookbinding and woodblock printing of China at the time. Further it is the only well-preserved authoritative version comprising the full set of documents still legible in spite of its age.

c) Inreplaceability

The original copy of *Huang Di Nei Jing* did not survive nor the version revised and edited by the Bureau of Revising Medical Works of the Northern Song Dynasty. Its best-preserved and most authoritative version is the one carved and printed in 1339 by the Hu's Gulin Sanctum, which is identical with the version revised by the Bureau of Revising Medical Works. The copy submitted for inscription in the Memory of the World Register is the authentic, the best preserved and most complete version of *Huang Di Nei Jing* extant.

4.3 Significance in time, place, people, form and style

a) Time and Place

Huang Di Nei Jing is the summary of medical theory and practices of China during the crucial historical periods which witnessed the establishment of traditional medical system in China and followed by its neighbouring countries and regions. This documentary heritage, traced back to some 2200 years ago, is the earliest, most systematic, and most complete ancient medical book of china. It is also the mother text of Traditional Chinese Medicine that moulded the development of medical theories and practices in other East Asian countries such as Japan, Korea and Vietnam.

The medical model, theoretical system, treatment and therapy described in *Huang Di Nei Jing* are still applied in TMC today. They are also taken as useful references by conventional medicine. Moreover, the theory of preventive medicine and health preservation put forth by *Huang Di Nei Jing* have become the subjects for research and development of modern medicine promoted by the World Health Organization.

b) People

Huang Di Nei Jing was compiled and revised by numerous Chinese physicians some 2200 years ago. Yellow Emperor (Huangdi) was held in the highest regard as the pioneer and outstanding representative of Chinese ancient science and technology and Oriental civilization. The name *Huang Di Nei Jing* (*Yellow Emperor's Inner Canon*) reflects the value and authority attached to the book.

The 2nd century BC was the critical time during which ancient Chinese civilization flourished with important progress made in arts, philosophy, meteorology, medicine, geography, phenology and agriculture. *Huang Di Nei Jing* expounds the concept of health with the philosophic thinking of Taoism and Confucianism. It reveals the ways of thinking, goals, living habits and customs of the

society at the time; offering understanding not only in medical achievement but also many aspects of social and cultural development.

This documentary heritage has been passed down successively through the carriers of bamboo slips, silk scrolls and paper and was officially blockprinted by the government of the Song Dynasty between the 9th and 10th centuries AD. Since then it was revised and edited, and reprinted over 50 times. It was also introduced to many Asian countries including Japan, Korea, and Vietnam. For example, it was stated at the earliest medical decree “Dabao decree” (701 AD) of Japan that *Ling Shu (Miraculous Pivot)* and *Huang Di Zhen Jing (Yellow Emperor’s Acupuncture Canon)* should be taken as the required textbook for all medical students. This documentary heritage has also been frequently and extensively cited in Japanese works such as *Su Wen Yao Yu (Essential Phrases of Plain Questions)* in 9 volumes, *Ling Shu Yao Yu (Essential Phrases of Miraculous Pivot)* in 8 volumes noted by TAKENAKA TUUAN in 1699, and the 12-volume *Huang Di Nei Jing Jiang Yi (Explanation of Yellow Emperor’s Inner Canon)* written by KITAMURA KOUSOU in 1854. *Su Wen Shi (Records of Plain Questions)* in 8 volumes and *Ling Shu Shao Shi (Record of Miraculous Pivot Consciousness)* in 6 volumes written by TANBA MOTOYASU in 1806 and *Su Wen Shao Shi (The Continuous Records of Plain Questions)* in 4 volumes compiled by TANBA MOTOKATA, the son of TANBA MOTOYASU, in 1846 are particularly well elaborated and explored.

In 1091, Korea sent envoys to China and brought back several ancient medical works. *Su Wen of Huang Di Nei Jing* was listed as a compulsory textbook in their medical institutions in the year 1136. A large number of their medical works such as *Xiang Yao Ji Cheng Fang (Collection of Formulry of Home Medicines)* in 1433, *Yi Fang Lei Ju (Classified Collection of Prescription)* in 1445, and *Dong Yi Bo Gam (Precious Mirror of Oriental Medicine)* in 1613 all cited texts from *Huang Di Nei Jing*. As far as Vietnam is concerned, *Hai Shang Yi Zong Xin Ling Quan Zhi (Comprehension of Medical Tenet on the Sea)*, written by Li Youzhuo and published during the period of 1879-1885, is a large comprehensive medical book which includes the abridged annotation of *Huang Di Nei Jing*.

In modern times, *Huang Di Nei Jing* also attracted the attention of the medical circles of Europe and United States. In 1949, Dr. I. Veith (U.S.A) translated 34 chapters of *Su Wen* into English and published them under the title of *Huang Di Nei Jing (Yellow Emperor’s Inner Canon)*. Content of *Huang Di Nei Jing* was translated or quoted by European or American authors in many works, such as Alfred Forke from Britain in his book *Zhong Guo Ren De Shi Jie Guan Tian Wen Yu Zhou He Wu Li Zhe Xue De Li Lun (The Theory of World View, Astronomy, Universe, and Physical Philosophy of the Chinese People)* of 1925, in 1934 by the American William R. Morse in his book *Zhong Guo Yi Xue (Chinese Medicine)*, and in 1925 by Percy M. Dawson in *Su Wen-Zhong Guo Yi Xue Ji Chu (Plain Questions, the Fundamentals of Chinese medicine)*. In 2003, Dr. Paul Unschuld, Professor and Director of the Institute for the History of Medicine at Munich University published his famous work, *Huang Di Nei Jing Su Wen : Nature, Knowledge, Imagery in an Ancient Chinese Medical Text*, which gives a comprehensive survey and analysis of the content and influence of this milestone Chinese medical classic.

Huang Di Nei Jing provides innovative theories and practices for many aspects of medicine, hygiene and health-care. It is an important text for researchers and physicians from different parts of the world and its influence is across time and territories. Anyone who learns, practises or receives treatment from traditional Chinese medicine has benefited from the wisdom of this remarkable classic.

c) **Subject and Theme**

Huang Di Nei Jing documents the medical accomplishment of China before the 2nd century BC. Based on the theoretical basis of Yin-Yang, Qi and the Five Elements (or phases), it provides a comprehensive and systematic summary of the relationship between physical and mental activities and the pathological changes in the human body; covering a wide scope of internal medicine, surgery, gynaecology, paediatrics and infectious diseases.

Huang Di Nei Jing is the first medical text which departs from the old shamanistic beliefs that disease is caused by demonic influences. It expounds the concept of health with the philosophic thinking of Taoism and Confucianism. It sees diseases closely related to diet, emotion, life style, environment, age and heredity. Emphasis is placed on the unity of man and nature, and the holistic idea of body and mind. Accordingly, human activities should be in conformity with the regular changes of the nature, including climatic changes of the 4 seasons, alternation of day and night, and the cyclic phases of the moon. At the same time, emotions should be adjusted and desires restrained with ethical considerations given that high moral value is an essential element of self-control to minimize the consumptive injuries brought to the body and mind.

The book discusses the principles and prescribes methods of diagnosis and treatment of diseases in the realms of the visceral organs (*Zang* and *Fu*), channels and collaterals, pathogenesis, diagnostics, acupuncture and moxibustion, herbal medicine, etc. A large number of 'modern' diseases such as malaria, gout, diabetes, coronary heart disease, rheumatic arthritis, cerebrovascular problems are mentioned in the book with detailed analyses and treatment methods.

Before *Huang Di Nei Jing*, there is no comprehensive written work on Chinese medical theory but primarily practical treatment and applications handed down by words of mouth or acquired through practical experience. *Huang Di Nei Jing* therefore could be seen as the pioneer which aims to combine medical theory and practices within a wider cosmogonic framework in establishing a coherent system for medical science. As a result, this documentary heritage becomes the cornerstone for Traditional Chinese Medicine and the standard for future learning. Its theories and practices have guided not only the development of traditional medicine in China, its neighbouring countries and beyond for centuries, it also has huge influence on the growth of alternative medicine and holistic therapy worldwide.

Apart from offering a better understanding of the roots of Traditional Chinese Medicine, *Huang Di Nei Jing* reflects the dominant values and social goals of ancient Chinese society. The book is invaluable to those who are interested in learning about the cultural and intellectual past of China.

d) **Form and style**

i) **Form**

The nominated copy is printed on ancient Chinese paper in the size of 20.4 cm × 12.4 cm with 14 lines in each page carrying 24 characters per line. It highlights ancient oriental papermaking technique and unique bookbinding style of ancient Chinese books. It is also an outstanding and rare example showing the ancient woodblock printing technique in China dated 13th and 14th century.

ii) **Style**

The book is written in an interlocution pattern, with Yellow Emperor raises questions on medical issues and his sage physicians Qibo and Leigong answer by explaining medical theories and principles with illustrations of clinical experience and practices. The text is written in lively and yet poetic language in rhyme, which demonstrates the rich medical knowledge and refine literary culture in China at the time.

4.4 Issues of Rarity, Integrity, Risk and Management

a) **Rarity**

Although the *Huang Di Nei Jing (Yellow Emperor's Inner Canon)* has been edited and reprinted many times over the centuries, this copy nominated for inscription in the Memory of the World Register is the earliest and the best preserved authoritative version. Moreover, it is the only copy containing the full set of documents extant. Written and printed on ancient paper using traditional printing technique

dated some 600 years ago, the rarity and intrinsic value of this documentary heritage are beyond doubt.

b) Integrity

This documentary heritage is very well preserved and contains the full set of documents in spite of its age. Apart from a page, the book is basically complete without missing text.

c) Risk

Please refer to Section 8 of this Submission.

d) Management Plan

Please refer to Section 6 of this Submission

5. LEGAL INFORMATION

5.1 Owner of the documentary heritage

The National Library of China

5.2 Custodian of the documentary heritage

Director General of Ancient Books Department of the National Library of China

Address: No.33 Zhongguancun South Street, Beijing, 100081, the People's Republic of China

Telephone: 86-10-88545825

Facsimile: 86-10-68716449

Email: linst@nlc.gov.cn

5.3 Legal status

a. Ownership

The documentary heritage is state-owned

b. Accessibility

The Original book is not for public access except for appointed assignments of special purposes. Microfilms and digital CD-ROMs are available for users.

c. Copyright Status

Copyright is held by the National Library of China

d. Responsible Administration

The National Library of China

6. MANAGEMENT PLAN

a) The documentary heritage is on the top priority list of precious ancient books preserved by the National Library of China. It is kept in the Rare Books Stockroom under constant temperature and

humidity control and guarded 24 hours by a electronic monitoring system. Regular checks and preservation procedures are conducted by specialists in the National Library.

- b) Rescuing and management plan includes:
 - i) Establish a special repository with optimal conditions for preservation of rare, ancient archives.
 - ii) Publish an emulation edition of the submitted version with photocopies made to avoid further handling of the original copy required for special purposes.
 - iii) Deacidify the original copy to extend the life of the book.
 - iv) Digitalize the book to facilitate search and retrieval.

7. CONSULTATION

- a) The owner of the documentary heritage : the National Library of China
- b) The Custodian of the documentary heritage : Director General of Ancient Books Department of the National Library of China
- c) The States Archives Bureau of China
- d) The documentary heritage is recommended for nomination by the Chinese Commission of Memory of the World
- e) Memory of the World Asia Pacific Regional Committee

PART B – SUBSIDIARY INFORMATION

8. ASSESSMENT OF RISK

- a) The documentary heritage is currently kept in the climate-controlled Rare Books Stockroom of the National Library of China with a special alarm system and fire extinguishers installed. Authorized access is monitored by an electronic surveillance system around the clock.
- b) There is no immediate threat regarding security and preservation as the documentary heritage is being well looked after by professionals.

9. ASSESSMENT OF PRESERVATION

9.1 Preservation context

The documentary heritage is more than 600 years old. It was acquired by the National Library of China in 1954 and has been well preserved in its Ancient Books Department.

9.2 Preservation guidelines

Safety measures and emergency procedures in the National Library of China are recognized and approved by the Chinese Government. Well-trained professionals, equipment and strict rules concerning the management of the storage rooms for rare books are prescribed by regulations. The documentary heritage is managed and preserved by designated staff.

9.3 Preservation needs

Given the age of this documentary heritage, the papers are fragile and 1 page is slightly torn. A more thorough and effective preservation plan is required to prolong the lifespan of this invaluable