

POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES OF LUMBINI WORLD PEACE CITY PROJECT

1. Lumbini will gradually lose its identity as the birthplace of the Buddha.¹
2. Lumbini will lose its tranquility and spiritual atmosphere.² Buddhists and peace seekers will lose a place to retreat, to reflect, and gain inner strength.
3. Change of concept and functionality of Kenzo Tange master plan.
4. Sudden switch from Kenzo Tange master plan to Lumbini World Peace City plan will lead to the Government of Nepal's loss of credibility among donors.
5. Commercialization of Lumbini. This amounts to disrespect to the place and the worldwide Buddhist community.
6. Conflict between Kenzo Tange master plan and World Peace City plan.
7. Review of Lumbini's World Heritage status becomes necessary.
8. Loss of 22 square miles of buffer zone.

¹ Lumbini's identity as the 'Birthplace of the Buddha' will be hidden in the future and the identity as a 'Lumbini World Peace City' would become more popular among future generations.

Lumbini is located in a non-Buddhist country. Lack of spiritual awareness, disrespect towards the existing Kenzo Tange master plan among (previous) management authorities and instability of political situation in Nepal are reasons of deep concern regarding this point.

² Covering an area of 11 Village Development Committees (VDCs) and to be built for 200,000 world citizens the Lumbini World Peace City project will become a serious threat to the present physical tranquil atmosphere of this holy place which consequently effects the spiritual atmosphere. The current UNESCO guidelines for the detailed physical plan of the Lumbini Sacred Garden support sustainable tranquility of Lumbini, and its spiritual integrity.

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9. Increase in population, population density, and population pressure.
10. Urbanization will lead to an increase in air pollution, noise pollution, surface and ground water pollution, blocked and polluted rivers, garbage, loss of wildlife habitat and resultant threat of extinction to various endangered animal and bird species, loss of plant habitat, urban heat islands, human encroachment and arising of slums, and a potential impact on public health.³
11. Loss of balance of ecosystem.
12. Increased air pollution and aquifer pollution will further degrade Ashoka pillar, Nativity statue, Marker stone, and ancient vestiges.
13. Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment (CHIA) and Environment Impact Assessment will have to be carried out.
14. Does the management authority or the site manager have the capacity to manage the Lumbini Development Area of 25 sq. miles with a population of 200,000 in addition to the present demographical situation?

³ The Buddha's love for nature should be respected at a place where he was born. The current "Lumbini landscape" of agricultural areas and wooded areas as buffer zones to the inner sacredmost area (though it is losing its restricted areas designed by the Kenzo Tange) is the best pilgrimage place among the other Buddhist holy sites in India. Pilgrims and visitors who visit Lumbini have full respect towards this spiritual atmosphere with its physical simplicity of the site. Buddhist pilgrims and visitors from all over the world admire the present Lumbini landscape with its surrounding nature. Only the Lumbini Kenzo Tange Master plan offers this specific quality to visitors but the World Peace City plan can not.

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15. Above consequences will have an overall negative impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Property Lumbini.
16. World Heritage Committee might decide to place Lumbini under the category of “World Heritage in Danger.”