



On behalf of the World Heritage Centre I want to extend my deepest sympathy to the countries devastated by the recent earthquake and the ensuing tsunami in the Indian Ocean and express the sorrow we have all felt for the tragic loss of life in the region.

The conservation community mourns the loss of several staff members of the Gunung Leuser National Park, one of the three national parks within the Indonesian World Heritage site Tropical Rainforest of Sumatra. The site itself has not sustained major damage.

The site of the Old Town of Galle and its Fortifications in Sri Lanka has been flooded and preliminary reports indicate that there has been important damage, notably affecting underwater heritage in the ancient harbour. The Marine Archaeology Laboratory in Galle has been demolished and its equipment and findings were lost. The Galle Fort itself has been reported intact.

The Indian sites of Mahabalipuram and the Sun Temple of Konarak, also located in the affected zones, have not suffered any substantial damage, according to the Indian national authorities.

The World Heritage Centre remains committed to taking all the necessary and appropriate action to assist in the preservation and rehabilitation of the damaged sites. The involvement of the local populations in these endeavors is of primary importance.

The year 2005 promises to be rich in events for the Centre. The 29th session of the World Heritage Committee, which will be held in Durban, South Africa on July 10-16, will mark the first time that the Committee will be meeting south of the Sahara. We look forward to this event as a way to strengthen the commitment of the international community to preserve the natural and cultural heritage of Africa.

Ahead of that meeting, South Africa is also hosting in March a preparatory meeting of African Experts on the Implementation of the *World Heritage Convention*. This will be an important opportunity to discuss concrete proposals to support long term conservation of African Heritage.

It should also be noted that, as requested by the World Heritage Committee, a Special Experts' Meeting will take place in Kazan, Tatarstan, Russian Federation, on April 6-9. This meeting will be focused on a discussion of the concept of 'outstanding universal value', a key element in the implementation of the *Convention*.

In May, the World Heritage Centre will be organizing a meeting in Vienna, Austria on 'World Heritage and Contemporary Architecture: Managing the Historic Urban Landscape', which will examine the impact of contemporary architecture on World Heritage. This meeting was requested by the Committee following the emergence of controversial construction proposals in several World Heritage cities.

Finally, we look forward to the 33rd UNESCO General Conference and to a very important statutory event: the General Assembly of the State Parties to the *World Heritage Convention* in October of this year.

All in all, the year ahead promises to be fruitful. The World Heritage Centre wishes you a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Francesco Bandarin, Director, World Heritage Centre

contents

1

Editorial - Francesco Bandarin
Director of the World Heritage Centre

2

Seventh Extraordinary Session of the Committee

Interview with the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee

Regional Meeting on Modern Heritage – North America

World Heritage Partners: The German World Heritage Foundation

3

World Heritage and Pacific 2009

World Heritage and Africa 2009

Cultural Itineraries in the Sahara Desert

World Heritage in Danger

4

For Your Information

What Are They Doing?

Calendar

Beyond the urgent relief provided at the demand of stricken countries, we must become involved in the medium and long term. It is not UNESCO's vocation to give urgent humanitarian and medical assistance, but as a full-fledged member of the United Nations system, it must be prepared to respond appropriately, within its fields of competence, to the needs of suffering people.

Koichiro Matsuura,
UNESCO Director-General
30 December 2004.
Statement on the Tsunami disaster
that struck South-East Asia.

Seventh Extraordinary Session of the Committee

The World Heritage Committee's Seventh Extraordinary Session was held at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris (6 – 11 December), under the chairmanship of Themba P. Wakashe from South Africa. The meeting was attended by 98 States Parties.

This important meeting examined, among other items, the relations between the 1972 *World Heritage Convention* and other UNESCO conventions relating to heritage, and in particular the *Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage*, adopted in 2003.

The Committee recognized the primacy of the *World Heritage Convention* in relation to tangible heritage. It also noted that the 2003 *Convention* is not to be interpreted as altering the status or diminishing the level of protection under the 1972 *Convention* when an item of the intangible cultural heritage is directly associated with it. The States Parties called on the Director-General to continue to encourage intellectual debate and reflection concerning the interconnectedness between the tangible and intangible heritage.

The Committee also examined proposals for the revision of the *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention*. It was decided that the revised *Operational Guidelines* will enter into force on 2 February 2005.

Concerning future publications, the Committee has welcomed the proposal to compile into one publication the 'Basic texts of the 1972 *World Heritage Convention*' which will include the revised *Operational Guidelines*.

The working group on the methods of work of the Committee, established at its 7th Extraordinary Session, is to complete its mandate at its 29th session in Durban, South Africa from 10 to 17 July 2005.

However, the Committee decided to establish, starting with its 29th session, and on an experimental basis, an open-ended subsidiary body on administrative and financial issues, which will work simultaneously with the plenary sessions, and to examine the previous practice of constituting working groups operating in parallel with the plenary sessions. It will continue the current practice of holding one annual ordinary session, with the possibility of convening an extraordinary session.

This session served as an occasion to examine several progress reports within the regional Periodic Reporting exercise. In order to study and reflect on the first cycle of Periodic Reporting, develop strategic direction and streamline the

Committee's consideration of matters raised through Periodic Reporting, the Committee decided to suspend for one year the commencement of the next cycle of Periodic Reporting. The first cycle will end in 2006 with Europe.

The Committee also invited the Director of the WHC, in consultation with the Advisory Bodies, to submit proposals at its 29th session on ways and means of optimizing the interrelation between the results of the Periodic Reporting cycles and the conclusions resulting from the state of conservation reports.

The session considered the progress report on the partnerships for World Heritage Conservation, and endorsed the proposed change of name of the initiative to World Heritage PACT ('Partnerships for Conservation').

Regional Meeting on Modern Heritage – North America

A Regional Meeting on Modern Heritage: North America, organized by the WHC and the University of Florida College of Design, Construction and Planning Preservation Programs, with the support of the Government of the Netherlands, US-ICOMOS, the Consortium for Urban Conservation in North America, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the National Park Service, The Villagers Inc., the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation and DOCOMOMO-US, was held in Miami Beach and Coral Gables, USA (10-12 November 2004). Forty-five experts and professionals participated.

Both Canada and the United States have developed an elaborate system of institutions and instruments for the conservation of heritage. The United States was arguably far ahead of other regions in the world with regard to identification and listing of various heritage categories according to themes, including Modern Heritage while Canada has established an elaborate system regarding the World Heritage process, including a rigorous procedure for the drawing up of its Tentative List, which had just been completed after two years of identification and consultation.

As the United States has refrained from putting forward nominations during the last decade in order to make room



7th Extraordinary Session of the World Heritage Committee, UNESCO Headquarters



The Committee also decided to convene a special expert meeting on the concept of 'outstanding universal value'. This meeting will be hosted in Kazan, Russian Federation, from 6 to 9 April 2005.

The Decisions of the 7th Extraordinary Session of the World Heritage Committee are available at:
<http://whc.unesco.org/archive/2004/whc04-7textcom-17e.pdf>



Participants to the Regional meeting on Modern Heritage: North America, held in Miami

for other States Parties, much discussion was focused on how the US was planning to get back in the process. A US representative explained that efforts were currently being put into the Periodic Reporting process in view of the presentation of the region's report in 2005. A comprehensive revision of the Tentative List, which was established over 20 years ago, was envisaged, although no strategy had been developed yet.

Participants agreed that there was a limited but growing appreciation for modern heritage in the North American society and urged a rethinking of the ways and means for garnering political support and public engagement.

Participants also underlined the need to pursue regional balance and efforts for assistance to under-represented regions. Assistance from the World Heritage Committee to conduct comparative analyses was requested. Support for the evolving concept and further development of serial nominations was suggested, particularly with regard to properties of Modern Heritage.

The World Heritage Centre was called upon to convene a thematic meeting involving experts selected from all regions of the world which would facilitate general advice to the World Heritage Committee.

World Heritage Partners: The German World Heritage Foundation

The German World Heritage Foundation (GWHF) was established three years ago by the Hanseatic Towns of Stralsund and Wismar in Germany. Recognizing their responsibility as a World Heritage site ('Historic Centres of Stralsund and Wismar', inscribed in 2002), they launched this initiative in order to actively contribute to the implementation of the World Heritage Convention.

Foundation objectives:

- Assist World Heritage sites in regions of the world with fewer resources to protect and preserve their heritage values.
- Assist in preparing nominations of potential World Heritage sites to further enhance the balance of the World Heritage List.

Over the past two years various projects supported by the GWHF in Mongolia, Ukraine, Latvia, Russian Federation, Serbia and Montenegro and Azerbaijan addressed issues such as: research, restoration, preparation of nominations and management plans, communication equipment and harmonization of Tentative Lists.

Currently the GWHF is supporting the Democratic Republic of the Congo with the preparation of its first cultural World Heritage nomination. It is also participating in the 'Whole Village Project' in Romania launched by the Mihai Eminescu Trust.

**Further information: www.welterbestiftung.de.
Or e-mail info@welterbestiftung.de.**



Mr Themba P. Wakashe, Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee

Interview with the Chairperson

The Newsletter met with the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee, Themba P. Wakashe, of South Africa, at its 7th Extraordinary Session and asked him whether he was happy with the results of the Paris meeting.

It went very well. We looked at working methods as well as periodic reporting exercises. We got a good sense of the state of conservation internationally. We also discussed intangible and tangible heritage. The general sentiment is not to move in a direction that would separate the two. We requested that the Director-General continue to stimulate intellectual debate and reflection on the interconnectivity of tangible and intangible heritage.

The Committee will meet in sub-Saharan Africa for the very first time in July, when its 29th session will be held in Durban. How significant is that?

Having the meeting in sub-Saharan Africa is very important in galvanizing Africa around matters of heritage. There is a good degree of enthusiasm among us. We have already briefed the African Union in Addis Ababa. But we have enormous challenges ahead that are not just specific to Africa – but to all developing countries. These include raising awareness, financial challenges, and human resource development, such as training and capacity building. The Africa Periodic Report mentions these things. We also need greater representivity on the World Heritage List.

What do you hope South Africa's chairing of the 29th session of the Committee will accomplish? How has South Africa contributed to conservation since the end of apartheid?

We have built partnerships through the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) programs. Support from the African continent, through the Organization of African Unity (OAU) during the apartheid years led us to a free South Africa. We already had the solidarity on the ground. In chairing the Committee now, we need to leverage that African solidarity, hence our briefing to the African Union.

We want to draw attention to the status of conservation on the African continent, to highlight the challenges we face, and, of course, provide possible solutions. African experts will be meeting in March in Cape Town and will possibly table a position paper on how to rise to these challenges.

We also need to set a time frame for removing properties from the List of World Heritage in Danger. We need to create mechanisms to prevent sites from having to be put on this List in the first place. South Africa's chairing of the Committee will also be a chance to further advocate the linkage of heritage to sustainable economic development.

World Heritage and Pacific 2009

A 'World Heritage – Pacific 2009' Workshop, co-organized by the WHC and the New Zealand Department of Conservation, was held in Tongariro, New Zealand (14-24 October). It was attended by some 70 participants, including the Pacific States, representatives from the French Territories and Rapa Nui (Easter Island, Chile), as well as from IUCN, ICOMOS and ICCROM, the Nordic World Heritage Foundation, Conservation International, Deakin University and other concerned partners. The workshop was funded by the Nordic World Heritage Foundation and the Italian Funds-in-Trust.

Although the Pacific region covers an immense geographical area and displays vast natural and cultural treasures, it is only represented on the World Heritage List by one property: East Rennell in the Solomon Islands, if we do not take into account the sites of Australia and New Zealand. One of the objectives of the Workshop was to discuss ways of increasing the inscription of sites from the

Pacific region to enhance the protection of the unique natural and cultural heritage located in that region of the World.

This Workshop, chaired by Andrew Bignell, of the New Zealand Department of Conservation, benefited from the continuous presence of Tumu Te Heu Heu, Paramount Chief of the Tuwharetoa Tribe of Tongariro and Delegate of New Zealand to the World Heritage Committee.

Representatives from all the Pacific Island States, together with experts from Australia and New Zealand, had an opportunity to visit a World Heritage property, examine its conservation and management, and exchange common problems. They also gained valuable understanding of the *World Heritage Convention* and its main concepts and mechanisms, as well as of the newly adopted *Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage*.

An Action Plan for the implementation of this Pacific-wide programme was discussed. The plan highlights clear and



Salamat Tabbasum, Associate Expert WHC, Giovanni Boccardi, Chief of Asia-Pacific Unit, WHC and Mali Voi, Cultural Advisor for the Pacific Region based at UNESCO Apia Office in Samoa at the Pacific 2009 meeting

prioritized actions that need to be undertaken to achieve concrete objectives and results identified by the Committee in 2003.

As soon as the Plan is finalized and distributed to all the participants, the WHC will begin working on its implementation on a national and regional level. The WHC will also develop some large-scale project proposals under the Plan for selected areas of the Pacific.



Tongariro National Park in New Zealand



Traditional Maori dance during the Pacific 2009 meeting

World Heritage and Africa 2009

In the context of the Africa 2009 Programme, a seminar, 'Conservation and Management of Immovable Cultural Heritage Linked to the Slave Trade', was held in Porto-Novo, Benin (14-19 November 2004). Some fifty cultural heritage professionals from English-, French-, and Portuguese-speaking sub-Saharan Africa attended. Themba Wakashe, Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee, as well as Ambassador Olabiyi Yai, Permanent Delegate of Benin to UNESCO, participated. Mr Wakashe met with General Mathieu Kerekou, President of the Republic of Benin, and visited the Royal Palaces of Abomey, a site on the List of World Heritage in Danger. Partners of the Seminar were ICCROM, CRATerre-EAG, the School of African Heritage, the Directorate for Cultural Heritage of Benin, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD), the Swedish National Heritage Board, and the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Italy and Finland.

As part of the WHC's activities in the Africa 2009 Programme, this Seminar was organized in support of the United Nations' and UNESCO's proclamation of 2004 as the year to commemorate the struggle against slavery and to work for its total abolition.

The African cultural heritage directors pointed out that slavery is a crime against humanity, which despite its abolition, continues to exist in different forms today. The participants recognized that the subject of slavery remained a sensitive

one in African countries, particularly where descendants of slave traders and victims live side by side. They recognized that the subject was taboo in many places, and therefore it was urgent to document, protect and make inventories of the last existing tangible and intangible evidence of what they termed a dehumanizing act.

During the course of the Seminar, the directors noted the difficulties in categorizing sites associated with slavery. They suggested a list of categories, including: capture zones, resistance sites, land and water routes, commemorative areas such as ritual sites, slave markets, and places of detention and embarkation. The Seminar also noted the fragile condition of the remaining existing evidence, and the risk of its disappearing entirely.

The Seminar recommended the establishment of a legal and institutional framework so that protective measures can be taken. Participants also called for an increase in technical and financial assistance to protect sites linked to slavery and to better prepare their inscription on the World Heritage List. Countries were also encouraged to develop regional networks, and to take a transboundary approach where necessary.



Entrance of the House of Slaves, Island of Gorée, Senegal

Cultural Itineraries in the Sahara Desert

The first interregional meeting 'Cultural Itineraries in the Sahara Desert: Desert Routes – The Salt Route', organized jointly by the WHC Arab States and Africa Regional Units, the Nigerian National Commission for UNESCO and the UNESCO Bamako office, and financed by the World Heritage Fund, with generous contributions from the Netherlands and Italy, was held in Niamey, Niger, 22-26 November 2004. Twenty-five experts from thirteen States Parties and four UNESCO representatives participated. During his visit to Niger, the Director-General of UNESCO addressed the participants in the presence of numerous personalities on 24 November.

This meeting aimed at defining a common strategy for the elaboration of the nomination file of Trans-Saharan Cultural Itineraries for inscription on the World Heritage List.

During the plenary sessions, seventeen national case studies were presented, which showed not only the variety of

African cultural itineraries, but also how these itineraries favored exchanges within the geographical area and beyond.

Workshops on the identification of itineraries, the revision of tentative lists, legal aspects of the management of cultural itineraries and on the preparation of financial plans were also held.

A Coordination Committee was set up, which will work with the neighbouring States Parties on activities concerning the elaboration of this nomination file, on the basis of the Action Plan approved during the meeting.

In the Declaration of Niamey, issued at the end of the meeting, the experts recognized the importance of this initiative and expressed their intention of presenting a joint nomination file of Trans-Saharan Cultural Itineraries.

World Heritage in Danger



Walled City of Baku © Ediciones San Marcos

Walled City of Baku with the Shirvanshah's Palace and Maiden Tower (Azerbaijan)

Built on a site inhabited since the Palaeolithic period, the Walled City of Baku reveals evidence of Zoroastrian, Sasanian, Arabic, Persian, Shirvani, Ottoman, and Russian presence in cultural continuity. The Inner City (Icheri Sheher) has preserved much of its 12th-century defensive walls. The 12th-century Maiden Tower (Giz Galasy) is built over earlier structures dating from the 7th to 6th centuries BC, and the 15th-century Shirvanshahs' Palace is one of the pearls of Azerbaijan's architecture.

The site sustained significant damage during the earthquake of November 2000 and is increasingly affected by the pressure of urban development, the absence of conservation policies and by questionable restoration efforts.

At a Round Table on safeguarding the site, held in Baku (6-8 October 2004), participants noted that demolition and inappropriate urban development were continuing, despite a presidential decree in 2003 to halt uncontrolled development within the property. It recommended the need to reinforce the decree.

The Round Table recognized the need to establish a strategy for safeguarding the property, including the development of a comprehensive management plan. The Ministry of Culture is planning to embark on the preparation of such a plan as soon as possible.

Problems arising from double management of the property by the Baku municipality and the Ministry of Culture were also pointed out, and the establishment of a Coordination Council, composed of the Ministry of Culture, the Baku executive authorities and other stakeholders, was recommended. The Ministry of Culture informed the Round Table that the national authorities would undergo a minor structural re-organization in the near future, with the aim of clarifying the responsibilities for the management of Baku within the Ministry.

The Round Table endorsed the draft UNESCO action plan for safeguarding the site, prepared by the WHC. Taking into account the results of the Round Table, WHC will modify the Action Plan for consideration by the national authorities as soon as possible, before presenting it to the World Heritage Committee at its 29th session in 2005.

In November, the **German Environmental Foundation (DBU)** approved the project proposal 'Management and Development Tools for World Heritage Cultural Landscapes in Central and Eastern Europe' (with case studies from Germany, Poland and Czech Republic) for a total of 125,000 € in the first phase. The project will be carried out with the University of Potsdam and is considered to be a pilot project for future World Heritage activities with the Foundation. The DBU is one of Europe's largest foundations and promotes innovative and exemplary environmental projects. Since 1991, almost 5500 projects have received financial backing totalling about 1 billion €, including one to promote the World Heritage cultural landscape concept 1993-95. For further information: <http://www.dbu.de/english/index.php>

The **UNESCO/Netherlands Funds-in-Trust Cooperation: Support to World Heritage** has been extended with an annual contribution of 375,000 € for the period 2005-2008. The agreement for extension was signed on 23 November in Amsterdam by State Secretary for Culture Medy van der Laan and the WHC Director Francesco Bandarin.

In the first agreement of its kind **UNESCO and Italy** signed a pact on 2 November to handle emergencies that might result in damage to any of the World Heritage sites. Italy is to provide a ready response team and Italian expertise in assessing damage and needs and drawing up action plans.

An **International Conference on the Safeguarding of Tangible and Intangible Cultural Heritage: Towards an Integrated Approach**, jointly organized by the Agency for Cultural Affairs, Nara Prefecture, Nara City, Asia-Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO and UNESCO, was held in Nara, Japan (20-23 October). The conference, opened by UNESCO Director-General Koïchiro Matsuura, particularly emphasized the necessity of exploring and supporting ways of integrating the safeguarding of tangible and intangible heritage, in close collaboration and agreement with the communities and groups concerned.

All Nippon Airways (ANA), Japan, and the WHC signed an agreement in 2004 to publish excerpts of four *World Heritage Review* articles in ANA's in-flight magazine *Wingspan*. By publishing these articles, ANA is helping raise public awareness of World Heritage and providing financial support to World Heritage publications.

What Are They Doing ?

■ **Herman van Hooff**, Adviser for World Heritage in Latin America and the Caribbean, UNESCO Montevideo Office, and **Marc Patry**, Programme Specialist, Nature Section, attended the 'Periodic Reporting meeting for Latin America: Towards an Action Plan for World Heritage in Latin America 2004 – 2014', held in Cartagena, Colombia (25-27 October) to develop an Action Plan submitted to the World Heritage Committee at its 7th Extraordinary Session. Mr Patry also participated in a meeting for the 2nd Local Governments and Natural World Heritage Sites Conference, Aomori Prefecture, Japan (12-16 October). ■ **Ron van Oers**, Chief (a.i.) Latin America and Caribbean attended a sub-regional meeting for the Caribbean in Kingston, Jamaica (27-29 September) to develop an Implementation Structure for the Caribbean Action Plan in World Heritage. ■ **Mechtild Rössler**, Chief, Europe and North America Unit, along with **Fumiko Ohinata**, Associate Expert, attended the conference in Nara, Japan (see above). Ms Ohinata also attended the Round Table on safeguarding the 'Walled City of Baku with the Shirvanshah's Palace and Maiden Tower' in Azerbaijan (6-9 October). ■ **Marjaana Kokkonen**, Marine Heritage Specialist, Nature Section, visited Panama (8-12 November) to meet with project partners of the UNF/GCF/UNESCO project for the Eastern Tropical Pacific Seascape and to visit Coiba National Park. Along with **Grazia Piras**, Associate Expert, Latin America and Caribbean Unit, she attended a sub-regional meeting for Central America and Mexico on Representativity and Harmonization of Tentative Lists, in San Jose, Costa Rica (1-4 November). Ms. Kokkonen and **Hans Thulstrup**, Science Officer of UNESCO Office for the Pacific States, were in Christmas Island, Kiribati, 5-11 October to attend a national workshop on the serial and transboundary nomination of the Line and Phoenix Islands of Kiribati. ■ **Lazare Eloundou**, Programme Specialist, Africa Unit, participated in the seminar 'Conservation and Management of Immovable Cultural Heritage Linked to the Slave Trade' in Porto-Novo, Benin (14-19 November). ■ **Salamat Ali Tabbasum**, Associate Expert, Asia-Pacific Unit and **Anahit Minasyan**, Assistant

Programme Specialist, Intangible Heritage Section/CLT represented UNESCO at the Global Youth Exchange (GYE) Programme 2004, 'Discovering True Cultural Wealth – Future of Culture in the 21st Century' (22 November – 4 December) held in Tokyo, Kyoto and Okinawa, Japan, organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan. ■ **Marielle Richon**, Focal Point for Universities, attended the 9th International Seminar of Forum UNESCO – University and Heritage held at the University of Buenos Aires (10-15 October) on the theme 'Heritage Management: Centre and Periphery'. She also participated in a workshop in Kazan, Tatarstan Republic, Russian Federation, to launch the crosscutting project 'The Great Volga River Route - Uniting the Seas (Baltic, Black and Caspian Seas) in Favour of World Heritage Education for Sustainable Development with the Support of ICTs' (24-31 October). ■ **Steven Ripley**, Consultant, Nature Section, **Art Pedersen**, Consultant on Tourism and Visitor Management, and Marc Patry attended the 3rd IUCN World Conservation Congress in Bangkok (17-25 November). Two World Heritage workshops were organized for the Forest and Tourism thematic programmes. ■ **Nuria Sanz**, Programme Specialist, Latin America and Caribbean Unit, organized the Fourth expert meeting of the process of Nomination of the *Qhapaq Nan* (Main Andean Road) in Santiago de Chili, 6-11 November in co-operation with the Consejo de Monumentos Nacionales of Chile. ■ **Flora van Regteren Altena**, Associate Expert, Africa Unit, attended a meeting on the preparation of a serial transboundary nomination for Moravian heritage (in Europe, North America and Africa) in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, USA (7-10 November). She was also in Nigeria (25-29 October) to attend the Africa 2009 Seminar on Sustainable Tourism and Cultural Heritage in Africa.



Participants in the GYE Programme 2004 in front of the Nijo-jo Castle in Kyoto, Japan

© Salamat Tabbasum / UNESCO



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New World Heritage Deputy Director

In December Kishore Rao (India) was appointed as Deputy Director of the World Heritage Centre. Kishore Rao has Master's Degrees in Forestry (from India), and in Natural Resources Policy and Planning (from USA) and has worked with the Government of India since 1976 on protected area, forestry and wildlife conservation programmes in various capacities at the central and state levels. He joined the World Conservation Union in 1999 and was Head of the Ecosystems and Livelihoods Group of IUCN in Asia located in Hanoi, Vietnam with responsibility for the Regional Protected Areas Programme, the Regional Mountains Programmes, and oversight of the China programme. He was also the Vice-Chair for IUCN's World Commission on Protected Areas for South Asia from 1994 to 1999 and a member of the IUCN's World Heritage Panel since 2002. Mr Rao will take up his duties on 14 February 2005.

26 February to 2 March

Training Workshop for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention in the Gulf Region, organized jointly by the Arab States Unit of the WHC and the UNESCO Doha Office.

Sharjah, United Arab Emirates.
Information: k.hendili@unesco.org

9 to 11 March

'UNESCO and the World Heritage Convention, Contributing to Forest Conservation and Sustainable Development' BERASTAGI + 7. Forest Policy Meeting.

Nancy, France.
Information: ma.patry@unesco.org and s.ripley@unesco.org

14 to 16 March

Sub-Regional Teacher-Training Course on the Use of the Shahili Version of the 'World Heritage in Young Hands' Education Kit.

Zanzibar, Tanzania.
Information: c.sekwao@unesco.org and v.vujicic@unesco.org

16 to 19 March

'African Experts' Meeting on the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention and on the State of Conservation of World Heritage Sites.

Durban, South Africa.
Information: irwin.langeveld@dac.gov.za and e.wangari@unesco.org

21 to 23 March

International Workshop on Multimedia Material for World Heritage Education.

Pont du Gard, France.
Information: Marie-paule.BELMAS@diplomatie.gouv.fr and v.vujicic@unesco.org

24 to 30 March

Central Asia Sub-Regional Workshop for the Follow-Up to the Asia-Pacific Periodic Reporting.

Almaty, Kazakhstan.
Information: j.okahashi@unesco.org

29 to 31 March

5th Regional Meeting on Modern Heritage: Mediterranean Basin.

Alexandria, Egypt.
Information: r.vanoers@unesco.org
www.ismarmed.com

6 to 9 April

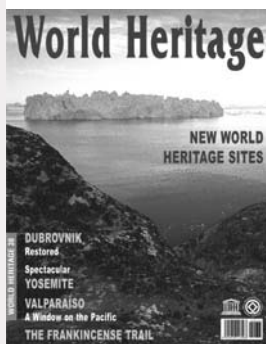
Experts Meeting to Define the Concept of 'Outstanding Universal Values'.

Kazan, Republic of Tatarstan, Russian Federation.
Information: a.lemastre@unesco.org

11 to 15 April

Round Table and Exhibition on the Cultural Heritage Project realized within the Framework of the Tripartite Convention 'UNESCO – Government of Islamic Republic of Mauritania – World Bank.'

UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, France.
Information: a.sidorenko@unesco.org



World Heritage of December 2004, No. 38, dedicates its feature article to the New sites inscribed on the World Heritage List. In this issue you will also discover: the urban and architecture features of the coastal city of Valparaíso in Chile; the natural beauty of the Yosemite National Park in the heart of the Sierra Nevada in California; the Frankincense Trail of Oman, known since the third millennium BC; and the city of Dubrovnik in Croatia, which has recaptured all its splendour since the successful restoration campaign launched in 1992.

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