



Arab Cultural Heritage Forum

A regional vision to Preserve and Promote Cultural Heritage

First Day
Tuesday 6 February,
2018
Rationale of the Forum and the challenges facing Cultural Heritage

What does Cultural Heritage mean in the Arab Region?

- 8:30 - 9:30 Registration (Reception)
- 9:30 - 10:10 Music performance by Artist Naseer Shamma – UNESCO Artist for Peace 2017
Welcome Speech of the organiser of the Forum: the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM/ ICCROM-Sharjah) (Dr. Oliver Martin/ Dr. Zaki Aslan)
UAE Government Speech by Minister of Culture and Knowledge Development, HE Noura Al Kaabi
Video by ICCROM-Sharjah
- 10:10 - 10:40 **Opening Session:**
Panel discussion: Directors and representatives of regional and international organizations:
- ◆ HE Dr. Weber Nodoro, Director General of ICCROM (International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property)
 - ◆ HE Dr. Halit Eren, Director General of the Research Centre for Islamic History, Arts and Culture (IRCICA)
 - ◆ HE Dr. Mojob Al Zahrani, Director of the Institut du Monde Arabe in Paris
 - ◆ Representative of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Dr. Anna Paolini
 - ◆ Representative of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO), Dr. Mohamed Younis
 - ◆ Moderator: Mr. Ahmed Ali Al-Zain
- 10:40 - 11:00 Presentation of ICCROM-Sharjah Award for the Conservation of Cultural Heritage in the Arab Region and awarding of the Grand Prize (Under the Patronage of HH The Ruler of Sharjah)
- 11:00 - 11:10 Group Photo

- 11:10 - 11:30 Break
- 11:30 - 12:30 **Panel One: Notions and Perceptions of Cultural Heritage in the Region**
What is recognised as valuable, by whom and who decides? Does cultural heritage have a role in uniting communities on one hand, and connecting individuals and communities to a specific place, monument, or artistic expressions on the other? How does heritage relate to the reality and future of society?
Participants
◆ His Excellency the Minister of State Dr. Zaki Nusseibeh ◆ Prof. Dr. Yusuf Fadl Hasan ◆ Dr. Rita Awad ◆ Dr. Rasem Badran ◆ Dr. Ali Harb
◆ Moderator: Mr. Ricardo Karam
- 12:30 - 13:00 Discussion
- 13:00 - 14:00 Lunch Break
- 14:00 - 15:00 **Panel Two: Cultural Heritage within the general context of “Public Culture” in the Arab Region**
How do various media forms (films, music, literature, poetry and novels) influence the public awareness of cultural heritage in its tangible form? What is the role of the internet and social media in shaping the notion of cultural heritage?
Participants
◆ Mr. Naseer Shamma ◆ Dr. Hassan Ashkanani ◆ Dr. Hasan Aourid
◆ Dr. Bilal Al Budoor ◆ Dr. Yousef Al Hasan ◆ Moderator: Mr. Mohamed Sobhi
- 15:00 - 15:30 Discussion
- 15:30 - 15:45 Break
- 15:45 - 16:00 Launching two books from the book series “Selected Readings from ICCROM-Sharjah”
- 16:00 - 17:10 Round table discussion: What is recognised as valuable, by whom and who decides? How can media and other cultural modalities be used to inform and influence the public and local culture about cultural heritage?
- 19:00 - 21:30 Gala Dinner at al Hisn Fort – Heart of Sharjah



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Second Day
Wednesday 7 February, 2018

The meaning of Cultural Heritage

Why do we protect Cultural Heritage?

9:30 - 10:30 **Panel Three : The importance of cultural heritage in the region**
Why is it important for a community to appreciate its tangible heritage or the historic built environment that affects its quality of life? How can heritage be relevant to current and future realities and challenges affecting the lives of local communities or livelihood of historic places? How can the values inherent in cultural heritage and works of art be used to improve their conservation and community development?

Participants

- ◆ Dr. Suad Amiry ◆ Dr. Mourad Bouteflika ◆ Dr. Salma Al-Damluji
- ◆ Dr. Tarek Waly ◆ Dr. Talal Aqili
- ◆ Moderator: Mr. Ricardo Karam

10:30 - 11:00 Discussion

11:00 - 11:15 Break

11:15 - 12:15 **Panel Four: Challenges in understanding and protecting cultural heritage**

Why is a debate and dialogue about the conservation of cultural heritage is inadequate or at times lacking in the region? What are the meanings and significance embedded in cultural heritage forms in the region? For whom Cultural Heritage preserved for, and why is it deliberately and violently targeted?

Participants

- ◆ HRH Princess Wijdan Bint Fawaz Al Hashemi ◆ Professor Waciny Laredj
- ◆ Mr. Jad Tabet ◆ Dr. Mouawiya Ibrahim
- ◆ Dr. Suheir Hawass ◆ Moderator: Dr. Saad Al Massoudi

12:15 - 12:45 Discussion

12:45 - 13:45 Break

13:45 - 14:45 **Panel Five : Influences affecting Cultural Heritage**

What is the impact of Orientalism/ Colonialism on the concept/ notion of cultural heritage and the current approaches to conservation practices? What is the impact of Western approaches on what is considered cultural heritage in the Arab region? What is the impact of beliefs and ideologies on the concept of cultural heritage, and conservation theories and practices?

Participants

- ◆ Dr. Ihsan Fethi ◆ Dr. Monther Jamhawi ◆ Dr. Hamdan Taha
- ◆ Dr. Hossam Mahdi ◆ Prof. Rashad Salem ◆ Moderator: Mr. Ahmed Ali Al-Zain

14:45 - 15:15 Discussion

15:15 - 15:35 "Erasing History" short video clip by Mr. Ahmed Ali Al-Zain

15:35 - 15:50 Break

15:50 - 17:00 Round table discussion: What is the role of heritage in shaping the identity of a society? What makes it a target for destruction or preservation?

18:30 - 21:30 Reception: Sharjah Light Festival 2018 (Opening at Dr. Sultan Al-Qassimi Centre for Gulf Studies)



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Third Day
Thursday 8 February,
2018
Needs and Action Plan

How do we protect Cultural Heritage?

9:30 - 10:30 **Panel Six: The role of education**
How do current education systems at all stages (formal and informal) affect our understanding of cultural heritage? How can cultural heritage in the Arab region be assessed and how can values be improved and highlighted on the basis of needs and benefits? How can education be better organized to involve and inform young people and promote public awareness?
Participants
◆ Her Royal Highness Princess Dana Firas
◆ Dr. Suleiman Al-Askari ◆ Dr. Mina Al-Maghari ◆ Dr. Rawya Majzoub
◆ Ms. Manal Ataya ◆ Moderator: Dr. Saad Al Massoudi

10:30 - 11:00 Discussion

11:00 - 11:15 Break

11:15 - 12:15 **Panel Seven: External Impressions and Reflections**
How is the concept of Cultural Heritage in the Arab region is viewed from abroad?
Participants
◆ Dr. Stefano DeCaro ◆ Prof. Jukka Jokilehto ◆ Mrs. Susan Denyer
◆ Dr. Patricia Kell ◆ Dr. John Robbins
◆ Moderators: Dr. Anna Paolini and Dr. Jean-Louis Luxen

12:15 - 12:45 Discussion

12:45 - 13:45 Break

13:45 - 14:45 **Panel Eight: Follow-up Strategy and Action Plan**
How can cultural heritage be protected in the context of previous discussions? How can we develop a regional plan or conduct an assessment to address the subject on a regional level?
Participants
◆ Dr. Nazmi Al - Jubeh ◆ Dr. Abdul Aziz Al-Musallam ◆ Dr. Amir Pasic
◆ Dr. Abdelrahman Ali ◆ Dr. Hasan Lawati
◆ Moderators: Dr. Zaki Aslan and Dr. Ridha Faroua

14:45 - 15:15 Discussion

15:15 - 15:30 Break

15:30 - 17:00 **Closing Session: Recommendations A Regional Vision for Cultural Heritage**