



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
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Organisation  
des Nations Unies  
pour l'éducation,  
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Organización  
de las Naciones Unidas  
para la Educación,  
la Ciencia y la Cultura

Организация  
Объединенных Наций по  
вопросам образования,  
науки и культуры

منظمة الأمم المتحدة  
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、  
科学及文化组织

## Greetings from UNESCO Doha

### Editorial

Dear Reader,

The period of February 2009 to January 2010 brought a lot of news to UNESCO, and to the Doha Office, both in terms of products, events and activities, as well as to the structure of UNESCO and its office in Doha.

The most important change for UNESCO as an organization was the departure of the former Director-General Koichiro Matsuura. We thank him for his commitment and all his hard work. We also wish him good luck for his future life and professional engagements.

On the 15th of November the new elected Director-General Irina Bokova joined the organization, and began by immediately visiting Qatar and Kuwait. Ms. Bokova invited the staff of the Doha Office to meet with her, and we presented to her the past, ongoing and planned activities. We thank her very much for this valuable opportunity, and we wish her the best of success in her new and difficult task, providing her leadership and direction to our important UN specialised agency, playing highly important roles in these new times of global economic crisis, and towards sustainable human and environmental development, in the best interest of all of us. We also express our congratulations, since this is the first time UNESCO has fulfilled its role in gender equality, and has a woman at its top internal management position.

We also said goodbye to Gilane Elgewely, our former pro-

gramme specialist for education, who has relocated from the UNESCO Doha Office to our headquarters in Paris. Gilane served the organization in Doha for twenty years as a specialist in education, and we wish her the best of good luck and success in her new role at headquarters.

Two of the difficult challenges ahead are undoubtedly two facts of geographic and social aspects:

1. The Gulf countries remain to be places of rapid social and environmental transformation. We hope that we can live up to the expectations of the Member States, when it comes down to tackling pressing issues related to the well-being of society and humans.

2. The Republic of Yemen joined the Doha cluster. This is particularly challenging due to Yemen's high population of 23 million people, which brings the total number of people in the Doha cluster to over 70 million people. Yemen's classification as an LCD country, also offers new opportunities for leveraging between the vast wealth of the GCC and its development needs, a fact that deserves special attention.



Our DG, Irina Bokova, and Director, Hamad Al-Hammami

We have already begun supporting Yemen by inviting Yemeni specialists to join the first planning meeting of the new Gulf Network for Arid Land Environments, which is a Government approved and Government independent network of inter-disciplinary specialists from the Gulf, developing expert advice on issues related to arid environments. We welcome the people of Yemen to be served on the platforms of UNESCO by the Doha Office, and we will work hard and try our best to generate good impact and visibility in all of our Member States.

We hope that you will enjoy reading about our activities, and we are always looking forward to your qualified and constructive comments, suggestions, recommendations, advice, and questions.

Hamad Al-Hammami  
UNESCO Representative in the Arab States of the Gulf  
Director of UNESCO Doha

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## Education

The Education sector continued to be very active throughout 2009. A Brief mention of the activities we supported will follow.

2009 began with the **2nd conference on Early Childhood Education on 17-18/01/2009** which took place in collaboration with Qatar University. It offered both practitioners and academics to reflect, discuss and debate past experiences and current issues at hand. ECCE (Early Childhood Care and Education) remains an important part of the EFA, and this was reflected in the series of conferences where important ECCE issues were tackled and debated including the enabling environment, the various tools for developing young children's literacy, the role of media in the linguistic development of Arab children as children with dual language literacy.

In keeping with our ever changing times, on the 15th February of 2009 a **training workshop for enhancing teachers' ICT capacity building** on the utilization of modern technology in teaching took place in Riyadh in a joint effort between the Culture and Education sectors of the Doha Office. The opportunity was also taken to review and enhance the role of educational institutions and faculties in Saudi Arabia.

The **Education for All Mid-Term Review Conference for the Arab Region** took place in Doha from 19 to 21 February 2009. Organized jointly by UNESCO and Qatar Foundation, the Conference was inaugurated by His Excellency Abdulla bin Hamad Al Attiyah, Deputy Prime Minister, Koichiro Matsuura, Director General of UNESCO and Abdulla bin Ali Al-Thani Conference Chairperson. More than 145 participants from the Arab States, International and regional organizations and agencies, NGOs, the private sector and UNESCO staff attended the Conference. UNESCO Offices in Beirut and Doha coordinated in the provision of technical and logistical support to the Conference.

Between the **20-26th of April**, the Doha Office provided support to Qatar National Commission to mark EFA week by UNESCO Associated Schools in Qatar. Celebrations under the theme **"Open Books – Open Doors"** took place throughout the week. The events comprised art exhibitions, lectures and seminars, researches on literacy in the Arab world and publication of flyers. Numerous articles were published in local newspapers.

Following the event in Doha, the **regional experts' meeting on the development of secondary education in the Arab region** was organized in Muscat, Oman from the **26th till the 28th of April**. This was organized in conjunction with the Beirut office, the Oman national Commission., and with the collaboration of IBE Geneva and the Bangkok office. This resulted in the attendance of a large number of experts both from the Arab region as well as

internationally. The main reason for the meeting was to promote the exchange of regional and international experiences on reforms in secondary education, while taking stock of the major achievements in the region in the field of secondary education in relation to new initiatives and projects. This was then finalized with discussions regarding the feasibility of implementing a regional project which focuses on studies, research and policy development to enhance secondary education in the Arab region.

The role of Arab NGO's was not forgotten in all of this as a **sub-regional workshop** was supported in Cairo in April, with a view to enhancing their role in achieving **Education for All**.

With a continued view on enhancing programme delivery and monitoring, the **Gulf Cooperation Council Countries Consultative Meeting on enhancing capacity-building in areas** related to the work of the **UNESCO Institute for Statistics** took place on **28 June 2009** in Doha. The meeting was initiated by the Qatar Statistical Authority and Doha Office with the support and collaboration of the UNESCO Institute of Statistics. The meeting reviewed the status of the GCC regarding UIS data collection and analyzed data collection systems and problems faced by the countries of the Doha cluster. A draft two year work plan to enhance capacities of GCC statistical authorities was produced. The meeting was followed by a **training Workshop on the Revised UNESCO 2009 Framework for Cultural Statistics on 29th and 30th June 2009**.

After all that work, yet another training session was held, but this time it was for the benefit of UNESCO education staff from Africa to the Asia-Pacific region, and the topic was **educational planning**. The training was hosted and held by the **Regional Centre for Educational Planning** in Sharjah during the month of **July 2009** and it had been co-organized by UNESCO's own **International Institute for Educational Planning** and the education sector.

With the summer finished, and with the fall in temperatures, the office, in cooperation with the **UNESCO Institute of Statistics** prepared a training **workshop in education statistics** from the **24-28 of October** in the mountain town of **Abha in Saudi Arabia**. Staff members were given the opportunity to learn about collection, processing and dissemination of educational statistical data. This was done by reviewing national experiences as well as examining the relations between the education and development indicators such as those from the Millennium Development Goals and Education For All goals.

Finally at the end of the year the attention was turned to the **UNESCO National Education Support Strategy** reports for **Oman, Qatar and Bahrain** were drafted and finalized.





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## Natural Sciences

The FEB 2009 - JAN 2010 period was supported by Asfiya Ahmed, Benno Boer, Perdita Freymann, Nadine Loutfi & Mark Sutcliffe.

A lot of the time was consumed with planning for 2010/11, as well as reporting and closing of activities in 2008/09. This had the effect of helping us cut carbon emissions by reducing the amount of missions we had to go on and therefore flights between October and January. Despite this, the period saw significant enhancement of our activities in Bahrain and Kuwait.

The team was involved in supporting and organizing a number of activities and events throughout 2009:

Bahrain, Manama, 24-26 of February: **"Marine Heritage with a special view to Biosphere Reserves and World Natural Heritage Sites"**, with the Ministry of Culture and Heritage.

Oman, Muscat, 8-10 March: **"International Conference on Tropical Cyclones in the North-West Indian Ocean"** at the Sultan Qaboos University.

Germany, Bonn, 31 March - 2 April: Ms. Deena Al Abdulla presented the Arab Recycling Initiative of the UNESCO Doha Office during the **UNESCO Conference on Education for Sustainable Development, Half-Term Review**. Our project was one out of five that was selected from the Arab Region.

Doha, 31 May 2009, **Quranic Botanic Garden Masterplan Handover** to Qatar Foundation. The master plan, whose development had been generously sponsored by **MAERSK**, was handed over to the Vice-President of **Qatar Foundation**, Saif Al-Hajari.



*QBG Master plan handover— from the left, Saad Al Mohannadi, Hamad Al Hammami and Saif Al Hajari*

Saudi, PME, 14-16 March: The science sector were invited by HRH Prince Turki bin Abdul-Aziz Al Saud, and they discussed issues of major concern such as climate change, water, biodiversity and potential collaboration.

Paris 7-11 June: Science Retreat, Arab Desk meeting,

Doha 30 June: There was a meeting held with the Qatari Minister of Environment HE Abdullah Bin Mubarak About Al-Midhadi as a follow up to the Al-Reem Biosphere Reserve and the potential World heritage Site Khor Al-Udeid, otherwise known as the Inland Sea.

Abu Dhabi, 14-15 October: **International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)** On the occasion of the establishment of this new and important agency, Kurt Muehmel provided an excellent presentation on UNESCO's work in the field of renewable energy with particular reference to the capacity building which takes place.



*Kurt Muehmel presenting UNESCO's strengths*

Bahrain: A film on the natural and cultural heritage of Bahrain was produced with the kind support of Nadine Boksmati-Fattouh, Director of Qal'at al-Bahrain site museum, Ministry of Culture and Information and our own Karim André Hendili, UNESCO Advisor for World Heritage and Culture to the Ministry of Culture and Information of Bahrain. Many thanks go to the professional work of Jens Koesters and Chris Seidel from the Ostwestfalen-Lippe College in Germany and their tutor Frank Lechtenberg for their video **"Bahrain - land of contrasts"**.

Doha, 8th of December: We supported a seagrass conference which was organised by the Qatari Ministry of Environment and Shell GTL.



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Doha, 9-10 December: UNESCO, The Friends of the Environment Centre & Sesam organised the "Doha Green Conference", which was attended by >150 inter-disciplinary specialists.

Doha, 10 December: UNESCO, Friends of Environment Centre & Doha Bank organised the first planning meeting for "Ecoschools in Qatar".

Doha, 13-16 December: The first planning meeting of the "Gulf Network for Arid Land Environments" took place in the Moevenpick Towers.

Muscat, 11-13 Jan: The 5th Gulf Eco Conference & Exhibition was organised by the Ministry of Environment & Climate Affairs & OITE, and supported by UNESCO, UNEP, and WHO.

### Awards received:

The professional and independent jury of the Ford Conservation & Environment Grants awarded the UNESCO Doha book series on Sabkha Ecosystems with a prize of 2,000 US\$, which will be used as a budget appropriation to foster the work on this important subject.

Other products which were developed:

- Qatar Flora Checklist
- Arab Science Newsletter
- Better Buildings
- Qatar Environment Outlook 2030



### New partnerships formed:

UNESCO Doha, represented by Hamad Al Hammami, and Doha Bank, represented by their CEO, Mr Seetharaman, have signed a partnership agreement to cooperate on the



UNESCO–Doha Bank partnership agreement

activity "Partnership Based Environmental Stewardship". The activity consists of a number of projects with focus on leveraging the strengths of both of our organizations and a view to enhancing environmental stewardship capacity and awareness. One project which will benefit greatly from this will be the Ecoschools programme, which had been introduced to UNESCO Doha and has continued to receive substantial support from Steve Wilkinson from the Doha English Speaking School.

### Plans for 2010/11:

1. Continue to foster the Quranic Botanic Garden Network in the Doha Cluster.
2. Form a Gulf network on UNESCO sites in the context of the International Year of Biodiversity 2010.



3. Finalize planning and officially launch the Gulf Network for Arid Land Environments.
4. Develop a project document on halophyte conservation and utilization with a special view to sea grasses.
5. Develop Ecoschools in Qatar
6. Arrange training for young entrepreneurs in the Arab States of the Gulf on environment-based business opportunities and partnership-based environmental stewardship..
7. Develop a flyer on the economic benefits that come from biosphere reserves, geoparks, world heritage sites, and Ramsar sites.
8. Planning meeting of Gulf Arab partners in IOCINDIO, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission in the Indian Region.





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## Communication & Information

### COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION SECTOR ACTIVITIES: 2008-2009

A series of "Information for All" workshops were organized by UNESCO Doha:

8-11/Nov/2008, in Muscat, Oman, participants from all Arab Gulf countries participated in the workshop, the workshop aimed promotion of **Documentary and Archival System and Information for All**, information Accessibility, document preservation, right to access information, places to access information and services provided to users of archives as well as Internet accessibility to archives, and copyright of archives.

16-19/Nov/2008, in Kuwait, participants from all Arab Gulf countries participated in the workshop, the workshop aimed to **Promote of Information Technology, Information for All**, as well as information **Ethics and Information Accessibility**

There was also an ICT Teachers Capacity Building workshop, organized on the period 16-18 Feb 2009, in Jeddah – Saudi Arabia, with education and ICT specialists from all Arab Gulf countries in the workshop. This workshop explored utilizing Information technology as a tool, in teaching, and methods of enhancing and improving teaching tools for teachers.

With a view to improving the capacity of media institutes, a contract has been signed with AL Jazeera Training Center to develop Media Curricula for the Arabic speaking media training centers in the Arab Gulf region, which is developed, and will be implemented by 2010.

To support the continued development of media a network is being developed beginning with a media database, which will contain most of the media institutes, training institutes, and key media organizations in the Arab region. Phase I of this project, which is data collection, and organization, has been finalized, and we are now in the process of implementing Phase II this year, in which we will launch a Web page, that will contain all the collected information, which will be accessible by the public.

Freedom of Expression Conference, organized with **Liberties and Human Rights Affairs Department**, at **Al-Jazeera Network**, located at Qatar, on 25-26 October, 2009. More than 40 media specialists from all Arab countries participated.

Our largest event by far was the World Press Freedom Day 2009, which was held in Doha (Qatar) on 2 and 3 May, titled "**Dialogue, mutual understanding and recon-**

**ciliation**" during which media professionals from around the world discussed:

- The capacity of the media for intercultural dialogue and mutual understanding;
- The need to establish ethical and professional standards in order to build models of accountability as well as effective self regulation for journalists;
- What specific place for media in promoting interreligious dialogue and mutual understanding?
- Media and enhancing dialogue as a tool for empowering citizens.

The conference has been organized under the patronage of Her Highness Sheikha Mozah Bint Nasser Al-Missned, consort of His Highness the Emir of Qatar Shiekh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani.

During the conference, Koichiro Matsuura presented the 2009 World Press Freedom Prize, awarded posthumously to murdered Sri Lankan journalist Lasantha Wickrematunge. Mr Wickrematunge's niece, Natalie Samarasinghe accepted the prize, which is supported by the Ottaway and Cano foundations and JP/Politiken Newspaper LTD.

Participants and media specialist from Qatar media organizations participated in the conference.



Natalie Samarasinghe, niece of the late Mr Wickrematunge



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## Communication & Information

And finally, as part of our ongoing **IT for schools** programme, we received more than **three hundred used personal computers**, as a donation from **RasGas** company, which was distributed to local private schools, such as the Palestinian, Jordanian, Sir Lankan, Pakistani, and others in need of these computers in their schools.

### Activities during 2010

#### **"The Role of e-Learning in Supporting Knowledge Communities"**

*6-8 April 2010*

*with Bahrain University*

E-learning, with its various communication tools, plays a significant role in creating and promoting learning communities and their development. It involves all social and educational means to link and network people and various communities. Thus it creates mutual impact to promote achievement, excellence, cooperation and partnership as well as social and individual responsibility. Cultural practices create partnership and cooperation and exchange at all life cycle of the community, thus forming real and beneficial knowledge to communities.

The Third International Conference for e-learning therefore, will focus on the role of e-learning in Supporting Learning Communities.

The conference deals with basic issues in the utilization and employment of e-learning and the formation of university learning communities as a nucleus for the large learning community.

#### **THEMES:**

- The philosophy of Learning Communities and life learning and training in the light of e-learning;
- Achievement, learning and training as basic objectives for Knowledge Communities (KC).
- Means and methods for increasing knowledge product and outcome in the light of e-Learning.
- Activating learning theories to cope with e-learning modes and technologies.
- Developing KC initiatives
- Evaluating KC role and e-learning.

- The various roles of students, teachers and the community at large in the formation of effective practices to support e-learning and KCs.

#### **OBJECTIVES:**

- Encouraging the formation of KCs at the university and community levels through the proper usage of technology.
- Formation of KCs with civic, educational and service nature.
- Encouraging exchange of best practices and expertise and experiences in e-learning to support KC.
- Encouraging scientific, social, and educational research to highlight best practices.
- Highlighting latest developments and modern trends and experiences in e-learning.
- Supporting basic academic skills and communication skills with the community through knowledge transfer and exchange.

#### **"Virtual Library"**

*25-26 May 2010,*

*with Oman National Commission*

The conference will cover Information For All, and methods of promoting Virtual Library, since it is the core of information. Also deals with utilization and employment of e-learning and the formation of university learning communities as a nucleus for the large learning community.

#### **OBJECTIVES:**

- Training on GREENSTONE program.
- Exchange of experience in Information for ALL, and Virtual Library
- Initiating a virtual Library in Oman
- Participants and media specialists from Saudi Arabia media organizations will be invited to participate in the conference.

#### **"Freedom of Expression Conference"**

*3 May, 2010*

*with Liberties and Human Rights Affairs Department, at Al-Jazeera Network,*

*Press Freedom Day, in State of Kuwait.*

Participants and media specialist from Saudi Arabia media organizations will be invited to participate in the conference.



## UIS ADVISOR

### **UIS Statistical Cluster Advisor Joined the UNESCO Office of Doha**

The UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) assigned a statistical cluster advisor, Yousef Ismail, to provide technical support for the Arab countries under the UNESCO Cluster Office of Doha. The statistical advisor joined the office on June 26th 2009 for one year, upon his arrival he was welcomed by the Director of the UNESCO office Hamad Al Hammami and introduced to the staff. The UNESCO office provided him with an equipped office with the necessary furniture and communication facilities. The advisor is expected to work in close cooperation with the UNESCO office of Doha on improving the statistics provided by countries in the region in the fields of UIS competences (Education, Culture and communication, Literacy, and Science and technology).

The main tasks of the advisor have been to assist the various ministries involved in the fields of competence of UNESCO to improve their statistics, establishing partnership with other stakeholders in the education system on data quality, support the national teams in the diagnostic and identification of country statistical needs in terms of assistance and capacity building, provide technical assistance to national authorities in adaptation of UIS methodologies and standards, ISCED mapping, coordination of UIS assistance in the countries for education statistics, culture, communication, literacy, science and technology, in addition to provide support to the UNESCO office of Doha in statistical aspects of UNESCO's fields of competence.

The UNESCO office of Doha would like to seize the opportunity to encourage the countries to benefit from the presence of the statistical advisor by asking for his assistance to improve their statistics in the fields of UIS competences through contacting the UNESCO Office of Doha.

### **Main activities conducted:**

Workshop on Culture Statistics for the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries 29 – 30 June, 2009 Doha, Qatar

National Workshop to Saudi Arabia on Education Statistics, October 24 – 28, 2009 in Jeddah, KSA

National Workshop to the Kingdom of Bahrain on Education Statistics, October 31 November 2, 2009 in Manama, Bahrain

Introductory technical mission to the Sultanate of Oman covered all UIS' domains of interest (education, culture, ICT, and R&D), November 2009

Introductory technical mission to the UAE covered all UIS' domains of interest (education, culture, ICT, and R&D), December, 2009

Introductory technical mission to the Republic of Yemen, covered all UIS' domains of interest (education, culture, ICT, and R&D), December, 2009

National Workshop on Education statistics for Qatar, January 2010

A mission to Qatar (two UIS experts, the cluster advisor and one from UIS headquarters) to prepare the education data plan for Qatar (January 31 – Feb.4, 2010)

Organizing the Regional meeting for Arab Region to review ISCED 97, this meeting is a joint activity between UNESCO office in Doha, UIS, and Qatar Statistics Authority (QSA). About 20 experts from the Arab region, UIS, and Technical Advisory Panel (TAP) will meet and discuss the Arab region views towards the revision of ISCED97

A technical mission to Oman mainly on education statistics, and with some attention to the other UIS' domains of interest (13 – 17 February 2010)

Technical Mission to UAE mainly on education statistics, and with some attention to the other UIS' domains of interest (7 – 11 March 2010)

Technical mission to the Kuwait on education, culture, ICT, and R&D statistics (13 – 18 March 2010)

Technical Mission to Bahrain mainly on culture, ICT, and R&D statistics (5–8 April 2010)

Technical mission to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on culture, ICT, and R&D statistics (27 – 31 March 2010)



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## Culture

Although our cultural programme specialist Malda Jabbour has been busy on maternity leave, she did leave an active cultural section behind,

Upon an invitation from the Ministry of Information, Culture and National Heritage in Bahrain, UNESCO Doha Office, mainly the Programme Specialist for Culture and the Programme Specialist for Sciences, carried out a mission to Bahrain in December 2008 to attend the second consultation meeting on the establishment of the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage (ARC-WH) as category-2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO. The feasibility study has been prepared and submitted, and was launched by UNESCO in early 2009.

Upon request from the Ministry of Culture, Arts, and Heritage in Qatar, UNESCO Doha Office organized a capacity building workshop for staff of the Ministry working on the preservation of intangible heritage, the inventories, and the preparation of files for submission to the representative list. The workshop is was held in Doha, Qatar, from 6 to 10 December 2009.

As a follow up to the First Regional Meeting on the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting for World Heritage Sites in the Arab Region that took place in Bahrain from 14 to 17 December 2008, UNESCO Doha Office organized in Doha a Sub-regional Meeting on the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting for the GCC countries in addition to Yemen, Sudan and Egypt. This meeting took place from 27 to 30 April 2009 in Doha, in presence of one representative, the Head of Antiquities at the Qatar Museums Authority, as focal point for Qatar.

- of a representative from Kuwait, as focal point for Kuwait.
- in presence of five representatives from Oman, one focal point, one site manager of the Land of Frankincense, one site manager of the Aflaj Irrigation systems, one site manager of Bat, Al-Khutm and Al-Ayn and one site manager of Bahla Fort.
- representative from the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Community Development in the UAE, as focal point for UAE.

UNESCO Doha Office organized a sub-regional information meeting for all GCC countries, in view of launching the "Award of Excellence for Handicrafts" Programme of UNESCO. The meeting was held in Muscat, Oman on 26 and 27 May 2009. Three representatives of official governmental and crafts associations in Qatar such as the Ministry of Culture, Arts and Heritage, and the Social Development Center, in addition to representatives of the other 5 GCC countries participated in this meeting

- Three representatives of official governmental and crafts associations in Kuwait,
- Around 3 to 5 representatives of official governmental and crafts associations from Qatar will be invited to participate in this meeting.
- Several representatives of official governmental and crafts associations from Oman, in addition to representatives of the other 5 GCC countries participated in this meeting.
- representative from the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Community Development in the UAE, as focal point for UAE.

Upon request from the Directorate of Heritage and Cultural Affairs in the Emirate of Sharjah, UNESCO Doha Office organized a sub-regional meeting for all GCC countries for the promotion of the 2003 Convention on the preservation of Intangible Heritage, the inventories and the Living Human Treasures System in view of its future application in the participating countries. The meeting was organized in cooperation with the UAE Ministry of Culture, Youth, and Community Development, and took place in Sharjah, from 7 to 9 July 2009. It was attended by representatives from different governmental entities and institutions in charge of the preservation of intangible heritage, such as the Ministry of Culture, Arts and Heritage in Qatar, and other participating GCC countries.

- two representatives from the National Council for Arts and Culture of Kuwait
- It was attended by representatives from different governmental entities and institutions in charge of the preservation of intangible heritage in Oman, such as the Ministry of Heritage and Culture, the Ministry of Information and the Public Authority for Craft Industries,
- was attended by representatives from different governmental entities and institutions in charge of the preservation of intangible heritage, from the UAE

Rounding off 2009, and upon invitation from the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM), a mission to Sharjah was carried out to participate in the Workshop on Networking of Conservation Professionals in the Arab Region, organized by ICCROM from 16 to 18 November 2009 in the Emirate of Sharjah.





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## From our Administrative unit

- **Introduction:** We are very pleased to note the encouraging and positive feedback this part of the

UNESCO Doha Office newsletter has received on the 1st and 2nd issues, indeed this shows that the human part of any organization reflects tremendously on the overall organization, the more you can touch on this aspect the more interest one will receive from the general audience. After all, UNESCO's core competency is in the high caliber of its staff and the unusual contribution and efforts exerted by staff, consultants, volunteers, interns and human contributors to the principles governing the presence of the organization. The period covered by the newsletter reflects a very important and active times for UNESCO Doha Office, the staff have been actively involved in a number of important activities and programme implementation, the administrative unit has stood behind all colleagues from the different sectors in providing the required advice, support and back up for the best implementation of their activities. At the same time, we had breaks to celebrate and appreciate the diverse communities we all come from.

The administrative unit of Doha Office has been established with the vision to provide most up to date service to UNESCO Doha staff, participants, consultants and visitors. Together with the Director and the team we are working on absorbing the changes required and we are preparing well for the next months to implement the technical changes and to put in place more stricter internal control which at the same time will not hinder the required professional delivery capabilities of the team. The aim of the unit and of the team is to look for ways to improve the working environment for staff and to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the programme implementation. To also provide basis for a harmonized, respectful and equal opportunity based on the UN standards for all staff. We continue to give great importance to the environment and to greening of UNESCO, together with the Science team we are always looking for ways to improve and to make the UNESCO Doha Office a more environmental friendly office. The office is seriously considering using collected sink water to be used for irrigation of the front area of the office for more green areas around the office, this project will be a donation from the **Wagner Biro company** who are specialists in the field of reed bed technologies

### News:

**UNESCO Doha Office Website:** With the efforts of the Director and colleagues from HQ Paris, namely Bassam Mansour and with the good team in Doha, the office has finally launched the UNESCO Doha Office website. Abdel Rahman Al Manni participated actively as the

technical supporter of the UNESCO Doha Office website. Mark Sutcliffe was assigned as the English Editor and Mona Abdel Sattar as the Arabic Editor, both colleagues have participated at the Web focal points training which took place in Paris from 20-24 July 2009. Both colleagues were trained by Bassam Mansour, Regional Arab Editor, UNESCO Paris and we finally have the UNESCO website actively updated online. Mabrouk to all and congratulations for the hard work. For further information please visit the following link: [www.unesco.org/doha](http://www.unesco.org/doha)

**OHCHR:** An agreement to be signed between UNESCO and The Office of United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) on the arrangement for the provision of Services: OHCHR has asked UNESCO to provide administrative support for the newly established Office in Doha which is adjacent to the UNESCO Doha Office. OHCHR has established a Human Rights Training and Documentation Center for South-West Asia and the Arab Region in Doha, Qatar. The agreement is under review by the Bureau of the Comptroller and Bureau of Field Office Coordination. As the Leading UN agency in Qatar, UNESCO Doha is ready to provide all the required support to all UN colleagues and offices in Qatar. If such an arrangement takes place and they prove to be successful, it should provide a leading example of how UN offices are working as one UN.

**UNESCO Team Awards:** UNESCO Doha Office submitted an application for the UNESCO team award on the reform of the work of the Administrative unit which involved not only the administrative side, but Programme staff as well, which resulted in a significant reduction of time spent on Administrative issues which in turn resulted in process improvement, knowledge management and improvement in the working environment and staff morale/well-being. Results of team work reflected on all the team members and all members were commended for their team work which resulted in completing the audit recommendations and gaining of confidence.

**The former Director-General visit to UNESCO Doha Office:** On the occasion of the World Press Freedom Day which took place in Doha (2 - 3 May 2009), the former Director-General, Koichiro Matsuura was able to devote time to visit UNESCO Doha office on 3rd May 2009 where he toured the new premises and met with the staff and spoke to the Doha team. Staff asked Mr. Matsuura on staffing issues, rotations, promotions and status of temporary contracts. It was suggested in order to ensure rotation, all heads of field offices should meet together to discuss on a regular basis such opportunities and the possibility to swap interested staff. A suggestion which Mr. Matsuura has taken



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## From our Administrative unit

with interest. Generally speaking it was strongly sensed that UNESCO Doha professional staff who have served in the office for a long time feel

it is the right time to rotate to other field offices for the well being of the staff and the office.

**New appointments:** Yousef Ismail Falah has been appointed as UIS Statistical Advisor with effect from 1st June 2009, he will serve as the Cluster Advisor reporting technically to UIS in Canada and directly supervised by the Director of UNESCO Doha Office. UNESCO Doha Office has signed an agreement with UIS to provide all administrative and back up support to UIS staff in Doha. We are very pleased to receive Mr Falah (Palestine) and we do hope that his appointment will be a promising step towards the improvement of the technical capacities of the statistical departments in the Gulf Region.

Tayseir Abdel Aziz rejoined the office after parental leave on 21st June 2009.

### Training:

**IPSAS Training:** International Public Sector Accounting Standards training took place in Doha from 25 to 28 May 2009 at the Moevenpick Towers with the participation of a number of colleagues from Tehran, Cairo, Beirut, Khar-toum, Kabul, Amman, Baghdad and Doha Offices. A professional team from BOC with the leadership of the comptroller conducted the training with active and enthusiastic participation of all colleagues. It was also a great opportunity to interact with colleagues from Bureau of the Comptroller and Chief of Accounts, Joha Haighs. It was also an excellent opportunity for participants to go sight-seeing around Doha and to visit the Islamic Museum, enjoy the boat ride a long the shores of Doha and to go for the traditional old souq. UNESCO Doha Office always welcomes the opportunity to participate in organizing such events and is always ready to host any future training events which in turn will allow more staff from Doha Office to take part in such trainings.

**Workshop on Extra budgetary Projects and Financial Management:** 03 - 06 June, Addis Ababa, two colleagues from Doha Office: Benno Boer and Hania Ayyash participated at the training in Addis Ababa. The objectives of the training were: to familiarize participants with new processes & procedures linked to programming of extra budgetary activities, resource mobilization, implementation & monitoring; 2) Assist participants to better understand budgetary aspects of extra budgetary activities including cost recovery policy; 3) Reinforce control over expenditure and raise awareness of financial internal control issues, includ-

ing risk management; 4) Promote an understanding of principles, policies, procedures and practices related to procurement & selection of contractors and 5) Different stages of a procurement cycle and their relative importance to the timeliness and quality of UNESCO project implementation.

**UNESCO FABS Travel and Contracts roll out to Field offices Training:** 19 - 29 July 2009 - UNESCO Headquarters Paris, Abdul-Rahman El-Manni and Hania Ayyash from the Doha Office participated at the training together with other colleagues from UNESCO field offices. The objective of the training was to train two key staff on the professional/IT processing of travel requests and contracts, purchase order processing through the UNESCO SAP system; this training reflects hugely on the management process of travel and contracts management and upgrades the level of professional handling of activities. Once the new process was implemented, it ensured more transparent and clear guidelines on process management. Programme staff were trained on how to process travel and contracts through the system. This is considered a big step for UNESCO field offices in upgrading their work level.

**Other Training:** As planned, a number of UNESCO Doha staff have taken individual training opportunities in English language and IT trainings. On the job training is also taking place continuously with the online tools available from the Procurement Division, Bureau of the Comptroller and Human Resources Management.





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## From our Administrative unit

In recognition of Abdul-Rahman's hard work in providing the necessary on the job training to all colleagues in the office and in the IT support and back up, Director UNESCO Doha office handed him a letter of recognition during the November general staff meeting. We say congratulations to Abdul-Rahman. We do hope that such letters of recognition will always be given to staff who have provided exceptional support to the UNESCO Doha Office.



*Abdul-Rahman receiving recognition from our director*

**Staff Day Celebrations:** All of UNESCO Doha staff and retired colleague participated at the UNESCO's staff Day Celebration which took place at Millennium Hotel, Zaman restaurant, a number of occasions were celebrated: Hamad Al-Hammami handed over to Gilane El Gewely UNESCO medal for 20 years,



*Gilane Elgewely receiving her UNESCO medal with her husband.*

Hamad Al-Hammami handed to Jafar Muradi a present from all colleagues in appreciation of his long years of service with UNESCO Doha Office (more than 29 years of dedication and hard work). All staff took the opportunity to celebrate and to appreciate the feeling of one family.

The Theme of the occasion was "Let us all work together for the well-being of all colleagues". Great sentiments are felt for colleagues who have served long with this beautiful and unique organization, we look at them with great admiration and appreciation. They will pass on their knowledge and information to the new generation to come. We say a big thank you to all.



*Jafar Muradi receiving recognition by our director for his long term commitment to the office.*