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Организация
Объединенных Наций по
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منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

Address by Irina Bokova,

Director-General of UNESCO

**on the occasion of the orchid Naming Ceremony organized by the
Delegation of Singapore**

Doha, 21 June 2014

Excellency Mr Lawrence Wong, Minister of Culture, Community & Youth of Singapore,

Her Excellency Sheikha Al Mayassa Bint Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani, Chair of the World Heritage Committee,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a pleasure and an honour to be here for this very special ceremony.

I wish to thank the Government of Singapore for this beautiful orchid.

The naming of this orchid is a great honour for UNESCO, and I take this as a symbol of the values we share – as a symbol also of the strength of the cooperation between Singapore and UNESCO.

I am especially moved, as I visited just last month the stunning Singapore Botanic Gardens, during my visit in the Country.

Never before have I seen so many orchids and of so many varieties, and it was fascinating to discover the long process behind their germination.

If I recall well, the first VIP orchid was *Aranthera Anne Black*, named in 1956, after Lady Black, wife of a former Governor of Singapore, Sir Robert Black.

I remember well the fabulous beauty of the Botanic Gardens, home to so many different varieties of orchids – the Golden Shower, the Dancing Lady, and the Tiger orchids.

These gardens are really a small piece of paradise, nestled in the heart of the city.

From this experience, I can testify the germination of orchids is a work of great care and knowledge, which pays tribute to Singapore's unique skills and distinguished history in this field.

I see here also a lesson of commitment and patience, and this resonates strongly with the mandate of UNESCO, as a symbol of the long-term commitment it takes to build the foundations of lasting peace.

For all this and on behalf of UNESCO, I thank you for this honour.