

## COOPERATION BETWEEN OMAN AND UNESCO: SNAPSHOT

1. **Membership in UNESCO:** 10 February 1972
2. **Membership on the Executive Board:** yes
3. **Membership on Intergovernmental Committees or Commissions, etc....:**
  - Executive Board - Member (Term expires in 2019).
  - Council of the UNESCO International Bureau of Education Member (Term expires in 2017).
  - Intergovernmental Council for the International Hydrological Programme - Member (Term expires in 2017).
  - Intergovernmental Committee for Physical Education and Sport - Vice-Chairperson - Member (Term expires in 2019).
  - Intergovernmental Council of the International Programme for the Development of Communication - Member (Term expires in 2019).
  - Intergovernmental Bioethics Committee - Member (Term expires in 2019).
  - Governing Board of the UNESCO Institute for Statistics - Members elected by the UNESCO General Conference: Mr Khalifa Al-Barwani (Term expires by 31 December 2017).
  - Intergovernmental Council for the Information for All Programme - Vice-President.
  - Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission – Member.
  - Governing Board of the UNESCO International Institute for Educational Planning - Elected Member: Ms Madiha Al-Shaibani.
4. **Your visits to Oman:** 3
  - 13 – 14 May 2014: Global Education for All
  - 22 – 25 January 2011: Official visit
  - 15 – 16 December 2012: Official visit
5. **Permanent Delegation to UNESCO**
  - H. E. Dr Samira Mohamed Moosa Al Moosa, Ambassador, Permanent Delegate of the Sultanate of Oman to UNESCO.
  - Staff: Mr Nasser Hamed Salim Al Rawahi, Deputy Permanent Delegate and H. E. Ambassador Musa Bin Jaafar Bin Hassan (Adviser).
6. **UNESCO Office in Doha**
  - Date of establishment: 1976, Doha (Qatar).
  - Member States serviced: Qatar, Oman, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Bahrain and Yemen.
  - Name of Head: Ms. Anna Paolini (Italy), Director of the Doha Office.
7. **National Commission for UNESCO**
  - Established in September 1974
  - Chairperson: Dr. Madiha bint Ahmed bin Nasser Al Shaibaniya; Minister of Education
  - Secretary General: Mr Mohammed Saleem Al Yaqoubi since September 2012.
8. **Personalities having a relationship with UNESCO:** none
9. **UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs:** 1
  - UNESCO Chair in Seafood Biotechnology, established in 2001 at Sultan Qaboos University, Al-Khod.
10. **Associated Schools:** 26
  - The country presently has 26 ASPnet member institutions and the ASPnet National Coordinator is currently Ms. Amna AL BALUSHI, from the Oman National Commission for Education, Culture and Science. The projects and activities being addressed by the Oman

ASP schools include the following themes: climate change, education for sustainable development (ESD), technical and vocational education and training (TVET), and water.

**11. Category 2 institutes and Centres:** none

**12. Biosphere Reserves:** none

**13. World Heritage Sites:** 4

- Aflaj Irrigation Systems of Oman (2006)
- Archaeological Sites of Bat, Al-Khutm and Al-Ayn (1988)
- Bahla Fort (1987)
- Land of Frankincense (2000)

**14. Tentative list:** 8 properties

- The forts of Rostaq and al-Hazm (1988)
- Qalhat (2013)
- Prehistoric Settlements in Bisya & Salut (2013)
- Al Hallaniyyat Islands Proposed Nature Reserve (2013)
- Bar al Hakman Proposed Nature Reserve (2013)
- Smahan's Mountain Nature Reserve (2013)
- al Dimaniyyat Islands Nature Reserve (2013)
- Ras al Had Turtle Reserve and the Heritage Site of Ras al Jinz (2013)

**15. Intangible Heritage Lists:** 7 elements

- Arabic coffee, a symbol of generosity – 2015
- Majlis, a cultural and social space - 2015
- Al-Razfa, a traditional performing art - 2015
- Al-Ayyala, a traditional performing art of the Sultanate of Oman and the United Arab Emirates-2014
- Al 'azi, elegy, processional march and poetry-2012
- Al-Taghrooda, traditional Bedouin chanted poetry in the United Arab Emirates and the Sultanate of Oman-2012
- Al-Bar'ah, music and dance of Oman Dhofari valleys – 2010

**16. Memory of the World Register:** none

**17. Creative Cities Network:** no appointments

**18. Legal instruments:** 12 ratified and 28 not ratified

- Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions: Ratified on 16 March 2007
- Convention on the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage: Ratified on 4 August 2005.
- Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage: Not ratified.
- Convention against Discrimination in Education: Not ratified.
- International Convention against doping in sport: Ratified on 9 July 2007.

**19. Anniversaries with which UNESCO could be associated in 2016 - 2017:** 2

- 150th anniversary of the birth of Abdullah bin Humaid Al Salmi, social reformer and encyclopedic scientist (1867-1914) (with the support of Lebanon and Egypt).
- 1000th anniversary of the birth of Abu Mohammed Abdullah bin Mohammed al-Azdi (Ibn al-Thahabi), scientist (with the support of Egypt and Lebanon).

**20. Participation Programme:**

- 2016-2017: next date for submission is scheduled in August 2016.
- 2014-2015: no request submitted
- 2012-2013: 10 requests were submitted, 9 national requests and one regional request for an amount of US\$ 217 284. The DG has only approved one regional project for a total amount of US\$ 24 000.
- 2010-2011: 10 requests were submitted; 4 requests were approved for an amount of US\$ 85 245

**21. Fellowships:**

- Since 2010: 1 fellowship awarded for a total amount of 8 832 US\$.