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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

Welcome to the second edition of the e-newsletter of the UNESCO Office in Doha. This edition aims at keeping you up-to-date with our most important activities and plans including the period between October 2008 and January 2009. The entire team of the UNESCO Office in Doha wishes that you enjoy reading it, and hopes you find the news and information useful and interesting.

UNESCO Doha Office's activities cover the entire range of the organization's areas of competence- education, culture, natural and social sciences, information communication and technology. However, in order to make this newsletter attractive and readable, we shall try and provide you with the most important news only, and highlight a few of the major activities within the last four month.

One of the highlights was without doubt the inauguration of the site for the Quranic Botanic Garden in Doha, Qatar, in Education City. The first tree was planted by Her Highness Sheikha Mozah Bint Nasser Al Misned, First Lady of Qatar, UNESCO Special Envoy for Basic and Higher Education and Chairperson of the Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development. The Master Plan has now been developed and is currently prepared for hand-over.

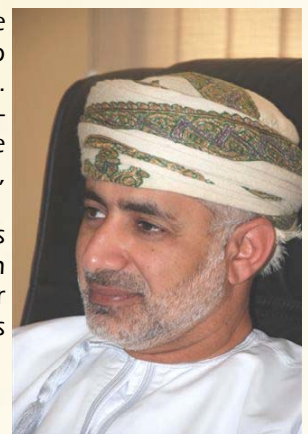
Another highlight was certainly the Offshore Arabia 2009 Conference & Exhibition in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, where environment & energy issues of global concern were discussed among experts and personalities, including His Royal Highness Prince Turki bin Nasser al Saud, President of the Presidency of Meteorology and Environment (PME) in Saudi Arabia. Prince Turki expressed in a discussion with UNESCO's Assistant Director General for Natural Sciences Professor Dr. Walter Erdelen his concern about contemporary socio-environmental issues in the Arabian Peninsula. Issues such as climate change, renewable energy, the freshwater crisis, sea level change, resources recycling as well as UNESCO's overarching Global Priority Africa were discussed, and a follow-up meeting to elaborate on concrete action is currently being planned.

UNESCO Doha tries to generate impact in the best interest of our Member States, where it is most needed. We have therefore identified a field that concerns all of us living in the Gulf: enhancing road traffic. With our inter-sectoral capacity we have begun to look into this issue with the intention to suggest to our Member States and their concerned authorities to develop an International Conference on Road Traffic in the Gulf - human safety and traffic flow. Surely we are expecting a lot of feedback and interest on this issue, which aims at human security and environmental improvement of the catastrophic situation on the roads in numerous cities in the Doha Cluster countries Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

Please enjoy reading about all the other exciting events which have taken, and will take place in the other sectors in this newsletter, and we would be very happy about your questions, comments, suggestions, recommendations and advice. doha@unesco.org

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

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Education

It is to be noted that the Education section of Doha Office has achieved substantial progress in the implementation of regular programme activities for the current biennium.

Cooperation among UNESCO Field offices in the Arab region has been extremely successful and beneficial.

The following activities took place during the last quarter of 2008 :

1. Regional Workshop on Developing Quality TVET Programmes in the Arab Region (Manama-Kingdom of Bahrain, 18 – 20 November 2008)

The main objectives of the regional workshop on quality of Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET) programmes were as follows :

1. **Review progress made** by Member States and TVET institutions in the implementation of both the Joint Recommendations on TVET (2002) and the Normative Instruments concerning TVE (2004) and utilization in quality of TVET.
2. **Promotion and highlighting** the importance of signing up to UNESCO Convention on TVE (1989) by Member States.
3. **Identification of** new roles of UNEVOC Centres in promoting and developing TVET quality at the national, regional and international levels.

The workshop was attended by more than 40 participants from 19 Arab states and regional and international organizations.

2. A Youth forum was organized within the framework of the Euro-Arab Dialogue among young people, it took place in Barka, Sultanate of Oman from 8 to 12 November 2008.

The main topic was Education for Sustainable Development in a world of cultural diversity. Participating students staged a play at the end of the week long forum and several exchanges and twinning arrangements between the European and Arab schools were concluded. Three National Commissions partnered in this event from Germany, Oman and Kuwait in addition to UNESCO and ISESCO.

3. Education programme specialists from the Arab region met twice in Beirut, during November and December 2008 to develop joint activities and projects and to propose activities for the next biennium.

4. The following two consultancy missions took place in November 2008 :

a. The first to Kuwait to discuss the Ministry's requirements

and exchange views regarding the status of implementation of inclusive education in Kuwait and to evaluate special needs schools and provide professional advice and guidance on their performance. The mission also aimed at discussing piloting inclusive education in Kuwaiti schools and to assess the required training needs.

The office commissioned a qualified consultant in the field, Dr. Eman Gaad, Senior Lecturer, and MEd Programme Director, Faculty of Education, British University in Dubai, UAE.

Honorary Senior Lecturer, University of Birmingham, UK.

b. The second to Oman where the Consultant organized a training workshop for the Heads and technical employees of Quality Assurance Sections of the Ministry of Education (around 20 participants).

The workshop focused on the concept of Quality in school education and aimed at :

- introducing the modern concepts of quality; its principles and applications in the field of education;
- presenting modern successful international experiences and models on the applications of quality education;
- introducing the process of building quality standards for the various components of the education system based on clear and realistic examples;
- ensure the participants' ability to develop a procedural plan for the application of the principles of quality in the education system.

The workshop was conducted by Dr. Kawsar Kouchok, Expert in Curriculum and Instructional materials.

January 2009 has been a busy start for the second year of the biennium

Doha Office supported the organization of the CONFINTEA VI Preparatory Conference for the Arab States :

"Investing in Adult Learning: Building Knowledge and Learning Societies in the Arab Region" organized by Beirut Office in Tunisia from 5 to 7 January 2009. The Conference aimed at identifying and discussing the main issues, trends and challenges related to adult learning and education in the region and presented relevant practices and innovations. National reports on the development of adult learning and education were discussed and validated during the Conference. Dr. H. Al Hammami represented Doha Office.

Doha Office has forged strong partnerships with academic institutions in the region, Qatar University is one of them. Our office contributes regularly to the yearly



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Education

conferences organized by the Department of Psychological Sciences. The theme of this year's conference was : "Supporting Young Children's Literacy Development".

Keynote speakers included Dr. Lourdes Diaz Soto, Professor of Education at the University of Georgia-Dalton State, USA. The conference topics included: play and literacy, the role of the environment in supporting literacy, linking language, literacy and reading development, early literacy and children with special needs, the role of parents and teachers in achieving early literacy, dual language and technology in early literacy in addition to the role of culture and the influence of social context on the acquisition of literacy.

The Conference took place at Qatar University on 17 and 18 January 2009.

Planned activities of the ED section of Doha office during 2009

Activity 1 : Meeting for the promotion of the role of NGOs in Education for All (EFA) in collaboration with Cairo Office and HQ
Date : 7 – 9 April 2009 Venue : Cairo - Egypt

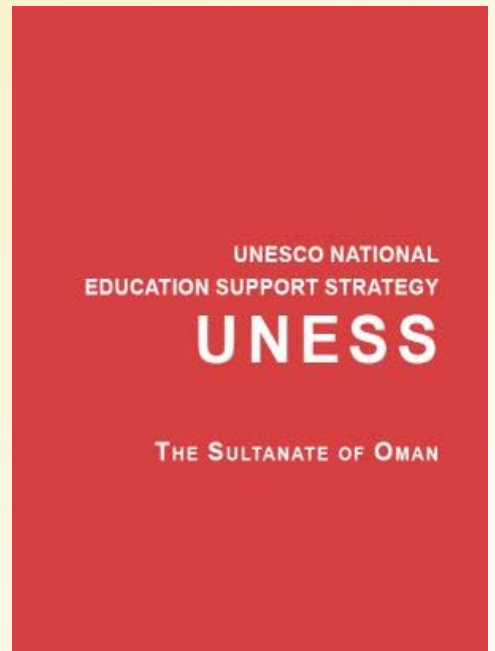
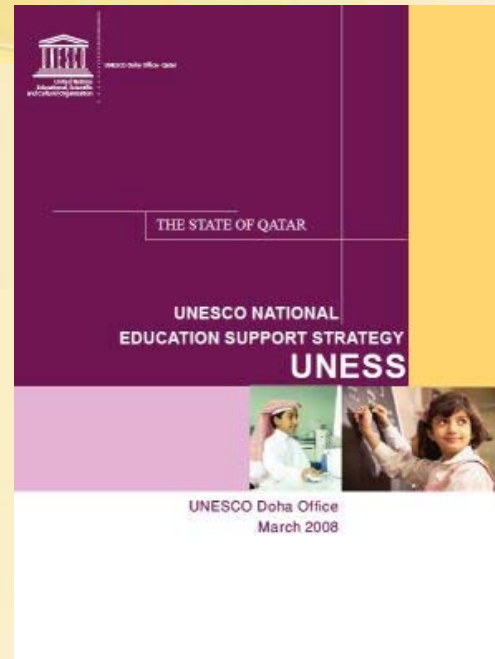
Activity 2 : Organization of an Expert Meeting on Secondary Education in collaboration with Beirut Office and Oman Ministry of Education
Date : 26 – 28 April 2009 Venue : Muscat – Sultanate of Oman

Activity 3 : Organization of a thematic and methodological training seminar for educators in the Arab states: "Intercultural dialogue – a major vector for quality education" in collaboration with HQ and ISESCO
Date : May 2009 Venue : Ain Sokhna - Egypt

Activity 4 : National Associated Schools Project Network (ASPnet) seminar in Bahrain for local ASPnet school coordinators
Date : to be decided Venue : Bahrain

Activity 5 : Organization of sub-regional seminar on unified standards for teacher performance for the Gulf States.
Date : October/November 2009

Furthermore, the following UNESS reports for Qatar and Oman have been finalized and will be ready for distribution soon.

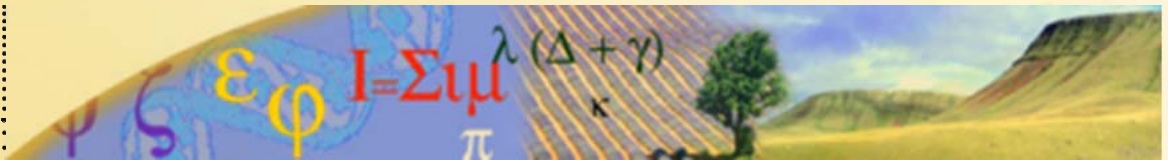


For more information on the Education sector's activities please don't hesitate to contact:
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Sciences

The SEP/2008 - JAN 2009 period was very busy for us in the Sciences section of UNESCO Doha, and the following people helped make it happen, to contact any of them, just click on their names:

Mona Abdel-Sattar, Social Sciences Specialist
Nadine Loutfi, PR & Liaison Officer
Anna Nelson, Volunteer
Mark Sutcliffe, Project Officer
Benno Böer, Ecological Sciences Advisor



"The Arab nations of the Gulf have gone through a massive process of change....I believe for instance that the region has the capacity to become a world leader in renewable energy development and production. Some very impressive steps have been taken here in the United Arab Emirates." Prof. Dr. **Walter Erdelen**, Assistant Director General of UNESCO for the Natural Sciences Sector

With the exceptional performance of our team, we successfully supported, co-organized and organized many events since the last newsletter, mainly science-based environmental management events:

UNESCO Doha Events

Inauguration ceremony for the Quranic Botanic Garden in Qatar, Education City, OCT 2008
Qatar Foundation & UNESCO



Sheikha Mozah planting the first tree for the Quranic Botanic Gardens

Planning Meeting for the International Botanic Garden in Lebanon, Beirut, NOV 2008
UNESCO Beirut & UNESCO Doha

The 2nd Consultation Meeting on the Establishment of the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage, as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO, Manama, DEC 2008 - Ministry of Culture and Information, Kingdom of Bahrain & UNESCO

Qatar University Life Science Symposium: Biological Diversity of Qatar, Doha, 20-21 DEC 2008
Qatar University, Ministry of the Environment & UNESCO

Training Workshop on transboundary diagnostic analysis of coastal and marine environmental issues in the ROPME Sea Area, Dubai, 8-10 JAN 2009
UNESCO, ROPME, UNEP & RECSO

Offshore Arabia, Dubai, 11-13 JAN 2009
RECSO and numerous supporters including the UAE Ministry of the Environment, Presidency of Meteorology and the Environment of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia & UNESCO

Achieving the environmental development outcomes of the Qatar National Vision 2030, Doha, 27 JAN 2009
GSDP & UNDP, and supported by UNESCO

The Arab Recycling Initiative - Gulf planning workshop, 27 JAN 2009
Qatar Friends of the Environment Centre, UNESCO & UNEP



Planned Events

Marine World Heritage Meeting, Manama, 23-26 FEB 2009
contact: Ministry of Culture and Information, Kingdom of Bahrain

My family is most important - 25 FEB (campaign to be continued for an initial three months period)
Dubai Police, United Arab Emirates

International Conference on Climate Change in the Indian Ocean Region, Muscat, 8 MAR 2009
contact: Ministry of Environment and Climate Affairs, Sultanate of Oman

Symposium for Energy, Industry and Environment in the Gulf, Kuwait City, 22-24 MAR 2009
contact: Arab European Environment Council, Gulf Documentation Centre, Kuwait

Urban Coastal Development, Abu Dhabi, 23-24 MAR 2009
contact: IOPC James.Plotnek@iqpc.com

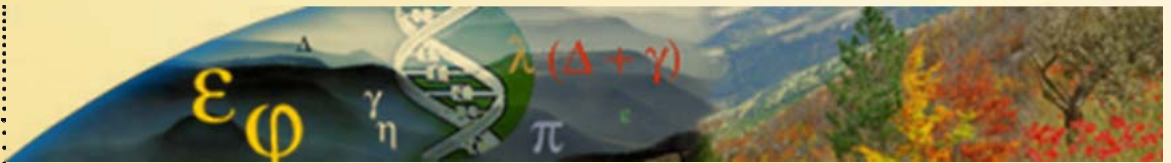
World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development, Bonn, 28 MAR - 2 APR 2009
contact: Federal Ministry for Education and Research, Federal Republic of Germany

Gulf Conference on Road Traffic: Human Safety and Traffic Flow, Doha, 2010
UNESCO Doha, NatComs and partners



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Sciences

Event postponed:

International Conference on the Gulf's Ecosystems: Functioning and Services, contact: BCSR, Kingdom of Bahrain - this has been postponed from March 2009 to March 2010.

Recent UNESCO Doha Publications

Aside from these events we also produced a number of very useful materials for our partners and member states:

Towards environmentally friendly tourism in Arabian Biosphere Reserves. Case study: Al Reem. UNESCO Doha, e-book, 64p.

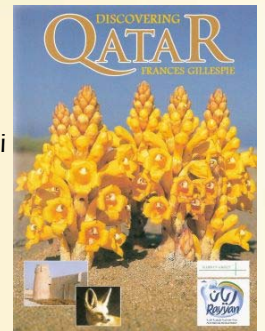


Selected external books presented as gifts to UNESCO Doha:

Sensitivity Mapping of the Eastern Coast of Qatar contact: Ministry of the Environment, Qatar

Coral in the Southeastern Arabian Gulf contact: Dolphin Energy, Ministry of Environment, Qatar & EAD, Abu Dhabi

Discovering Qatar. 2nd Edition contact: Frances Gillespie gillespi@qatar.net.qa

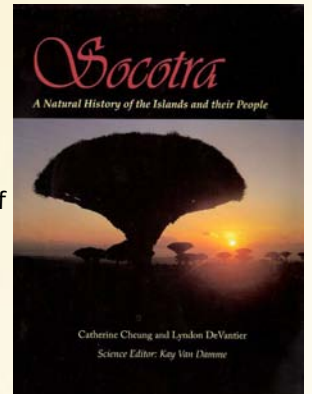


Healing Hands of Qatar contact: Fay Gotting docfaygotting@yahoo.com



Wadi Hanifa – looking ahead. UNESCO mission to Wadi Hanifa focusing on water, ecosystems and outdoor recreation in the Ar' Riyadh capital region, Saudi Arabia. UNESCO Doha, 12p.

Socotra. A Natural History of the Islands and their People contact: Cpscheung@aol.com



Master Plan for the Quranic Botanic Garden in Qatar. Compiled by Ralf Oliver of London for UNESCO.

External Project Evaluation: Master Plan of the Garden in Sharjah. Compiled by Botanic Garden Conservation International for UNESCO

External Project Evaluation: Master Plan of the Garden in Doha. Compiled by Botanic Garden Conservation International for UNESCO

Despite the already impressive list of achievements of our small team, we are looking forward to doing even more. This has in part made even more possible through the support we have generously received from Tetrapak in order to further our work on the Arab Recycling Initiative: We highly appreciate Tetrapak's support and invite more contributions from the private sector.

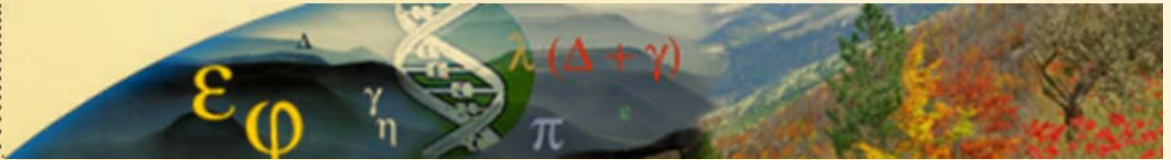
Best regards,

The Sciences team from UNESCO Doha.



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Social and Human Sciences

Within the framework of the commemorations of the 6th Anniversary of the universal Declaration of Human Rights UNESCO Doha Office with the collaboration of the Qatar Foundation for Child & Woman Protection organized two workshop

Workshop 1

“The International Conventions for the Eradication of Violence and Discrimination against Women & their Reflection on the Qatari Legislations”

Workshop 2

“The International Conventions on Child’s Rights & their Reflection on the Qatari Legislations”

The workshops aimed to achieve the following:

To increase awareness with the rights of women and children in accordance with international principles and standards”
Affirms that child and woman’s rights are part and parcel of Human Rights.

Prompt the social responsibility in protecting the rights of women and children

Highlight the remaining challenges facing legislators to ensure best compliance with international conventions on Child and Woman’s Human Rights and their related protocols.

To give policymakers a chance to evaluate their country’s public policies concerning woman and to determine whether such policies were indeed benefiting the woman and child.

The Workshops were attended by representatives from the Governments of the State of Qatar, Law enforcement agencies, Qatar University, Social services, Social Policy and legislations Public Sector Institutions, NGOs as well as numerous representatives of civil society and the media.

Workshop recommendations:

After two days of continuous discussions, experts and professional agreed on the following recommendations:

Assure/ ensure the importance of child and woman rights and enhance knowledge by protection criteria and basics to secure these rights and spread it among involved organizations.

Calling upon concerned bodies review all laws and legislations to make harmony between world criteria and basics in child and woman rights protection, maintain cultural and religious heritage of Qatari society, modify Qatari legislations related to citizenship enabling Qatari woman to grant her nationality to husband and children under specific rules within ruling juridical adherence.

Calling upon the concerned bodies to develop a curriculum for human rights education, and prepare the conceptual maps, scale matrix and sequence necessary for integrating these concepts in school curricula;

Calling upon concerned bodies to increase their efforts in the awareness programs to family and society on their rights.

Create and use attractive methods to educate and communicate human rights issues at schools, debates, lectures to

students in a manner that ensures interaction rather than one-sided lecturing.

Adapt awareness campaign supervised by Qatar foundation for child and woman rights protection in co-operation with UNESCO to keep society aware of child and woman rights.

Create a network among all concerned departments in order to exchange information and avoid duplicate of efforts to be supervised by QFWCP and UNESCO.

Calling upon concerned bodies to Provide protection for children against family violence and sexual harassment.

Calling upon the necessity of developing (reference) manuals and teaching aids for teachers of human rights education

Calling upon concerned bodies to Integrate human rights into school environment and events such as sports competitions, magazines, various activity associations.

Memorandum of Understanding between Dubai Police General, Human Rights Care Department Dubai, U.A.E and (UNESCO)

UNESCO Doha Office is in the process of conducting a Memorandum of Understanding between Dubai Police General, Human Rights Care Department Dubai, U.A.E and UNESCO.

The objective of the Memorandum is to advance a culture of human rights in Dubai and the United Arab Emirates through



developing cooperation between UNESCO and the Government of Dubai, represented by the Dubai Police General Headquarters, in the areas of:

promotion of knowledge on human rights major instruments and international, regional and national mechanisms for their protection;

public awareness-raising on human rights issues, including existing obstacles and challenges;

promotion of ideals of a culture of peace, tolerance, non-violence, and mutual respect based upon human rights standards.

For more information please don’t hesitate to contact:
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Culture

UNESCO and the Preservation of World Heritage Properties:

Following the First Regional Meeting on the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting in the Arab Region, which was hosted by the Bahrain Authorities in Manama from 14 to 19 December 2008, UNESCO Doha Office, in close cooperation with the World Heritage Center, are organizing the first Sub-regional Workshop for State Members of the GCC (Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and UAE), in addition to Yemen, Sudan and Egypt. The Workshop is foreseen to take place from 29 March to 1 April 2009 in Doha. Issues in relation with the Outstanding Universal Value Statement, as well as the Questionnaire for Reporting and Monitoring about inscribed properties in the above-mentioned member states will be addressed during this Workshop. Participants from the above-mentioned member states are composed of one Focal Point for each member state, and of one Site Manager per inscribed site. Mentors representing UNESCO, ICCROM, ICOMOS and IUCN will be present and will provide assistance, as required, to the Focal points and Site Managers in the completion of the reporting on inscribed properties.

UNESCO Doha Office is organizing a theoretical and practical training in the management of heritage sites for properties inscribed on the World Heritage List for the staff of the Directorate of Antiquities and Museums of Oman. UNESCO in cooperation with the relevant Omani authorities is selecting the appropriate International Experts and developing the programme of the training, which is foreseen to take place in late March or beginning April 2009.

UNESCO and Capacity Building in Museum-related Fields:

A sub-regional workshop on Museums and their role nowadays was organized by UNESCO Doha Office from 1 to 3 December 2008. GCC countries that participated are Bahrain, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Oman. Three participants representing different museums from each of these countries were present. Among museums participating were the Bahrain National Museum, the Museum of Islamic Art of Qatar, the Natural History Museum in Qatar, the Museum of Modern Arab Art in Qatar, the Orientalism Museum in Qatar, the Kuwait National Museum, Dar al Athar al Islamiyyah in Kuwait, Dickson Cultural House in Kuwait, the Omani French Museum, the Children Museum in Oman, the Jazan Museum in Saudi Arabia and



the Al Ihsaa Museum in Saudi Arabia. The aim of this workshop was to have an overview of problems that museums in the GCC countries are facing, in order to be able to efficiently address their needs, mainly in what relates to the educational and learning role that museums should play nowadays, their social and cultural role and their management and audience development. Three international UNESCO experts specialized in the above-mentioned fields animated this workshop.

UNESCO and the Promotion of Cultural Industries:

UNESCO is assisting the Public Authority for Crafts Industries in Oman (PACI) with the preparation of a guide for the classification, inventorying and evaluation of craft industries in Oman. A UNESCO mission by the Culture Programme Specialist and a UNESCO International expert in crafts was carried out in early November 2008. The development of training programmes in different categories of handicrafts, in addition to a study on the future marketing of products, and recruitment of new staff are also areas where UNESCO could assist PACI.

UNESCO is foreseeing the launching, at the level of GCC countries, of the "Award of Excellence for Handicrafts" Programme of UNESCO. A Sub-regional information session about this programme and its objectives is therefore foreseen to be held at the end of May 2009. Official governmental and crafts associations' representatives will be invited to participate. This programme aims to encourage artisans to produce handicrafts using traditional skills, patterns and themes in an innovative way, in order to ensure the continuity and sustainability of these traditions and skills. It is UNESCO's flagship programme for supporting craft producers.

UNESCO and the Protection of Intangible Heritage:

UNESCO Doha Office is planning to organize an information meeting for the promotion of the 2003 Convention in GCC countries that have not yet ratified it, and for the promotion of the creation of inventories for intangible heritage, for countries that have already ratified the 2003 convention. This meeting comes in line with the fourth session of the Intergovernmental Committee for intangible heritage, foreseen to be held in Abu Dhabi in September 2009. Exact dates of the information meeting will be fixed at a later stage.

For more information please don't hesitate to contact:
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Communication & Information

Kindly note events which have taken, and will take place this year so far:

Teachers Capacity Building In Jeddah - Saudi Arabia 15/ Feb/2009

Objectives:

- ICT use in Education and Training
- Promote Educator Role in ICT
- Support the infrastructure of ICT in education and training institutes

A workshop, will be jointly organized with the Education section, for ICT educators, in the Arab Gulf Countries, to promote the use of ICT in education, and training institutes. Arabic language will be used as the main language of communication, beside English as the technical language of ICT.

The above objectives will be discussed, problems facing participants, will be discussed, and solutions.

Freedom of Expression Workshop in Oman Proposed April 2009

Objective:

- Support freedom of expression via dialogue among media professionals
- Enhance public awareness of press freedom as a fundamental right.
- Explore UNESCO's role in freedom of expression.
- Enhance awareness of relation between democracy and media.
- Enhance awareness of women in freedom of expression
- Enhance protection of press freedom and the rights of journalist.

A Freedom of Expression workshop will be organized in Oman April 2009, to prompt and raise awareness among media specialists in the Arab Gulf Countries. Arabic language will be used as the language of communication in the workshop.

UNESCO, as one of many organizations active in the field of freedom of expression in all Arab countries, hopes that such activities encourage dialogue among media professionals and political authorities, so more freedom of the press and protection of journalist rights is given and respected.

*****Special Event*****

UNESCO World Press Freedom Day 2-3 May 2009

Taking Place in Doha, Qatar

Venue: TBC

-World Press Freedom Prize Ceremony

-Conference on: The Potential of Media: Dialogue, Mutual Understanding and Reconciliation

Capacity Building of Media Training Institutes in Qatar June 2009

Objective:

- Promoting independent and pluralistic media development
- Capacity building of media training institutes in the Arab Gulf region
- Media Training Curricula analyses and implementation

An agreement reached with AL Jazeera Training Center, and a work plan already drafted to implement, "Journalism Diploma Curricula" in printed and electronic journalism, in Arabic language, a booklet will be published containing the curricula that suits a six month training, for high schools graduates.

A consultant will be appointed to draft the "Journalism Diploma Curricula", AL Jazeera Training Center will, contribute \$20,000.0 into this project.

Activity Output:

Capacity of Media Training Institutes enhanced
Strengthen independent and pluralistic media in the Arabian cluster

Create a Network of Media Training Institutes in Qatar June 2009

Objective:

- Promoting independent and pluralistic media development.
- Capacity Building of Media training institutes in the Arab Gulf region,
- Create Media Training Institutes network

An agreement reached with AL Jazeera Training Center, and a work plan will be drafted to implement a web based network to establish a network among media training institutes in the Arab region.

Consultants will be appointed to draft the design and the implementation of the project. AL Jazeera Training Center will contribute some funds into this project.

Activity Output:

Capacity of Media Training Institutes enhanced
Strengthen independent and pluralistic media in the Arabian cluster,
Creation of a media training institutes network, in the Arab region.

For more information on ICT activities please don't hesitate to contact:

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From our AO unit

The Administrative unit in UNESCO Doha Office had a very successful year with the completion of the audit recommendations and the closing of all open audit recommendations. The unit would like to acquire full accreditation from the Bureau of Comptroller at HQ Paris and to ensure that all the required UN standards are fully implemented and met. The unit is also pleased to announce that we have acquired the first phase of FABS rollout (Finance and Budget Systems) which means that all accounting data is directly entered into the UNESCO SAP system which in turn will allow for accurate recording of all financial data and timely reporting on budget status. The unit is determined to continue to acquire the required skills and training in all FABS models. The unit strives to provide the required back up and support to all staff, consultants, visitors, UN colleagues and partners in Qatar, the region and all over the world. The unit has successfully coordinated the Housing Survey for all UN staff in Qatar and has also coordinated the Daily Subsistence Survey for Qatar in cooperation with UN New York. We are concluding the local salary survey for 2008 which we hope will reflect positively on the salary scale of UN local staff. The Admin. unit has also successfully implemented the closing of accounts for the year ending - 2008. We take this opportunity to reemphasize the unit objective "to solidly build an Admin. unit which is ready to provide full support in terms of finance, budget, management, security, training and HRM services".

The unit has provided finance and banking services to several UN meetings held in Doha during 2008 and other UNESCO meetings.

The office was happy to receive the newly appointed UNDSS Advisor, Mr. Joe Brady and to discuss with him security related issues. Mr. Brady was accompanied by colleagues from Office of Human Rights, as they will be occupying the building adjacent to UNESCO Doha premises, we count on the good cooperation of OHR colleagues and hope to have mutual benefit for both organizations.

Environmentally friendly measures: The office has taken a number of steps to develop the Doha Office into a more environmental friendly office and to apply the basic concepts such as: recycling of papers, collection of air-cons water, UNESCO garden, switching lights, etc. Feed back from all staff and partners would be greatly appreciated.

HRM news:

Appointments:

Mr. Sankar Sambandam has been appointed as UNESCO Doha Office Driver effective 2nd October 2008. We wish him a very fruitful and prosperous future with Doha Office, Mr. Sankar's appointment came following the retirement of Mr. Hussein Kamali end of July 2008 after serving with UNESCO Doha Office for more than 27 years.

Departures:

Mr. Kamali retired end of July 2008. Mrs. Marianne Haddad resigned from UNESCO on 15 January 2009 after serving in the Education sector, she has received an offer to work with Qatar Foundation and we wish her all the best in her future career.

Training: A one day training on Extra budgetary models by Ms Noha Bawazir took place on 20 January at UNESCO Doha Office for all programme staff. FABS training will be arranged during the first quarter of 2009 for all admin. and programme staff of UNESCO Doha Office.

UNESCO staff news:

Mrs. Tayseir Abdel Aziz has been blessed with a baby boy on 2nd October 2008, our good wishes to Mrs. Abdel Aziz and her family.

UNESCO staff day celebration took place on 19 June 2008 at the Movempick Towers and it was a good chance to wish Mr. Kamali a very happy retirement and to present him with a souvenir from all colleagues at UNESCO Doha Office.

UNESCO staff are currently taking advantage of the good weather and the new garden table provided to enjoy healthy fresh breaks and to have good warm chats with each other, something that UNESCO management is keen to promote and emphasize. The Director has also generously provided Omani sweets and coffee during some of the breaks, a feeling of family friendly atmosphere is appreciated by all. The Admin. unit is always looking for ways to improve the working environment for staff and to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the programme imple-



mentation. To also provide basis for a harmonized, respectful and equal opportunity based on the UN standards for all staff.

2008 was a good year to receive and train volunteers at the AO unit and the different sectors in the office, National and International volunteers joined the office and contributed positively to programme implementation. Possible cooperation with Georgetown University to receive volunteers in 2009 is being reviewed.

Best wishes,
Hania Ayyash, Administrative Officer
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