

AGREEMENT

BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN AND THE UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION (UNESCO) CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE ON QANATS AND HISTORIC HYDRAULIC STRUCTURES (ICQHS-YAZD)

Whereas the General Conference, at its 32nd session, decided that the International Centre on Qanats and Historic Hydraulic Structures (ICQHS-Yazd) would be established in the Islamic Republic of Iran under the auspices of UNESCO,

Whereas the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran has contributed and stands ready to contribute further to the establishment and operation of the International Centre in its territory,

Bearing in mind that the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran has already taken a number of effective measures and steps to ensure the necessary infrastructure and facilities for the International Centre,

Desirous of concluding an agreement with a view to ensuring the establishment and operation of the said Centre and to defining the terms and conditions governing the support that it shall be granted, under the guidelines laid down by the General Conference (21 C/Resolution 40) for international centres set up by a State with UNESCO's participation and receiving assistance from it (21 C/36, paragraph B(ii)),

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, hereinafter called "the Organization", and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, hereinafter called "the Government",

HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

Article I Establishment

The Government agrees to take any measures that may be required for the setting up of the International Centre on Qanats and Historic Hydraulic Structures (ICQHS-Yazd), hereinafter called "the International Centre", in Yazd as provided for under this Agreement.

Article II Participation

1. The International Centre shall be an autonomous institution at the service of Member States of the Organization that, by their common interest in the objectives of the International Centre and the nature of their water management needs, desire to cooperate with the International Centre.
2. Member States of the Organization wishing to participate in the International Centre's activities, as provided for under this Agreement, shall send the Director-General of the Organization notification to this effect, signed by an official having the authority to sign

international treaties, as well as the designation of the national water-related body which shall be competent to represent the Member State. The Director-General shall inform the International Centre and the Member States mentioned in Article II, paragraph 1, above, of the receipt of such notifications.

Article III Objectives and Functions

1. The objectives of the International Centre shall be:
 - (a) promotion of capacity-building, research, and development in relation to qanats and other traditional water resources management systems and historic hydraulic structures for the purpose of achieving sustainable development objectives through international cooperation;
 - (b) global exchange of knowledge and technology on qanats, traditional water resources systems and historic hydraulic structures;
 - (c) preservation of the cultural heritage that qanats, traditional water resources systems and historic hydraulic structures represent;
 - (d) to enhance cooperation with institutions dealing with qanats, traditional water resources systems and historic hydraulic structures.

2. The functions of the International Centre shall be:
 - (a) executing educational and training activities to transfer qanat, traditional water resources systems and historic hydraulic structures technology worldwide;
 - (b) undertaking research, development and scientific investigation in collaboration with relevant research centres all over the world;
 - (c) holding scientific symposiums and conferences (regional and international);
 - (d) developing a comprehensive programme of information and communication technology and collecting information available worldwide and setting up a data bank;
 - (e) collecting and disseminating relevant local knowledge;
 - (f) publishing and disseminating the outcomes of research activities in different countries through books, articles, etc;
 - (g) compiling a comprehensive history on qanats, traditional water resources systems and historic hydraulic structures;
 - (h) Providing technical consulting and advisory services as required.

3. The International Centre shall pursue the above objectives and functions in close coordination with the International Hydrological Programme of the Organization.

4. The International Centre shall carry out the above functions to the extent to which resources and international support can be mobilized.

Article IV
Governing Board

1. The International Centre shall be administered by a Governing Board composed of:
 - (a) a representative of the Government;
 - (b) a representative of each of the other Member States that: (1) have sent the Director-General of the Organization notification, as provided for under Article II, paragraph 2, above; and (2) make a substantial contribution to the operating budget or running of the International Centre, and are thus accorded a seat by a decision of the Governing Board;
 - (c) a representative of the Director-General of the Organization;
 - (d) the Director of the Regional Centre on Urban Water Management (RCUWM), Tehran;
 - (e) a representative of any other intergovernmental organization or international non-governmental organization making a substantial contribution to the operating budget or running of the International Centre and accorded a seat by a decision of the Governing Board.
2. The Minister of Energy (Minister in charge of water affairs) of the Islamic Republic of Iran or the person he/she designates shall be the representative of the Government, and shall also be the Chairperson of the Governing Board.
3. The Governing Board shall have all the powers required for the running and administration of the International Centre. It shall:
 - (a) approve the annual plan and budget of the International Centre;
 - (b) examine the annual reports submitted by the Director of the International Centre as provided under Article VI below;
 - (c) study and approve the International Centre's internal procedures, including financial regulations and staff rules;
 - (d) approve the International Centre's organizational chart and number of staff;
 - (e) convene special consultative sessions to which it shall invite, in addition to its own members, the Director of the International Centre and representatives of other interested countries and international organizations in order to obtain proposals for strengthening the scope of the services of the International Centre and for carrying out projects and activities relevant to the International Centre, and to expand the Centre's fund-raising strategy and capabilities.
4. The Governing Board shall meet in ordinary session once a year; it shall meet in an extraordinary session if summoned by the Chairperson, either on his/her own initiative or on that of the Director-General of the Organization, or at the request of at least half of its members.
5. The Governing Board shall adopt its own rules of procedure. For the first meeting the procedures shall be established by the representatives of the Government and the Organization.

Article V
Secretariat

1. The International Centre's Secretariat shall consist of a Director and such staff as is necessary for the proper functioning of the Centre.
2. The Director shall be appointed by the Chairperson of the Governing Board in consultation with the Director-General of the Organization.
3. The other members of the Secretariat may comprise:
 - (a) members of the Organization's staff who would be made available to the International Centre, as provided for by the Organization's regulations;
 - (b) any person appointed by the Director, in accordance with the procedures laid down by the Governing Board;
 - (c) Government officials who would be made available to the International Centre, as provided by Government regulations.

Article VI
Duties of the Director

1. The Director shall discharge the following duties:
 - (a) direct the work of the International Centre in conformity with the programmes and directives established by the Governing Board;
 - (b) propose the draft plan and budget to be submitted to the Governing Board for approval;
 - (c) prepare the provisional agenda for the sessions of the Governing Board and submit to it any proposals that he/she may deem useful for the administration of the International Centre;
 - (d) prepare reports on the International Centre's activities to be submitted to the Governing Board;
 - (e) represent the International Centre in law and in all civil acts.

Article VII
Financial arrangements

1. The International Centre's resources shall derive from sums allotted by the Organization, subject to the decisions of the General Conference, and by the Government, from such contributions as it may receive from other Member States of the Organization, from the intergovernmental organizations or international non-governmental organizations mentioned in Article IV, paragraph 1(e) of this Agreement, and from payments for services rendered.
2. The International Centre may, with the approval of the Governing Board, receive gifts and legacies.

Article VIII
Contribution of the Government

1. The Government shall cover the salaries and compensations of the Secretariat staff including the Director, and make available to the International Centre the necessary staff.
2. The Government shall provide the International Centre with appropriate office space, equipment and facilities.
3. The Government shall cover the communication, utilities and maintenance costs of the International Centre, plus the expenses of holding the sessions of the Governing Board and the special consultative sessions approved by the Governing Board.
4. The Government shall contribute funds towards the implementation of studies, training, and publication activities, complementing the contributions from other sources.

Article IX
Contribution of the Organization

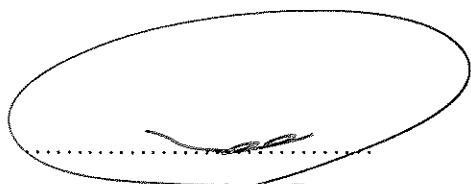
1. The Organization will provide technical and administrative assistance for the establishment and operation of the International Centre, including assistance in the formulation of the short-, medium- and long-term programmes of the Centre.
2. The Organization, in particular through the Intergovernmental Council of the IHP, may associate the International Centre with the execution of relevant activities and, in this case, will provide support within the framework of the biennial Programme and Budget (C/5 document), and may contribute financially to concrete activities/projects of the Centre if those are deemed to be in line with UNESCO's programme priorities. The Organization will not, however, provide financial support for administrative or institutional purposes.
3. The Organization will encourage the international governmental and non-governmental financial entities, as well as its Member States to provide financial and technical assistance and to propose applicable projects to the International Centre and will facilitate contacts with other international organizations relevant to the functions of the Centre.
4. The Organization will provide the International Centre with IHP publications and other pertinent material and will disseminate information on the activities of the Centre via the IHP website and other mechanisms at its disposal.
5. The Organization will participate, when appropriate, in the scientific, technical and training meetings held by the International Centre.

Article X
Final Clauses

1. The present Agreement shall come into force upon its signature by the two parties. It shall remain in force until the end of 2007 and may be renewed for a similar period as agreed upon between the Government and the Organization.
2. The present Agreement may be revised by consent between the Government and the Organization.
3. Either party shall have the right to terminate this Agreement by giving six months prior written notice to the other party.

IN FAITH WHEREOF, the undersigned representatives, duly authorized, have signed the present Agreement in two original copies, one in the authentic English version and one in Farsi.

Tehran, 26 March 2005

A large, stylized signature in black ink, enclosed within a hand-drawn oval. The signature is written over a horizontal dotted line.

For the Government of the
Islamic Republic of Iran

Mr Habibollah Bitaraf

Minister of Energy

A large, stylized signature in black ink, enclosed within a hand-drawn oval. The signature is written over a horizontal dotted line.

For the United Nations Educational,
Scientific and Cultural Organization

Mr Koïchiro Matsuura

Director-General of UNESCO