

# **“Science and Technology: An Expert Workshop within the Framework of the Global Strategy for a credible, representative and balanced World Heritage List”**

International Expert Meeting co-hosted by the UK State Party and the UK National Commission for UNESCO

**21-23 January 2008, The Wellcome Trust, 215 Euston Road, London (UK)**

## **DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE WORLD HERITAGE CENTRE**

### **Mission Statement**

To facilitate the World Heritage Committee in recognizing the representation of sites of interest for the heritage of science and technology which are of potential Outstanding Universal Value for nomination for the World Heritage List, and to provide a guidance framework.

### **Background**

In 1994, the World Heritage Committee launched the Global Strategy for a Balanced, Representative and Credible World Heritage List. Its aim is to ensure that the List reflects the world's cultural and natural diversity of outstanding universal value. By adopting the Global Strategy, the World Heritage Committee wanted to broaden the definition of World Heritage to better reflect the full spectrum of our world's cultural and natural treasures and to provide a comprehensive framework and operational methodology for implementing the World Heritage Convention.

The expert workshop is based on the Global Strategy and is linked to World Heritage Committee's Decision **31 COM 9** related to discussion of the Outstanding Universal Value within the framework of the Global Strategy..

### **Thematic Statement**

Fundamental to all human progress and societies are knowledge, its pursuit and its application to resolve the problems of human existence. The pursuit and application of knowledge underlie all human achievements many of which have been recognised on the World Heritage List, as for example in the case of agriculture and industrialisation as well as achievements of architecture, religion and fortification.

Particular areas relating to knowledge which are under-represented on the World Heritage List are the natural sciences (physical sciences including astronomy and chemistry, and biological sciences) and the development of their application through engineering and technology. These are fundamental to understanding the nature of modern human existence and the World Heritage Committee has for reviewing issues related to the representation of science and technology. At its 29th session (Durban, South Africa 2005) the World Heritage Committee requested '*the Director of the World Heritage Centre to further explore the thematic initiative "Astronomy and World Heritage" as a means to promote, in particular, nominations which recognize and celebrate achievements in science;*' (Decision **29 COM 5B**)

### **Scope and expected Outcome**

At the 31st session of the World Heritage Committee (Christchurch, New Zealand 2007) the Delegate of the UK suggested that it would be beneficial to explore further the opportunities, issues and additional guidance necessary to achieve the Committee's aims in recognising and celebrating achievements of science on the World Heritage List. It was suggested that a useful initial stage would be to hold an international expert meeting combining inputs on the interpretation of science heritage in the context of the 1972 *World Heritage Convention* from the scientific community and World Heritage specialists. The Committee (Decision **31 COM 9**) accepted the offer of the United Kingdom to host an expert meeting on the recognition of the heritage of science and technology in the *World Heritage Convention* during late 2007.

The meeting, hosted by the UK Government (DCMS) and the UK National Commission for UNESCO will take place in London, England, from 21 to 23 January 2008. A report of the meeting will be provided to the 32nd session of the World Heritage Committee. The outcome of this meeting will contribute to the development of guidelines and criteria for treatment of sites of interest for the heritage of science and technology on the World Heritage List.

### **Terms of Reference**

To hold an international meeting, bringing together international experts from the areas of science and of the application of the World Heritage Convention to:

1. assess and examine the interpretation of scientific heritage in the context of the 1972 *World Heritage Convention* with particular focus on four scientific areas: astronomy, physical sciences, biological sciences, and the engineering & technology necessary to put the results of work in these areas into practice;
2. identify the opportunities to recognize places of potential Outstanding Universal Value because of their role on these areas or as landmarks of scientific achievement by placing them on the World Heritage List;
3. develop guiding principles for consideration by the World Heritage Committee at its 32nd session for the nomination and evaluation of sites which represent milestones and achievements in science and technology and are of Outstanding Universal Value;
4. recommend a framework for the Advisory Bodies working with the World Heritage Centre to implement future thematic studies in this area;
5. review and prepare a draft text for recommendations to the 32nd session of the World Heritage Committee in view of additions to Annex 3 of the *Operational Guidelines* .

### **Meeting Organisation and Administration**

[to insert]

### **Participants**

UK State Party, UNESCO World Heritage Centre, Advisory Bodies (ICOMOS, IUCN, ICCROM); UK National Commission to UNESCO, English Heritage, International experts (to be confirmed), Chairpersons and Rapporteurs