

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

International Workshop to Spotlight Importance of Science & Technology in World Heritage

London, UK – 15 January 2008. Experts in the fields of science, World Heritage matters and the UNESCO World Heritage Convention will convene in London from 21 to 23 January. The meeting, co-hosted by the UK National Commission for UNESCO and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, is a UK initiative to help increase the representation of sites of interest on the UNESCO World Heritage List which relate to the heritage of science and technology. The outcome of the event will contribute to the development of guidelines for the identification of such World Heritage sites.

“The UK National Commission for UNESCO is pleased to continue its close partnership with the Department of Culture, Media and Sport in world heritage matters,” says Professor Alec Boksenberg CBE, Chair of the UK Commission for UNESCO. “This international workshop is a significant event and a key contribution to the evolution of the World Heritage Convention to recognize the heritage of science and technology.”

The event, World Heritage: Science and Technology, is an expert workshop drawing delegates from 15 countries worldwide. The event is convened within the ‘Framework of the Global Strategy for a Balanced and Representative World Heritage List’, a World Heritage Committee initiative to make the World Heritage List more representative in terms of content and country. Particularly under-represented on the present List are sites relating to the natural sciences (physical sciences including astronomy and chemistry, and biological sciences) and the development of their application through engineering and technology.

Sue Davis OBE, Chair of the UK National Commission’s Culture Committee remarks, “Culture is our universal heritage and an indispensable part of our past and future. Ensuring that the World Heritage List reflects the rich diversity of our shared culture will help safeguard this legacy for generations to come.”

The World Heritage Convention, ratified by the UK in 1984, aims to promote cooperation among nations to protect heritage from around the world that is of such outstanding universal value that its conservation is important for current and future generations. States Parties to the Convention commit themselves to ensure the identification, protection, conservation, and presentation of World Heritage Properties.

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Notes to Editors

For further information, please contact the UK National Commission for UNESCO on +44 (0)20 7766 3491.

- *The UK National Commission for UNESCO is the focal point in the UK for UNESCO-related policies and activities. As an independent body, the UK National Commission works closely in partnership with UK Government, enabling it to engage UK organisations in education, science, culture and communication & information. It works within the context of the Government’s main objectives in its relation to UNESCO: to develop UK input to UNESCO policy-making, to build a more effective UNESCO and to encourage support in the UK for UNESCO’s ideals and work.*
- *The concept of World Heritage Sites is at the core of the World Heritage Convention, adopted by UNESCO in 1972, to which 184 nations belong. The Convention required the establishment of the World Heritage List, under the management of an inter-governmental World Heritage Committee, as a means of recognising that some places, both natural and cultural, are of sufficient importance to be the responsibility of the international community as a whole.*