

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

UNESCO UK World Heritage Site Youth Summit 2009

22nd May 2009, Lyme Regis, Dorset

Dorset, UK – 18 May 2009. On the 22nd May 2009, over 60 young people from across the UK will be meeting in Lyme Regis for the first UK UNESCO Youth Summit to discuss and debate World Heritage in the 21st century. The young people will be representing 11 different World Heritage Sites from Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland, England and one overseas territory, Bermuda.

UNESCO's Asst Director General, Professor Walter Erdelen, will be opening the Youth Summit at 9.30am on Friday 22 May and the event will run until 3:30 pm.

The young people have been selected to participate through a nationwide competition, organised by the UK National Commission for UNESCO in partnership with the Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site. Groups of young people were invited to submit entries that expressed how they felt about their local World Heritage Site. The competition's aim was to find the most enthusiastic and creative young people to represent their nominated World Heritage Site. Winning entries included poems, short films and posters, all communicating how the young people felt about the nation's internationally outstanding heritage. Each Youth Delegation will present their winning entry to the other attendees at the Summit.

Part of the UNESCO World Heritage in Young Hands Programme, the UK World Heritage Youth Summit will be a unique opportunity for the youth participants to put forward their views and visions on the conservation of World Heritage Sites and how they should engage with young people that live on their boundaries. In particular, teachers who will be accompanying their pupils will be encouraged to help their schools join the international UNESCO Associated Schools which has a growing network in the UK.

Eleven current and nominated World Heritage Sites are represented at the Youth Summit:

- Blaenavon Industrial Landscape World Heritage Site
- Historic Town of St George and Related Fortifications, Bermuda World Heritage Site
- St Kilda's World Heritage Site
- Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site
- Giants Causeway World Heritage Site
- Darwins Landscape Laboratory (proposed Site)
- Lake District (proposed Site)
- Chatham and Naval Dockyard (proposed Site)
- Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site
- Avebury World Heritage Site
- City of Bath World Heritage Site

Two creative directors, Renell Shaw and Yao Adu, will be facilitating the Youth Summit with the objective of creating an output from the day that represents the voice of Young People in the UK. This output will then go forward to be shown at the UNESCO WHS International Youth Forum meeting prior to the UNESCO World Heritage Committee Meeting in Seville, Spain.

Each Youth Delegation will also have a chance to present their winning entry to the other attendees. In the afternoon the creative directors will work with the young people to record their views and visions for World Heritage in the 21st Century.

After the Youth Summit, those groups staying on will have a chance to explore 'Evolution Rocks' the 4th Lyme Regis Fossil Festival which offers an eclectic mix of inspiring arts and science events involving the Natural History Museum and many other partners.

The Youth Summit has been sponsored by a range of partners including the Department of Culture, Media and Sport, UK National Commission for UNESCO, Dorset and Devon County Councils, Department of the Environment – Northern Ireland, National Trust for Scotland, Hadrian's Wall World Heritage, Dorset Cereals and Clipper Teas.

ENDS

Notes to Editors

For further information, please contact Anjana Ford at the Jurassic Coast Team, Dorset, on +44 (0)130 522 4401 or a.k.ford@dorsetcc.gov.uk.

- **UNESCO Associated Schools in the UK** is part of a global network of schools promoting quality education. The UK network supports the integration of international perspectives in schools and promotes the values of UNESCO, including human rights, mutual respect and cultural diversity. We work to better prepare children and young people in the UK for the challenges of an increasingly complex and interdependent world. For more information visit www.unesco.org.uk or contact Anne Brevik, UK National Coordinator, UNESCO Associated Schools on abrevik@unesco.org.uk or 020 7766 3460.
- **UNESCO** is the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation. Its main objective is to contribute to peace and security in the world by promoting collaboration among nations through education, science, culture and communication in order to foster equality, human rights and peace among member nations. World Heritage is an international programme managed by UNESCO to ensure that member nations commit to conserve and protect outstanding examples of natural and cultural heritage now and for the future. Each member nation of UNESCO has a residential national office. The UK National Commission for UNESCO is based in London and is the focal point in the UK for UNESCO-related policies and activities.
- **World Heritage Sites** are, by definition, places of immense importance to all humanity. The UK World Heritage list demonstrates the outstanding contribution that the UK has made to global human advancement and also recognises some of the most outstanding natural landscapes in the world. The UK cultural sites exhibit outstanding value through prehistoric ceremonial monuments, through the development of urban planning and development or as the birth place of the industrial revolution. The events and concepts embodied in these sites have shaped our history and society. In addition to recognising cultural heritage, the UK has five sites recognised for their outstanding natural heritage value which includes one mixed site. The UK has a Tentative World Heritage Site List consisting of a range of proposed sites that over time will be submitted to the World Heritage Committee for consideration as World Heritage Sites.