

Speakers at the First Heritage Roundtable at Makli on 3rd March 2013 (1/2)

Speaking at the First Heritage Roundtable Conference Country Director, UNESCO Islamabad, Dr. K.K. Nagata lauded the formulation of curriculum for an international level course on heritage conservation with support from the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands as a significant step, which was fully supported by UNESCO Islamabad. This intensive course of global standard will lead to training of young Pakistani professionals thus providing opportunity for long term capacity building and heritage management in the country. She reiterated that UNESCO fully agrees with the initiative of capacity building and will provide as much support as possible. She explained how through a collaborative effort between Sindh Culture Department and civil society organization Heritage Foundation and guidance by Dr. Michael Jansen, the placement of WHS Makli on the Endangered List was avoided. She hoped that through this collaborative mechanism accelerated progress will be made in order to fulfill all requirements of UNESCO Committee within the next two years. She congratulated the organizers for the lead that Sindh has taken for the important initiative to create a sharing mechanism after devolution, providing opportunity to senior heritage managers from all provinces to get together. She concluded by lauding the efforts of Sindh Culture Department for their concerted efforts in safeguarding both the world heritage sites of Moenjodaro and Makli.



Ms. Feryal Ali-Gauhar, Dr. K.K. Nagata and Dr. Michael Jansen (left to right).

HE Dr. Tilo Klinner, Consul General of Germany welcomed the holding of the conference and explained long association of Germany and German experts and scholars of international repute with Pakistan's cultural activities. He recalled the association of the Consulate General of Germany with Heritage Foundation in safeguarding paper heritage belonging to Karachi Municipality and preparation for Karachi eLibrary. He reminded that after the devolution what was critical was resolution and commitment to the cause. In view of the critical requirement of trained workforce to address the challenges of heritage safeguarding, Dr. Klinner expressed the resolve to help in capacity building. He expressed pleasure at the new cultural heritage project being sponsored by Germany consisting of an electronic data bank for Sindh heritage with collaboration of Sindh Culture Department, University of Aachen and Heritage Foundation. He gave the example of the importance of maps for movement, similarly, a heritage data bank was essential to develop effective strategies for heritage management.

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Dr. Michael Jansen congratulated the Sindh Culture Department and Heritage Foundation for their initiative in holding the Heritage Roundtable in which participation of senior heritage managers from all provinces had been ensured, reiterated the need for treating all heritage sites under strict ICOMOS conventions. Since it was essential to maintain authenticity of historical sources for future generations, correct steps must be taken. In this connection, he thanked Germany and Dr. Klinner for their support through which the basic software was being developed at Aachen University for electronic heritage databank of Sindh. He further informed that the use of technology for the electronic data bank and national register will be developed in partnership with Heritage Foundation in collaboration with Sindh Cultural Department.



Dr. Fazal Dad Kakar (left) and HE Dr. Klinner (right)



Dr. Michal Jansen and Mr. Ashfaq Moosavi, Addl. Secretary.



Delegates at the Roundtable

Other public heritage managers who presented papers on the occasion were Dr. Fazal Dad Kakar, Director General, Federal Department of Archaeology, and Directors from provincial Directorates of Archaeology: Mr. Qasim Ali Qasim, Mr. Saleem ul-Haq, Dr. Shah Nazar Khan, Mr. Hassaini and Mr. Pirzada Irshad Ahmad from Sindh, Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir. Civil Society organizations were represented by Ms. Feryal Ali-Gauhar, Dr. Pervaiz Vandal and Ar. Jahangir Khan Sherpao who spoke about dispossession due to the Basha Dam in Gilgit Baltistan, the work undertaken by THAAP in Punjab and introduction of heritage courses in architectural institutions respectively.