



Greetings

Ethical and scientific commitment, the ability to share knowledge and know-how, national and international dynamism...these key words and terms distinguish the Forum UNESCO / University and Heritage. This international network is currently made up of over three hundred universities offering materials related to heritage - materials which are distributed throughout the world.

Forum UNESCO / University and Heritage was created at the Universidad Politecnica de Valencia (Spain), the result of the founding seminar held in September, 1996, with the support of ICOMOS, ICOM, ICCROM, UIA and IFLA

Thanks to the mobilisation of university scientific, technical, human and financial resources, as well as the efforts of vice-chancellors, deans, professors and students, the Forum UNESCO / University and Heritage has become an important player in current activities to protect heritage.

I am grateful for the fact that hundreds of universities, conscious of their responsibility, are currently manifesting their commitment in concrete and fundamental ways in national and international projects in favour of our common heritage. In this regard, the Universidad Politecnica de Valencia deserves special mention for its exemplary dynamism in the area.

That's why it seems just that the Sixth International Seminar 2001 will be once again held in Valencia's Polytechnic University, an event that will serve to evaluate and take stock of what has been achieved so far.

This seminar, destined to be the scene of intensive and decisive university participation in the thirtieth anniversary of the World Heritage Convention, will surely mark a milestone in efforts at world heritage preservation.

Working under the sponsorship of His Majesty the King Juan Carlos I of Spain, a country boasting an exceptional wealth of tangible and intangible heritage, the results of this seminar cannot help but be crowned by success.

Mounir Bouchenaki

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR-GENERAL/ FOR CULTURE

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Greetings

Ethical and scientific commitment, the ability to share knowledge and know-how, national and Cultural Heritage is of fundamental importance for all societies. A community recognises its signs of identity, its historical referents and even its image of progress within that Heritage. Universities and students play an important role in preserving this wealth, primarily due to the technical and technological training needed for the task, and secondly, because they are called upon to take the lead in public awareness, attitudes and relevant activities.

For this reason, the Autonomous Government of Valencia was pleased to host the 1st Forum UNESCO Seminar, which took place in 1996 at the Polytechnic University of Valencia. The Government has been clearly committed to the issue for some time, as seen in the work of the Culture Council Heritage Service. The fact that, after being held in other countries, the 6th Annual event has returned to its original site was understandably good news for the Community of Valencia, a region that is especially sensitive to the issue of cultural heritage both in the university and political arenas.

A quick look at the subjects included in the Seminar schedule – architectural heritage, the environment, tourism, youth, legislation, the media, museology, etc., is enough to perceive the range of this 6th event. This far reaching scope is consistent with the ambition and depth that this Forum has displayed in its by now substantial history.

I'd like to take this occasion to encourage all the event organisers and participants to keep intensifying their efforts along the same, ever more successful lines. At the same time, I'd like to reaffirm the solid support, openness and understanding that the Government of Valencia has shown in many civil initiatives undertaken in the defence and preservation of our Cultural Heritage, along with those riches representing all of Humanity.

Eduardo Zaplana Hernández-Soro

PRESIDENT OF THE AUTONOMOUS GOVERNMENT OF VALENCIA



CORTS VALENCIANES

Greetings

This year, Valencia will once again play host to the 6th Forum UNES-CO / *University and Heritage Seminar*, a meeting place for international debate. As President of the Valencian Parliament, and in the name of all Valencians, it is my great pleasure to welcome all attendees to our city. I hope that the work sessions taking place during these September days are interesting and fruitful.

Concern for our cultural, environmental and scientific heritage is surely one of the most noble considerations of our times. Following that concern, our will and efforts are focused on recognising and appreciating our received inheritance, so that we may maintain and improve it for future generations.

The preservation of our Heritage represents an enormous task. It requires the attributes of solidarity and generosity. This is a difficult job today, one whose results may only be visible in the medium and long term. Those results will be enjoyed by others in the future, yet today's effort is surely well worth it.

I am sure that the 6th *Forum UNESCO international Seminar* is going to contribute to the protection of our cultural, historical, scientific and environmental heritage, as it has been since 1995. It will surely create strong currents of conscience and social awareness, currents that are essential for such protection to be really effective. As we must remember, the preservation of our Heritage in optimum conditions is the responsibility of everyone.

Marcela Miró Perez

PRESIDENT OF THE VALENCIAN PARLIAMENT

Proceedings

1





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Greetings

Although it may seem hard to believe, all peoples have something in common culturally. It is impossible to show, in all of the history of mankind, the existence of a single people, civilisation or cultural register that was not influenced in some way by other cultures. One simply cannot prove that there once existed a people, a culture, which was totally cut off from the visit of that wandering individual, of a ship, from the flight of the birds, the currents of the seas, the movement of pollen through the air, the power of the word, the suggestion of images, the impure wealth of literature or the smells and tastes of gastronomy.

What we human beings do have is something in common in all our cultures, alongside another specific cultural aspect. This aspect, mixed and altered by the first, is a native phenomena, the fruit of the collective, sensitive and heroic intellectual efforts of each and every one of our ancestors.

Forum UNESCO / University and Heritage was created six years ago to develop and consolidate these inter-cultural, common umbilical cords, uni-ted through the mobilisation of a particular institution - the university.

Six years later, this project has grown into a solid reality, with the participation of over 350 universities, 200 institutions and more than 2000 specialists from all around the world. Valencia, America (Quebec, Canada), Australia (Melbourne), Africa (Ifrane, Morocco), Asia (Byblos, Lebanon), have played host to the yearly seminars in which we have reflected on past achievements and progressed towards further goals. Now once again we return to Valencia - as though closing out a first stage in the process -to discuss the challenges and problems facing us in our growth. Forum UNESCO – University and Heritage, dedicated to breathing new life into our dying Heritage, cannot rest on its laurels, satisfied with its successes and vitality. This year, we'll address such themes as the need for a Code of Ethics, a higher degree of inter-university cooperation, more student participation, etc. I hope this seminar will represent a “before and after” in our project, as though marking the dividing line of a new cycle.

Welcome to Valencia!

Justo Nieto Nieto

VICE-CHANCELLOR POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY OF VALENCIA



Greetings

Once again, Valencia takes on the role of a cultural point of reference. Scholars and researchers from some thirty countries working in the area of World Cultural and Natural Heritage have a new date in this city full of history - one with a splendid past and a clear commitment to the defence and preservation of our cultural heritage.

The incomparable setting of La Lonja (Marketplace), officially declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1996, will open its doors to the “6th Forum UNESCO International Seminar: Plenary Meeting”. This event will serve to close out the first cycle of meetings on the five continents, consolidating this important UNESCO programme which began right here in Valencia.

The Valencia City Council, working through the III Milenio foundation, has always happily participated in those work initiatives developed by the Forum UNESCO that were connected to the study and promotion of the city’s historic heritage. One example is particularly worth special mention due to its significance and success - the organisation of the “La Lonja in the 3rd Millennium: Chronicles of the Past” exhibition. This show offered a review of the history of our most emblematic building, through the virtual recreation of its construction process.

The intense work carried out by the Forum UNESCO all over the world is clearly shown by the figures attained in only five years of activity. The Forum has managed to unite the efforts of over 300 universities and 250 associations from all over the world, while more than 2,500 professors and specialists in Cultural Heritage have become partners in the project.

I’d like to extend my deepest appreciation to the Polytechnic University of Valencia which, through its dedicated efforts has managed to consolidate the Forum UNESCO into the only university organisation working under the auspices of UNESCO.

The network of university cooperation comprising Forum UNESCO has placed new information and communication technologies at the service of our history, our culture and our Heritage. Their defence and preservation are worth all this effort and more. We all share a part in this responsibility.

As the Mayor of Valencia, I’d like to offer my warmest welcome, and hope that your stay with us is a fruitful and enjoyable one. May your efforts in this highly admirable work, one that merits our deepest gratitude and support, once again be met by success. The city of Valencia will always open its doors to the promotion of programmes, activities and projects that defend our Historic Heritage.

Rita Barberá Nolla
MAYOR OF VALENCIA

Greetings

The net results of these past six years of Forum UNESCO / University and Heritage, of this intense and exciting period in the defence of World Heritage, are highly positive. They provide an outstanding stimulus towards a continued commitment to that which has been left to us by our ancestors – the best gift we can leave to future generations - a commitment that originates from a deep respect for the cultural inheritance handed down to us.

This 6th international Seminar will be focused on consolidating achievements with new goals and challenges. Valencia, the project's birthplace, will once again become the centre for the deliberations and debates with which Universities from around the world will seek to reform a commitment that requires constant renewal.

I sincerely hope that this Seminar/Workshop will contribute to consolidating the connections between all those involved in this grand project one in which everyone who feel responsible for our cultural heritage is a participant.

Manuel Tarancón Fandos

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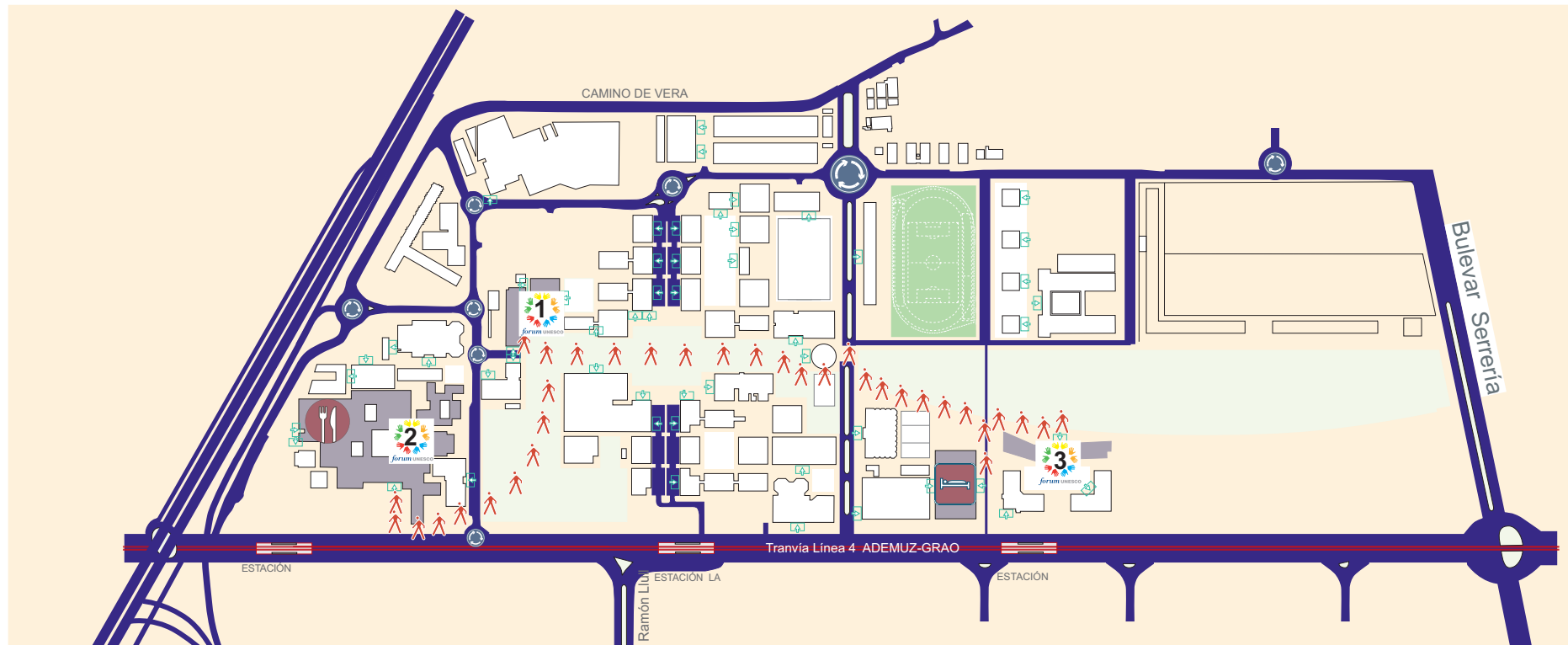
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