



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

Organisation  
des Nations Unies  
pour l'éducation,  
la science et la culture

Organización  
de las Naciones Unidas  
para la Educación,  
la Ciencia y la Cultura

Организация  
Объединенных Наций по  
вопросам образования,  
науки и культуры

منظمة الأمم المتحدة  
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、  
科学及文化组织

## Greetings from UNESCO Doha

### Editorial

Eid Mubarak...and welcome to the first edition of the electronic newsletter of the UNESCO Office in Doha. As an active United Nations agency partner in the Gulf, we'll be keeping you up-to-date with our activities through a newsletter every quarter. I hope you find the news and information useful and interesting.

Doha is home to the UNESCO representative office for all the Arab States of the Gulf and our activities cover the entire range of the organization's areas of competence- education, culture, natural and social sciences, communication and information. We have highly experienced staff already working on important projects and we are able to access UNESCO's global network of professionals to value-add to these efforts and to bring additional high-level expertise to support the development of the Gulf. As you will see in this newsletter, we have a wide variety of exciting initiatives already underway. With more projects and programs planned for the future, please do continue to access our regular newsletters.

Although our office is based in Doha, our mandate covers the entire Gulf and we link closely with the network of UNESCO National Commissions across the region to enable us to provide quality intellectual and capacity-building services in keeping with individual country needs. It goes without saying that we welcome your feedback and ideas as to how we can better serve you and your community. Please don't hesitate to e-mail us with your ideas, comments and proposals: [doha@unesco.org](mailto:doha@unesco.org)

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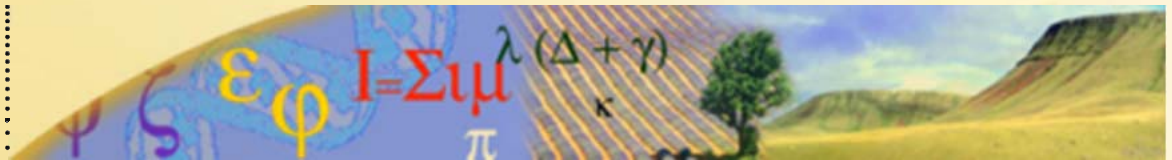


Mr. Hamad Al-Hamammi  
UNESCO Representative in the Arab States of the Gulf  
Director of UNESCO Doha



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## Natural Sciences

The 2006/07 biennium brought some major achievements to the Natural Sciences activities, and forms the baseline for the plans in 2008/09. The activities were supported by a number of staff of different nationalities:

Mona Abdel-Sattar : Programme Assistant

Asfya Ahmed : Assistant

Zahra Larsen : PR and Liaison Officer

Sara Yeyha : Secretary

Maxi Richtzenhain : Intern

Marc Breulmann : Intern

Guido Licciardi : Project Manager

Mark Sutcliffe : Programme Assistant

Benno Boer : Programme Specialist

Nadine Loutfi : Liaison Officer

The most notable achievements of the Natural Sciences Programme in the Doha Cluster were certainly the establishment of the two first Biosphere Reserves in the entire Arabian Peninsula. Al Reem in Qatar is a mostly terrestrial area that covers ca. 10% of Qatar's territory, and with a long coastline and some marine areas, and Merawah in Abu Dhabi is a large marine reserve with some islands, and a coastal area. These areas are being managed by the Supreme Council for the Environment and Natural Reserves (Qatar), and by the Environment Agency Abu Dhabi, respectively. UNESCO Doha will most certainly continue assisting the development of these highly important sites that are being designed to function as models for sustainable human living and nature conservation. In particular the Doha Office will offer their services in the fields of environmentally friendly buildings, good tourism, and training. It is hoped that these highly positive developments will inspire the other countries in the Doha Cluster to continue developing their biosphere reserve candidates, and to identify new areas.

The next major achievement was the initiation of a Quranic Botanic Garden network, where the master plan for the botanic garden in Sharjah was successfully produced and the plan for the garden in Qatar is currently being developed. Furthermore the office has received requests for support from gardens in Lebanon, Jordan, and Palestine. These gardens, contrary to what some people might think, are not religious projects. They are the connection between cultural heritage, in this case the Holy Quran, who repeatedly calls for the

respect of men, water, plant and animal life, and biological diversity. The garden network underlines the respect for water and plants as being suggested by the Quran, and based on this, aims to conserve ex situ the natural plant species that occur in the Arabian Peninsula. These activities are major contributions to plant diversity conservation, as well as for the urgent need to assist in building capacity by establishing Centres of Excellence for Botanic Research, Education, and Conservation.



*Scene from the Al Reem Biosphere Reserve*

Furthermore, a Tentative List of World Heritage Sites in Qatar was developed, and has been accepted by the Rules and Standard Committee at UNESCO Headquarters, listing Khor al Udayd, and Zubara Beach as two potential natural and cultural heritages sites in Qatar. With the nomination file for Khor al Udayd being available, it will be highly interesting to follow-up this process of identifying and managing sites of global unique value for mankind. In the Doha Team we are currently discussing the possibilities assisting those countries in the cluster that do not yet have fully established tentative list.

A number of publications have been produced, of relevance for science-based ecosystem management in the Arabian Peninsula.

In particular I would like to highlight the following publications:

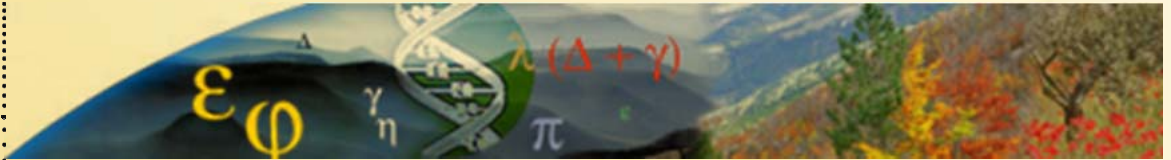
- **Sabkha Ecosystems Vol. II: West & Central Asia**
- **Policy Perspectives for Ecosystem and Water: Management in the Arabian Peninsula**
- **Protection of the Gulf's Marine Ecosystems from Pollution**
- **Special Issue: The State of the Gulf Ecosystems: Future & Threats.**

In the coming two years we have planned to reduce the number of scientific publications, because we believe that more scientific research is needed before new book prod-



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## Natural Sciences

ucts should be initiated. The Sabkha Ecosystem Series makes an exception, since it tackles the sabkha ecosystems on a global level, and it is important to finalise the series, and include scientific contributions on sabkha ecosystems in the Americas, Africa & Southern Europe, the Asia Pacific Region, and a world sabkha distribution map.

November 2008, in Doha.

The capacity of service being rendered to Qatar, Oman, and United Arab Emirates has reached a good level of impact, and we will try to keep it this way. At the same time, we will try enhancing our capacity significantly in Bahrain, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia.

Furthermore, a number of proposals and implementation plans are being/have been produced:

- **Quranic Botanic Garden network**
- **The camel from tradition to modern times: camel farms and indigenous plants.**
- **Better Buildings: enhancing water-, energy-, and waste-management in urban arid ecosystems**
- **Environmentally friendly tourism in Biosphere Reserves in the Arabian Peninsula**
- **The UN Recycling Initiative: Rashid & Dana The Recyclers.**

The Recycling Initiative has enjoyed a lot of attention from the public and from educational bodies. Reach Out to Asia, Qatar University, the Friends of the Environment Centre, and The Al Jaidah Brothers have now formed a steering committee together with UNESCO as the lead agency, and supported by UNEP, UNICEF, and the UNU. The steering committee suggested developing an implementation plan, and this is currently being planned. They also suggested to have the activity named as the UN Recycling Initiative, and the possibility for this is being investigated. The steering committee also noticed the lack of capacity of recycling. It was decided to establish clear rules for any partner who wishes to be associated with this initiative. A meaningful contribution to enhance the recycling and waste management capacity in its community is one of the prerequisites. The lack of collectors has been noted, and we will focus on building the capacity step by step.

We are highly thankful to all the numerous international and inter-disciplinary experts that contributed to the production of these products.

It is our plan to continuously develop the above listed activities, and to achieve real impact, and limit the number of large conferences. However, it is planned to support some important export gatherings on marine ecosystems in Bahrain, March 2009, on Climate Change and Cross-Border Environmental Issues in the Gulf, in Dubai, January 2009, and on Resources Recycling in



We would like to underline our aspiration that most activities, in the long-run, are designed to tackle environmental issues on a science platform, and to contribute encouraging young people to become active in environmental awareness, behaviour, education, and entrepreneurship, and we hope that some of our activities will inspire the youth to find jobs and income based on our initiatives.



*Khor al Udayd—The Inland Sea*



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UNESCO is the United Nations' specialized agency for education. Since its creation in 1945, the Organization has worked to improve education worldwide.

UNESCO believes that education is the key to social and economic development. "We work for a sustainable world with just societies that value knowledge, promote a culture of peace, celebrate diversity and defend human rights, achieved by providing Education for All (EFA)."

The Education for All movement is a global commitment to provide quality basic education for all children, youth & adults.

The movement was launched at the World Conference on Education for All in 1990, when representatives of the international community agreed to universalize primary education and massively reduce illiteracy by the end of the decade. Ten years later, with many countries far from having reached this goal, the international community met again in Dakar, Senegal, and affirmed their commitment to achieving Education for All by the year 2015. They identified six key education goals which aim to meet the learning needs of all children, youth and adults by 2015

This year, in the State of Qatar, in Doha, a UNESCO EFA Mid-Term Review conference for the Arab States was held during the period of 17 to 19 February 2008.

The aim of this conference is to assess progress towards the six EFA goals. It is to show how far the Arab States region has come since 2000; it is also to identify the critical challenges that remain and the strategies by which they can be overcome, especially that just seven years are still left to the target date of 2015 for achieving EFA. The Global Monitoring Report under the title "EFA by 2015: will we make it?" was one tool that drew the attention of the meeting objectives to build upon and strengthen the regional momentum for EFA; as well as the EFA Mid-Term review report for the Arab region that was especially produced to draw the national assessments and concentrates on regional and sub regional trends in basic education.

Moreover, and on top of the determined priorities of UNESCO's Education Sector of the 6 EFA goals adopted by the UN, UNESCO Doha, extends its exper-



## Education

tise to the Arab States of the Gulf region and formulates and implements its Education programmes in coordination with the National commissions of UNESCO in the region with the following activities :

### 5-6 JANUARY, 2008

1st Conference on Early Childhood Education in cooperation with Qatar University. Doha - Qatar

### 28-30 JANUARY, 2008

The second national meeting to the schools reinforcing the health.

Salalah-Oman

### 11-13 FEBRUARY, 2008

Workshop on capacity building and mobilization of resources for HIV/AIDS programmes. Cairo - Egypt

### 19-21 FEBRUARY, 2008

Regional Conference for the Arab States on Mid Term Review for Education for All. Doha - Qatar

### 12-13 MARCH, 2008

Educational Conference on combating Trafficking in Humans. Doha - Qatar

### 17-19 MARCH, 2008

Guidelines for Enhancing Quality Education through Textbooks and Learning Media. Doha - Qatar

### 23-26 MARCH, 2008

Training workshop on Utilization of Modern Technology in Teaching Science and Arabic language. Doha - Qatar

### 24-26 MARCH, 2008

The regional workshop around the consolidation of quality & the national policies in the educational programs & the technical and vocational training. Kuwait

### 20-24 APRIL, 2008

Training workshop on "Enhancing Quality Education and Promoting Life Skills Education" Bahrain

### 5-8 MAY, 2008

Workshop on the educational indicators and statistics in collaboration with UNESCO Institutes for Statistics Doha - Qatar

### 10-11 MAY, 2008

Conference on Inclusive Education organized by Qatar University with the support of UNESCO Doha office Doha - Qatar

### 1-3 JULY, 2008

Launching meeting about "UNESCO NATIONAL EDUCATION SUPPORT STRATEGY - UNESS" & "Education for All: Mid Term Review, The Gulf Arab States (2000 - 2005) Sub Regional Report" in collaboration with UNESCO Beirut Office Doha - Qatar

### 8-18 SEPTEMBER, 2008

Training workshop for teachers on research skills Doha - Qatar

### PLANNED NOVEMBER, 2008

Training Workshop on Quality Assurance for the workers in the field of quality education and economics in the Office of the ministry of education and educational areas Muscat- Oman

### 7-13 NOVEMBER, 2008

Forum on Enhancing Euro-Arab dialogue for Youth- in collaboration with German National Commission for UNESCO Muscat- Oman

### 9-13 NOVEMBER, 2008

Advisory mission on Evaluating Educational plans for Special Schools Kuwait

### DECEMBER, 2008

International Symposium on pre-school Education Muscat- Oman



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## Culture

The UNESCO Doha Cluster Office is assisting the Omani authorities in the elaboration of a Strategy for the Management of the Intangible Heritage of Oman by the identification of an expert in intangible heritage and his participation in a workshop gathering stakeholders from Oman. This workshop highlighted different countries' experiences in the development of national strategies for the management of their intangible heritage in view of learning from their different experiences. Furthermore, the workshop studied, revised and continued development of the current national strategy proposal in light of the UNESCO 2003 Convention on the protection of intangible cultural heritage. The workshop was held in Muscat, Oman from 26 to 30 April 2008.

Capacity building activity in museum related fields:

In light of the different museums' projects, currently being undertaken in the whole Gulf Region, UNESCO Doha Cluster Office is intending to organize, in November 2008, a training course in different fields related to museums involving participants from Gulf countries. The topics of the training courses will be identified based on the results of a survey evaluating the needs of the different participating museums and institutions. Experts and adequate training programmes will be identified as well upon the results of

the survey. More information about this activity will be provided in further editions of the Doha Office Newsletter.

Other activities in relation with Culture are also being foreseen by UNESCO Doha Office. These activities will mainly address the following areas:

Promoting the World Heritage Convention and its implementation in the Gulf Region; and the elaboration of training programmes in periodic reporting and the preparation of nomination files for the inscription of natural and cultural sites on the World Heritage List.

Enhancing the protection, preservation and promotion of living heritage through events aiming at the ratification of the 2003 Convention and the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage.

Improving knowledge of cultural and creative industries and organizing activities to promote the cultural and creative industries, especially crafts.

Empowering of women and their role in culture and transmitting cultural identity.



## Communication & Information

### Used Computers Distributed to Local Schools

Communication and Information Sector (CIS), at UNESCO Doha Office was donated used computers, printers, Computer Monitors, from RasGas. More than 200 monitors, 35 computers, 10 laptops, power cables, printer cables and a wide variety of peripherals.

The UNESCO Doha, Communication and Information officer, distributed these computers to local schools, and electronics organisations in need, in an effort to help the under privileged as well as foster interest.

### Knowledge Park in Doha

CIS, Qatar foundation, and ICT Qatar, organised a conference for three days in Doha. Participants, and speakers from all over the world participated in the conference. Dr. Abdul Waheed Khan, inaugurated the conference, with Qatar Foundation Dr. Ahmed Hasna.

The conference was a successful event, covering many aspects with a special emphasis on:

- ICT for creative industries and entrepreneurship
- Digital Knowledge Management
- Models of ICT management at knowledge parks for development



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## Communication & Information

### UN Emergency Relief Coordinator To Seek Gulf Region Partnerships Visit and Press Conference at UNESCO Doha Office

Mr. John Holmes, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator arrived in the state of Qatar on Thursday 10 April 2008 for the purpose of strengthening collaboration and partnership between the Gulf States and the United Nations in addressing humanitarian issues worldwide.

Mr. Abdul Aziz Muhammad Arrukban, the Special Humanitarian Envoy for the Secretary General, accompanied Mr. Holmes in his visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and Qatar where they met with government officials, senior representatives of the Gulf Cooperation Council and Red Crescent Societies to encourage their active support of UN humanitarian activities. In addition, on Tuesday the 8<sup>th</sup> of April, 2008, a conference was held at the Dubai International Humanitarian Aid & Development (DIHAD) where Mr. Holmes delivered his keynote speech.

### Upcoming Events

#### Freedom of Expression Workshop

UAE, October 2008

Objective:

- Support freedom of expression via dialogue among media professionals
- Enhance public awareness of press freedom as a fundamental right.
- Explore UNESCO role in freedom of expression.
- Enhance awareness of relation between democracy and media.
- Enhance awareness of Women in freedom of expression
- Enhance protection of press freedom and the rights of journalist.

A Freedom of Expression workshop will be organized, in UAE, in October 2008, to prompt and raise awareness among Media specialist, in the Arab Gulf Countries. Arabic language will be used as the language of communication, in the workshop.

UNESCO, one of many organizations, which are active, in the field of freedom of expression in all Arab countries, such activities, should encourage dialogue among

media professionals, and political authorities, so more freedom of press, and protection of journalist rights given, and respected.

#### Teachers Capacity Building

Saudi Arabia, October 2008

Objectives:

- ICT use in Education and Training
- Promote Educator Role in ICT
- Support the infrastructure of ICT in education and training institutes

A workshop, will be organized, for ICT educators, in the Arab Gulf Countries, to promote the use of ICT in education, and training institutes. Arabic language will be used as the main language of communication, beside English as the technical language of ICT.

The above objectives will be discussed, problems facing participants, will be discussed, and solutions.

#### Information for ALL

Oman, October 2008

Information for All (IFA), will be organized, in Oman, for IT specialist, in the Arab Gulf countries, Arabic language will be used as the main language of communication, beside English as the technical language of IT.

UNESCO Information for All program, will be discussed, as well as the three priorities of the program: **Information Literacy, Information Preservation, and Information Ethics.**

Objectives:

- Promote use, and freedom of Information for All
- Promote knowledge society
- Promote the three priorities of Information for all program: Information Literacy, Information Preservation, and Information Ethics.
- Develop ICT strategies, for knowledge creation



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## From our AO unit

**Introduction:** The AO unit of Doha Office has been established on 1<sup>st</sup> of February 2007 with the appointment of the new AO, Mrs. Hania Ayyash, the team currently consists of Mrs. Nuzha Mohidden, new appointed Admin. Assistant and Mr. Abdul Rehman Al Mannai, Admin. Finance and IT Assistant, the vision of the unit is to provide an up to date service to UNESCO Doha staff, participants, consultants and visitors. The unit is also implementing the audit recommendations and so far have completed 90%, which will make

Doha Office eligible for the first phase of FABS rollout. The aim of the unit and of the AO team is to look for ways to improve the working environment for staff and to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the programme implementation. To also provide basis for a harmonized, respectful and equal opportunity based on the UN standards for all staff. The AO unit has been also pursuing with the Science PS ways to make the UNESCO Doha Office a more environmental

friendly office as an example: recycling of papers and the use of the UNESCO garden as a productive garden, as well as the collection of the air-cons water for use in watering plants. We would love to receive feedback from staff on ways to improve and advance as one unit. The unit is solidly building an office which is ready to provide full support in terms of finance, budget, management, security, training and HRM services.

### HRM NEWS:

**Promotion and reclassification:** UNESCO Doha Office is pleased to announce that Mr. Benno Boer, Env. Ecological Advisor in the Gulf Region has been promoted to P4 effective 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2008, we take this opportunity to congratulate him and to wish him all the best.

**Appointments:** Mrs. Malda Jabbour, has been appointed as PS (Culture) effective 1<sup>st</sup> March 2008 with a promotion and transfer from UNESCO Paris, Culture Office. Mrs. Marianne Haddad has been appointed as Programme Assistant (Education) effective 13 January 2008. Both Mr. Mark Sutcliffe has been appointed programme assistant effective 1<sup>st</sup> March 2008. and Miss Nadine Louffi have been appointed effective 2nd September as Liaison Officer for the Natural Sciences section. we wish all new staff a very fruitful and prosperous future with Doha Office.

**Transfers:** Mrs. Mona Abdel Sattar has been entrusted with the work of the SHS sector as Asst. Programme (SHS), Mrs. Mona is currently working on initiating a number of extra budgetary projects in SHS such effective 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2008.



**Departures:** Mrs. Salwa Bakrim resigned from UNESCO on 31 December 2007 after serving in the office for more than 9 years, she has received an offer to work with the European Aviation company and we wish her all the best

### Training:

Resulted Based Management & SISTER2 Training: 8 -12 June 2008, a

professional team from the Bureau of Strategic Planning and DIT conducted a training workshop for all UNESCO staff.

**Other Training:** The training budget for 2008/2009 has been approved and staff have been asked to proceed with their required trainings.