

18 April 2011

PRESS RELEASE
INTERNATIONAL DAY OF MONUMENTS AND SITES
COMMEMORATED AT NED CITY CAMPUS

ICOMOS Pakistan Secretariat at NED City Campus today celebrated the “International Day for Monuments and Sites” in collaboration with GEOmentary. A second event was simultaneously organized by members of ICOMOS Pakistan at the Hazara University, Mansehra Campus. Since establishment of this international day by the 22nd UNESCO General Conference in 1983, the International Council of Monuments and Sites through its network of National Committees celebrates it across the globe. Every year a theme is selected to help focus the events. The theme for this year was “The Heritage of Water”.

ICOMOS Pakistan commemorates the International Day on Monuments and Sites every year on 18th April annually and organizes several programmes focusing on heritage issues. At NED University, the programme started with an introductory note on ICOMOS. The Department of Architecture and Planning organized a documentary called Sharmili 1331, with the collaboration of Geomentary. The documentary highlighted the lives of Indus blind dolphins; an endangered specie. They do not have crystalline eye lens, this makes them effectively blind, but lack of vision is compensated by highly developed sound imaging skills, also termed echolocation – a sophisticated sonar system that is a navigation aid in the muddy and silted Indus River. The documentary also highlights its genocide, conservation, myths pertaining to the Indus Blind Dolphin and the fisher men community who have been mobilized by IUCN and Sindh Wildlife in rescue operations for the Indus dolphins. Mr. Shams Kazmi, the executive producer of Geomentary, attended the seminar with his team who worked for production of this documentary. They shared their experience of filming these shy creatures with the audience. Dr. Anila Naeem, co-chairperson Department of Architecture and Planning, NED University congratulated the Geomentary team for making this remarkable video and bringing the issues of Indus heritage to public notice.

At the end, the concluding remarks were given by Dr. Kaleemullah Lashari, Director, Department of Antiquities, Government of Sind. He mentioned that the water pollution should be controlled as it actually disturbs the living cycle of water species. He also emphasized that there should be some addition in institutional curriculum to enhance the awareness regarding heritage and conservation.

The Department of Conservation Studies, Hazara University, Mansehra, celebrated the event by organizing a seminar with presentations related to the theme. The chairman of the Department Mr. Muhammad Safdar Khan delivered well come address and presented his paper on Conservation of heritage of water in Pakistan. He described hydraulic system of Shalamar Garden in detail. Dr. Zain ul Wahab of

the Department of Conservation threw light on Gandhara Civilization and a special reference to water. Dr. Muhammad Farooq from Department of Conservation Studies highlighted Rawal Lake near Islamabad as an endangered lake and suggested for its proper preservation. Mr. Fazal-i-Sattar, Chairman Department of Arts & Design during his talk presented activities of ICOMOS in the field of conservation. Dr. Farzana Parveen, Chairperson of Department of Zoology presented her research on “Indus River Blind Dolphin and its protection. During the concluding remarks by Prof. Dr. Habib Ahmed (Sitar-e-Imtiaz) told that it is our moral and national duty to protect our cultural heritage for the generation to come.

The two events were well attended by students and individuals involved and interested in heritage conservation.

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ICOMOS Pakistan Secretariat

Heritage Day celebrated at Hazara University





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