

PAKISTAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR MONUMENTS AND SITES

Theme for 2008: “Religious Heritage and Sacred Places”

Celebrated on 18th April - World Heritage Day!

Dear Members,

I am pleased to report that the 18th of April, 2008, focusing on Heritage sites, was marked worldwide through the ICOMOS platform. In many countries and regions, important events were held to recognize and further the ongoing efforts to safeguard our shared cultural heritage and make strides in sensitizing the general public to this issue and sparking ongoing professional discussions.



The ICOMOS Pakistan Secretariat celebrated the day by organizing a workshop on the said theme.

PRELIMINARY MAIN AGENDA
“Religious Heritage and Sacred Places”

PROGRAMME

- 11.00am Tilawat
- 11.10am Welcome
- 11.15am Lecture by Dr. Kaleemullah Lashari,
- 12.30pm Refreshments
- 01.00pm Namaz Break
- 02.15pm Documentary Film (in collaboration with History Group at NED University)

We called on ICOMOS-Pakistan Members and professionals in the preservation field to mark the importance of this day, as done internationally. For this purpose, a lecture was organized on 18 April, 2008 at Department of Architecture, NED University for ICOMOS, Pakistan, to discuss the future development of a program for the conservation of heritage.

The presentation started with the lecture on “**Bhitshah Integrated Plan for Preservation**” by Dr. Kaleemullah Lasari, D.G. Special Initiatives, Government of Sindh, followed by a movie show. A summary of the talk is attached to this report. The talk was recorded on video and audio and will soon be uploaded on the website of neduet.edu.pk together with the slides and related information.

We would like to thank the organizers and hope that it is a step towards ongoing series of co-operative events!

Reported by
Muhammad Kashif
Member, ICOMOS Pakistan

***“Bhitshah Integrated Plan for Preservation” presented
by Dr. Kaleemullah Lashari on 18th April 2008, organized by ICOMOS-Pak-DAP-NED University***

Sumarized by: Muhammad Kashif

- In Sindh we have many cultural and historical buildings and also observe that these are not being properly protected by the government.
- Many buildings' area are recently identified for restoration in which Bhit Shah is also included.
- Bhit Shah is sufi place where shah abdul latif bhatai spent his life and several prominent religious and spiritual persons are buried at Bhitshah.
- Repairs are urgently required at this place. Whole area is not properly planned.
- Culture department, Government of Sindh should arrange the schedule such as.
 - Narrow bale
 - Folk mela
 - Get to gather sittings
 - Seminar, conferences etc.
- Bhit Shah has a position of intellectual, cultural and historic significance, thus has a great potential for being developed for promotion of cultural activities.
- This important site attached to the culture of 'sufism' should be developed to introduce to visitors the variety of products and various experiences it offers.
- A better market place can be developed. Setting of the town is required to be enhanced to focus on the important historic building.
- If we see the map, there are 4 sections
 - A: Where activity to be cultivated
 - B: Conservation area
 - C: Residential area
 - D: Facilities to be developed.
- The residential areas in C section, should be developed, so that people should be shifted from A & B section to C.
- Then the area with visitor focused can be re-generated to facilitate and enhance visitor activities.

