Heritage sites to be used as venue to educate young generation

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), plans to use the World Heritage Sites of Pakistan as venue for educating young generation and teaching them about this long human history. “These sites are wonderful venue for school visits and teaching the youngsters about history of different cultures and this is what UNESCO says about world heritage,” said Irina Bokova, Director General UNESCO during her recent visit to Taxila. The people of Pakistan should feel proud particularly the local people to have such unique and interesting sites, they have to continue protecting and preserving their heritage and also continue with the archaeological findings, she said in an interview with APP.

In a message to people of Pakistan, Ms Bokova said, this is the side that shows the influences. There is no unique culture in the world and even there is no culture that is isolated. There exists a message about respect, dialogue and passing it on to the next generations. “It is very important to preserve the authenticity and we want to use our sites as venues to teach our young generation. Pakistan has extraordinary heritage inscribed on UNESCOs list which is all about contribution of different civilizations”.

“The uniqueness of the Taxila site is in different layers of cultures and civilizations as we see the influences of Buddhism, Hinduism and Greek culture also, everything in a perspective, I believe this is so much needed today to talk about dialogue among cultures about the contribution of all these different civilizations that are here,” she expressed her thoughts about the World Heritage Site of Taxila.

“I am impressed by the diligent attitude of Pakistani people and authorities towards preservation of Gandhara culture and such interesting and unique sites. I have seen exposition of Gandhara culture in paris, when it came there and visited five years ago and exposed this one of the important museum but here I have seen much more and one feels happy to be here,” Ms Bokova remarked.

About UNESCO’s plans for promotion and protection of these sites, she said there is no culture which is isolated and it is important to preserve the authenticity of any culture. For this reason, she said, we want to preserve the archaeological sites to educate the young generation about the historical value of this region through dialogue on culture.

Taxila, one of the six World Heritage sites of Pakistan, is inscribed on the World Heritage List in
1980 that comprises a vast complex of archaeological heritage, the site includes a Mesolithic cave, 4 settlement sites, a number of Buddhist monasteries of various periods and Muslim Mosques of the medieval periods as well as presence of the Buddhist Stupa and monasteries at Taxila from 1st to 5th Century A.D.

To redress the issue of growing wild vegetation (bio-deterioration) at the sites of Sirkup and Sirsukh, Bhirmound, Dharmarajika and Giri causing deterioration to the structure, UNESCO Islamabad is working closely with the Department of Archaeology Punjab and Comsats Institute of Information Technology (CIIT) through capacity building and awareness raising of the staff on conservation methods against bio-deterioration for the protection of the sites. The Museum carries the reflections connected to the chronology of Taxila, life of Gautam Buddha, glimpses of the artifacts, Buddha sculptures and historical belongings of the Buddhists made up of lead, silver and gold that date back to 3rd Century B.C.


Director General UNESCO visits Lok Virsa

Director General UNESCO, Ms Irina Bokova Friday paid a visit to Lok Virsa National Institute of Folk & Traditional Heritage (Lok Virsa). She was warmly welcomed by Lok, Virsa’s officials. A special cultural show and lunch was hosted in honor of the dignitary by Secretary Ministry of Information, Broadcasting and National Heritage, Mashood Ahmed Mirza, whereas dancers and artists arranged by Pakistan National Council of the Arts presented live performances to entertain the delegate.

Later on, Director General UNESCO was taken around three dimensional cultural displays in the Pakistan National Museum of Ethnology, popularly known as Heritage Museum, depicting the living cultural traditions and lifestyles of the people of Pakistan not only from the mainstream but also from remotest regions.

She was very much impressed with the cultural dioramas in the Heritage Museum displayed in the authentic and artistic way.

She took keen interest in the display of “Truck Art” which is a colourful, dazzling, art work on vehicles and other means of transportation, which is found in abundance in Pakistan. Decorations are not done only on trucks and buses but on all kinds of vehicles like tankers, mini-buses, trucks, rickshaws, tongas and even donkey carts moving on the road throughout the country.

Other dioramas which attracted the dignitary a lot were hall of ballads and romances presenting four love stories from four provinces of Pakistan including Heer Ranjha from Punjab.
Adam Khan Durkhane from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Dhola Maro from Sindh and Hani Shah Mureed from Balochistan.

She lauded efforts of Lok Virsa and its management in documenting and preserving the rich cultural heritage of Pakistan in such an artistic and professional manner. Joint Secretary (Heritage), Mrs. Shahera Shahid, Executive Director Lok Virsa and Ms Amna Imran, Secretary General, Pakistan National Commission for UNESCO. Baleegh ur Rehman, Minister of State for Education, Trainings & Standards in Higher Education was also present on the occasion.

A number of diplomats, high ranking officials and personalities related to culture and media also attended the event.

While, a group of folk artists and musicians entertained the delegate on her way back by presenting mystic and folk songs.


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UNESCO to use archaeological sites for educating youngsters

TAXILA, Feb 7 (APP): Director General UNESCO, Irina Bokova here Friday said the UNESCO will use the archaeological sites of Pakistan for educating young generation as these sites are excellent venues for school visits and introducing the students with the history of Gandhara.

Talking to APP during her visit to Taxilla, she said that Pakistan has extraordinary heritage inscribed on UNESCO’s list which is all about contribution of different civilizations. “I am impressed by the diligent attitude of Pakistani people and authorities towards preservation of Gandhara culture and such interesting and unique sites.” About UNESCO’s plans for promotion and protection of these sites, Ms Bokova said there is no culture which is isolated and it is important to preserve the authenticity of any culture. For this reason, she said “We want to preserve the archaeological sites to educate the young generation and make these sites as venue for school visits.” The archaeological sites of Pakistan have influence of Buddhism, Hinduism and Greek culture and there was a need to talk about the historical value of this region through dialogue on culture, she remarked.


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DG UNESCO visits World Heritage site of Taxila

Director General UNESCO, Irina Bokova Friday visited the World Heritage Site of Taxila and the Museum to get glimpses of Pakistani cultural heritage and the historical importance of the region. From chronology of Taxila to life of Gautam Buddha, the DG UNESCO was briefed about the artefacts, Buddha sculptures and historical belongings of the Buddhists made up of lead, silver and gold that date back to 3rd Century B.C, by the officials of the archaeological department and Minister of State for Education, Trainings and Standards in Higher Education, Eng Baleegh ur Rehman. Ms Bokova showed keen interest in protection and promotion of the cultural heritage of Pakistan through various initiatives of UNESCO, saying that people of Pakistan should feel proud to have such rich heritage and traditional glimpses of historical civilizations.


DG UNESCO visits Lok Virsa

Director General UNESCO, Irina Bokova Friday visited the National Institute of Folk and Traditional Heritage, Lok Virsa to get a taste of Pakistani folk and traditional culture and its preservation. The officials of Ministry of Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Integration briefed the DG UNESCO about the salient features of the Pakistan’s rich cultural heritage with special reference to the functioning of Lok Virsa as a specialized institution dealing with collection, documentation, preservation and dissemination of the tangible and intangible cultural heritage. Ms Bokova was taken around various three-dimensional creative displays at the Pakistan National Museum of Ethnology, popularly known as Heritage Museum spreading over 60,000 square feet covered area with living cultural traditions and lifestyles of the people of Pakistan not only from the mainstream but also from the remotest parts and far-flung areas of the country such as Kalash, Tharparkar, Baltistan, Cholistan, etc. She took keen interest in the museum hall showing contributions of the Muslims towards promotion of musical heritage, diorama on wedding rituals of Cholistan desert.