



INTRODUCTORY TRAINING COURSE ON “ORAL HISTORY” FOR CULTURAL HERITAGE PRESERVATION

Dates: 24 – 28 May 2015

Place: ICCROM-ATHAR Regional Conservation Centre in Sharjah, UAE

Course Main Partners

- ICCROM-ATHAR Regional Conservation Centre
- UCL-Q: University College London, Qatar

Background and Aims

ICCRM-ATHAR Regional Conservation Centre in partnership with UCL-Qatar has developed a short course series titled “*Informed Conservation*”, aimed at professionals who are looking to expand their working knowledge and experience in the field of cultural heritage conservation.

This course will examine the role of oral history as evidence of cultural heritage; it will explore “how” and “why” personal narratives of the past are constructed, as well as demonstrate how interviews are to be conducted and analysed for cultural heritage preservation.

Course Objectives and Expected Results

The course will present the storyteller’s role in safeguarding elements of intangible cultural heritage and in developing current techniques for collecting data through oral history practices. It will demonstrate how traditions can be passed through conservation work to future generations.

The course will help participants develop their research methodologies and enhance their skills in identifying and collecting data from accurate, reliable sources. By the end of the course, participants will apply with confidence knowledge relevant to the field of oral history to their heritage conservation work.

Course Structure

Participants in this course will be exposed to a range of topics, focusing on the:

- Definition of oral history and how it is different from written history and other research methods for conservation.
- Relationship between oral history and the oral tradition.
- Subjectivity and objectivity in oral history.
- Learning how to make oral history interviews as effective as possible.
- Practical demonstration and trial use of recording equipment.
- Analysis and discussion of demonstration interviews.



Participants and Admission



The course is intended for 15 - 20 participants with varied profiles (archaeologists, architects, art historians, collections and site managers, conservators-restorers, conservation scientists, curators, directors of museums, galleries and archives, etc.) from the Arab states. Admission to the course will be subject to selection criteria including:

1. **Professional background:** at least a BA in a relevant field of study.
2. **Letter of intent:** candidates are requested to provide a letter stating clearly the reasons for applying to the course, what they hope to learn from it, and how it will benefit them and their institution, country, or future employer.
3. **Employment:** priority is given to government employees or government affiliated professionals.
4. **Work experience:** those who have already gained at least 3 years of practical or research experience in the field will have priority.
5. **Financial support:** Due to the limitation of scholarships for this course, a request for financial support should be indicated in the application form.
6. **Insurance:** all participants should also have health and accident insurance. Upon selection, they should return to ICCROM a signed medical and accident participant's release form.
7. **Working languages:** the working languages will be in English. Proficiency in English will be required particularly for reading work of reference materials.
8. **Applications:** please use the **application form** available on this web site. Applications should be endorsed by the relevant ministry or entity in the candidate's home country. The carefully completed forms should be sent to: fm@iccrom.org.

Application Deadline: 23 April 2015

Please note that **any applications received after this deadline will not be considered** in the selection process of candidates for this course.

Fees: 450 US Dollars

Payments will be accepted in cash or bank transfer to ICCROM's account details below:

ICCROM
INTESA SANPAOLO S.P.A.
F.A.O. Branch N. 06825 - Rome
Via delle Terme di Caracalla
00153 – Rome - Italy
Bank Coordinates (ABI) (C.A.B.): 03069 03356
Account #: 130109604345 in USD
Swift Code (BIC): BCITITMM
European Bank Coordinates (IBAN): IT14 N030 6903 3561 3010 9604 345