



*Under the Patronage of His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Mohammed Al Qasimi
Member of the Supreme Council of the United Arab Emirates, the Ruler of Sharjah*

ICCRM-ATHAR SHORT COURSE SERIES

INTEGRATING DOCUMENTATION IN HERITAGE MANAGEMENT: AN INTRODUCTION TO THE USE OF GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS - GIS

Dates: 28 February – 03 March 2016

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

Course Partners

- ICCROM-ATHAR Regional Conservation Centre in Sharjah
- UCL-Q: University College London, Qatar
- Government of Sharjah, United Arab Emirates

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.

GIS can be a powerful tool for inventory purposes, as well as for assessing, examining, conserving and protecting cultural heritage. It can assist heritage managers in preventing and reducing the damages to cultural heritage affected by the current crises in the region, such as looting, illicit trafficking, environmental degradation, and illegal building activities.

This course introduces participants to the basic concepts of GIS and how it can be used as a research tool to acquire, analyse and display cultural heritage data. Furthermore it will demonstrate how GIS can be used to manage cultural heritage, by being used to conduct risk assessment and monitoring, as well as compile inventories. The course is divided into themes to familiarise participants with the different aspects of GIS, by providing different case studies. Participants will also work on exercises in order to practice the skills acquired in class.

Course Objectives and Expected Results

By the end of the course participants are expected to be able to:

- Understand the basic principles of GIS.
- Use the basic GIS tools for research and archaeological data analysis and management.
- Use basic open source GIS tools.
- Conduct risk analysis and monitoring with the help of GIS.
- Present geo-referenced data in soft and hard versions according to different categories.



Course Structure

This five-day course which focuses on GIS applications in heritage site management, will take place in the premises of the newly established ICCROM-ATHAR Regional Centre in Sharjah, UAE.

Course instructors will discuss database design, data processing, and forming queries to extrapolate information. The course will consist of interactive, participatory sessions, both theoretical and practical in a classroom environment. The course will also include group work exercises for which participants will be required to work on in their free time to meet the course requirements. The topics discussed in the course are:

- Day 1: Introduction to GIS (structure, functions, operations)
- Day 2: GIS for archaeological research
- Day 3: GIS for conservation
- Day 4: GIS for heritage management
- Day 5: GIS for cultural heritage inventories

Through practical exercises in the course, participants will be given the opportunity to identify the needs of cultural heritage in their own countries and devise strategies for rescuing their endangered heritage.