



---

*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*

## **Assessing Risks for Museum Collections, Preparedness, and Establishment of Emergency Contingency Plans for Museums**

In cooperation with the UNESCO Office in Iraq, ICCROM-ATHAR Regional Conservation Centre in Sharjah, UAE (ICCRUM-ATHAR) conducted and hosted a training course titled “*Assessing Risks for Museum Collections, Preparedness, and Establishment of Emergency Contingency Plans for Museums*” from 6 to 9 July, 2017.

Museums, collection houses, libraries and storages of archaeological objects are regarded as highly important components of cultural heritage, which stand as a source of pride for humankind, and a significant factor of culture and identity making.

Committed to the safeguarding of cultural heritage in the Arab region, ICCROM-ATHAR devised this course targeting professionals working in the protection of cultural heritage in general, and of museums in particular, introducing them to concepts and tools relevant to the risk management methodology. Course participants were trained to develop and implement emergency preparedness and response plans with the aim of reducing risks to museum collections.

Participating in this course were professionals working in Iraqi museums, whose participation was facilitated by the UNESCO Office in Iraq. Moreover, with the support of the Government of Sharjah, the course also included cultural heritage professionals from Syria and the UAE.

This timely course addressed the crises arising from the variety of risks faced by museums in the Arab region, ranging from deliberate destruction, to natural disasters, neglect or poor management. With guidance from ICCROM’s experts, the varied expertise and experiences shared by the participants throughout the course enriched the training process and broadened the scope of its applicability.