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UNESCO

WORLD HERITAGE CENTRE MISSION REPORT

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Functional Title and Grade: (1)Deputy Director, World Heritage Centre
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World Heritage Centre
Dates of Mission: 10 – 16 February 2001
Type of Travel: Conference
Advisory mission to State Party
Project Title: Islamic Cairo World Heritage Site
Town: Cairo
Country: Egypt
Region: Arab States
Travel Order No.:
Budget code No.:
Funding Source: (1)Travel/hotel (11-14. 02.01) by OICC
10.02.01 from Regular Programme
(2)Travel/hotel (11-16.02.01) by OICC
10.02.01 from Regular Programme

Main Institutions/Persons Met

(see Annex A)

Terms of Reference

1. Represent UNESCO World Heritage Centre at the 9th General Assembly and 7th International Seminar of the Organization of Islamic Capitals & Cities (OICC), and give a speech at the Opening Session.
 2. Discuss with representatives of the Government on follow-up action for Islamic Cairo in preparation for the visit of the Director of the World Heritage Centre in April-May 2001.
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Schedule

This mission was carried out by Minja Yang with Mr. Hadi SALIBA, consultant for follow-up to the Periodic Reporting on the Arab States, WH Centre, in close collaboration with the UNESCO Regional Office in Cairo.

10.02.2001

16h00: Arrived Cairo

17h00 – 19h00: Meeting with Dr Fathi Saleh, Director, National Centre for Documentation of Cultural and Natural Heritage (CULTNAT) and Dr Taha Abdallah, Director, Engineering Centre for Archaeology & Environment, Faculty of Engineering, Cairo University, consultants to the WH Centre from 1.03.00 – 31-12.00;

11.02.2001:

10h00 – 12h30: Meeting with Dr Mohamed El-Deek, Director, UNESCO Cairo Office and staff (Mme Ines El Ibrachi – Consultant for Culture; Ms Mari Yasunaga – Assistant Programme Specialist for Operational Activities; Mr. Tarek Shawki – Regional Informatics Advisor; Dr Samir Riad – Consultant for Earth Sciences)

14h00 – 15h00: Meeting with Dr G.A. Gaballa, Secretary-General, Supreme Council of Antiquities; in the presence of Dr Fathi Saleh, Dr Taha Abdallah and Mme El Ibrachi.

16h00 – 17h30: Visit of Darb al Asfar Street & al Siheimi House monumental restoration and urban revitalization project financed by the Arab Fund. Guided by Dr Asaad Nadim, Chairman, National Art Development Industries of Mashrabeya (NADIM) and Dr Chaquir Salah Director, Cultural Development Fund of the Ministry of Culture (together with Dr Fathi Saleh and Dr Taha Abdallah)

18h00 – 20h00: Visit of Fustat urban revitalization project guided by Ms Mona Zakaria, joint project of the Ministry of Tourism and Cairo Governate (together with Dr Fathi Saleh and Dr Taha Abdallah)

12.02.2001:

10h00 – 11h00: Meeting with Mr. Vincent Grimaud, Counselor for Culture and Cooperation, French Embassy (together with Mme El Ibrachi)

11h30 – 13h30: Visit of CULTNAT, discussions with Dr Fathi Saleh and team members (Ms Malak Wahba and Mona Tawfik, GIS specialists), demonstration of CULTNAT cultural and natural resource mapping

- 14h00 – 15h00: Meeting with Eng. Guido Benevento, Cooperation Attaché, Italian Embassy, Development Cooperation Office (Cooperazione Italiana) (together with Ms Yasunaga)
- 15h30 – 16h00: Meeting with Ms Irene Garcia-Gonzalez, Attaché for Economic Cooperation (in the absence of the Officer in charge of Cultural Affairs) (together with Ms Yasunaga)
- 16h15 – 17h00: Meeting with Mr. Akihiko Koenuma, Chief Representative and Mr. Michio Kajiwara, Representative, Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) Regional Office in Cairo (for the Middle East) (together with Ms Yasunaga)
- 17h15 – 18h30: Meeting with Dr Klaus Kuhlmann, German Institute of Archaeology, Cairo (together with Ms Yasunaga)
- 19h00 – 19h30: Meeting with Dr Kettani, Advisor to the Secretary-General of OICC
- 20h00 – 22h00: Working dinner with Mr. Yukio Yoshii, Director, Information and Culture Centre, Embassy of Japan in Cairo (together with Ms Yasunaga of UNESCO Cairo Office)

13.02.2001

- 10h00 – 11h30: Opening ceremony of the 9th General Assembly of OICC (see Annex B for agenda)
- 12h30 – 14h30: Opening session of the 7th International Seminar of OICC (see Annex B for agenda and text of speech - Annex C - delivered by M. Yang on behalf of UNESCO)
- 14h30 – 15h30: Lunch with Dr Taha Abdallah
- 16h00 – 18h00: Visit of Engineering Centre for Archaeology & Environment, Faculty of Engineering, Cairo University, discussions with engineering team and briefing on Damascus Citadel, project co-funded by WH Fund and Government of Egypt
- 20h00 – 22h00: Official OICC Dinner hosted by Governate of Cairo

14.02.2001:

- 9h00 – 9h40: Meeting with Dr Abdul Raheem Shehata, Governor of Cairo (with Dr Fathi Saleh, Dr Taha Abdallah.)
- 10h30 – 11h30: Visit of Sennari House (with Dr Taha Abdallah)

- 12h30: Departure to Paris (of M. Yang)
- (following part carried out by Hadi Saliba)
- 12h00 – 13h00: Meeting with Ms Yasunaga at the UNESCO Cairo office
- 14h00 – 16h30: Official OICC lunch at the Maxim's Marriott boat and tour on the Nile river
- 17h00 – 19h00: Attendance of OICC Conference lectures. Meetings with The Mayor of Dakar and the site manager of Kairouan (Tunisia).
- 19h00 – 20h30: Meeting with Dr Ali Kettani, advisor of OICC
- 15.02.2001:**
- 9h00 – 10h30: Meeting with Mr. Magdy Amin Mokhtar, manager Community Development Programme at the Social Development fund and Ms Hala Omar, deputy Manager (with Ms Yasunaga from the UNESCO Cairo Office)
- 11h00 – 12h30: Attendance of OICC Conference lectures
- 14h30 – 16h30: Meeting with Dr Fathi Saleh (CULTNAT)
- 16h30 – 17h30: Closing session of the OICC GIS Conference
- 17h30 – 18h30: Meeting with Dr Taha Abdallah
- 16.02.2001:**
- 9h30 – 11h00: Meeting with Mr. Omar Abdallah Kadi, Secretary General of OICC and Mr. Amr Sabban, Technical Director of OICC, in the presence of Dr Ali Kettani, advisor of OICC (see Annex D - Draft Agreement).
- 12h30 Departure to Paris (H. Saliba)

Summary Conclusion and Follow-up Action

1. Relations with OICC

- 1.1 .The attached speech (Annex C) was delivered at the Opening Session of the 7th International Seminar of the OICC devoted this time to the Application of Geographical Information System (GIS) for Sustainable Management of Cities;
- 1.2 .Several meetings were held with Dr Kettani of OICC on the draft agreement. Although the OICC wanted to have a ceremonial signature of a cooperation

agreement between the UNESCO World Heritage Centre and OICC, they were informed that this mission was authorized to negotiate but not to sign. Although UNESCO Legal Affairs had indicated that a broad general agreement of the sort prepared as a draft which is not binding for UNESCO and can be signed, we felt that if the agreement is to be more than a prestige, it would not be in our interest to sign without prospects of tangible benefit for World Heritage. After the speech (delivered by M. Yang), several representatives of the OICC Member cities indicated their willingness to establish a decentralized cooperation agreement between other Islamic cities, under the auspices of the Centre and OICC. We therefore agreed to prepare a pilot project with budget details to attach as an annex to the framework agreement so that it would be more than a mere formalisation of institutional links.

- 1.3 The content of the draft agreement (Annex D) was discussed and it was decided that a list of project ideas will be prepared, among which the first pilot project will be chosen to enable us to prepare more detailed project proposals which would interest Islamic donors.
- 1.4 Possible projects are the application of GIS for Sana'a or Shibam, (Yemen); Ancient Damascus (Syria); Lahore (Pakistan); Casbah of Algiers, to name some of the World Heritage sites which require thorough review for the redefinition of the WH boundaries and elaboration of a management plan.
- 1.5 The level of contribution provided by the Arab Development Fund (US\$ 4 million) for the monumental restoration -urban revitalization project in Darb al Asfar in Islamic Cairo points to promising potential of large scale funding for World Heritage sites in the Arab Region and the Islamic world at large.

Follow-up Action: Hadi Saliba and Minja Yang, with Giovanni Boccardi (newly appointed Arab States Desk Officer) to draft several project profiles and to send them to OICC before the end of March 2001, then prepare a more substantive draft cooperation agreement for OICC's consideration. Once a mutually acceptable agreement is ready, the Secretary-General of OICC and the current President of OICC, the Governor of Cairo can be invited to UNESCO Headquarters for a signature ceremony with the Director-General.

2. Islamic Cairo

- 2.1 As noted in past mission reports to Cairo, there are many past and on-going activities carried out by the Supreme Council of Antiquities (SCA), Ministry of Tourism, Governate of Cairo, and multilateral and bilateral agencies (UNDP, Italian Cooperation, Italian Archaeological Institute, French Cooperation, French Archaeological Institute (IFAO), German Archaeological Institute, USAID, Aga-Khan Foundation, Arab Development Fund, etc).
- 2.2 Following up on UNESCO/WHC's observations on the need to detail a practical action plan for Islamic Cairo to translate into action, the UNDP-Italy Trust Fund

study on the Rehabilitation of Historic Cairo (EGY/95/004) completed in December 1997, a UNDP-financed SPPD project: "Strategic Approach to Egypt's Cultural Heritage" is currently being undertaken under the coordination of Dr Fathi Saleh. This study concerns the built heritage of Egypt at large and will give general strategic approaches (archaeological and architectural).

- 2.3 Pending the completion of this SPPD project, several actions proposed by this UNESCO/WHC mission were discussed with Dr Gaballa (SCA) and Dr Fathi Saleh for immediate action from the remaining balance of the US\$ 90,000 available with the WHC from the UNESCO-Egyptian Funds-in-Trust contribution for 1999, and the US\$ 80,000 for the year 2000 which has not yet been released by the Egyptian authorities. The first foreseen action (see the report of Ron Von Oers dated 10/10/2000 and the World Heritage Committee recommendations to the Egyptian authorities) were to launch the next phase, being a meeting (seminar) between the most important participants in the Rehabilitation Programme of Islamic Cairo in order to discuss the continuation of the project. The seminar to be held in Cairo in 2001 should focus on the approach and actions for the conservation of Shareh Al Mouiz area.

In parallel other actions for public awareness raising should take place (see below).

- 2.3.1 Visibility:** In order to define (or confirm) the boundaries of the WH site, production of **street panel map** of the cultural resources of Historic Cairo (indicating the WH site of Islamic Cairo and location of main monuments/buildings of cultural/architectural interest, including the 19th century extension area of Cairo) to be installed in various locations in and around Islamic Cairo. The Islamic Cairo section of the street map should be designed to indicate the core areas for walking tours. This general map can be complemented later by a more detailed map and text panel for each of the core areas (e.g. Fustat, Fatimid Cairo, etc).

Action for 2.3.1

- (1) contract CULTNAT to prepare the draft of the map (data exists already) in collaboration with SCA, Ministry of Tourism (MoT) and the Cairo Governate, and international archaeological missions working in Islamic Cairo;
- (2) contract the French "Caisse des Monuments Historiques" to send a mission to Cairo of an expert on signage and presentation of historic urban centers for design work; to prepare the draft of the panel(s) with CULTNAT;
- (3) upon completion of the draft, UNESCO Cairo Office & CULTNAT to organize an expert meeting with SCA, MoT, Cairo Governate, etc. for approval of the draft map;

(4) prepare terms of reference and call for tender for the production of the street map panels (minimum of 20 copies to be installed in locations to be determined by the Cairo Governate)

Estimated Cost (not including # 4): US\$ 20,000

2.3.2 Prepare recto-verso **tourist maps** in Arabic/English/French language versions (eventually in Italian, Spanish and Japanese) with the same map to be used for the street panel, but with more details on the core areas to visit.

Action for 2.3.2:

- (1) contract CULTNAT for preparation of text and drawings to be cleared by UNESCO/WHC designated experts;
- (2) prepare lay-out on the basis of the approved text and drawings (approval to be provided by SCA, Cairo Governate, MoT and UNESCO)
- (3) contract Cairo-based advertisement agency to seek advertisers/sponsors for the production of tourist maps in Arabic, English and French versions if MoT cannot finance the production, and to identify distribution/sales points (action for UNESCO Cairo Office);

Estimated Cost (not including # 3): US\$ 20,000

2.3.3 Establishment of **information centres for the World Heritage Site of Islamic Cairo**. To supplement the basic information on Islamic Cairo to be put in the street panel map (2.3.1) and in the tourist map (2.3.2), a small information centre can be installed at al Siheimi House and Sennari House. These two buildings have been beautifully restored, but no program on its use has been developed. Although al Siheimi House serves as a Museum, and the adjacent historic building as a cultural centre for various training activities (currently for computer training courses), the function of the Sennari House has reportedly not yet been determined. To ensure regular income to meet the maintenance cost of these two exemplary buildings, the Ministry of Culture (Cultural Development Fund) may wish to study the feasibility of installing a music school (for traditional instruments) in one part of the building (the French cultural service has suggested an Ethno-musicology centre), and a small but high quality traditional crafts shop in another sector of the building. The rest of the house should be furnished in traditional style (as in the case of Siheimi House) which can also serve as a showcase for traditional crafts and their use. In a limited area of the house, together a small tea salon can be installed to serve tea/coffee and traditional sweets for visitors (either to be run by the Cultural Development Fund or under sub-contract). To promote visits to the two Houses by tour operators, a well-planned guided tour can be organized and the existence of the two Houses publicized in the street panel map and the tourism map. The concurrent

use of these two Houses as information centres for the World Heritage site of Islamic Cairo should enhance public awareness and support.

(Another possibility could be to make Beit al Seheimi the Site Museum of Islamic Cairo World Heritage Site)

Mr Fathi Saleh just informed us that part of the SPPD study is a proposal for pilot site management at Beit al Seheimi including details of different activities.

Action for 2.3.3:

- (1) Prepare 2 sets of **photo/text panel exhibition** on the World Heritage site of Islamic Cairo (focusing on the World Heritage value of the site and conservation challenges) to supplement the basic text and map of Islamic Cairo to be prepared under activity 2.3.1 and 2.3.2 above.
- (2) contract national and international experts to prepare the text and photo panel exhibition (10-12 panels);
- (3) produce in Cairo, the exhibition in 2 sets to install as two information centres on the World Heritage site of Islamic Cairo (Siheimi House and Sennari House).
- (4) Carry out a feasibility study (in co-ordination with the French Cultural Service of the Embassy) on the viability of a traditional music school in either the Siheimi House or Sennari House to be operated by the Faculty of Music of Cairo University, or Ministry of Culture, in collaboration with the Division of Cultural Heritage (Intangible) of UNESCO.
- (5) Carry out a feasibility study on the viability of installing a small tea salon in both Houses (including options for operators – direct management by the Cultural Development Fund, or under sub-contract with a private entity; construction of toilet facilities within the complex of the Houses but outside the building itself).
- (6) Carry out a feasibility study on installation of a small craft shop, including options on management (direct by the Cultural Development Fund or through sub-contract with a private entity).

Estimated Cost: USD 30,000 (not including the production cost of the exhibition sets)

2.3.4 Urban revitalization: With the objective of maintaining the inhabitants while improving the housing stock, carry-out, in close collaboration with the Cairo

Governate, a review of past studies on sewage and street upgrading activities in the WH site of Islamic Cairo, in order to prepare a plan of action for urban revitalization by fixing priorities. The idea is for the street upgrading work to be carried out at the same time as the rehabilitation of utilities (notably sewage/drainage/electricity networks), as the main impulse and precondition to housing improvement and façade renovation in the core protected areas within Islamic Cairo. This is to avoid the situation of different works being carried out in several areas at the same time (e.g. building renovation without sewage upgrading). SCA, the Cairo Governate, MoT, the Ministry of Public Works and the Ministry of Tourism should adopt a rule not to allow housing/buildings renovation works until the street & utilities network upgrading works take place at the same time or prior to the buildings renovation. The first foreseen action (see the report of Ron Von Oers dated on 10/10/2000 and the Committee recommendations to the Egyptian authorities) was to launch the next phase, with a meeting (seminar) involving the key participants in the Rehabilitation programme of Islamic Cairo. The seminar should be well focused on arriving at concrete solutions on the conservation and revitalization of Shareh Al Mouiz area.

Action for 2.3.4:

- (1) organization of the meeting (seminar) on the Rehabilitation programme of Islamic Cairo (to be partly financed by the Egyptian Funds-in-Trust).
- (2) contract national experts for the gathering of relevant past studies and maps of planned utilities up-grading works (2 W/M);
- (3) contract international expert in utilities network to review the draft plan of action for street upgrading – urban revitalization in Islamic Cairo (1 W/M);

Estimated cost: US\$ 13,000
for (2) and (3) and US\$ 47,000 for
(1)

2.3.5 Organize in conjunction with the above seminar on the rehabilitation of Islamic Cairo, an **international - national donors meeting** in Cairo (in collaboration with, or within the context of the Donors Assistance Group meetings), upon completion of the review on street upgrading and the draft UNDP-SPPD project. The aim of this meeting is to update the list of on-going international cooperation activities in Islamic Cairo and to attempt better coordination between the international actions and national/municipal actions.

- (1) UNESCO Cairo Office and WH Centre to employ international and national experts to prepare the working documents for the above 2 meetings, and prepare a list of participants/invitees; and provisional agenda with identification of keynote speakers.

- (2) UNESCO Cairo Office and WH Centre in collaboration with the concerned authorities of the Government to prepare the text of an international declaration for the safeguarding and development of Islamic Cairo World Heritage Site, to be launched through a media campaign marking the installation of the cultural resources map of Historic Cairo in a symbolic location of Islamic Cairo, together with a World Heritage plaque ceremony.

Estimated Cost: US\$ 20,000 (not including the street panels, nor the WH plaque) to which should be added the US\$ 47,000 for the preparation of the seminar referred to in 2.3.4 above
(From the Egyptian FIT US\$ 10,000 and from WHF US\$ 10,000)

- 2.3.6 **Coordination:** Issue new retainer contracts with national experts as part-time consultants to UNESCO/WHC in order to liaise with the competence authorities of the Government and Cairo Governate (covering the period from 1 March – 31 December 2001)

Estimated Cost: US\$ 20,000 (as retainer fee of US\$ 1000 per month)

- 2.4 The total estimated cost for the above-mentioned activities would therefore amount to **USD 160,000** (\$20,000 + \$20,000 + \$30,000 + \$60,000 + \$10,000 + \$ 20,000 = 160,000 plus \$10,000 as 6% (reduced rate) UNESCO administrative overhead), which could be financed from the UNESCO-Egyptian Funds-in-Trust (USD 90,000 available in balance from the 1999 release of USD 120,000 as matching fund to WH Fund contribution of USD 120,000) and from the USD 80,000 contribution for 2000 from the Egyptian Funds-in-Trust – still pending release pending as the matching fund for the USD 80,000 WH Fund contribution of the year 2000.

- 2.5 The Permanent Delegate of Egypt to UNESCO and Dr Gaballa will be requested to obtain authorization for the release of USD 80,000 for the year 2000, as soon as possible.

3. Greater Cairo Ring Road

- 3.1 During the meeting with the Governor of Cairo on 14 February, he expressed deep concern over this impasse and requested UNESCO/WHC's urgent intervention.

- 3.2 The Governor stated that the halt of the highway construction cutting the World Heritage site of the Memphis Necropolis (region of Giza) imposed by the President of Egypt in April 1995 following the intervention of UNESCO and the World Heritage Committee has prevented the completion of the ring road surrounding Greater Cairo.

- 3.3 The Mission noted that the integrity of the World Heritage Site of Giza is not only threatened by the potential resumption of the Ring Road construction but also by the uncontrolled urban encroachment on the site, notably by unmanaged tourism-related activities.
- 3.4 The Mission proposed to the Governor of Cairo that an expert meeting be organized by the Governate of Cairo and the Supreme Council of Antiquities (or the competent authority responsible for public works) to study the overall situation in the presence of 2-3 international experts (regional planner, transport expert and archaeologist) to be appointed by UNESCO.
- 3.5 However, to ensure that this meeting results in affirmative follow-up action, rather than another forum for discussion, it was proposed that an expert mission be fielded prior to the meeting to collect the most recent information and to carry out an independent review of the impact.
- 3.6 Records at the WH Centre which were studied upon returning to HQs indicate that the several alternative routes were proposed by the Egyptian Ministry of Public Works but were not approved by both the Egyptian authorities and UNESCO. The option referred to as revised Alternative C (see attached map) was agreed at the end of the UNESCO Mission in October 1998 and noted in a memorandum of understanding signed by the SCA, the Ministry of Housing Utilities and Urban Communities and the World Heritage Centre. (i.e; completing the Ring-Road to the North-East of the Pyramids World Heritage Site through the Mansuriyah and Mariutiyya canals)
- 3.7 According to unconfirmed sources, the option referred to as Alternative D (see attached map) is being discussed by the Egyptian authorities as the only viable and least destructive option (it seems however, that due to the high cost of the tunnel, the authorities are considering the option of an open trench road semi-underground, rather than a tunnel, for economic reasons – the cost of the tunnel being more than 100 millions Egyptian pounds). This would be contrary to the commitments made by the Government of Egypt at the highest level. Moreover, in view of the construction of the northern road links between the ring road and the road to Alexandria, the necessity of realizing any road construction cutting the WH site of Giza, would need to be questioned.
- 3.8 The mission, proposes that based on the principles of the 1998 Memorandum of Understanding, an international competition for the physical planning of the entire World Heritage Site of Giza and its surrounding area, including the area extending to the northeast of the main Giza pyramids currently occupied by informal settlements and the area of the Mansuriyah – Mariutiyya Canals. The objective would be to design a well-planned upgrading of the region and the World Heritage site to cater for the large number of visitors while ensuring the protection of the site (see Annex E for potential study area).

Action for the Giza Highway (preferably before end-May 2001 to enable review by the World Heritage Bureau session in June-July 2001):

- (1) Governate of Cairo to provide UNESCO/WHC with progress report on the implementation of the 1998 memorandum. If the proposed international or national competition for the requalification of the area northeast of the Giza pyramids is accepted, prepare the terms of reference of this design competition for the urban plan and physical planning of the WH site.
- (2) UNESCO/WHC to designate, in consultations with ICOMOS, an international expert to prepare the management plan of the WH site as recommended by the 1999 UNESCO expert mission. (3 W/weeks),

Estimated cost: USD 28,700
(US\$ 28,700 from the WH Fund including
US\$ 5,000 for expert mission)

4 Revision of the World Heritage Tentative List of Egypt

4.1 The current tentative list submitted by Egypt in 1994 does not reflect the wealth of Egypt's cultural and natural diversities and sites of potential World Heritage value. In view of the Global Strategy for a more representative World Heritage List, it is proposed that CULTNAT in close consultations with the Ministry of Culture, SCA and the Ministry of the Environment and international archaeological missions, ICOMOS and IUCN prepare a revised tentative list. As indicated to the UNESCO Cairo Office, Dr Gaballa and to Mr. Vincent Grimaud (French Counselor for Culture and Cooperation), Mr. Benevento (Cooperation Attaché of the Italian Embassy) and Dr Klaus Kuhlmann (German Institute of Archaeology), it is advisable that serial or cluster nominations be considered. For example, instead of inscribing one archaeological site, several of the same period, even if they are located in different regions can be included in one nomination. Or, one geographical area (such as Alexandria) with its varied components (prehistoric, Greek, Islamic, 19th century, and subaquatic features) can be submitted under a single nomination. These components do not necessarily have to be located in geographically contiguous areas. The management of these serial or cluster sites composed of many features, are of course, much more complicated and require more sophisticated management plans and regulations but given the wealth of Egypt's heritage and the protection needs, this form of nomination would be more suitable.

Action for tentative list revision:

- (1) contract CULTNAT to make a draft tentative list using its network of national and international researchers;

- (2) submit the draft tentative list to UNESCO/WHC which can then send them for peer review to ICOMOS, IUCN and other expert groups;
- (3) Upon completion of the peer review, UNESCO/WHC can arrange for experts to support the competent national authorities to evaluate the national laws and regulations concerned in the protection of these sites and to initiate the preparation of management plans for sites which the State Party wishes to nominate.

Estimated cost: USD 15,000
(request for assistance can be submitted to the WH Committee through the UNESCO/WHC if it cannot be financed nationally)

5 WH Nomination of Alexandria:

During the meeting with Dr Gaballa, Secretary-General of the Supreme Council of Antiquities, he mentioned the priority importance he attaches to the WH inscription of Alexandria. In view of the complex nature of this site, composed of many features of different epochs, it was agreed that preparation should be initiated as soon as possible and within this year. Dr Gaballa stated the willingness of SCA financing this preparation work and requested UNESCO/WHC to submit a project proposal with cost estimate and to take the lead in coordinating this work. CULTNAT expressed willingness to support UNESCO/WHC by gathering existing documentation - cartographic as well as texts.

Action for Alexandria nomination:

- (1) CULTNAT to prepare a draft budget with name of experts and institutions which can provide inputs to this effort and draft the various sections of the nomination file (legal framework, management, historic, description, etc).
- (2) UNESCO/WHC to propose a drafting team composed of national and international experts to Dr Gaballa.

6 **Virtual Congress on World Heritage Conservation:**

During discussions with Dr Fathi Saleh and Dr Taha Abdallah, they were informed of the World Heritage Centre's plan to organize a Virtual Congress which would consist of organizing a call for papers through the VSMM (Virtual System Multimedia – network of universities working on information technology) and the ISPRS (International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote-sensing – network of

professional and researchers) on information technology applications for World Heritage. To support the Virtual Congress to take place in October 2002, they were informed of the UNESCO/WHC's intention to organize several "real" regional meetings to support the on-line Virtual Congress. The mission had the opportunity to briefly explain the project to the Minister for Communications and Information Technology of Egypt during the OICC International Seminar. He found the project interesting and stated his willingness to study the possibility of Egypt hosting the regional meeting for the Arab States.

Action for the Virtual Congress Regional Meeting for the Arab States:

- (1) UNESCO/WHC, UNESCO Cairo Office and CULTNAT to prepare a project proposal with cost estimates and list of invitees for submission to the Minister for Communications and Information Technology by end-April 2001 at latest;
- (2) UNESCO Cairo Office and CULTNAT to prepare a list of potential private sector sponsors/partners for the organization of the regional meeting in Egypt (Cairo or Alexandria). Upon clearance of the list by UNESCO HQs, WHC and the UNESCO Cairo Office with support from the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology would contact the private sector sponsors/partners for support. Egyptian telecommunications companies such as Mobinil would be an ideal private sector partner for this regional meeting.

7 Opportunities to explore:

To meet the vast heritage protection needs in Egypt, it is imperative that UNESCO/WHC works more closely with the relevant authorities of the Government in mobilizing and coordinating international partners. UNESCO Cairo Office could play an important role by hosting a periodic meeting of the different archaeological teams (eg Italian, German, French, Japanese, etc) and in organizing a donors assistance group meeting on cultural and natural resources management. UNESCO/WHC should be regularly informed of bilateral and multilateral ODA projects related to cultural and natural heritage. Amongst the "opportunities" identified during this mission are:

7.1 With France:

In the immediate, UNESCO involvement in the French Government-sponsored events "Cairo in Paris" and "Paris in Cairo" (or alternatively to be called "French love Cairo", according to Mr. Grimaud). Although this is a strictly bilateral event between Egypt and France and between Cairo and Paris (reportedly twin cities), both sides see no objection to mentioning the World Heritage status of Islamic Cairo and the Rive de la Seine in Paris. Potential of a **decentralized cooperation between Cairo and Paris under the aegis of UNESCO/WHC** should be explored, perhaps for a legal evaluation and management plan of Islamic Cairo with the involvement of APUR (Agence Parisienne d'Urbanisme).

University of Strasbourg (Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Arts et Industries) under the direction of Dr Jean-Georges Sieffert has been sending post-graduate trainees to Cairo University for structural engineering research. School of Architecture and Landscape of Versailles (Ile de France) has also conducted research on Islamic Cairo under the direction of Mrs. Sawsan Noweir. Means should be found, perhaps through France-UNESCO Agreement to continue these exchanges for the benefit of Islamic Cairo. In the longer-term, enhance cooperation with the French Archaeological Institute (IFAO) in Cairo should be built.

Action: Discuss with Permanent Delegate of Egypt to UNESCO and with Cultural Attaché of Egyptian Embassy regarding WH Centre involvement in the events *Cairo in Paris* and *Paris in Cairo*. If approved, Hadi Saliba/M. Raabe to write to Mr. Grimaud for confirmation, with copy of the letter to the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Regarding decentralized cooperation between Paris and Cairo, M. Yang to discuss with APUR and concerned French ministries.

7.2 With Italy:

Keep abreast of large-scale Italian Cooperation project for the construction of the **Great Egyptian Museum** (being undertaken under the patronage of the DG of UNESCO, and followed by CLT/CH). Italy has already financed the feasibility study and preparation of the tender document for this museum of 86,000 m², estimated to cost some USD 500 million. The feasibility study was conducted by the Italian firm Finsiel SPA with Bonifica SPA and Consorzio Civita under the direction of architects Maria Teresa Jaquinta and Cynthia May Sheikholslami. Mr. Benevento of the Italian Embassy said that Italy may consider co-financing the construction of this Museum, but for the time being, the area of cooperation will be in the restoration of the museum collection.

Mr. Benevento also referred to a joint Italy-Egypt project for the establishment of a **Restoration Centre in Cairo**. The Egyptian Government will provide one building within the Citadel for this restoration centre while the Italian Government will provide training equipment and personnel. This project is a follow-up to the speech made by the President of Italy in Luxor in 2000, in which he mentioned the primordial role of cultural heritage as the main source of socio-economic development of Egypt.

Debt SWAP for environment – a very important area to follow is the debt swap agreement concluded in 2000 between Italy and Egypt to finance environmental protection projects in Egypt. UNESCO should actively investigate the scope and selection modalities of projects to be financed under this scheme and seek opportunities for natural and cultural heritage protection of sites on the WH List as well as those on the Tentative List.

Action: Minja Yang to write to Mr. Benevento for more information with copy to Permanent Delegate of Italy to UNESCO and Italian MFA. G. Boccardi and Arab States Desk to follow-up on Greater Egyptian Museum and on the Restoration Centre. Cooperation between Italy and Egypt in cultural and natural heritage fields should be closely followed by the Italian Associate Expert (conservation architect) expected to take up her duties at UNESCO Cairo Office from April this year.

8 European Union – EuroMED Heritage Programme

Ms Irene Garcia-Gonzalez of the EU Office in Cairo indicated that cooperation with Egypt is based on the Barcelona Declaration and financed from the MEDA Funds. Egypt is the largest recipient of the current MEDA I Programme. The MEDA II Programme is expected to begin in 2001 for a period of 5 years. Project management is being handled by the newly created Europe Aid, while policy and planning matters are under the authority of DG-Relex (ex-DG-1).

- 8.1 Euro-Med Heritage II has issued a call for proposals with a deadline of 30 April 2001 (see Annex A for background). UNESCO/WHC should assemble partners from the EuroMed region to prepare a project proposal to bid for funding under this Programme.
- 8.2 A project idea was discussed on 2 March 2001 with Ecole d'Avignon (training institute in conservation skills which obtained Euro 1 million under EuroMed I for CORPUS – a database on vernacular architecture). The idea, developed on the basis of the objective and priority themes being pursued by EuroMed Heritage, would be to select 5 pilot sites in World Heritage inscribed cities for a project axed on (a) recording; (b) participatory decision-making in heritage and development issues and governance – establishment of open tender procedure, etc; (c) computer simulation modeling – as tool for decision making); (d) on-the-job training in conservation of “modest” heritage (street pavement, public spaces to demonstrate the importance of protecting historic urban morphology focusing on the “spirit of place” for urban identity). Conservation skills will also include practical aspects such as the installation of modern drainage/sewage system and pavement renovation. Islamic Cairo, Citadel of Damascus, Byblos, Istanbul and Tunis were suggested for the pilot sites. Partners can include DGEMN-Portugal for recording; Milano Polytechnic of computer-generated simulation modeling, Ecole d'Avignon for training in conservation skills and UNESCO/WHC in policy and planning issues and participatory governance. Ecole d'Avignon being an association (NGO) will take the lead in this network, being understood that UNESCO/WHC will require a share in the funds for at least 4 months consultancy fees and cost for a minimum of 2 missions to each of the pilot project site.
- 8.3 If this project is retained, it would complement activities the Centre is promoting for the protection and conservation of these WH sites.

9 With Japan

9.1 Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC)

Mr. Akira KOENUMA, Chief Representative of JBIC Regional Office for the Middle East, indicated that countries of the region eligible for JBIC cooperation are: Syria, Egypt, Jordan, Yemen (and Iran). The North African countries are covered from the JBIC office in Paris.

Japan is not only the largest co-financing partner of the World Bank in the region but also involved in parallel bilateral actions. Japan actively supports the Social Development Fund (SDF) created by the World Bank and USAID, and is among the 16 donors to the SDF, with currently available sum of US\$500 million for job creation, micro-enterprise, poverty alleviation actions.

JBIC loans and JICA grants to Egypt had declined over the past years since the debt relief / debt reduction agreement was reached in 1991. New credits for Egypt was however resumed in 1996, but has not yet reached the pre-1991 level.

JBIC can provide funds under “Special Facility for Project Formulation” to complement pre-feasibility study and EIA study funded in many cases through JICA. Each unit of a JBIC loan under the SPPF is US\$500,000 to 900,000, to be used for JBIC-appointed experts (not necessarily Japanese).

Mr. Koenuma suggested that for project identification missions, the best channel would be through JICA (funds controlled by the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs).

JICA and JBIC are increasingly working together in project identification, and more and more in project implementation.

9.2 In a separate meeting, Mr. Yoshii, the Counselor for Cultural Affairs of the Japanese Embassy in Cairo, concurrently Director of the Japanese Information and Cultural Centre, indicated that for archaeological research, the Government of Japan supports various teams working in Egypt, among them, the Middle East Cultural Institute (Dr Kawadoko) working in Fustat within the World Heritage area. Japan Foundation also provided funding support for archaeological research.

Action: At a later stage, JBIC should be approached for a joint UNESCO/WHC – JBIC mission to Islamic Cairo to identify a project for urban revitalization that would involve improvement in tourism facilities through the adaptive re-use of historic buildings and up-grading of housing stock. Kentaro Tanaka and Minja Yang to follow-up on potentials upon discussions with the Governate of Cairo and Supreme Council of Antiquities.