

FOREWORD

The World Heritage Centre of UNESCO is proud to celebrate in Newcastle upon Tyne, the 10th Anniversary of the international network of universities Forum UNESCO – University and Heritage.

Ten years ago, the vision that universities could greatly help and support UNESCO's efforts in favour of conservation and protection of heritage was born.

It is indeed difficult to summarize these ten challenging years during which ten international Seminars were held worldwide and numerous workshops, publications, youth summer camps, thematic research projects have seen the light. But networking cannot be measured only in figures and this is why this network cannot be reduced to statistics.

The network of Forum UNESCO – University and Heritage is indeed a lot more, since it is based on sharing and solidarity: solidarity between universities, academics, students, researchers and heritage professionals; and sharing for the advancement of knowledge and science. These two philosophical assets make it unique and precious, not only to UNESCO, but even more to the international community, to heritage conservation and to the promotion of World Heritage values.

The World Heritage Centre is also proud to see the 10th international seminar of the network held by the International Centre for Cultural and Heritage Studies of the University of Newcastle upon Tyne, near the World Heritage site of Hadrian's Wall. I wish to acknowledge here all the efforts undertaken by this University to enable you to meet here today.

Finally, the theme of this Seminar, "Cultural Landscapes in the 21st Century" is also a source of pride.

Pride because Cultural Landscapes are the very essence of the World Heritage Convention, one of the most universal normative instruments linking culture and nature.

Pride because Cultural Landscapes are one of the most challenging types of World Heritage, due to their size, to the complex issues underlying their management, to the recognition of traditional forms of land-use, of biological and cultural diversities, of the spiritual link of man with nature, of the living heritage of indigenous peoples and local communities and of the diversity of the manifestations of the interactions between humankind and its natural environment.

Pride again because the 21st century opens up new ambitious paths to sustain and manage Cultural Landscapes that universities can take with UNESCO, with its World Heritage Centre and with the international community, together in a spirit of sharing and solidarity.

I wish you every success in your work and am certain that this 10th international Seminar of Forum UNESCO – University and Heritage will confirm the ethics, the commitment and the dynamism of universities in favour of World Heritage conservation and management.

Francesco Bandarin
Director, World Heritage Centre
UNESCO