

**UNESCO-Iraq office
Amman – Jordan**

**Revitalization of the Erbil Citadel
Phase I
Brief - 10 May 2008**



Project Funding: Kurdistan Regional Government.

Total Budget: USD 1,475,000.00

Duration: 20 months from September 2007

1. Background

A memorandum of understanding was signed on September, 2 2007 between UNESCO and the KRG for the implementation of the Phase I for a total amount of 650,000 USD. The project duration was 12 months.

In may 2008, UNESCO and KRG represented by the High Committee for the Erbil Citadel revitalization signed the amendment of the MOU. The new amount of the project totally funded by the KRG is now 1,475,000 USD (augmentation: 825,000 USD). The new duration of the project is now 20 months.

2. Objectives of the project

The main objectives of the project are:

- 2.1. To enforce local capacities in the field of conservation and restoration techniques;
- 2.2. To undertake study for urgent remedial works to prevent further damages;
- 2.3. To establish a Conservation Master Plan

3. UNESCO strategy to implement the project

A steering committee UNESCO/HCECR was set up to evaluate implementation progress and propose recommendations accordingly in close collaboration with the UNESCO Project Manager that will facilitate the implementation of the project.

4. Activities and achievements (according to the signed MOU)

4.1. Capacity building training courses

UNESCO achieved on 3rd November 2007 a training of local 7 local architects/engineers. The training was organized in Istanbul from 17th October to 3rd November 2007 and the courses were provided by ICCROM.

A second training of HCECR staff in Erbil (3 weeks) and Istanbul (1 week) is scheduled to start on 24 May 2008.

A management building capacity training was added within the revised MOU. It concerns HCECR staff.

4.2. Identify the current situation of the buildings

UNESCO experts went on mission from 30th March to 2 April 2008 to assess the Erbil Citadel site to identify the type of urgent remedial works to be undertaken to preserve further deterioration of the Citadel.

Following the assessment, UNESCO experts listed as priority I 10 houses which need urgent repairs. An international design office will be hired through an international advertisement to undertake the engineering studies of the defined houses.

The new revised budget will allow to implement all activities as scheduled.

4.3. Development of Master conservation plan and demarcation of archaeological zones for future investigation and excavations.

On March, 26 2008, following an international bidding process, UNESCO selected an international consultancy office to undertake this activity.

The new revised budget will allow UNESCO to implement all activities as scheduled.

Conclusion

UNESCO is put in place all actions in order to speed up all activities under the amended Memorandum of Understanding.

The last two days meeting with the HCECR in Erbil (12 and 13 May 2008) were useful and UNESCO and the HCECR reached agreement on all discussed issues which allow UNESCO to implement tasks under the new amended MOU.

The last amended MOU shows the level of good cooperation between the two entities.