

Training programme in archaeological conservation, archaeological documentation, museum management and museum education

Aims of the transfer activity	The aim of the training programme in archaeological conservation, archaeological documentation, museum management and museum education for female employees of the Saudi Commission for Tourism and Antiquities and the King Saud University female students, at the National Museum, Riyadh is the transfer of knowledge and capacity building of female employees and students in the fields of archaeological conservation and museum management.
Person(s) responsible for the project	Assoz. Prof. Mag. Dr. Marta Luciani, Privatdoz.
Affiliation of the transfer activity at the University of Vienna	Department of Near Eastern Studies
Project runtime	2009 – open
Funding	DAAD Deutsches Archäologisches Institut; Saudi Commission for Tourism and Antiquities; Universität Wien
Contact person	Prof. Dr. Marta Luciani (marta.luciani@univie.ac.at)
Cooperation partners from outside of the University	National Museum, Riyadh; Deutsches Archäologisches Institut; German Academic Exchange Service; Bonn Saudi Commission for Tourism and Antiquities; The Advisory Committee to the National Museum, Riyadh
Cooperation partners from the scientific/ research field of the transfer-activity	Fachhochschule für Technik und Wirtschaft, Berlin; King Saud University, Riyadh

Project description

In three different, not consecutive years, a total of nine different training modules (total extent ranging from one to four weeks) were developed and taught by European female professionals in the fields of conservation of archaeological material (metals, glass, clay/pottery, wall painting and frescoes, stone artifacts and stone monuments), scientific documentation of archaeological finds (pottery), museum management (database construction and upkeep) and museum education (exhibits and guides). The specific target were 15-20 female employees of the National Museum, Riyadh joined by the same number of PhD female students from the Faculty of Tourism and Archaeology of the King Saud University, Riyadh. All courses were prepared and had written syllabi in English and Arabic. A final exam was mandatory for all participants. These capacity building measures were implemented with the explicit goal of increasing women's competences in these fields and ameliorating their chances of pursuing further study and qualifications in order to be able to eventually access jobs traditionally held exclusively by men.

Results/Impact

The main impact is having shared the standard of internationally recognized qualification in the field of archaeological conservation and museum management, having shown that women in Saudi Arabia may and should pursue higher education and qualifications in order to aspire to higher quality jobs. It has strengthened contacts and relationships between different institutions (Universität Wien; Deutsches Archäologisches Institut; Saudi Commission for Tourism and Antiquities; King Saud University; Fachhochschule für Technik und Wirtschaft, Berlin).

Transfer aspect of the activity

Beyond the specific knowledge in the single fields, because the training units were carried out by women it is the transfer of the example of what women can accomplish and strive for that constitutes the main achievement of this project.

Achievement of objectives

The transfer of knowledge was checked through formalized tests and small projects presented at the end of each training unit. Also a number of candidates were proposed for continuing studies in different subjects.

Measures for a longer-term realization

The programs were repeated in three different years and progressively expanded to include ever more subjects.

Visibility of the transfer activity

Public lectures were offered at the end of each training. Media coverage was granted and reports in academic journals.

Webpage/Publications

Eichmann, R. & Luciani, M., 2011, Fortbildung in archäologischer Konservierung für Frauen aus Saudi-Arabien am Nationalmuseum von Riad, In Deutsches Archäologisches Institut, Jahresbericht 2009, Archäologischer Anzeiger 2010/1, Beiheft, 290-91.

Eichmann, R. & Luciani, M., 2013, Zweites Frauentrainingsprogramm in archäologischer Restaurierung, Museologie und Bodendenkmalpflege am Nationalmuseum Riad, In Deutsches Archäologisches Institut, Jahresbericht 2011, Archäologischer Anzeiger 2012/1, Beiheft, 291- 292.

Keywords

Archaeological and Conservation Training; Women Capacity building; empowering professional in Near Eastern countries