

# UNESCO

Section for Arts, Crafts and Design

## INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM/WORKSHOP ON NATURAL DYES (Hyderabad, India- March 2006)

### INTRODUCTORY NOTE

#### Framework and Background

Contemporary life is to a large extent characterized by the globalisation of products and markets as well as by the growing concern for the preservation of the environment. These trends have a direct impact on craft activities and represent new prospects and challenges for craftspeople worldwide, especially in the developing countries.

If the global market provides new opportunities for local, authentic, original items, it can be observed that, at the same time, customers are more and more demanding that these items correspond to norms in keeping with the protection of the environment.

Facing the complex and ambiguous phenomenon of 'globalization', it is indispensable to provide craftspeople with viable alternatives which allow them to pursue their production and preserve their cultural identity while complying with international norms and the needs of markets in quick transformation.

In this spirit, UNESCO has been organizing during the past years a series of workshops on natural dyes at Sub-Regional level: in Kyrgystan for Central Asian women; in Yaoundé (Cameroon) for Central African weavers, in Dakar (Senegal) for West African craftswomen. The first Regional workshop on this subject took place in 2003 in Sucre (Bolivia) for Latin America.

These workshops all revealed (a) the lack of updated information and data and (b) the importance of exchanging ideas and experiences among neighbouring countries in order to develop and extend the use of natural dyes. At the Bolivia workshop, the need for Inter-regional exchanges was emphasized, with a specific Recommendation to UNESCO to organize an International symposium in the coming years. In this connection, the Approved Programme and Budget for 2004-2005 foresees the preparation of this International symposium-workshop which it is envisaged to organize in 2006.

#### Aim and objectives

The Symposium will bring together about 350 master craftspersons, researches and specialists in natural dyes and craft promoters from the five continents. The aim of the Symposium is to attain practical outcomes based on the diversity of experiences and respectful of the variety of natural, social and cultural environment of the concerned craftspeople.

The **broad objectives** are:

- Sharing experiences and ideas on the key problems and major prospects facing natural-dyed products in the international market
- Promoting joint efforts and technical co-operation programmes among craftspeople, researchers and promoters in all the stages of the dyeing process

The Symposium will have as **specific objectives** :

- Establishing a data base on existing natural plant dyes and traditional production processes
- Stimulating research in new biological sources and technical possibilities in contemporary textile production and other related craft sectors
- Envisaging the setting-up of a specific label for the recognition of environmentally friendly textiles

## Planning Schedule

The preparatory phase of the Symposium will include the following stages:

### **October 2004 – February 2005:**

Elaboration of Regional Studies on identified plants, dyeing techniques and common problems in Africa, Asia, Arab States, Europe and Latin America.

### **March – May 2005:**

Preparation of the General Synthesis Report, Draft Agenda of the International Symposium and workshops programme.

### **July – August 2005:**

Symposium working document elaborated in English, French and Spanish; Detailed programme and material organization prepared in cooperation with host country/institution.

**September 2005:** Selection of participants, speakers and workshop leaders.

## INTELLECTUAL PREPARATION

The overall coordination of the Symposium is entrusted to Ms Dominique Cardon (France), an internationally renowned specialist in natural dyes.

The regional studies and reports foreseen in the above-mentioned preparatory stage will be coordinated by the following specialists/institutions:

**AFRICA:** Mrs Jocelyne ETIENNE-NUGUE (France)

**ASIA :** Crafts Council of INDIA

**ARAB STATES:** Ms Joan FISCHER (United Kingdom)

**EUROPE / NORTHERN AMERICA:** Dr Harald BOHMER (Germany)

**LATIN AMERICA:** FUNDACION ASUR (Bolivia)

## TECHNICAL AND MATERIAL ORGANIZATION

The Symposium will be organized by UNESCO (Section for Arts, Crafts and Design) in cooperation with Crafts Council of India.

## UNESCO's RESPONSIBILITY

- Preparation and dissemination of working documents
- Selection of participants
- Travel costs of Regional Consultants and Key-note speakers
- Dissemination of Final Report

## **HOST COUNTRY CONTRIBUTION**

- Provide an adequate Conference Centre with facilities for interpretation and workshops/ demonstrations
- Negotiate special rates for boarding of participants
- Local transportation for visits to selected crafts centres
- Support staff for symposium secretariat

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I.V/ 30.09.04