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## Esteemed guests and participants,

Welcome to the 'Restoring Syrian heritage and reviving local communities' workshop, an initiative coordinated by the Syria Trust for Development and the Syrian pavilion in Expo 2020, Dubai.

The Syria Trust for Development is a national development organisation leading social change on the ground in Syria. Our work is predominately in the field, working hands-on with individuals and communities to initiate lasting solutions to development challenges.

Our programs emphasize the restoration of historical landmarks and areas to their authentic origins. Apart from the specialist restoration work, activities also focus on rejuvenating the surrounding urban fabric in order to maximize opportunities for sustainable economic development. This can mean restoring the appearance of a historic market, enhancing its commercial function, and encouraging suitable creative industries.

We believe that Syria's greatest strength continues to be the rich diversity of cultures which make up its collective identity. We embrace that diversity, knowing that what binds us together is far stronger and more enduring than any distinctions between us. Central to our commitment is the recognition that culture can have a positive impact well beyond preservation by acting as a catalyst for social revitalization.

Syria as a nation is first and foremost the Syrian people, and working together, Syrian or not, we can build a stable, peaceful and prosperous future. The recovery of Syria's heritage sites needs to balance the evolving needs of our communities, and those that care about World Heritage, with the overriding commitment to preserve the historic, environmental and symbolic significance of these sites. From Palmyra, Aleppo, Ugarit, Ebla, Mari, Maaloula and others; these cultural landscapes and their architecture are enduring and tangible symbols of our country and the rich history of the region.

The 'Restoring Syrian heritage and reviving local communities' workshop will bring together heritage experts and professionals from around the world, in a spirit of cooperation, respect and mutual assistance, to discuss Syria's World Heritage and its enduring potential.

We thank you for being part of this initiative and for supporting the aspirations of the Syrian people to pass their valuable patrimony to future generations.

*Fares Kallous.*



الأمانة  
السورية  
للتنمية  
Syria Trust for  
Development





## Fares Kallas

Trustee, Syria Trust for Development

Fares Kallas is a member of the Board of Trustees at the Syria Trust for Development. His position includes overseeing the strategic direction of the organisation and exercising operational oversight.

Between 2012 and 2019, he served as the Trust's Secretary General, and provided executive leadership to Syria's largest non-governmental organisation, including providing strategic direction to a portfolio of social programmes and enterprises, and the general oversight of 1,600 employees.

Before joining the Trust, he was Director of Projects & Initiatives for the Office of the First Lady of Syria. His portfolio ranged in topic from creative learning programs, entrepreneurship training, and supporting people with disabilities.

Fares previously worked at MTN and the British Council in Syria. He holds an MA in Public Communications and Public Relations with merit from the University of Westminster, a Certificate in Corporate Governance from INSEAD, France, and a Certificate in Advanced Strategic Management at IMD, Lausanne, Switzerland.



## Omar Shehadeh

Chief International Participants Officer

Mr. Omar Shehadeh is Expo 2020 Chief International Participants Officer. Before joining Expo 2020, Mr. Omar worked as a Senior Executive Advisor for the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs, responsible for establishing the Directorate of energy and climate change (DECC). DECC was created to draft the international strategy of the UAE energy portfolio and climate change position along with heading the national team to help establish the Headquarters of the International Renewable Energy IRENA in Abu Dhabi and lead its delegation. As a Director of Program Development at Dubai Cares, an organization in the UAE dedicated to primary education, he was responsible for establishing the organization's various functions and securing strategic partnerships with global aid agencies, governments, and NGOs. Before Dubai Cares, he held several positions in the United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) and the private sector.



## Frances Pinnock

**Director of the joint archaeological mission in Ebla**

Frances Pinnock was Associate Professor of Ancient Near Eastern Art and Archaeology at the Sapienza University of Rome. She is co-director, with Paolo Matthiae, of the Italian Archaeological Expedition to Syria (Ebla) and Director of the Ebla Project. She is author of seven scientific books and of more than 200 articles in international scientific journals. Her main interests are the cultures of pre-classical Syria, with special concern for Ebla, and of third and second millennium BC Mesopotamia.



## Kiyohide Saito

**Director of the joint archaeological mission in Palmyra**

I was born in Japan, 1953. I studied archaeology at Kansai University in Japan and the University of Arizona in USA. Since 1985 I have worked at the Archaeological Institute of Kashihara, Nara Prefecture. I was engaged in excavation in Palmyra from 1990 to 2010 until the present conflict became harder. In my career, the restoration and reconstruction of Tomb BWLH & BWPA from 1999 to 2000 is the most impressive achievement for me. Since 2017 I have worked for the program of the capacity building for Syrian experts to related to cultural heritage under UNDP.



## Daniele Pini

**Professor of Urban Conservation,  
University of Ferrara**

Architect and urban planner with an extensive experience of planning and research on historic cities in Italy and abroad, focussing on the issues of urban rehabilitation and regeneration. Formerly full Professor of Urban Planning at the University of Ferrara until his retirement in 2014, he works extensively as advisor and consultant to local and national governments, as well as international organisations. As a consultant to the UNESCO-WHC he coordinated the studies for the Conservation Plan of Sana'a, the Action Plan for the Old City of Jerusalem, and the Project for the Urban Regeneration of Historic Cairo.



## Davide Nadali

**Director of the joint archaeological mission in Tell Ferzat**

Davide Nadali is Associate Professor of Near Eastern Archaeology at the Sapienza University of Rome. He worked at Ebla (Syria) since 1998. Since 2014, he is co-director of the Italian archaeological excavation at Tell Zurghul/Nigin (Iraq); in 2019 he has been appointed Vice-Director of Ebla Expedition and since 2020 he is director, for the Italian part, of the joint Syro-Italian archaeological expedition at Tell Ferzat (Damascus, Syria). His main interests concern: art, architecture and urbanism of ancient Assyria; incipient urbanism in Syria and Mesopotamia; ancient warfare; landscape archaeology with a focus on the ancient waterscape.



## Zaki Aslan

Director of ICCROM-Sharjah

Dr Zaki Aslan is the Director of ICCROM-Sharjah, an international body that works to conserve cultural heritage in the Middle-East. He is a conservation architect by trade and has managed ICCROM's cultural heritage conservation in the Arab region programme from Rome since 2003. Aslan provided technical advice to the Arab States in the Mediterranean and Gulf countries on heritage conservation, management and planning, World Heritage procedures, national heritage strategies and governance, as well as education. Aslan holds a Ph.D. in Heritage Conservation and Management from the University College London. He previously worked as consultant for UNESCO, European Union, and ICCROM on heritage conservation and management in the Near East and Arab countries, including World Heritage education, training and development projects. He is a regular commentator on the destruction of heritage in the Middle-East and is seeking an internationally coordinated response.



## Dr. Amra Hadžimuhamedović

Director

Dr Amra Hadžimuhamedović (Director of the Centre for Cultural Heritage, International Forum Bosnia), has been the leading expert in the process of post-war recovery of Bosnian heritage, and working in the field in Kosovo, Palestine, and Iraq as well. She has been a consultant for UNESCO, ICCROM; World Bank, ICOMOS International, OSCE, ARC-WH, and Welfare. She has taught at the International University of Sarajevo, guest-lectured at the universities in USA and Europe, and published widely, including the recent book *Heritage Reconstruction and People. Integrated recovery after trauma* (ed.). She is a founder of HIDR (House of International Dialogue and Research) which includes ISSYH, a school for sustainable, inclusive, resilient and holistic recovery of heritage.

## Nazeer Awad

Director General of Antiquities & Museums

Born in Damascus in 1965, Nazir holds a MA in History & Archaeology of the Ancient East from Damascus University. He joined Syria's Directorate General of Antiquities & Museums in 1991, where he occupied several positions including Director of Museums Affairs, and Director of Historical Buildings. Currently, Nazir is the Director-General of Antiquities and Museums.

Nazir has taken part in several archaeological missions, such as the mission at the Site of Mar Taqla in the countryside of Damascus, and the mission at the Rawda Site in Hama. Nazir has contributed to several local and international scientific conferences and symposia, and has published a number of research papers in Arabic and French, in local and international scientific journals.

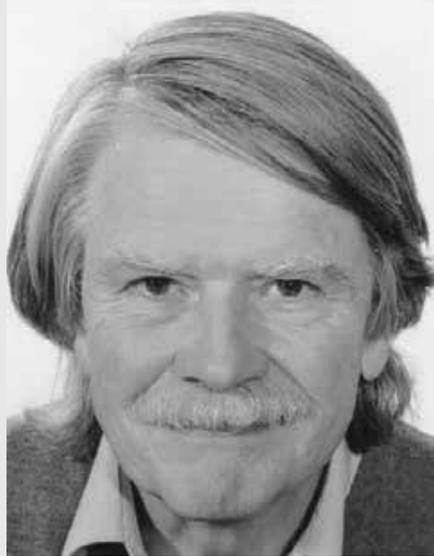


## Reme Sakr

Cultural Heritage Advisor, Syria Trust for Development

Reme Sakr holds a MA in 'World Heritage & Cultural Projects for Development' from the University of Torino with honours. She has worked for the Syria Trust for Development since 2015, previously in her position as the National Programme Director for the 'Living Heritage' programme, and currently as the Trust's Cultural Heritage Advisor.

She has coordinated the nomination of several ICH elements to UNESCO's lists, and promoted Syria's intangible cultural heritage as a tool for socio-economic development in a post-conflict environment. She was elected for two consecutive terms as representative of the Arab States NGOs at UNESCO, served as the Vice Chair of UNESCO's ICH NGO Forum's Steering Committee between 2020-2022, and is the Focal Point for Syria's periodic reporting under the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. Reme is a lecturer at the University of Torino within the Master for Cultural Property protection in Crisis, and the Master in World Heritage and Cultural Projects for Development. She also acted as the cultural programme officer for the Syria Pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai



## Kay Kohlmeyer

**HTW Berlin Director of the Archaeological mission in Aleppo Citadel**

Kay Kohlmeyer is a Near Eastern Archaeologist, and since 1994 has taught as professor of Field Archaeology and Landscape Archaeology at the HTW University of Applied Sciences Berlin. In 2015 he retired and now holds a position as senior researcher. He specialises in Syrian and Anatolian art and archaeology, and is co-editor of the final publications of the excavations in Habuba Kabira and Tall Bi'a / Tuttul in Syria. His last excavations were on the Citadel of Aleppo (Syria) and in Anuradhapura (Sri Lanka), and he was participating in the Conana Survey Project (Turkey). His current researches also focus on 3D digitalization and visualisation methods. He initiated the interdisciplinary research group 'Virtual Archaeology', and the research cluster 'Protection, Preservation and Management of the Cultural Heritage of the Islamic World'. He lives in Berlin and Doha, where he contributed to the exhibition "Syria Matters" at the Museum of Islamic Art (2018/2019). His most recent monographs are "The Temple of the Weather God of Aleppo" (2020) and "The City of Habuba Kabira-South: Buildings and Tombs" (in German, with Wido Ludwig, 2021).

## Marina Pucci

**Director of the joint archaeological mission in Amrit**

Professor for Archaeology of the Ancient Near East at the University of Firenze (Italy), is a field archaeologist with long experience in excavations (Syria 1996-2010, Turkey 2010-2021). She is Principal Investigator for several archaeological and research projects carried out in Germany (Pergamon Museum, Freie Universitaet Berlin), USA (Oriental Institute Chicago) and Italy (Università di Firenze), and author of two monographies and more than thirty scientific articles on materials and architecture from the second and first Millennium BC. Safeguard and valorization of archaeological heritage in conflict areas is a further research and teaching focus, with several new projects just started in Syria.



## Dr. Balázs Major

**Archaeologist**

Balázs Major is an archaeologist, Arabist and historian by training, having completed his university studies both in Hungary and at Damascus University. He holds a PhD in archaeology from Cardiff University. He is the director of the Institute of Archaeology at Pázmány Péter Catholic University and a lecturer in the Department of Arabic Studies. He is conducting and directing archaeological fieldwork at numerous sites in Syria, Lebanon, Iraqi Kurdistan and Hungary and has published extensively on the subject of Near Eastern sites from the medieval and late antique periods. He is the Hungarian director of the Syro-Hungarian Archaeological Mission which works in Syria since the year 2000 and its centre of research is Qal'at al-Marqab and recently Qal'at al-Husn (Crac des Chevaliers) too.



## Hala Rizk

**Social Cohesion & local development  
Programme specialist - Team leader, UNDP**

Dr. Hala Rizk has a humanitarian and development experience with UNDP, UNICEF, and European Commission. Dr. Rizk managed a variety of social cohesion, youth, and Local development projects for more than 15 years. Currently, she is working as Team leader for social cohesion and local Governance portfolio in UNDP using cultural heritage as a source and occasion to promote social cohesion, contact, exchanges, and reciprocity between different stakeholders; and how it can contribute to enhancing community cohesion, fostering a sense of belonging of the whole population.

Dr. Rizk has a PH. D in Business Administration, A Certified Management Consultant from The Institute of Management Consultancy -Chartered Management Institute, UK.



## Dr. Ammar Abdulrahman

Frei Universität Berlin, Near Eastern Archaeology and Excavation Management

A specialist in archeology and cultural anthropology, I worked in many German universities such as Constance, Tübingen and Free Berlin, as a lecturer and researcher, and among the projects I carried out was an exhibition on the archaeological site of Genderes in northwestern Syria,

which was held during 2015 at the Cultural center in Constance Germany, in cooperation with the University of Constance and the Technical University. Also completed a research on the actual threat to the archaeological sites in the Syrian Jazeera and the future plan for protecting these monuments. Prior to this, I worked as director of archaeological research in the General Directorate of Antiquities and Museums in Syria and completed a publication plan for four years. I also worked as director of museums for one year, before moving to the university in Damascus and working as a professor in Damascus University. I have been a member of the Arab-German Academy since 2014, based in Berlin, through which I made many contributions, the most important of which was the international conference in Tübingen University about the ancient city of Maaloula in Syria and perspectives to protect and preserve it by integrating the local community in archaeological preservation work and future plans.

## Karmov Timur Mikhailovich,

Director of the Expeditionary Volunteer Association

Ph.D. (History), Associate Professor of KBSC of the Russian Academy of Sciences, President of the non-profit organization of the Association for the Preservation and Study of Historical and Cultural Heritage "Expeditionary Volunteer Corps"(St. Petersburg).

**Education:** St. Petersburg State University, Faculty of History, Department of Archaeology (2002). Postgraduate studies at the Institute for the History of Material Culture of the Russian Academy of Sciences (St. Petersburg). Ph.D. thesis (2009) on the topic "Military nobility of the Western Ciscaucasia in the first centuries AD. (based on materials from the burials of heavily armed horsemen)"



## Dr. Samir Abdulac

President, ICOMOS working group on the safeguarding of Syrian heritage

Chair of the ICOMOS Working Group on the safeguarding of cultural heritage in Syria and Iraq,

Board Member of ICOMOS France and Blue Shield France.

Served as Vice-President and Secretary General of ICOMOS France. Expert Member of CIAV, CIVVIH and ICORP (ICOMOS Scientific Committees).

Founder of a French regional « Conseil d'Architecture, d'Urbanisme et de l'Environnement » in Chartres.

Long international professional experience in the revitalization of historic towns in Arab countries. Participated in various missions for UNESCO, ICOMOS, Harvard University, UNDP, the World Bank and local governments.

Holds a PhD. in Urban Planning. Architect graduated from Paris (DPLG) and London (Dip. UCL). Author of over a hundred publications. Decorated as "Officier des Arts et des Lettres" in France.



## Luis Monreal

General Manager, Agha Khan Trust For Culture

Luis Monreal is the General manager of the Agha Khan Trust Culture, Geneva (Switzerland). He is a conservation specialist, art historian and archeologist. He has held positions in many institutions. He has been the curator Barcelona museums (1965-1974) and Secretary General of the international council of museums ICOM (1974-1985).

He was Director of the Getty Conservation Institute (Los Angeles, 1985-1990) and Director General, 'La Caixa' Foundation (Barcelona, 1990-2001). He was also a member of various archeological missions in Nubia, Sudan, Egypt and Morocco. He is the author of several books and numerous articles on art and archeology. He is a Board member of the Gala-Salvador Dali Foundation (Spain), a member of the Royal Academy of Fine Arts (Barcelona, Spain), Commandeur de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres (FRANCE) AND Gran Cruz de Isabel la Católica (Spain).



## Ebrahim Alkhalifa

**Adjoint Director, Arab Center for World Heritage**

Ebrahim Alkhalifa is the Deputy Director at the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO, throughout his work he has been involved in the implementation of the 1972 World Heritage convention in the Arab region including capacity building programmes, working with Arab States on ensuring effective management of inscribed sites and assisting in the upstream process of nominations. ARC-WH has been actively involved during the past 10 years in Catalysing support towards the safeguarding of properties on the World Heritage List in Danger and enhancing the capacity of Member States in emergency preparedness and disaster risk reduction.



## Dr. Houmam Saad

**Director of Excavations and Archaeological Studies/DGAM**

Dr. Houmam Saad is the Deputy Director General of Antiquities and Museums in Syria, as well as Director of Excavations and Archaeological Studies at DGAM. He holds a PhD in Archaeology from the University of Damascus, and a MA in Islamic Studies and the Muslim World from Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes- Paris. Dr. Saad is a lecturer at the Department of Archaeology in Damascus University, and since 2008 has directed a number of archaeological missions, including Palmyra, Hama, Aleppo, Amrite, Ibn Hani, Lambese, and Hierapolis.



## Tamim Kasmó

**Deputy Director, Archaeologist, Committee for the restoration of the Umayyad Mosque**

Tamim Kasmó is the Deputy Director of the Committee for the Restoration of the Great Umayyad Mosque, in Aleppo Project, and Head of the Technical Protection Committee of Old Aleppo since 2017. Tamim has contributed to the development and modification of the Ancient City of Aleppo Building Code, and developing the restoration strategy for the restoration of the heritage souks. He is a member of the Adiyat Cultural Association, the ICOMOS Syria committee, and was awarded the Khair Eddin Al-Asadi award, as well as the Bassel Personality of the Year.



## Alessio Re

**Secretary General, Fondazione Santagata**

Expert in cultural heritage management for economic development. Secretary General at the Santagata Foundation (Torino, Italy). Adjunct professor at the University of Turin and at the University of Pisa, board member of the UNESCO Chair in Culture and Heritage Economics at the University of Turin.

Coordinator of the Master in Cultural Property Protection in Crisis Response, the Master in World Heritage and cultural projects for development, the Academy on UNESCO and Sustainable Development, the Heritage Beyond Walls program.

Worked as consultant for UNESCO in Italy; Serbia; Montenegro; Iran; Greece; Cambodia; Pakistan and have been consultant to the Ministries of Culture of Serbia; Seychelles; Mauritius, with professional experiences in Azerbaijan, China, Cyprus, Egypt, France, North Macedonia, Turkey.

## Mikhail Piotrovsky

General Director of the State Hermitage Museum, Russia



Mikhail Borisovich Piotrovsky is the General Director of the State Hermitage, a historian and Orientalist scholar, Doctor of Historical Sciences, full member of the Russian Academy of Arts and the Russian Academy of Sciences, Professor of St. Petersburg State University. He is a renowned scholar of Arabic and Islamic history, the author of more than 300 research papers and Dean of the Department of Oriental Studies of St. Petersburg State University. Among his works are *The Legend of the Himyarite King As'ad al-Kamil*, *Southern Arabia in the Early Middle Ages*, *Tales of the Koran*, *The Historical Legends of the Koran*, *On Islamic Art*, *Islamic Art in Russia*. Prof. Piotrovskiy has taken part in many archaeological expeditions including Soviet-Yemeni expedition led by him in 1991-1992.

Being the Director of the Hermitage since 1992, he conceived and implemented the Great Hermitage Development Program securing the global role of the museum and based on ensuring accessibility of the collections and traditions of the Hermitage through a complex of open repositories, satellite centers and understanding of the museum as a public forum.

Mikhail Borisovich Piotrovsky has published a series of books about the Hermitage, including *My Hermitage*, *No Taboo for Museums*, *From the Scythians to Kiefer*; he is the presenter of over 300 authorial TV programs about the museum; the founder and head of the Chair of Museum Affairs at St. Petersburg State University; the initiator of the Union of Museums of Russia and its president.

He is also a member of the Presidential Council for Culture and Art, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the European University in St. Petersburg, Honorary Citizen of St. Petersburg, President of the World Club of Petersburgers, recipient of the State Prize and the Prize of the President of the RF.

He has been awarded many Russian and foreign orders, has been elected a foreign member of the Academy of Inscriptions and Belles-Lettres of the French Institute, the American Academy of Sciences and Arts, and the Academy of Sciences of Armenia. One of the minor planets was named after the father and son: Boris Borisovich Piotrovsky and Mikhail Borisovich Piotrovsky.



## Francesco Bandarin

Senior Advisor, Aga Khan Trust for Culture

Francesco Bandarin is an Architect and Urban Planner, specialized in Urban Conservation. From 2000 to 2010 he was Director of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre. From 2010 to 2018 he served as Assistant Director-General of UNESCO for Culture. He is Special Advisor of the Director-General of ICCROM and Senior Advisor to the Aga Khan Trust for Culture. His recent publications include: *The Historic Urban Landscape: Managing Heritage in an Urban Century*, 2012; *Reconnecting the City. The Historic Urban Landscape Approach and the Future of Urban Heritage*, 2015; *Re-shaping Urban Conservation*, 2019.

## Lina Kutiefan

Director of Syrian World Heritage Sites/DGAM

Lina Kutiefan, Architect. has worked in the Directorate General of Antiquities & Museums (DGAM) in Syria since 1989. In 2006, she was appointed as Director of the Syrian World Heritage Sites in DGAM, and during the Syrian crisis, she was responsible of assessing the damage in the World Heritage Sites.

She is a member of ICOMOS since 2014 and focal point in DGAM for the 1972 UNESCO World Heritage Convention. She holds BA in Architecture from Damascus University and is now a Ph.D. student in Pázmány Péter Catholic University- faculty of History- in Budapest. She has several publications in Arabic and English.





## Nada Hosking

Global Heritage Fund, Executive Director

Nada Hosking is the Executive Director of Global Heritage Fund. She is responsible for the strategy and implementation of Global Heritage Fund's mission to empower and transform communities through historic preservation. Prior to becoming Executive Director, she served as the Director of Programs and Partnerships. Nada brings a strong non-profit background to Global Heritage Fund from her work at Global Fund for Women.

Nada graduated from the University of California, Berkeley with highest honors in Anthropology and the History of Art. She also holds a degree in English Literature and Linguistics from Université Hassan II in Casablanca, Morocco.

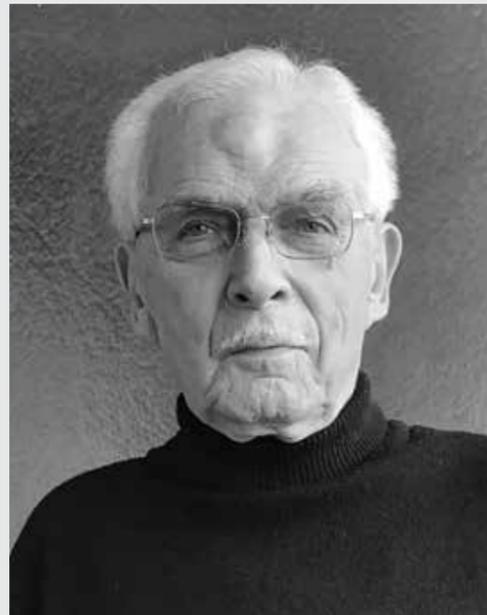
## Pierre Leriche

Director of Scientific Researches Emeritus in CNRS

Pierre Leriche is the founder and French Director of key archaeological expeditions, including:

- The French-Syrian expedition in Dura Europos (Syria) since 1986
- The French-Uzbek Expedition in Northern Bactria (Uzbekistan) 1993 - 2018
- The French-Syrian Rescue Expedition in the Damascus Citadel (Syria) 2001 – 2002, and he was the founder and Scientific advisor of the French-Turkish Zeugma Rescue Expedition (Turkey) 1995 – 2001.

Between 1969 and 1996 Pierre was a member of the Archaeological Expeditions in Ai Khanoum (Afghanistan), Iraq Al Amir (Jordan), Tell Arca (Lebanon), Ibn Hani (Syria), Apamaea (Syria), and Amathus (Cyprus). He is a Professor agrégé in History and Geography and a State Doctor in Hellenized Orient Civilisation. From 1974 to 1978 he was a Scientific Member of the French Institute of Archaeology in Beirut. Between 1978 and 2010 he was a lecturer then Director of the Scientific Researches (Archaeology) in CNRS, Ecole Normale Supérieure, Paris



## Mounir Bouchenaki

Expert, former UNESCO ADG Culture

Mounir Bouchenaki, born in November 1943 in Algeria, contributed during four years (2013 -2017) to the launching of a UNESCO category II Centre in Bahrain. He was elected Director-General of ICCROM end 2005 - 2011. He was the initiator of the ICCROM/Sharjah Centre . His appointment at ICCROM followed a long career at UNESCO, where he was Assistant Director-General for Culture ,Director of the Division of Cultural Heritage, Director of the World Heritage Center at UNESCO, and in his own country, Director of Antiquities, Museums and Historic Monuments in the Algeria from 1970 to 1981. He holds a Ph.D. in archaeology and ancient history . He has been awarded the titles of Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres , Officier des Arts et des Lettres, and Commander des Arts et Lettres . In 2002. He was raised to the rank of Commandatore of the Order of the Star of Italian Solidarity by the President of the Italian Republic. He was awarded by the President of the Algerian Republic with a Golden Medal of Culture, and by the French President of the Republic the title of "Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur » . He published a number of books on and articles. His last book is about the " Mutilated Heritage"(2017). Presently, He is Special Advisor to the UNESCO Director General and to the ICCROM Director General.



## Thierry Grandin

Architect, Aleppo Syria

Thierry Grandin is an architect DPLG, affiliated to the Order of Architects of Île-de-France, member of ICOMOS, and consultant for restoration projects for the Aga Khan Trust for Culture in Aleppo, Syria and for the World Monuments Fund for projects in Babylon, Iraq.

His office was established from 1988 until the events of 2011 in the Old City of Aleppo, and implemented numerous projects of rehabilitation in the Old City of Aleppo.

Thierry Grandin was also an expert for GTZ in the field of the "Project for the Rehabilitation of the Old City of Aleppo" project established in 1992, and for the "Directorate of the Old City", created in 1999. This institution was responsible of the development of the strategies inherent to the Old City, for the supervising urban and architectural studies, the building permits, the planning and the maintenance of the roads and of certain monuments.

Thierry Grandin participate also in studies with the Stunde-Null Project initiated by the Museum of Islamic Art in Berlin.



## Salvatore Russo

Professor of Architecture, University of Venice

Graduated in Civil Engineering at the University of Trieste, and with cum laude in Architecture at IUAV University in Venice with a Thesis on structural restoration. Prof. Russo is Full Professor of Structural Engineering at IUAV University of Venice, Italy. In 2007, he got the book (HOEPLI) on FRP pultruded structural elements. Former Director of the Laboratory of Strength of Material at IUAV University from the 2010 till the 2018, and former member of the IUAV academic senate.

He is author of 222 publications, the most notably 77 international and national Journal papers. He is Director of the IUAV Master of Architecture, and also Director of the IUAV Cluster Unit Research dedicated to the 'Experimental Design Approach for construction and sensitive and crisis areas'.

He has been Visiting Professor at Columbia University of New York, Visiting Researcher at Rolla University (USA); Visiting Professor at Curtin University of Perth (Australia) and Visiting Researcher at Nova Gorika University. He is Adjunct Professor at Curtin University of Perth, School of Civil Engineering. He has been involved in many national and international PhD courses.

In 2008 he received an award for the "Best scientific paper" at the 4th Int. Conf. on Composite in Civil Constructions in Zurig. As a UNESCO consultant since 2015, he worked in Myanmar, Nepal, Cuba and in Syria through the Beirut UNESCO Office. He is Editor of the 'Shock and Vibration' and 'Material Science and Research' Journals.



## Shadi Al-Aleshi

CEO of Syria Trust for Development

Shadi has a Bachelor of Engineering from the University of Aleppo, and a MA in Business Administration from St Clements University.

He first joined the Syria Trust for Development as a volunteer in 2011, and subsequently worked his way up within the organization to be the Northern Region Director between 2012-2014, and then in 2019 was appointed CEO, where he directs the nation-wide operations of Syria's largest NGO.

Shadi has utilized his locally-based knowledge and his experience of both the private and NGO sector, to inform and lead the NGO's numerous social development projects and national programs, including its project for the Restoration of the Straight Street market in Old Aleppo.

Prior to joining the Trust, he was the Northern-Region Marketing Manager for Syriatel, and in 2016, he was honored as one of JCI's Ten Outstanding Young Persons of the World in the field of Humanitarian Leadership.



## Krzysztof Jakubiak

Director of Polish Archaeological mission in Palmyra

Since 2020, he is the Chair of the Oriental Archaeology, Faculty of Archaeology, University of Warsaw, and Associate Professor. Prior to this, Dr. Jakubiak was Head of the Institute of Archaeology. Since 2013, he is the Director of the Armenia, Metsamor, archaeological expedition, and since 2011 the Director of the Marina el Alamein archaeological expedition in Egypt. Between 2004 and 2009 he was Director of the archeo-geological survey in the Eshmoun Valley in Sida, Lebanon (modern Auali Valley), carrying out the project with the DGA, and covering periods from pre-pottery Neolithic to the Ottoman times. Between 2003 and 2006, he was also Director of the Polish-Egyptian Expedition. The excavations were conducted in collaboration with the SCA, and were focused on researching the Roman theater and urban architecture. Other expeditions he has participated in include the Mele Hairam archeological site in Turkmenistan.



## Grazia Tucci

*Associate Professor at the University of Florence*

Member of the CIPA-Heritage Documentation Executive Board, Member of the ICOMOS Italian National Committee; co-chair in the WG V/1 of ISPRS; founder and Chair of the GEORES International Conference. Head of GECO Lab, focused on documentation, conservation and enhancement of Environment and Cultural Heritage with innovative technologies. Involved in several research projects, surveying important national and international monumental complexes. Scientific manager for the re-production of Michelangelo's David for the Italian pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai. Participates in scientific committees and editorial boards of series and journals. Author of more than 250 academic publications.



## Natalia Soloveva

*Deputy Director of the Institute for the History of Material Culture of the Russian Academy of Sciences (IHMC RAS)*

Key research activities: Curator and Lead of the International Karakum Archaeological Project (Ilgyly-depe Archaeological site, Turkmenistan), Curator and Lead of the International Russian-Syrian Project "Saving the early Christian churches in Syria"; Head of the Russian expeditions at Palmyra (Syria) in 2016 and 2019, Lead of the Digital Project 'Palmyra 3D', Archaeology Expert and a Member of the Academic Council of the Russian Geographical Society (RGO).

Professional experience: Dr Natalia Soloveva is director of the rescue archaeology and heritage Centre at the IHMC RAS. She leads projects related to cultural heritage management and preservation, rescue archaeology, and digital methods in archaeology in Russia, Central Asia, and the Middle Eastern region. She is an author of more than 60 publications including two books.



## Giovanni Fontana Antonelli

Architect - Executive Director and Co-founder,  
Archi.Media Trust

Giovanni Fontana Antonelli, graduated from Florence University, is architect, urban/landscape planner and heritage expert. He gained his experience from serving UNESCO and international NGOs for more than 20 years in Africa and the Arab Region, including conflict and post-conflict contexts. In 2017 he founded Archi.Media Trust, an international cooperation agency promoting Just Sustainable Cities and Cultural Heritage Preservation towards peacebuilding. Safeguarding the cultural landscape of Southern Jerusalem and Revive the Spirit of Mosul are milestones in his international civil servant's career. Recipient of international awards, keynote speakers in international conferences, he is author of seventy publications and three books.



## M. Sakher Oulabi

Director of Aleppo Antiquities

Sakher Oulabi is the Director of Aleppo's Antiquities. He holds a Bachelor of Architecture and a Diploma in History of Science from the University of Aleppo, and a PhD in Architecture from Germany. At the University of Aleppo, he currently supervises a number of MA and PhD thesis and is the Dean of the Faculty of Architecture, Dean of the Institute of Arab Scientific Heritage, as well as Director of the Aleppo University Research Journal. Since 2017, he has directed the project for the restoration and rehabilitation of the Great Umayyad Mosque in Aleppo, and between 2003-2012 was Chairman of the Old City Protection Committee. Sakher has several published articles and research papers on urban heritage and historical cities in a number of languages.



## Ajmal Maiwandi

Director, Aga Khan Afghanistan

Ajmal Maiwandi trained as an architect at SCI-Arc in Los Angeles and the Bartlett School of Architecture in London. He worked extensively in Europe, including at Studio Daniel Libeskind in Berlin, before returning to his native Afghanistan in 2004. He currently serves as CEO of AKTC's operations in Afghanistan and has written widely about urbanism and architecture in Kabul.



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