The World Heritage Education Kit

an Educational Resource for Teachers

On June 4, 1999, an educational resource kit for teachers entitled **World Heritage in Young Hands: To Know, Cherish and Act** was launched at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris. The kit consists of a wealth of multi-disciplinary, interactive teaching material designed to enable teachers worldwide to introduce World Heritage Education to their students.



The introduction of the Kit is only the first step in ensuring the incorporation of World Heritage Education into mainstream curricula throughout the world. The challenge of how to produce material for use by secondary-school teachers, worldwide, from different disciplines, has been recognised. The next step is to evaluate and adapt the Kit to meet regional and local needs, and this will be done in a series of sub-regional and national teacher training workshops throughout 1999 and 2000. The Kit, currently available in French and English, will also be translated into a number of local languages.

SPAFA Journal Vol. 9 No. 3

World Heritage in Young Hands is divided into five thematic sections, with 42 activities that teachers can use in and outside the classroom. Activities are hands-on and adaptable, challenging students from all disciplines to think about cultural and natural heritage on both local and global levels. The Kit also contains resource material such as The World Heritage Convention, the World Heritage map and laminated photographs of 25 World Heritage Sites, allowing teachers to bring life to the activities they choose.

Activities based on the following themes are designed to:

The World Heritage Convention

- help students to develop knowledge and understanding of the World Heritage Convention, criteria used for nominating and inscribing sites and threats facing World Heritage;
- encourage students to become involved in the protection of their own local heritage.



World Heritage and Identity

- highlight the relationship between World Heritage sites and cultural identity;
- encourage students to cultivate respect for all peoples and their cultures, and develop a sense of responsibility for the world's natural and cultural heritage.

World Heritage and Tourism

- promote an awareness of the impact of tourism on World Heritage sites;
- foster new forms of tourism that are conducive to heritage appreciation and conservation.

World Heritage and the Environment

- encourage students to develop a strong conservation ethic and responsibility for the environment;
- help students develop their ability to participate in the process of ecologically sustainable development.

World Heritage and a Culture of Peace

- highlight World Heritage sites as testimonies to peace, human rights and democracy;
- promote tolerance and respect for all peoples and their cultures, and help students to develop teamwork skills.

The Kit is the culmination of four years of planning and development that began when UNESCO and the Associated Schools Project Network (ASPnet) launched The Young People's World Heritage Project in 1994. At the first World Heritage Youth Forum in Bergen, Norway in 1995, the seed for the World Heritage Education Kit was planted, with participants acknowledging that there were insufficient resources on the subject of world heritage available to teachers. World Heritage experts, ASPnet educators and teachers were consulted on the content and the presentation of the kit, and at subsequent Youth Fora in Croatia, (1996), Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe/ Zambia (1996) and Beijing, China (1997), participants drafted and redrafted materials, providing feedback on the effectiveness of the Kit.



SPAFA Journal Vol. 9 No. 3