

Greetings

Ethical and scientific commitment, the ability to share knowledge and know-how, national and Cultural Heritage is of fundamental importance for all societies. A community recognises its signs of identity, its historical referents and even its image of progress within that Heritage. Universities and students play an important role in preserving this wealth, primarily due to the technical and technological training needed for the task, and secondly, because they are called upon to take the lead in public awareness, attitudes and relevant activities.

For this reason, the Autonomous Government of Valencia was pleased to host the 1st Forum UNESCO Seminar, which took place in 1996 at the Polytechnic University of Valencia. The Government has been clearly committed to the issue for some time, as seen in the work of the Culture Council Heritage Service. The fact that, after being held in other countries, the 6th Annual event has returned to its original site was understandably good news for the Community of Valencia, a region that is especially sensitive to the issue of cultural heritage both in the university and political arenas.

A quick look at the subjects included in the Seminar schedule – architectural heritage, the environment, tourism, youth, legislation, the media, museology, etc., is enough to perceive the range of this 6th event. This far reaching scope is consistent with the ambition and depth that this Forum has displayed in its by now substantial history.

I'd like to take this occasion to encourage all the event organisers and participants to keep intensifying their efforts along the same, ever more successful lines. At the same time, I'd like to reaffirm the solid support, openness and understanding that the Government of Valencia has shown in many civil initiatives undertaken in the defence and preservation of our Cultural Heritage, along with those riches representing all of Humanity.

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PRESIDENT OF THE AUTONOMOUS GOVERNMENT OF VALENCIA

