

Greetings

Once again, Valencia takes on the role of a cultural point of reference. Scholars and researchers from some thirty countries working in the area of World Cultural and Natural Heritage have a new date in this city full of history - one with a splendid past and a clear commitment to the defence and preservation of our cultural heritage.

The incomparable setting of La Lonja (Marketplace), officially declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1996, will open its doors to the “6th Forum UNESCO International Seminar: Plenary Meeting”. This event will serve to close out the first cycle of meetings on the five continents, consolidating this important UNESCO programme which began right here in Valencia.

The Valencia City Council, working through the III Milenio foundation, has always happily participated in those work initiatives developed by the Forum UNESCO that were connected to the study and promotion of the city’s historic heritage. One example is particularly worth special mention due to its significance and success - the organisation of the “La Lonja in the 3rd Millennium: Chronicles of the Past” exhibition. This show offered a review of the history of our most emblematic building, through the virtual recreation of its construction process.

The intense work carried out by the Forum UNESCO all over the world is clearly shown by the figures attained in only five years of activity. The Forum has managed to unite the efforts of over 300 universities and 250 associations from all over the world, while more than 2,500 professors and specialists in Cultural Heritage have become partners in the project.

I’d like to extend my deepest appreciation to the Polytechnic University of Valencia which, through its dedicated efforts has managed to consolidate the Forum UNESCO into the only university organisation working under the auspices of UNESCO.

The network of university cooperation comprising Forum UNESCO has placed new information and communication technologies at the service of our history, our culture and our Heritage. Their defence and preservation are worth all this effort and more. We all share a part in this responsibility.

As the Mayor of Valencia, I’d like to offer my warmest welcome, and hope that your stay with us is a fruitful and enjoyable one. May your efforts in this highly admirable work, one that merits our deepest gratitude and support, once again be met by success. The city of Valencia will always open its doors to the promotion of programmes, activities and projects that defend our Historic Heritage.

Rita Barberá Nolla
MAYOR OF VALENCIA

