

Memorandum of Understanding

between

The Republic of Turkey,
The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
(UNESCO), Paris, France

and

The Organization of the Islamic Conference-Research Centre for Islamic History,
Art and Culture
(IRCICA), Istanbul, Turkey

Concerning the Establishment of the Süleymaniye Book Hospital Project

Memorandum of Understanding

The Republic of Turkey (which will be represented by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism for the purpose of the implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), hereafter referred to as the 'Ministry'); the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (hereafter referred to as 'UNESCO'); and the Organization of the Islamic Conference-Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture, Istanbul, Turkey (hereafter referred to as 'IRCICA'),

Having regard to the Memorandum of Understanding of 4 July 2005 between UNESCO and IRCICA and considering the need to revise, refresh and expand it in the light of arising needs, areas and forms of cooperation,

Having regard to 33 C/Resolution 51 adopted by the 33rd session of the General Conference of UNESCO acknowledging the Memory of the World Programme as the international reference framework for information preservation,

Considering the volume of manuscript works on Islamic culture placed in its rich collection, the Süleymaniye Library constitutes the largest and most important library in its respective field. It has been the leading reference library for research on Islam for some time, owing to its rich collection of old and rare books on a wide variety of subjects consulted by researchers from all over the world,

Considering the need to provide vital services to readers, a microfilm unit was set up in the library to form the basis of a comprehensive archive, as an essential element in the preservation of historical documents. With the development of digital technology, the information stored on microfilms was transferred to compact discs, leading to the formation of a CD archive,

Bearing in mind the urgent need for expanding the ongoing work in terms of qualified personnel, technical equipment and professional standards due to the vast quantity of materials to be conserved and restored, a Book Hospital Project is envisioned. The Book Hospital is intended to become a locus for theoretical and practical training, while facilitating the adoption of new developments in preservation work to enable the formation of a cadre of highly trained personnel to serve in various parts of the world. The Süleymaniye Library is deemed ideal to fulfill this purpose with respect to its central location, equipment and depth of knowledge held by its well-trained personnel, albeit few in numbers,

Have agreed as follows:

Article I Cooperation

1. The Ministry, IRCICA and UNESCO (hereafter "the Parties") will cooperate for the establishment of a training and manuscript restoration unit hereinafter referred to as the 'Book Hospital' at Süleymaniye Library, Istanbul, provided that the necessary extrabudgetary funding can be secured. The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding is to establish the legal and operational framework for collaboration and joint activities by the Parties. It is the

intention of the Parties that the Book Hospital will also seek to establish and improve cooperation with similar institutions around the world with a view to benefiting from their experience and facilities, and exchanging relevant personnel.

Article II

Objectives and Background

1. This project aims to enlarge the existing unit in the Süleymaniye Library in accordance with modern standards and in line with educational programmes. It also aims to encourage conservation, preservation and restoration activities in libraries around Turkey and in other countries with special emphasis on Islamic cultural heritage, which constitutes a significant part of world cultural heritage, in urgent need of preservation.
2. The long-term objective is to house a facility providing enhanced training courses for international trainees in modern techniques of restoration and preservation of old manuscripts. The Book Hospital will be equipped with the latest techniques and material required to attain these objectives in the fields of restoration and preservation.
3. IRCICA undertook the establishment of a 'Book Hospital' by improving and modernizing the laboratory for the conservation of manuscripts, old books and documents in the Süleymaniye Library, Istanbul, following approval at the 20th session of its Governing Board (on 25 and 26 November 2004). In cooperation with the Ministry and UNESCO, the Parties intend that the project will entail organization of training courses in the laboratory in tandem with restoration activities to upgrade the skills of experts and staff from Member States and train the trainers in the repair and conservation of historical manuscripts.
4. Expansion of this unit in terms of equipment and personnel is essential considering the large number of rare works and manuscripts that are reproduced on microfilm and digital media upon the request of researchers and readers. Development work will take into consideration the feasibility reports and guidelines on the implementation of the project prepared and submitted in 2004 by the two specialists designated by UNESCO, Professor Jean-Marie Arnoult and Professor Andrea Papi.

Article III

Potential Joint Activities

Subject to the availability of resources and in accordance with their respective capabilities and priorities, the Parties shall collaborate in the following actions:

Training

1. Implementation of activities to equip personnel with theoretical and practical knowledge to undertake the conservation, preservation, pathological examination and restoration of materials in the libraries.
2. The personnel to be trained in the Book Hospital will undertake preservation and conservation work in a scientific manner in various libraries. As the workload will be distributed among different libraries, it is expected that the various restoration works will be undertaken simultaneously and numerous works will be restored in a shorter time span.
3. These programmes will be organized on the subjects identified in the reports of the UNESCO experts as summarized by IRCICA in the attached document, and in conjunction with the regulations to be prepared for different types of education.
4. The staff members to be trained will be selected by their own institutions which will inform the Book Hospital of their qualifications so that they can be ranked according to the state of relevant libraries with regard to restoration requirements, qualifications of the candidates and budget.

Documentation and Reference Library

A reference library and documentation unit will be established where the publications of educational institutions will be collected. Thus, both the teachers and the trainees will benefit from the experiences gathered from past and new developments.

Practical Studies

Expert personnel will carry out various types of restoration work in the Book Hospital in order to support theoretical learning. In this regard, the Book Hospital is conceived as an institution similar to university hospitals dispensing medical education.

Sponsorship

The Parties will establish necessary contacts with relevant bodies and organizations concerned with the preservation and use of this important heritage of human history, in order to ensure the availability of the necessary means for the implementation of the project.

Article IV Implementing Arrangements for Specific Projects and Activities

1. The Parties will conclude and sign a written 'Project Implementation Agreement' (PIA) for every joint project and activity undertaken under the remit of this MoU. Each PIA shall specify the scope of the activity, the expected duration and the responsibilities of the Parties, including those related to funding; as well as the anticipated results, reporting procedures, the work plan, budget, and any other relevant matter.
2. In accordance with the budget estimates set out in the attached document, the Parties agree to endeavour to secure extrabudgetary funding in order to successfully implement the activities envisaged.

Article V Entry Into Force, Review and Termination

1. This Memorandum of Understanding will enter into force on the date when both the Republic of Turkey and IRCICA have notified UNESCO, with copy to each other, that their necessary internal procedures concerning this MoU have been completed.
2. This Memorandum of Understanding hereafter will remain in force for a period of one year. Unless one of the Parties notifies the others of its intention to terminate the MoU 90 days before its expiration date, the MoU will be renewed automatically each time for a period of one year.
3. This Memorandum of Understanding may be amended by mutual written consent at the request of any of the Parties. Any of the Parties may terminate this MoU by giving 90 days' advanced written notice to its counterparts. The termination of the MoU will be without prejudice to the normal execution and completion of any projects or programmes that are underway.

Signed in Paris on 29 November 2006 by the duly designated representatives of the Parties in three originals in English and Turkish, the English version being the authoritative text.

On behalf of the Republic of Turkey

On behalf of UNESCO

On behalf of IRCICA

Signature:

Signature :

Signature :

(Numan Hazar)
Ambassador and Permanent
Delegate to UNESCO

(Koïchiro Matsuura)
Director-General

(Halit Eren)
Director-General

SUMMARY OF THE REPORTS BY
PROF. JEAN-MARIE ARNOULT AND PROF. ANDREA PAPI
UNESCO EXPERTS

ON

SÜLEYMANIYE BOOK HOSPITAL

PREPARED BY

RESEARCH CENTRE FOR ISLAMIC HISTORY ART AND CULTURE
(IRCICA)
ISTANBUL - 2005

Süleymaniye Book Hospital

Brief on Süleymaniye Book Hospital that will be established by IRCICA and the Ministry of Culture Republic of Turkey, in cooperation with UNESCO.

Objective

Enlarge the existing unit in the Süleymaniye Library in accordance with modern standards and set up educational and training programs for future restorers in the conservation, preservation and restoration of rare books and manuscripts as well as giving theoretical and practical training to those who will undertake this job in other libraries. Establishment of a fully equipped restoration laboratory where manuscripts and rare books in the Süleymaniye and outside libraries will be conserved and restored; this laboratory will also be a point of reference for Turkey as well as for countries in the Middle East, Africa, Caucasia and Central Asia.

Firstly the present building housing the restoration laboratory needs to be adapted and enlarged with some simple changes. A minimum of 15 full time restorers should be employed and each should have proper equipment and supplies.

Functions

Training: Academic program will be prepared according to different levels of education and involve preliminary practical information beginning from 2-6 months to high-level theoretical information and training for 2 years.

Trainees to be selected by their own institutions. Priority to be given to libraries in Istanbul and the surrounding regions for two months' training. Trainees to receive *diplomas* at the end of their term.

Teachers' expertise and foreign experts' advice to be taken into consideration.

Additional equipment to supplement those already in use.

Visits to be arranged to pathology institutes and libraries in the neighboring areas for practical training.

Documentation and Reference library to be established to benefit from past experiences and follow new developments.

Cooperation to be established with similar institutions for exchange of mutual benefit, experience and facility.

Reproduction and Archives

Enlargement of this unit in terms of equipment and personnel is essential considering the large number of rare works and manuscripts that are reproduced in microfilms and digital media upon the request of researchers and readers.

Storage Rooms

Though the storage rooms at Süleymaniye library are in considerably good condition, the necessary standards of ventilation and other improvements can be achieved depending on the budget.

Personnel

Permanent staff is needed on the administrative and technical levels.

Budget

Budget should be considered under three groups:

1. Equipping the restoration laboratory, approximately 160.000,00 euro
2. Personal equipment for 15 persons, approximately 68.000,00 euro; for general use, approx. 146.000,00 euro; tools, materials & supplies, 26.000,00 euro
3. Training costs per semester are calculated as approximately 55.000,00 euro, which will include living and traveling expenses for foreign teachers, external coordination, total costs for teaching including teaching materials. A complete two-year course will cost approximately 220.000,00 euro or 14.000,00 euro per student.

Note: These approximate figures are based on the report of Prof. Andrea Papi, UNESCO consultant, who inspected the Süleymaniye Library in December 2004.