

Report on the UNESCO Meeting in Paris

17 November 2003

Birthe Christensen (Head of Conservation, British Museum) attended a UNESCO meeting on 17th November in Paris to discuss the refurbishment of the conservation workshops in Baghdad. Also present were representatives from the Ministry of Cultural Affairs in Japan, the Central Institute for Restoration in Italy, UNESCO, the Iraq Museum and The British Museum.

- The participants at the meeting agreed to focus on the immediate short-term conservation issues as opposed to the analytical aspects, which were recommended for phase 2 (long-term need).
- The British Museum confirmed that the training would start in January for three people from Iraq for 2 months.
- Italy offered several conservation training opportunities of up to 3 months. As the Iraq Museum do not have the complement of staff to take up all offers, it was recommended that the Iraq Museum develop a long-term conservation plan to include staffing levels, training, a reactive conservation programme, etc. It was suggested at the meeting that The British Museum offer expert advice.
- The equipment and materials lists, issued by UNESCO after earlier discussion between Italy, Japan and The British Museum, were prioritised and agreed.
- After the meeting additional equipment was identified by The British Museum and added to the list. Essentially it was lifting equipment for stone, and steam-cleaners.