UNESCO Bangkok
Asia and Pacific Regional Bureau for Education
Regional Unit for Social and Human Sciences in Asia and the Pacific
Regional Adviser for Culture in Asia and the Pacific

MEDIA RELEASE

Shigar Fort Palace in Pakistan wins top prize in the 2006 UNESCO Asia-Pacific Heritage Awards

BANGKOK, 1 September, 2006 - The UNESCO Regional Advisor for Culture in Asia and the Pacific announced today that Shigar Fort Palace (in Skardu in the Northern region of Pakistan) has been honoured with the Award of Excellence in the 2006 UNESCO Asia-Pacific Heritage Awards for Culture Heritage Conservation.

The two Awards of Distinction went to Bund 18 (Shanghai, China) and the Uch Monument Complex (Punjab, Pakistan). Three Awards of Merit were given to St. Andrew’s Church (Hong Kong SAR, China), Sir JJ School of Art (Mumbai, India), and Han Jiang Ancestral Temple (Penang, Malaysia).

Three Honourable Mention awards were conferred to Liu Ying Lung Study Hall (Hong Kong SAR, China); and Arakkal Kettu (Kerala, India); and Leh Old Town (Ladakh, India).

The UNESCO Asia-Pacific Heritage Awards recognize the efforts of private individuals and organizations that have successfully restored and conserved structures and buildings of heritage value in the region.

Eligible projects must be more than 50 years old and the restoration must have been completed within the past 10 years. Buildings must also have been in viable use for at least one year from the date of the Awards announcement.

UNESCO believes that recognizing private efforts to restore and adapt historic structures will encourage other property owners to undertake conservation projects within the community, either independently or by seeking public-private partnerships.

A total of 36 entries were received this year for the Heritage Awards from 11 countries in the Asia-Pacific region. A variety of types of projects were submitted for the Awards, including: five religious buildings, four institutions, five residential buildings, eleven commercial projects, three urban districts, four archaeological in-situ sites, one memorial and three mixed-use commercial buildings.

A total of six entries were received this year for the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Heritage Awards Jury Commendation for Innovation from four countries. No Commendations were awarded.

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Further information about the Heritage Awards and this year’s winning entries can be found on the following website: http://www.unescobkk.org/culture/heritageawards.

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