++ raising awareness +++ cooperation + Stunde Null +++ working with refugees+++
++++ protection of cultural assets +++++ capacity building +++ reconstruction++++
cultural preservation +++ planning +++ training+++ a future after the crisis ++
SIRWAH, in present-day Yemen, was one of the major economic and political centres of the Sabean kingdom.

Photo: Wagner
DEAR READERS,

World-famous cultural monuments of outstanding significance have been reduced to rubble in spectacular acts of destruction by the so-called Islamic State. Meanwhile, what the international community barely notices is the fact that people in Syria, as well as Yemen, are losing every day more and more of the cultural heritage that makes up the physical environment of everyday life. The devastation wrought raises the question of what is to be done with the ravaged cities and monuments. The range of answers is as wide as the challenges presented by each act of destruction. Cities and museums pose different challenges from monuments and archaeological sites.

From 2nd to 4th June 2016, a UNESCO conference on the Emergency Safeguarding of Syria’s Cultural Heritage was held at the Federal Foreign Office in Berlin. The conference, attended by experts from around the world, had the aim of coordinating ongoing national and international activities in documentation and damage assessment as well as planning preliminary safeguarding measures for Palmyra and other Syrian cultural heritage sites. The participants furthermore agreed on training programmes for specialists in the field of museology, preservation, conservation and restoration as well as in specialized crafts.

In the framework of the conference the German Archaeological Institute, as coordinator of the Archaeological Heritage Network, signed an agreement on cooperation with UNESCO in this area. The Archaeological Heritage Network brings together German expertise in the field of cultural preservation and cultural heritage protection. The objective is to make this expertise available for cultural preservation projects in other countries too. The first such project to be implemented by the Archaeological Heritage Network, with the support of the Foreign Office, is “Stunde Null” (“zero hour”), aimed at developing a viable future for the time after the crisis in countries that are riven by conflict. The project is modular. It combines basic and further training in countries neighbouring Syria with reconstruction planning for Syria. In cooperation with Syrian colleagues, it seeks to improve prospects for the region’s future.

Prof. Dr. Dr. h. c. Friederike Fless
A FUTURE FOR THE TIME AFTER THE CRISIS

Investment in education and training, culture, science and communication is a sure way of severing cycles of conflict and forestalling resurgences of violence. Even so, in the rebuilding of regions afflicted by war and crises more is needed than just rapid assistance. For aid measures to be of lasting value, it is important above all to help cultivate expertise in craft and trades, in technology and science.

Rebuilding a devastated country poses a raft of questions. Once the rubble has been cleared away, should modern buildings be put up? Should the historical fabric be reconstructed? In what order should important monuments, infrastructure facilities and city districts be rebuilt? Who should decide? What expertise is available?

These are all questions that Germany faced in 1945 and thereafter. Syrian students at Brandenburg Technical University in Cottbus (BTU) chose to write their final theses on reconstruction in Syria and they incorporated Germany’s experience with the rebuilding of cities devastated in the war. Similarly, the “Stunde Null” project seeks to pool skills and coordinate measures that can help in the post-war reconstruction of Syria and at the same time integrate other countries of the region in cultural preservation projects.

ARCHAEOLOGY’S INTEGRATED APPROACH

When a country has been reduced to ruins, its inhabitants want to rebuild it once the conflict and violence are over. The decisions about how reconstruction should proceed require a good information basis so that sound, informed decisions can be made. Only the latter can ensure that, in complex situations, one is able to proceed in a coordinated way and genuinely for the benefit of the people. The decisions taken can result in such contrary outcomes as formerly existing buildings and architectural ensembles being completely consigned to history and replaced by brand-new structures and urban layouts, and alternatively, city districts being partially or wholly preserved and reconstructed with ancient cultural assets and archaeological finds and features.

Archaeology has long amounted to more than just looking back into the past. The information and knowledge it generates – by a broad spectrum of methods from the cultural sciences, humanities and natural sciences – connect the past with the present, and can also indicate future developments and prospects.

Over a long period of time, institutions like the German Archaeological Institute carried out excavations at various places. But whereas a hundred years ago individual, exceptional palaces and temples were excavated and finds tended to be considered in isolation, archaeology today is concerned with questions of much broader scope, for instance how life was lived in ancient cities, how the water supply functioned, how the climate changed, and how the circumstances of life altered as a result of human actions. Only in this sort of integrated context is it possible to participate meaningfully and effectively in reconstruction projects in crisis-stricken countries. The prerequisite is as always systematic analysis of what the inhabitants want and what is important to their sense of identity.
German technical colleges and research institutes possess considerable expertise in cultural heritage preservation. This practical knowledge and skill is taught on a number of courses, as are subjects like archaeological research, architecture, construction history, the preservation and management of historical monuments, and heritage studies. The courses on offer also include damage assessment, restoration and conservation, site management, and the presentation of cultural properties to visitors. Tourism is, after all, a major economic factor in many countries that have noteworthy ancient monuments and world heritage sites.

This multidisciplinary scientific approach combining theory and practice is quite a magnet internationally, attracting many prospective students as well as guest researchers from countries all round the world. Employment possibilities for graduates in these study areas are diverse. Firstly their expertise is in demand at numerous scientific and cultural institutions like universities and museums in Germany and abroad. Secondly there are many attractive opportunities abroad. SRIC takes a variety of employment opportunities into account when it comes to securing international funding. It is also about making German participation in multilateral projects more visible internationally.

In view of the present situation in the crisis zones of the Middle East, cultural preservation is becoming more and more important every day. It is a subject that, beyond preserving and protecting priceless monuments, also encompasses job creation and economic initiatives that contribute to the stabilization of guest and partner countries. As the discourse about national and cultural identity becomes more complicated in this fast-changing world, so do decisions about the procedures and priorities that are appropriate in the preservation of cultural heritage. Many experts in relevant international networks expect a strong German Archaeological Heritage Network to have a positive influence on the development of the underlying concepts of cultural preservation, and that this in turn may have a beneficial knock-on effect on research, academic teaching and vocational training in Germany. Against this background it is essential that the competence concentrated in the network should be further increased. On this basis alone can cultural preservation activities abroad be conducted successfully.

By combining innovative research, sustainable training programmes and practice-oriented work and by strengthening the economic potential in guest and partner countries in order to stabilize them, it will moreover be possible to gain greater long-term acceptance for Germany’s foreign cultural and educational policy.

THE GREAT TEMPLE OF YESHATA

ArchHerNet

The Archaeological Heritage Network is not a new institution. Rather, it brings together existing practical know-how and skills with the aim of producing much-needed synergies, since ever more complex multilateral projects require collective effort, also when it comes to securing international funding. It is also about making German participation in multilateral projects more visible internationally. The project is not solely focused on the present time, when reconstruction is being discussed in the wake of the wave of destruction in Syria that began in 2011. It is also aimed at the future, with capacity-building activities. This means training builders, artisans, restorers and other specialists who will be able to carry out practical terms the rebuilding of their country, Syria. To this end, capacity-building projects are in progress in Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey. Jobs and training schemes here become central components of humanitarian aid for Syrian refugees in neighbouring countries.
The appalling images reaching us from the crisis zones of the Middle East and North Africa are a clear illustration of what I mean. Virtually on a daily basis we witness the violent destruction of cultural heritage in that region. And this destruction of cultural heritage strikes like an axe at the roots of a cultural future.

Cultural heritage enables us to understand ourselves and each other better. And what’s equally important: it shows that the very ground we are standing on has been prepared by others, notably by other cultures too. Digging deeper into the depths of our identity, as the archaeologist does, can often unearth extraordinary things: connecting lines that today with great difficulty have to be pieced together; common ground that has been quite literally buried; but also conflicts and traumas that still define a given community’s “mental map” in the present.

This is indispensable work in a world that seems to set such store by rapidity and also, unfortunately, rash resolutions. It is essential in that it differentiates – in a world where, much too often, conflicts are refashioned by totalitarian ideologies.

This kind of work is exemplified, ladies and gentlemen, by the DAI project “Stunde Null” for Syria, which we are inaugurating today with numerous other partners. The project builds on the Archaeological Heritage Network, which you set up some time ago. The network pools our exceptional German expertise – so that we here in Germany can work together better and on a broader footing, and so that our expertise can be made available even more efficiently to partners abroad, especially in the framework of UNESCO.

The project has a broad and solid base, with institutions like the DAI, the Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation and the German UNESCO Commission belonging to it as well as a number of monument conservation offices, technical colleges and other bodies on the federal state level.

I wish to thank the President [of the DAI] for her great commitment to this important initiative. And I congratulate everyone who is involved in it.

What gladdens me most of all is that we are now taking the next step: we are combining this expertise with vocational training, cultural cooperation and reconstruction efforts – extending all the way from single restoration projects or training courses to large-scale urban planning.

We know that in Syria’s case there cannot and will not be a zero hour in the sense of a clean break, any more than one occurred here in Germany on 8 May 1945. But how exactly rebuilding should proceed – that question remains open.
The projects we are promoting through the “Stunde Null” initiative are complex and many-layered. Some might say: just as many-layered and complex as the challenges associated with reconstruction in Syria. Your impressive work and exceptional dedication are an example for us, inasmuch as your activities in the field of science are sustained by a civic, social commitment that goes far beyond science.

Science and culture, as I once put it, focus on the long lines. Politics, in contrast to that, has to react much more often to current events and crises. And for precisely that reason politics has to ensure culture and science have the space necessary to make cooperation and collective action possible.

I believe this is what the Foreign Office stands for in particular: it begins with budget questions, goes on to day-to-day cooperation on the ground, and doesn’t end by any means at evening functions like this one. I look forward to further cooperation with you – “excellent ambassadors for Germany”.

Full text in German here:
http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/DE/Infoservice/Presse/Meldungen/2016/160427_DAI_Jahrespapier.html

Photos: Paasch

As a result of our history, there is important experience we Germans can and want to share. We want to take part in efforts to help develop smarter concepts than simply printing out and presenting replicas.

Our work in the cultural sphere is not done in isolation. We don’t puzzle over the rebuilding of damaged temples while in Syria, day after day, people die. No, our cultural activities are an integral part of our comprehensive policy on Syria. Our involvement includes providing urgent humanitarian aid and searching for a political solution to the conflict as well as a host of individual measures such as basic and further training for young Syrian refugees. All these measures have one thing in common: they are intended to give people the confidence to believe in a safe and peaceful future in their home country, and to clear the way for that. And the “Stunde Null” initiative is one highly important building block.

It is clear, however, that all our efforts will only be successful in the long term if they are supported by the people who will one day carry out Syria’s reconstruction: the Syrians themselves. For this reason, what is of utmost importance is cooperation with partners in and around the region: with civil society, with Syria’s neighbours, with antiquities authorities and government agencies.

An outstanding example of this kind of cooperation is the Syrian Heritage Archive Project, initiated by the DAI and the Museum für Islamische Kunst in Berlin. As part of this project, a digital record is being compiled of archaeological sites and historical monuments in Syria – a collaborative effort involving German, Syrian and international colleagues. More than 100,000 data sets have already been gathered. Cultural assets that are under threat are being catalogued, so that they can be identified if illegally traded on the art market and in order to facilitate later restoration where necessary.

The initiative also focuses on neighbouring states in the region, countries where many thousands of people from Syria have found refuge. In cooperation with the DAAD, we are going to establish binational study programmes and offer grants to refugees.

Countless partners are working hand in hand in these projects. I would like to cite the Gerda Henkel Foundation as one example. Last year we started a strategic dialogue with foundations on foreign policy questions. The Gerda Henkel Foundation is one of our most active partners. It has made generous support available for initiatives on Syria. We would like to thank them very much for that.

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Photos: Paasch
REBUILDING A CITY AFTER WAR

THE CASE OF ALEPPO

The devastation wreaked by war is most obvious in cities. A street of ruined houses means inhabitants deprived of living space; wrecked infrastructure is testimony to the severing of vital supply lines and drastic restrictions of normal mobility.

Aleppo, one of Syria’s biggest and most important cities, has suffered immeasurable damage since the beginning of hostilities and today large parts of it lie in ruins. People have been driven out, cultural assets destroyed, looted or sold illegally on the art market. Aleppo’s inhabitants are having the material and historical basis of their identity pulverized, and are deprived of security and protection. The diversity of cultural heritage is being jeopardized on a massive scale.

THE CITY

Aleppo is a 5,000 year old city of great tradition, a major trading centre rich in cultural heritage and priceless monuments and has always been one of Syria's most important cities. Strategically situated between the Mediterranean and the Euphrates, Aleppo has often been fought over in history because of its privileged location. In ancient oriental times it was at the centre of a struggle between the Hittites of Anatolia, the Mitanni from upper Mesopotamia and the Egyptians. In the early 1st millennium BC the Assyrian kings passed through Aleppo on their way to Anatolia, Persia and Egypt. Early in its history the city was a centre of worship of the weather god Hadad, one of the most important deities in the ancient Near East. A temple to him stood on the citadel hill in Aleppo.

During the Ottoman Empire goods from India, Iran and Europe were traded in Aleppo. Spices, indigo and raw silk from Persia contributed to the city’s prosperity, and the local trade in wool and agricultural products was also of great significance. In the heart of one of the busiest regions of the world, the city attracted travellers from very far afield, and they helped shape the city’s character. It was an intersection of caravan routes that led east from the Mediterranean to Mesopotamia, Persia and India, and also from Anatolia and the Caucasus to Arabia.

The modern era left its stamp on Aleppo in the 20th century; the city expanded dramatically after 1945. Its population structure altered: wealthy residents moved out of the old town, poor farmers from the environs came in their stead. The infrastructure fell into bad repair through neglect and the old quarter seemed doomed to inexorable decay – until UNESCO placed the city’s unique historic centre on the world heritage list in 1986. The page had been turned.

In 1990, the Friends of the Old Town of Aleppo was set up in Stuttgart, and in 1993 the GIZ (Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit) started carrying out substantial infrastructural projects and restoration work as part of multilateral efforts to make Aleppo’s historic centre more habitable. The aim was to involve local residents directly in a carefully conducted rehabilitation programme.
For this objective to be achieved, proper foundations have to be laid. This includes processing the profusion of existing digital data on Aleppo and making it available to Syrian institutions. The Syrian Heritage Archive Project, an initiative of the DAI and the Museum für Islamische Kunst (SMB) supported by the Federal Foreign Office, provides an excellent basis for this, as does the Aleppo Archive in Exile set up by the Friends of the Old Town of Aleppo. It is also necessary to have guidelines on how to deal with war-scarred cities. No such guidelines have been developed thus far. For this reason the Archaeological Heritage Network is working to develop standardizations that will be possible to use not only in Syria but in other contexts too. At the UNESCO expert conference that took place in Berlin from 2nd to 4th June 2016, the UNESCO action plan of 2014 was expanded and made more specific. In the case of Aleppo, the Brandenburg Technical University in Cottbus (BTU) took the initiative and organized workshops to elaborate Guidelines on Safeguarding the Cultural Significance of Places Damaged by War and Aggression. The first workshop has already been held. It was part of an intensive debate in which, most significantly, Syrian PhD students are also involved.

The experience gathered during archaeological fieldwork on the citadel of Aleppo by the University of Applied Sciences, Berlin (HTW) will be of use when it comes to dealing with archaeological areas in the old quarter including destroyed monuments, and also dealing with the documentation of finds and features which are likely to be discovered in the course of new building work. The fact that there is abundant documentation in digital form about the old town of Aleppo means its reconstruction can, theoretically at least, be planned in such a way as to serve as a model for the rebuilding of other cities in terms of urban planning and logistics. In addition courses could be offered on town planning, conservation, reconstruction, even population sociology for example, so that a generation of young graduates from around the world will have the expertise that is badly needed in post-crisis periods. These plans and projects will be implemented, not by German experts, but by Syrians. The activities create the conditions and the framework for Syrians to determine their own future in a precise way. For example, Noura as-Saleh questions refugees from Aleppo about what was important to them in their city and how they imagine its future.

The impressive results of the rehabilitation of the old quarter of Aleppo generated a considerable amount of data and experience. The question now, in view of the ongoing destruction in Aleppo especially since 2012, is whether these investments must or should be abandoned. The members of the Archaeological Heritage Network don’t think so – instead the documentation should be used to start fundamental discussions about city planning as an essential preliminary before any reconstruction projects in the city can be possible.

Archaeology, architecture, city planning must all work together here – not only in restoring monuments but also in recreating neighbourhoods and properly habitable space. This needs to be effected in the framework of integrated concepts and with the participation of diverse communities and stakeholders. The traditional diversity of buildings, both in architecture and function, must find a place again in the newly rebuilt zones, just as much as the restored historical and cultural heritage.

At the same time it’s important that the old town of Aleppo with its fascinating lanes, merchants, sounds and aromas should be recreated, not as a museum, but as a vibrant, lived-in district that is conscious of, and draws on, its rich multi-millennial traditions.
A HIVE OF ACTIVITY: the old town of Aleppo with its bustling bazaars and the citadel. In the early years of last century, caravans destined for Iraq were equipped here. It was also from here that German excavation teams set off on horseback for ancient sites in Iraq.

This old photo is from the rich stock of images in the DAI’s archives, which are now being digitized and made available to Syrian institutions in order to help with the task of reconstructing cultural heritage that has been destroyed.

Photo: Walter Bachmann, 1914

**Brandenburg Technical University in Cottbus (BTU)**

With approx. 9,000 students, BTU is the second largest tertiary-level educational establishment in the federal state of Brandenburg. It is also the state’s only technical university. It is taking part in the “Stunde Null” project via its Cultural Heritage Centre (www.b-tu.de/fakultaet/einrichtungen/cultural-heritage-centre). The Gerda Henkel Foundation is supporting the BTU initiative to establish the doctoral programme “Heritage in War: Concepts for Protection and Recovery” which offers two doctoral scholarships for Syrians. The focus of their work is Perspectives for Aleppo: Safeguarding and Recovering the Cultural Significance of a War-damaged City.

www.b-tu.de

**German National Committee of ICOMOS**

ICOMOS is a global, non-governmental organization dedicated to the conservation and protection of historical monuments and cultural property. ICOMOS acts as an advisory body and assessor on behalf of the World Heritage Committee for the implementation of the UNESCO World Heritage Convention. There are national committees of ICOMOS already in 106 countries in addition to 28 international scientific committees. The German national committee of ICOMOS promotes the preservation of monuments, ensembles and cultural landscapes on the national and international level.

www.icomos.org/en

**German UNESCO Commission (DUK)**

The German UNESCO Commission (DUK) was established on 12 May 1950, hence before the Federal Republic of Germany joined the organization on 11 July 1951. The German UNESCO Commission acts as Germany’s intermediary in multilateral educational, scientific, cultural and communication policy. Its mission is to advise the federal government, federal parliament and other relevant bodies in all matters arising from Germany’s membership of UNESCO. The DUK is supported by the Foreign Office.

www.icomos.org/en

**University of Applied Sciences, Berlin (HTW)**

The HTW is the largest university for applied sciences in Berlin and runs around 70 degree courses in Technology, Information Technology, Economics, Culture, and Design. With courses in Conservation and Restoration, Excavation Technology, Museology and Documentation as well as Landscape Archaeology, the HTW possesses many years’ expertise in the protection of cultural assets.

www.htw.berlin.de
Mosul Museum, the second biggest archaeological museum in Iraq, was on the point of reopening its doors after the damage and looting of the 2003 war when it was ransacked and destroyed by the so-called Islamic State. Much of what escaped destruction has disappeared without trace – a fate shared by many museums and collections in war-torn and crisis-riven cities and regions.

PAUL FÉLIX BONFILS (1831–1895) was a French bookbinder and photographer who worked primarily in the Near East. His studio in Beirut, which opened in 1864, was the first professional photographic studio in the region. HIS PHOTOS OF PALMYRA are of incalculable value today in preparatory work for post-war reconstruction in Syria.

Photos: Paul Félix Bonfils – The Myron Bement Smith Collection, Freer and Sackler Galleries Archives, Smithsonian
Old photographs will be enormously helpful in the case of the Roman arch in Palmyra, reduced to rubble by the so-called Islamic State. Photos from the DAI’s archives show the arch was substantially restored in the 1930s, with newly cut blocks being inserted to stabilize the structure. This kind of data may help in the reconstruction of the original appearance of the arch and determining the exact position of architectural members. The prerequisite of any form of rebuilding is consequently the precise documentation of what the structure originally looked like, which can then be compared with the damage mapping and the stone-plan of the damaged monument. Only then will it be possible to answer the question of how far the monument can be reconstructed.

In all regions of Syria, specialists and laypeople have been trying to safeguard cultural heritage. Provisional protection has been improvised for monuments; museum exhibits have been removed for safe storage. Objects have also had to be evacuated in many cases from the depots of international excavations. It is a mammoth task to identify and sort hurriedly evacuated or looted and recovered objects, to store and conserve them in compliance with best practice, and to reconstruct artefacts that have been damaged. Requests for assistance have flooded in from Syrian archaeologists, conservators and museum staff. There is also considerable need for training in the areas of museology and restoration.

THE SYRIAN HERITAGE ARCHIVE PROJECT

Historic archives on cities and ancient sites and museum collections provide an important basis for reconstruction. The archives have been built up over a long period in joint and international research projects, and contain detailed architectural surveys on key monuments and urban planning as well as photographs, some of which date back far into the 19th century and document the cultural heritage of the region. Since 2013, the DAI and the Museum für Islamische Kunst (SMB), with support from the Federal Foreign Office, have been working on the Syrian Heritage Archive Project, the aim of which is to compile a digital record of Syrian cultural property, collating data that have been gathered as part of a long tradition of research. The Syrian Heritage Archive Project already includes some 100,000 photos, drawings and maps scanned and digitized, all at the disposal of Syrian colleagues. This archive is of key importance in restoration and reconstruction efforts, not least because it allows looted artefacts being illegally traded on the art market to be identified.
ROMANO-GERMANIC CENTRAL MUSEUM, MAINZ – LEIBNITZ-FORSCHUNGSINSTITUT FÜR ARCHÄOLOGIE (RGZM)

The Romano-Germanic Central Museum (RGZM) in Mainz is an internationally active research institute for archaeology. On the basis of all available sources it studies humans in their natural and cultural environment, from the beginning of human history in the Palaeolithic to the late Middle Ages. It combines humanities and natural sciences in an interdisciplinary approach that includes expertise in restoration techniques. The RGZM, a research museum of the Leibniz Association, operates highly regarded conservation workshops and laboratories, and has a long tradition of training in the field of restoration/conservation.

www.rgzm.de

STIFTUNG PREUSSISCHER KULTURBESITZ

The Stiftung Preussischer Kulturbesitz – the Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation – is an umbrella organization that includes the Staatliche Museen zu Berlin (National Museums in Berlin), notable for their extensive collections and impressive expertise. One of these museums is the Museum für Islamische Kunst, one of the most important museums of Islamic art and the world’s second largest after the Cairo museum. The Museum für Islamische Kunst is a leading research institute and takes part in the restoration, conservation and protection of cultural heritage in the Islamic world, as well as international cultural exchange and inter-cultural education in Germany.

Syrian Heritage in Small Hands (MIK)

To follow up on the very successful work done with refugees in museums, mosque communities and schools, further material is now to be developed for specific age groups. Teachers, trainers, social workers and other relevant professionals will be accompanied in their work so that material appropriate for situations that arise can be developed. The project will be developed and implemented in Germany and Turkey, using experience gathered on the project in Jordan.

www.preussischer-kulturbesitz.de/en/

AlepPO Archive in Exile

The Syrian Heritage Archive Project is complemented by the Aleppo Archive in Exile, maintained by the Friends of the Old Town of Aleppo. The archive holds documentation on historical monuments, urban topography, socio-economic structures and 20 years of city planning on the basis of digitized cadastral maps, and as such it is a highly important tool in the rebuilding of devastated districts in the old town of Aleppo. The cadastral register also significantly contains information about ownership.

Training in Conservation and Restoration

Given the scale of the destruction, reconstruction and restoration are tasks that cannot be completed in just one generation. For this reason it is crucial to take steps now to provide training for the next generation of specialists.

The University of Applied Sciences in Berlin (HTW) and the Romano-Germanic Central Museum (RGZM) in Mainz are leading institutions in the field of training programmes for restorers and conservators. At the RGZM, the restorers’ work is linked with the institute’s archaeological fieldwork on the one hand but on the other it pursues its own research activities.

The HTW university course, for its part, covers methods of preserving and restoring the damaged original fabric of an object as well as extracting what data it may hold by means of natural science and conservation methods. In addition to that the HTW offers a set of modules which have been tried and tested at the SAWA summer school for museum staff (HTW), initiated in 2015.

Early Islamic Drinking Horn

Photo: Kohlmeier
BASIC AND FURTHER TRAINING

Further training for young academics is the basis for building up lasting expertise in dealing with cultural heritage and its destruction. Central to the “Stunde Null” (zero hour) project therefore is the further training of Syrian architects, archaeologists, conservators, construction history specialists, town planners and above all craftspeople with a variety of specializations. This practical knowledge and skill is taught in Germany on a number of courses, covering subjects like archaeological research, architecture and construction history. The courses on offer also include damage assessment, restoration and conservation, site management, and the presentation of cultural heritage as part of tourism development plans.

At many higher educational establishments in Germany, study places have been allocated to refugees from Syria. The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) is committed to the rapid integration of Syrian refugees in study programmes in this country. With Foreign Office support, the DAAD has set up the scholarship programme Leadership for Syria. In addition to that, through appropriate courses of study, the DAAD makes a major contribution to refugees’ acquisition of skills that are relevant for the reconstruction of war-torn countries.

German higher educational establishments and scientific institutions as a whole are going to considerable lengths to integrate Syrian refugees in teaching and vocational training programmes. As members of the Archaeological Heritage Network, the Brandenburg Technical University, Cottbus (BTU), the University of Applied Sciences, Berlin (HTW), Aachen University (RWTH) and the Berlin Technical University (TU Berlin) are offering study courses, graduate programmes and further training courses where skills needed for the reconstruction are taught.

As members of the Archaeological Heritage Network, the Brandenburg Technical University, Cottbus (BTU), the University of Applied Sciences, Berlin (HTW), Aachen University (RWTH) and the Berlin Technical University (TU Berlin) are offering study courses, graduate programmes and further training courses where skills needed for the reconstruction are taught.

For Syrian students wanting to prepare for the post-war construction of their home country, the study opportunities offered at the BTU and the TU Berlin are unique in the world. The masters degree course World Heritage Studies, part of the BTU’s graduate school programme since 1999, concentrates on the presentation, management and protection of world heritage sites. In a joint course with Helwan University in Cairo, furthermore, scholarships are available for Syrian refugees in Egypt. The BTU’s heritage conservation department in particular is actively committed to the reconstruction of the north Syrian city of Aleppo, as are the courses in conservation and restoration at the HTW.

The RWTH is developing a training course on rapid documentation of monuments at risk in crisis zones. Jointly with the TU Berlin, Aachen University is working on the development of a specialized course at the German Jordanian University in Amman on which Syrian refugees receive training in the fields that are essential to shaping the future of their country. The programme is being coordinated by the DAAD and supported by the Federal Foreign Office.

The Iraqi-German Summer Programme for Iraqi students and experts has run for seven years now at the German Archaeological Institute (DAI) together with university and non-university partners. Because of strong demand on the Iraqi side, the programme is currently being augmented by the establishment of a German-Iraqi centre for the further training of cultural preservation experts. Management and care of Iraq’s rich cultural heritage, and the challenges presented by ISIL’s destruction of heritage in places like Nimrud and Mosul (northern Iraq), require international cooperation and multilateral programmes. In future there will be a structured programme of basic and further training, supplemented by further collaborative projects taking place in the countries themselves.

BASIC AND FURTHER TRAINING IN GERMANY

CAPACITY BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE
All measures will be recorded in a German-Arabic handbook for The programme is governed by existing cooperation agreements signed by the DAI and the universities of Baghdad and Kufa and envisaging joint teaching and training programmes. Apart from property were effected in a form tailor-made for Yemen. The project of archaeology departments of the federal states, and the Vereinigung der Landesdenkmalschutz (DNK) and the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the Länder of the Federal Republic of Germany (KMK).

TRAINING PROGRAMMES & TRAINING COURSES

The Archaeological Heritage Network brings together German expertise in the area of cultural heritage protection. Its members are institutions that teach courses on key practical skills and that possess significant institutional experience. For instance the German Foundation for Monument Protection runs the Denkmalakademie, an educational institute offering vocational training and organizing workshops for future specialists from the younger generation. The Verband der Landesarchäologen, an association of archaeology departments of the federal states, and the Vereinigung der Landesdenkmalschutz, an association of heritage protection offices of the federal states, collectively possess considerable institutional expertise in training programmes and training courses in the field of archaeology, architecture, art history and restoration. In Germany too, therefore, there are a number of opportunities to support Syrian refugees in their specialist training and future activities.

GERMAN FOUNDATION FOR MONUMENT PRESERVATION

The German Foundation for Monument Protection (Deutsche Stiftung Denkmalschutz) is the largest private initiative concerning heritage preservation and also the biggest private donor in Germany. It promotes the preservation of endangered monuments of all kinds across the country. On top of that the foundation is a centre of expertise on the theory and practice of monument protection. It runs the Denkmalakademie, an educational institute offering on-the-job training in the field of heritage preservation.

VERBAND DER LANDESEARCHÄOLOGEN

The association of archaeology departments of the federal states was founded in 1949; the archaeology departments of the East German federal states acceded to it after reunification in 1990. The purpose of the association is to provide a common platform for archaeology department representatives and to promote discussion on questions of the preservation of archaeological monuments. The board represents the association’s archaeological preservation interests on various committees, e.g. Deutsches Nationalkomitee für Denkmalschutz (DNK) and the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the Länder of the Federal Republic of Germany (KMK).

VEREINIGUNG DER LANDESDENKMALPFLEGER

This body is an association of heritage preservation offices of the federal states. For 200 years now it has been an acknowledged responsibility of the state to preserve historical heritage for future generations. The scientific documentation of architectural and artistic monuments began in 1870 with the monument inventory of the province of Hesse-Kassel. A milestone was the first German heritage open day in Dresden in 1900. That tradition continues today in the annual congresses of this association. The journal Denkmalpflege (“heritage preservation”) was founded in 1899 and continues to report on heritage preservation in the German federal states today.
Jordan and Egypt are now home to hundreds of thousands of refugees from Arab states, some of them young university graduates. This creates an opportunity for specialist training in areas like cultural preservation, restoration and conservation that will be in demand in the future. The training programmes can be offered at higher educational establishments in the locality in cooperation with German universities.

As part of the “Stunde Null” (zero hour) project, the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) will offer scholarships at Helwan University in Cairo and at the German Jordanian University in Amman (GJU). The scholarships will be incorporated into courses and cooperation programmes that are already up and running. Since 2012, the German-Egyptian Master’s degree course in heritage conservation and site management has been offered by Brandenburg Technical University in Cottbus (BTU) and Helwan, sponsored by the DAAD and the TU Berlin. A DAAD supported course in monument conservation is being set up at the German Jordanian University in Amman in cooperation with the RWTH Aachen and the TU Berlin. The DAAD is active at both locations, Amman and Cairo, and is involved in the courses. Furthermore, the DAAD can look back on substantial experience in Jordan. The DAAD assistant at Amman university, Thomas Weber, has been teaching Jordanian and Syrian students there for many years now.

In the area of the Zaatari refugee Camp in northern Jordan the Genda Henkel Foundation is supporting a set of projects called “Mare Nostrum” and initiated by Thomas Weber. These archaeologically oriented research projects are combined with projects in which jobs are created and specialist training offered, and which have the objective of raising awareness about the region’s past. A cultural programme for Syrian and local children and young people about the history of the Hauran is being offered in cooperation with local government and a women’s cooperative. The project shows that providing vocational training for the young is not enough: young people, children included, need to have an appreciation of cultural heritage communicated to them. You can protect only what you appreciate, and appreciation comes with knowledge.

Since 2011, the Orient Department of the DAAD has been offering vocational courses whose aim is to communicate information about the rich cultural heritage of the region of Bilad ash-Sham in Greater Syria/Syria, Jordan, Palestine/Israel, Lebanon. Given the success of projects that have been carried out so far, German and Jordanian partners, supported by UNICEF and UNESCO, will now additionally develop an educational programme over the next few years about the cultural region of Jordan and Syria in order to inform young people about the region’s cultural heritage. The plan is for it to be offered in Jordanian communities and Syrian refugee camps.

The “Stunde Null” project thus complements humanitarian aid it creates jobs, and through vocational training – not abstract tuition, but instead concrete planning measures and practical application – it improves career prospects in the field of reconstruction and hence preservation of important monuments in the region.

BASIC AND FURTHER TRAINING IN THE REGION

HELWAN UNIVERSITY
Helwan University is a public university, founded in 1975 and comprising 20 faculties as well as 50 research centres. It is essentially a university of technology and applied sciences but also teaches and conducts research in the arts and humanities. Its mission is to contribute to solving of social problems.

www.helwan.edu.eg

GERMANY JORDANIAN UNIVERSITY (GJU)
The German Jordanian University was founded in 2005 and is modelled on German universities of applied sciences. It is funded by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) as well as the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and the federal state of Saxony-Anhalt. Additional funding comes from Jordan’s private sector and the government. The German planning office is located at Magdeburg-Stendal University of Applied Sciences. www.german-jordanian.org

GERMAN ACADEMIC EXCHANGE SERVICE (DAAD)
The DAAD is the world’s largest funding organization for the international exchange of students and researchers. Courses of study on construction history, conservation, site management, and museology, for example, which are supported by the DAAD and jointly offered by universities in Germany and Egypt, are intended to train the specialists of tomorrow who will be called upon to make the right decisions about how to proceed in a post-war zero hour. In collaboration with its partner organizations The British Council, Campus France and EP Nuffic, the German Academic Exchange Service seeks to provide Syrian refugees in Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt with access to higher education.

More than 300 full scholarships are available across the region in addition to language courses and short-term study opportunities. A budget of 12 million euros has been earmarked for this purpose for the period till 2019. The programme is financed via the Madad Fund, the EU regional trust fund set up in response to the Syrian crisis.

www.daad.de

GERDA HENKEL FOUNDATION
The Gerda Henkel Foundation is one of Germany’s largest scientific foundations and promotes research in the historical humanities. Established in summer 1976, the foundation has so far supported more than 6,400 research projects worldwide, with funds committed totalling more than EUR 140 million. A special concern of the foundation is the advancement of postgraduates, and it has awarded scholarships to over 1,000 doctoral students. The scope of the research projects it funds has widened over time, and among special programmes recently introduced are “Islam, the Modern Nation State and Transnational Movements” and “Security, Society and the State”. Currently, funding initiatives are focusing more strongly on supporting scholars of both sexes who have fled from crisis regions. Funding of EUR 2 million has been allocated for initiatives of this kind in 2015/16. Funding is available for those initiating cultural heritage preservation projects in their home countries in crisis zones as well as for scholars who have fled to Germany and wish to continue their studies here.

www.gerda-henkel-stiftung.de

AACHEN UNIVERSITY (RWTH) & BERLIN TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY (TU BERLIN)
With around 43,000 students, Aachen University (RWTH) is one of the biggest universities of applied sciences in Germany. A research group at the faculty of architecture has set itself the task of contributing towards the long-term safeguarding of cultural heritage in times of accelerated urbanization. The TU Berlin sees itself as part of an international network of universities and institutes and is committed to a new school of thought.

The Institute of Architecture offers a masters in the conservation and management of historical monuments, a study programme that is well acknowledged both in Germany and abroad. The research projects it funds has widened over time, and among special programmes recently introduced are “Islam, the Modern Nation State and Transnational Movements” and “Security, Society and the State”. Currently, funding initiatives are focusing more strongly on supporting scholars of both sexes who have fled from crisis regions. Funding of EUR 2 million has been allocated for initiatives of this kind in 2015/16. Funding is available for those initiating cultural heritage preservation projects in their home countries in crisis zones as well as for scholars who have fled to Germany and wish to continue their studies here.

www.rwth-aachen.de

www.tu-berlin.de

www.tu-berlin.de

www.rwth-aachen.de

www.rwth-aachen.de

www.tu-berlin.de

www.rwth-aachen.de

www.tu-berlin.de
Practising for the reconstruction

Knowledge that has been learnt needs to be applied in practice; and for techniques to be practised there have to be concrete projects. A large part of the basic and further training is taking place in the countries bordering on Syria, such as Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan, which have taken in refugees. These are countries that have considerable need of cultural preservation projects themselves. They have rich cultural landscapes with close historical ties to Syria, and they have a great number of historical monuments that need to be documented and protected. In the countries of the Middle East, one focus of cultural preservation projects is the consolidation and restoration of architectural monuments – tasks that require know-how and artisanal techniques that in many cases are no longer available in the locality. Hence capacity building, especially training local people in crafts and trades, is central to efforts to assist in the reconstruction of Syria and in the long-term safeguarding of monuments at risk in the region as a whole.
The archaeological site of Gadara near the Sea of Galilee is one of the most important cultural heritage sites in Jordan. The ruins of the Hellenistic-Roman city – a member of the Decapolis – are situated near the modern town of Umm Qais east of the River Jordan. Investigations at Gadara are being jointly conducted by the DAI Orient Department and the Archaeological Institute of the University of Hamburg. The main focus lies on spatial relationships within the city in the Hellenistic-Roman period and on how the city was embedded in the surrounding landscape. The ancient city is known above all for its two theatres. The poorly preserved north theatre had seating for 6,000 spectators, while the west theatre on the west slope of the acropolis hill could accommodate some 3,000 people. The auditorium of this latter theatre is in relatively good condition in its lower section; the upper section urgently requires large-scale stabilization and consolidation work.

Now, in a “Stunde Null” pilot project, Syrian refugees in Jordan and Lebanon are being trained in restoration and conservation (alongside local participants) at the Gadara site, enabling them to acquire practical skills that improve their employment prospects since they will be in demand during post-war reconstruction. From 2016, young adults will receive training in workshops at Gadara. Refugees and local inhabitants are being taught stone masonry techniques at a training camp. Working together on the restoration and conservation of ancient monuments will point the way forward for the reconstruction.

In archaeology, this kind of on-the-job training and collaboration is no new thing. Further education and practical training for young specialists and researchers has long been part of an archaeologist’s job description. Setting up on-site workshops, known as Bauhütten, in order to impart this know-how has a long tradition in the context of archaeological research. For instance, at the ancient site of Resafa in Syria, stonemasons are being trained at a Bauhütte run by Dorothee Sack, an architectural historian from the TU Berlin.
Jupiter’s gigantic temple with its podium of massive limestone blocks and 18 m high columns is the most famous monument in heritage-rich Lebanon. Today, institutions carrying out archaeological activities are often requested by host countries to develop a tourism plan for the site. The Lebanese Republic is particularly keen on finding suitable modes of publicly presenting their archaeological properties. Prerequisites for this are restoration measures and professional display plans. These require firstly technical qualifications and skills that are rare these days, and secondly site management training programmes. The long-term preservation of archaeological sites and the architectural structures on them is conditional upon local craftspeople and firms acquiring these qualifications and/or training. The DAI Orient Department is working with Lebanon’s Council for Development and Reconstruction on developing and implementing a new tourism plan for the archaeological sites at Baalbek.

An integrated plan for Baalbek

At the same time, in order to present and protect excavation sites, it is necessary to apply modern methods of monitoring and documenting the state of the finds and features, and of providing visitors with professional information. The project is intended to train Lebanese and Syrian workers in such a way that their skills and know-how meet international standards; giving vocational training to the local workforce will furthermore help stabilize the Baalbek labour market. Once all the necessary conservation and presentation preliminaries have been seen to, the selected section of the ancient site will be made ready for tourists.
With work on cultural heritage more or less impossible in Syria at the moment, many Syrian experts with the relevant know-how have fled to Turkey. While in Turkey they are to be given the opportunity of continuing their conservation and research activities and deepening their knowledge and skills in the area of cultural heritage preservation and presentation.

Syrian archaeologists, architects and conservators can now receive further training at the Istanbul Department of the DAI thanks to the support of the Gerda Henkel Foundation. The main focus is on expanding their knowledge base and developing strategies for the consolidation and reconstruction phases in Syria. Freely chosen projects on surveying and documenting, preserving and presenting Syria’s cultural assets will be accompanied by workshops and seminars offered by German, Turkish and international experts in particularly relevant subject areas. Furthermore, it is envisaged that Syrian refugees should be involved in specific projects on individual monuments in Turkey as skilled or unskilled labourers. This will lead to the formation and training of a primarily Syrian team that can subsequently be deployed in Syria, both in the planning stage and practical work.
Establishment of the Archaeological Heritage Network was merely the laying of the foundation stone of a platform which, it is hoped, will expand as further universities of applied science, scientific institutes, foundations and organizations join. The network, its membership currently growing, is intended to pool German expertise for cultural preservation and cultural heritage protection in foreign countries. The network will have its own website as a communication platform and will carry out its own public relations activities in a coordinated way. The various measures will be coordinated by the office of the Archaeological Heritage Network and the “Stunde Null” project, located at the Berlin head office of the German Archaeological Institute.

www.dainst.org/project/1869165
SIRWAH, in present-day Yemen, was one of the major economic and political centres of the Sabean kingdom.

Photo: Wagner
raising awareness +++ cooperation + Stunde Null +++ working with refugees + protection of cultural assets ++++ capacity building +++ reconstruction + cultural preservation +++ planning +++ training+++ a future after the crisis ++