

MEDIA RELEASE

For more information, contact:

Meenawadee Theindee

Office of the UNESCO Regional Advisor

for Culture in Asia and the Pacific

UNESCO Bangkok Office

Tel: (66 2) 391-0577 ext. 509

Fax: (66 2) 391-0866

Email: t.meenawadee@unescoykk.org or
culture@unescoykk.org

2003 UNESCO Heritage Conservation Award Announced

Bangkok, 13 November 2002 – Entries are now being accepted for the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Heritage 2003 Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation. The awards programme, in its fourth year, recognizes the achievement of individuals and organizations within the private sector, and public-private initiatives, in successfully restoring structures of heritage value in the Asia-Pacific region.

Projects involving buildings more than fifty years old and which were completed within the last ten years are eligible for consideration. Houses, commercial, cultural, religious, industrial or institutional buildings, gardens and bridges, for example, are all eligible for consideration. Public-private partnership projects such as historic towns, urban quarter and rural settlements where the essential elements are more than 50 years old are all eligible.

Entries for the Heritage 2002 Awards drew 46 projects from 15 countries and administrative areas in the Asia-Pacific Region. The selection process was conducted by a panel of international conservation experts in architecture, urban planning, landscape design and heritage conservation. The top winner of the year 2002 was Ahhichatragarh Fort, Nagaur, Rajasthan in India. All winning entries demonstrated excellence in their understanding of the issues of conservation in relation to the cultural, social, historical and architectural significance of the building, employment of appropriate building and artisan techniques as well as use of appropriate materials. All winning entries made a significant impact in the surrounding environment contributing to the cultural and historical continuum of the community.

Entries for the year 2003 awards programme must be submitted with an official entry form, drawings, photographs and project description to the UNESCO Office of the Regional Advisor for Culture in Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok by 31 March 2003. Complete programme information, including an entry form, is available on the web at <http://www.unescobkk.org/culture/heritageawards>.

Winners will be announced in September 2003. One entry will receive the "Award of Excellence", two selected entries will receive an "Award of Distinction", five selected entries will receive an "Award of Merit" and a number of entries will receive an "Honourable Mention".

Official entry form is available online at: <http://www.unescobkk.org/culture/heritageawards>