

Al al-Bayt University International Conference



Mafraq Cultural Heritage and its Environmental Surroundings (International Tourist Destination)

May 8, 2023 - May 10, 2023



General Overview:

Universities and academic institutions have a significant and effective role in managing and implementing theoretical and practical research programs and studies to develop teaching methods and scientific research; serve local communities; and to contribute preserving the cultural heritage of human societies and physical landmarks, specifically those that fall around the geographical location of the universities. Matching with Al al-Bayt University's goals in serving education and scientific research; integrated methods are used in science, research methods, and community service

to explore the historical and cultural potentials of urban and archaeological areas to employ them in sustainable tourism. Since the establishment of Al al-Bayt University; the field studies of history, heritage, culture, and environment were introduced to achieve cultural, social and, economic development at the national, regional, and global levels. Upon this vision, the idea of the international conference came under the title: Mafraq Cultural Heritage and its Environmental Surroundings (International Tourist Destination)





This conference focuses on the environmental, cultural, archaeological and heritage resources in Al Mafraq and its surroundings as the second largest governorate of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. Al Mafraq governorate passes through many historical and heritage stages from the ancient Stone Age civilizations to the classical Greek, Nabataean, Roman, Byzantine and Islamic eras, and up to the modern era. This legacy included environmental, nature and geological resources of volcanic caves and tunnels, vital resources of water sources and water harvesting systems in archaeological sites of basaltic Hurra, the historical sites of palaces and castles, and the Hijaz railway and its stations. It also included many archaeological sites such as Umm al-Jimal, Al-Fdain - Mafraq, Burqu Palace in the Badia, and the legendary site of Java in Wadi Ragel in the Jordanian Hurra. It further involved the archaeological sites in Deir al-Kahf, Umm al-Quttin, Sabha, al-Dafyana, Rakis, al-Aqib, al-Ba'aj, and Umm al-Sarab, Jaber, Sama Al-Sarhan and Al-Khansari.

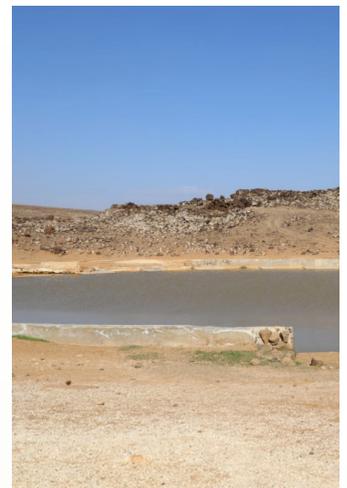
In historical villages and towns, there are archaeological monuments and Byzantine churches in the towns of Rehab, Al-Madwar, Hayyan Al-Mashref, Balama, Khirbet Al-Samra, and other archaeological sites. In addition, there are the possibilities of creating new, non-traditional forms of sustainable tourism, such as Badia and desert, meditation, geo-tourism, cave, adventure and camping, astronomy observation, and cultural and religious tourism. Given the material and immaterial social and cultural diversity, possibilities are available to innovate tourist pathways, and organize types of cultural, social, urban and folklore tourism with the participation of community bodies, which will have a positive and developmental impact on the local community and enhance the economics of tourism.

The disclosure of the heritage and cultural storage of Al-Mafraq Governorate helps achieve development programs that provide practical productive opportunities for the local community and be able to participate in development projects. Therefore, the conference seeks to reveal these possibilities in light of the region's rich archaeological, heritage,

and cultural resources, as well as the presence of Al al-Bayt University with its facilities and through its scientific, administrative, and technical participation in sustainable tourism development programs, to make Mafraq and its surroundings tourist attractions at the local and global levels.

Conference Objectives

- exchanging experiences between institutions and staffs concerned with the topics of the conference, and enhancing cooperation in the fields of tourism and heritage.
- raising awareness and development of local communities through their participation in programs to preserve the national cultural heritage to be employed in sustainable tourism projects.
- highlighting the cultural heritage of the targeted areas and working to rehabilitate, improve, preserve and maintain these areas.
- studying and documenting archaeological, heritage and cultural resources.
- providing sources of knowledge and awareness through the results of studies and publication of heritage and cultural resources.
- using modern technical and digital means in documenting and studying heritage and cultural resources.
- supporting the archaeological site of Umm al-Jimal for its accreditation on the World Heritage List, and the nomination of other heritage sites such as the site of Umm al-Qutin and the Jordanian Hurra.
- finding a strategy for the development of sustainable tourism and its patterns in Mafraq Governorate.
- encouraging investment in the economics of sustainable tourism to achieve economic returns for local communities.



Conference Themes :

First Theme: archaeological, heritage and cultural monuments

- Historic and heritage sites and monuments
- Show of the experiences of archaeological sites nomination in the World Heritage List
- Bio-environmental diversity and geographical tourism in areas of cultural significance
- Documenting, studying and employing ancient inscriptions and writings in cultural tourism projects.
- heritage

Second Theme: the strategy of managing and using cultural and heritage resources in sustainable tourism projects

- Methods of protecting and rehabilitating archaeological and heritage resources
- Heritage and historical buildings (documentation, rehabilitation, employment)
- Organizing tourist pathways and showing global experiences
- Uncovering the role and importance of museums in the development and management of cultural heritage
- The importance of cooperation in conducting archaeological excavations
- The role of universities, scientific centers, faculties of tourism and archeology in highlighting and managing Heritage

Third Theme: environment, culture and society and their role in innovative tourism projects

- Towards new sustainable tourism patterns
 - Economics of tourism and its importance in sustainable development
 - Discovering and using environmental, natural and geological resources in tourism
 - Uncovering and using tunnels and volcanic Basalt caves in cave tourism
 - The role of media and awareness in highlighting cultural heritage and its preservation
 - Providing, qualifying and training manpower in the field of tourism and antiquities
- **Fourth Theme: Documenting, studying and employing mosques, Byzantine shrines and churches in religious tourism projects**
 - **Fifth Theme: Antiquities and heritage in the era of innovations and digital entrepreneurship**
 - **Sixth Theme: Historical and national memory in Mafraq and its surroundings**
 - Landmarks of historical, archaeological and heritage memory of Mafraq Governorate
 - Roman roads and ancient stations, the ancient ways of Qurashi Elaf, Shami pilgrimage routes, the Hijazi railway, Ottoman castles and outposts
 - Voluntary initiatives to create tourism opportunities and pathways in Mafraq Governorate



The Preparatory Committee :

- Prof. Hani Al-Dmour, President of the University, Chairman of the Preparatory Committee
- Prof. Hani Al-Amoush, member
- Prof. Mohannad Tarrad, member
- Prof. Mohammad Al-Khatib, member
- Prof. Abdul Rahman Al-Dalabeeh, member
- Dr. Mohammad Al-Hadab, member
- Dr. Alaa Sa'adeh, member
- Dr. Khader Al-Sarhan, member
- Dr. Ayed Taran, member
- Dr. Imad Obeidat, Director of the Department of Mafraq Antiquities, member
- Dr. Bassam Tobat, Director of Mafraq Tourism, member
- Dr. Abdul Qader Al-Hussan, a researcher of the local community, member
- Dr. Abdel Aziz Mahmoud, conference coordinator
- Mr . hasan alrhaibi, member
- Mrs. Hind Al-Hammouri, member
- Mr . Naser Abdullah Ali Al-Shbail , member

Scientific Committee:

- Prof. Bassam Al-Mahasneh, Al al-Bayt University
- Prof. Mohannad Tarrad, Al al-Bayt University, chairman
- Prof. Maysoun Al-Nahar, University of Jordan
- Prof. Mohammad Wahib, The Hashemite University
- Prof. Ibrahim Bazazo, University of Jordan, Aqaba Branch
- Prof. Ahmed Al-Malabeh, The Hashemite University
- Prof. Elayan Al-Jaludi, Al al-Bayt University
- Prof. Reda Al-Adamat, Al al-Bayt University
- Dr. Saad Al-Ayyash, Al al-Bayt University
- Prof. Anwar Al-Khalidi, Al al-Bayt University
- Prof. Hani Akhu Arshida, Al al-Bayt University
- Prof. Muntaha Harahsheh, Al al-Bay University
- Prof. Ali Mustafa Al-Qudah, Al al-Bayt University
- Dr. Fuad Hourani, University of Jordan
- Dr. Ali Al-Manaser, The Hashemite University
- Dr. Safaa Al-Husban, Al al-Bayt University
- Dr. Ziad Talafha, researcher of ancient inscriptions and writings
- Mr. Waleed Maabreh, Secretary of the Committee
- Dr. Darrel. J. Rohl
- Dr. Ignacio Arce



Advisory Committee:

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- Dr. Khader Al-Sarhan, member
- Dr. Mohammad Al-Hawamdeh, Head of the Workers Club, member
- Mrs. Hind Al-Hammouri/ Director of the President's Office, member
- Mr. Hussein Al-Qallab, Director of the Samarqand Museum, member
- Khitam Al-Shoumali, member

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- Mr. Yousef Al-Mashaqbeh/Jordan TV, news websites
- Anas Al Harahsheh/ Al-Mamlaka TV
- Mr. Adnan Shdeifat / media coverage
- Mrs. Haya 'Akalik / media coverage
- Mr. Shadi Al-Wahaibi, Roya TV
- Mr. Tawfiq Abu Sumaqaq / Al Rai newspaper
- Mr. Hisham Al-Qadi, Petra News Agency
- Mr. Hossam Al-Sarhan / Photography and Radio

Translation and Proofreading

Prof. Mohammad Al-Khatib- French language

Dr. Omar Khazaleh-Arabic language

Dr. Hiyam Al-Badareen- English Language

Important Dates:

- The date of the conference: Monday 8/May/2023 - Wednesday 10/May/2023 Wednesday is devoted to visits and field tours.
- 15/oct./2022: the start of receiving applications for participation in the conference
- 15/Feb./2023: deadline of receiving abstracts of 200 words
- 15/March/ 2023: deadline of receiving papers in their final forms
- 10/april/2023: Reply with the final arbitration results and accept the papers.
- 8/May/2023, the opening of the conference



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keynote speakers

HRH Princess Dana

“HRH Princess Dana Firas is a global advocate for heritage protection and preservation as a foundation for sustainable development, responsible tourism, political identity, and peace.

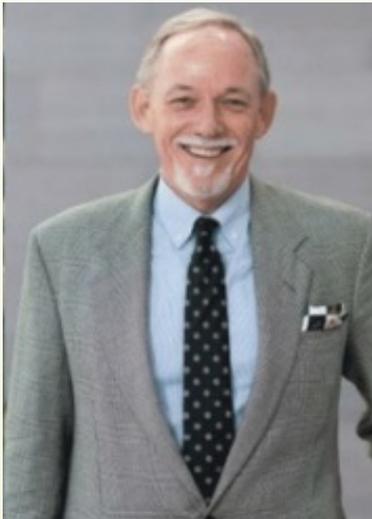
HRH was designated a UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador in June 2017. HRH currently serves as President of the Jordan National Committee for the International Council on Monuments and Sites and President of the Petra National Trust”



Dr. John Robbins

dr. John Robbins is an expert on heritage conservation and brings decades of experience in public service and private practice. Mr. Robbins also brings expertise in institutional management, research, and the repatriation of archaeological materials.

Mr. Robbins established the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training in 1994 to create, improve, and disseminate technologies for the conservation and preservation of buildings, structures, monuments, and art and artifact collections.





Notes for participants

Registration and Abstracts' Submission

Website : <https://aabu.edu.jo/EN/Centers/MHC/Pages/default.aspx>

mail: mhc@aabu.edu.jo

Arbitration and publication

- The conference is scientific and arbitrated. Accordingly, all papers submitted to the conference will be peer-reviewed by referees approved by the Scientific Research Committee of the conference. The papers will be published in a special issue of the conference.

Conference Language:

- Arabic, English and French

