



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI NAPOLI FEDERICO II
CENTRO INTERDIPARTIMENTALE DI RICERCA IN URBANISTICA
ALBERTO CALZA BINI

Naples, 24th July 2016

For the attention of the: Presidents of the
ICOMOS National and International Scientific Committees

Dear Presidents,

I am pleased to present to you the "Dubai International Award for Best Practices to Improve the Living Environment (DIABP)", for which I am a Steering Committee member since many years.

The Dubai Declaration adopted at the Habitat II Conference held in Istanbul, Turkey, 3-14 June 1996, was originally formulated at the Dubai International Conference on Best Practices for Improving the Living Environment (Dubai, U.A.E., 19-22 November 1995). The DIABP was established in 1995 to recognize best practices which have a positive impact on improving the living environment. The Award reflects the policy and commitment of the Dubai Government and the United Arab Emirates towards the sustainable development of human settlements and the protection of the environment on the basis of mutual international cooperation.

"Best Practices" are considered to be outstanding contributions to improve the living environment. Since 1995, numerous Good and Best Practices have been collected from 140 countries, all of which are documented and disseminated through the Best Practices Database, which is a free online resource. For each cycle, an independent committee of technical experts (Technical Advisory Committee) identifies Good and Best Practices and prepares a shortlist to be presented to an International Jury which selects the award winners.

The DIABP has now for 20 years played a crucial role in the identification and documentation of Best Practices from around the world and in making these accessible for the benefit of the international community. 12 Laureates will be presented with valuable and prestigious awards during the awarding ceremony which will take place in Dubai in March 2017.

The Award is open to:

- (a) Government organizations or agencies; including bilateral aid agencies
- (b) National Habitat Committees or Focal Points;
- (c) Multilateral Agencies (United Nations Agencies, World Bank, etc.)
- (d) Cities, local authorities or their associations;
- (e) Non-governmental organizations (NGOs);
- (f) Community-based organizations (CBOs);
- (g) Private Sector;
- (h) Research and academic institutions;
- (i) Media;
- (j) Public or Private foundations;
- (k) Individuals are eligible for the Dubai International Award provided that they are submitting a specific initiative or project that meets the Best Practice criteria.

Prof. Luigi Fusco Girard

Director of *Interdepartmental Research Centre in Urban Planning "Alberto Calza Bini"* | University of Naples "Federico II"
Chair Of *Icomos International Scientific Committee on Economics of Conservation*
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To be included in the DIABP a best practice should demonstrate a positive and tangible impact on improving the living environment of people, particularly the poor and disadvantaged. Participants should also describe how the integration of the social, economic, environmental, institutional and cultural elements of sustainability was achieved, with regards to cultural sustainability. The transferability of the proposed best practice should focus on resource and financial/economic implications involved in the transfer and any adaptations required (for example, tools, methods or technology).

Some thematic categories of the Award related to ICOMOS' aims and themes are:

- Architecture and Urban Design (Historic Preservation);
- Civic Engagement and Cultural Vitality (Community Participation; Social and Cultural Vitality; Expression and Animation; Civic Awareness and Education; The Arts and Cultural Development; Respect for Cultural Diversity);
- Urban and Regional Planning (Urban/Suburban Renewal & Regeneration; Cultural Heritage/Conservation Planning);
- Urban Governance (Partnership with Civil Society; Participatory Budgeting and Decision-Making Development; Monitoring, Evaluation, and Auditing; Public-Private Partnerships);
- Use of Information in Decision Making (Indicators and Statistics; Improved Access and Participation).

For the above reasons, I am pleased to invite ICOMOS National and International Scientific Committees to play an active role in promoting participation at the 11th Call for Proposals of the Dubai International Award for Best Practices to Improve the Living Environment, launched on 1 June 2016 and which will continue to receive submissions until the end of December 2016. This is a way to demonstrate the role of cultural heritage valorisation/conservation in implementing local sustainable development, thus narrowing the gap between the approaches of UN Habitat and those of UNESCO and ICOMOS.

More information can be obtained from the website www.dubaiaward.ae

Yours sincerely

Luigi Fusco Girard

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