



جائزة الشارقة الدولية للتراث الثقافي  
Sharjah International Award for Cultural Heritage



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# Sharjah International Award for Cultural Heritage



Cultural Heritage  
Human Communication





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## Cultural Heritage Human Communication



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# جائزة الشارقة الدولية للتراث والثقافة



"Heritage means our human uniformity. We owe to heritage and to all the ancient civilizations, which devoted their marches to pass down a diverse culture legacy in human history". "Allah Almighty has given mankind a lot of knowledge and science to be what we are today."

His Highness Sheikh Dr  
**Sultan Bin Mohammed Al Qasimi**  
Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Sharjah



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Sharjah International Award for Cultural Heritage

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International Cultural Heritage Award

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## Cultural Heritage Human Communication

His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan Bin Mohammed Al Qasimi, Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Sharjah, issued the Emiri Decree No. (19) of 2017 on establishing and organising of the Sharjah International Award for Cultural Heritage.

The Decree stipulates that an International Award will be established in the emirate called the Sharjah International Award for Cultural Heritage, which will have the legal personality and the capacity to act within the limits of its objectives in accordance with the provisions of the Decree. The head office of the Award shall be located in the Emirate of Sharjah, and branches and offices may be established inside and outside the emirate by a decision of the Board of Trustees of the Award.

**The Award aims to achieve the following:**

- 1- Appreciate the efforts made at the local, Arab and International levels to preserve, document and ensure the continuity of elements of cultural heritage.
- 2- Promote the spirit of fair competition among those interested and working in scientific and field research in the field of cultural heritage.
- 3- Evaluate the safeguarding practices and honor the best in accordance with the internationally adopted standards in this field.
- 4- Honour the human treasures and highlight their roles in the knowledge and experience transfer, as well as introduction of storytelling and narrators.

**The decree also stipulates that the award shall comprise three fields:**

- 1- Best Practices for the Conservation of Cultural Heritage.
- 2- Best Narrators and Heritage Masters (Living Human Treasures)
- 3- Best Researches and Studies in the Field of Cultural Heritage.

According to the decree, the Ruler of Sharjah is entitled to add other relevant fields based on a proposal from the Award's Board of Trustees.

The decree further stipulates that the Award shall have a board of trustees comprising a president, a vice president and a number of members of competence, who shall be appointed under decision from the Ruler of Sharjah or his representative.

In accordance with the Decree, the Board of Trustees shall be the competent supreme administrator of the Award, with the powers to set the controls according to the sought objectives. Therefore, the Board is entrusted to practice the following:

- Policy-making of the Award's activities.
- Setting the criteria for the Award.
- Nomination of the arbitration members.
- Preparation of the annual budget and the final account of the Award to be reviewed by the concerned government department to take further actions required.
- Preparation of the financial and administrative regulations to be reviewed by the concerned government department to take further actions required.
- Preparing the general guide for the Award, its periodicity, categories, conditions, and mechanisms of nomination to be reviewed by the concerned government department for approval.
- Formation of permanent and temporary committees with the definition of their competences if necessary.
- Submitting periodic reports to the concerned government department.
- Taking the necessary actions following approval of concerned government department.

- Any other tasks based on the powers entrusted by the Ruler or the Executive Council of the Emirate.

The Board of Trustees of the Sharjah International Award for Cultural Heritage will have a renewable term of four years and will continue to run until a new board is formed.

The Board of Trustees of the Award shall meet at least twice a year or whenever required by an invitation from its Chairman. Decisions shall be approved based on a poll, however in tie cases; the side including the Chairman will win.

**The decree also stipulates that the Award shall have a technical secretariat for the following tasks:**

- 1- Proposing the strategic and promotional plan for the Award and submitting it to the Board of Trustees for approval.
- 2- General Coordination of the Award, plus the administrative and financial supervision.
- 3- Promotion of the Award according to an approved plan.
- 4- Introduction of the Award, its objectives, conditions and the mechanism of applying based on the Award guidelines.
- 5- Receiving and checking the application requests, submitting reports to the Board of Trustees, and coordinating with the arbitration members and evaluation teams to sort the applications and distribute them to the work teams.

6- Coordination among the concerned parties in the Award, the Board of Trustees and the arbitration panel.

7- Preparation for the award ceremony following approval of the Board of Trustees.

The Technical Secretariat shall have a Secretary-General appointed under a decision from the Executive Council of the Emirate with specification of the tasks and responsibilities.

**The financial resources of the Award are as follows:**

- 1- Government support allocated to it in the emirate's budget.
- 2- The proceeds of approved sponsorships for the Award's activities and programmes by the public and private sectors.
- 3- Any other resources proposed by the Board and approved by the government.

The Award's fiscal year starts from January 1 and ends on the end of December of each year. The first fiscal year commences from the effective date of this decree and ends on December 31 of the same year.

The Award shall be exempted from all local government taxes and fees in all its forms and types.

The decree stipulates that the Executive Council of the Emirate shall issue, by a proposal from the Government Relations Department, the necessary executive regulations and decisions to achieve the objectives of this decree in coordination with the Board of Trustees. The Award is part of the vision of His Highness Dr. Sheikh Sultan

Bin Mohammed Al Qasimi, Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Sharjah, and in fulfillment of his directives to preserve the Arab cultural heritage since the early 1980s. It aims to promote the values of conservation and protection methods, as well as raising awareness of all segments of the society on its importance and necessity of its continuity.

The Award is a prestigious international award with systemized scientific standards. It is granted by the Sharjah Institute for Heritage to individuals, groups or projects. Its main objective is to honor the efforts exerted in conserving, protecting, and studying the culture heritage, as well as sustaining its continuity. It comprises three fields: Best Practices for the Conservation of Cultural Heritage, Best Narrators and Heritage Masters (Living Human Treasures), and Best Researches and Studies in the Field of Cultural Heritage, with three categories each: local, Arab and international. The three fields comprise nine categories.

## Objectives

The Award aims to contribute to honoring successful efforts and supporting inspiring initiatives in the preservation and protection of cultural heritage. It aspires to be the incubator for the sustainability of the Arab cultural heritage, to ensure its transmission to future generations. In addition, it seeks to promote the heritage of humanity and support cooperation in this field. The Award appreciates the efforts exerted at the local, Arab and international levels in the field of heritage conservation and documentation, as well as the successful experiments aimed to sustain its continuity. Moreover, it seeks to spreading the spirit of scientific, theoretical and applied competition among those interested and workers in the field of scientific and field research in preserving and documenting heritage.

The Award honours the living human treasure, emphasizing the important role played by narrators who bear oral literary masterpieces, heritage knowledge and artisanship in preserving the cultural heritage and ensuring its sustainability.

## Mission

The Sharjah International Award for Cultural Heritage appreciates the efforts exerted at the local, Arab and international levels in the field of heritage conservation and documentation, as well as the successful experiments aimed to sustain its continuity. The Award honours the living human treasures, emphasizing the important role played by narrators who bear oral literary masterpieces, heritage knowledge and artisanship in preserving the cultural heritage and ensuring its sustainability

## Fields of the Award

The Award comprises three fields. Each field is divided into three categories, as follows:

- **Best Practices for the Conservation of Cultural Heritage:**
  - Local Practices Award. • Arab Practices Award. • International Practices Award.
- **Best Narrators and Heritage Masters (Living Human Treasures):**
  - Local Narrator Award. • Arab Narrator Award. • International Narrator Award.
- **Best Researches and Studies in the Field of Cultural Heritage:**
  - Local Research Award. • Arab Research Award. • International Research Award.

## The Award's Value

The Award grants financial rewards to the winners in the three fields namely: Best Practices for the Conservation of Cultural Heritage, Best Narrators and Heritage Masters (Living Human Treasures), and Best Researches and Studies in the Field of Cultural Heritage.

## Award's Criteria & Nomination Mechanism

### General Conditions:

#### 1- Areas of Concern

The Sharjah International Award for Cultural Heritage focuses on:

- Oral traditions and expressions, including language as an expression of cultural heritage.
- Arts and traditions of performances.
- Social practices, rituals and ceremonies.
- Knowledge and practices relating to nature and the universe.
- Skills associated with traditional craft arts.

## 2- General T&Cs

The Sharjah International Award for Cultural Heritage takes into account strict criteria in the nominations submitted by the arbitration panel to ensure transparency and objectivity. It seeks to reach the highest level of nominations to merit this honor.

- The SIH of Government of Sharjah is the official organization of the Sharjah International Award for Cultural Heritage.
- The work submitted shall take into account intellectual property rights, accuracy and scientific integrity.
- The Award shall be awarded to candidates regardless of their nationalities, political beliefs, intellectual or religious orientations.
- The nomination of works that have received a similar Arab or foreign award (whether individual or institutional) shall not be accepted.

- Decisions of the arbitrators are absolute and irrevocable.
- The arbitration panel is entitled to withdraw the Award, in case the winner violated the conditions.
- The arbitration panel is entitled to exclude any candidacy that has not fulfilled the aforementioned conditions.
- Books and nominated works shall not be returned to their owners, whether candidates win or not.
- The winner shall consent the SIH's right to publish and distribute the winning work, and to act on any outputs of the Award via any means deemed appropriate by the Institute.
- The non-winning participants shall be awarded certificates of participation.
- Those who meet the conditions are entitled to apply directly to the Award.



### 3- The Categories

The Award comprises three categories, each contains three levels of nomination (local, Arab and international) as follows:

- **Best Practices for the Conservation of Cultural Heritage**
- **Best Narrators and Heritage Masters (Living Human Treasures)**
- **Best Researches and Studies in the Field of Cultural Heritage**



- **Best Practices for the Conservation of Cultural Heritage**

A cultural achievement that meets a cultural or societal need or tackles an issue, characterized by authenticity and pioneering in the idea and application. It is an initiative or a project that features a set of activities aimed at achieving specific goals centered on celebration the cultural heritage to serve determined segments or groups within an integrated plan.

**Eligibility Conditions:**

- Practices (initiative or project) should not be previously used or applied; it should be authentic and pioneering.
- Has not been already awarded inside or outside the country.
- Only one practice is allowed for participation.
- Practices should meet the three stages of project preparation (planning, application, evaluation and results).
- A sufficient period (not less than two years, excluding the Award's year) for application of the practice, so that its results have been shown.
- Practices submitted should not be belonging to anybody, otherwise it fails to be authentic or pioneering
- The attached evidence and documents should bear the date of issue.
- The number of pages of all attachments should not exceed (150) pages, whether hard or soft copy.
- Do not attach more than two attachments per page, and if the attachments and documents are not clear, the grade shall not be counted at the evaluation.



- **Best Narrators and Heritage Masters (Living Human Treasures)**

Heritage masters are indigenous groups or individuals who play an important role in the production, preservation, conservation and re-creation of cultural heritage, thereby contributing to the enrichment of cultural diversity and human creativity.

Living Human Treasures are the narrators, who possess oral literary masterpieces, heritage knowledge and artisanship skills, and play an active role in preserving and safeguarding the cultural heritage, as well as ensuring its sustainability.

**Eligibility Conditions:**

- Narrators (living human treasure) should be a heritage master of any indigenous group.
- Should be a master of oral literary masterpieces, traditional knowledge or artisanship skills.
- Should have an effective role in preserving the cultural heritage.
- Narrators should submit two letters of recommendation from the competent authorities in the field of cultural heritage (the letters are must for accepting the nomination).
- Applicants shall submit a 10-minutes long video; including evidence of experiences, and a very high level of knowledge, experience and skills related to cultural heritage, with the ability to transmit it to younger generations, to ensure its sustainability. Three copies of the video are required to be submitted in a flash memory.
- Applicants should not been awarded previously.



- **Best Researches and Studies in the Field of Cultural Heritage**

All authentic researches, which can benefit cultural heritage practitioners through the findings, recommendations, methods and procedures provided by these researches. Moreover, the Award targets researches that document large-scale cultural experiences, to make a leap in the conservation of cultural heritage.

### Eligibility Conditions:

#### I. Conditions for Researchers:

- Only one research is allowed for participation.
- Researchers may participate in the Award annually unless he/she won in the past two years.
- Researchers must adhere to the scientific methods applicable in research.
- Researchers shall make modifications that may be recommended by the arbitrators in case of winning.
- Researchers shall waive the intellectual rights of the research for the Award, to be published and assessed in the event of winning
- Candidate should not be affiliated to the Sharjah Institute for Heritage.

#### II. Conditions for Research:

- Researches should be of a procedural nature relating to the study of cultural heritage.
- Researches should provide a unique experience contributing to the provision of solutions or recommendations that serves preservation of the cultural heritage.
- Three printed copies required, along with a soft copy in a flash memory.

- Researches should be typed in Microsoft Word.
- Research should be written in the standard Arabic. If the research is in another language, a brief about it must be attached in the standard Arabic.
- Researches should be free of all typographical, linguistic, spelling and other mistakes.
- Researchers assume professional accountability towards others in the case of publication of his research by the administration of the Award.
- Researches should include recommendations serving the scientific and practical safeguarding the cultural heritage.
- Researcher's personal data should be in the cover page and not to be repeated in the research.
- The winning researches shall be deemed to be property of the Award and shall have the right to use them.

#### 4- Application Requirements

1. Applicant shall determine the category of the Award to apply for.
2. Applicant must fill in and sign the application form, whether an individual or representative of a group or institution.
3. Applicant must mention all the data required in the application whether individuals or institutions, in addition to (3) recent photographs, measuring (10 x 15) cm, only for individuals.
4. Applicant must attach their curriculum vitae, copy of valid passport, and three copies of his/her applying work, as well as an acknowledgment of the intellectual property of the work.
5. Institutions should attach copy of the license or its documents.
  - The files should be sent to each of the three fields of the Award before the deadline, to the General Secretariat of the Sharjah International Award for Cultural Heritage, Sharjah Institute for Heritage, University City, Emirate of Sharjah, United Arab Emirates, via one of the following addresses:
    - Email: [award@sih.gov.ae](mailto:award@sih.gov.ae)
    - Telephone: 0097165014999
    - B.O Box: 2258 Sharjah.

## 5- The Stages of Arbitration

### **The First Stage of Arbitration (Sorting & Arbitrating the Works):**

- Passing the works that meet the conditions.
- All eligible works will be submitted to the arbitration panels, each according the category and level of participation.
- Determining the works nominated for winning for each category and each level of participation.

### **The Second Stage (Personal Interview of the Candidates Nominated for winning):**

- Personal interview of the nominated candidates to win in the first stage.
- Examining the results of the first and second stages to determine the winners.
- The winners will be notified to receive the Award during a honoring ceremony in the UAE.

## 6- Withdrawal of the Award

The Award shall be withdrawn from the winner, in case the winning is found to be quoted from a scientific thesis or previously published or submitted at a conference or symposium or won another award. The Award's administration is entitled to pursue the winner to recover the financial and moral value he/she/it won.



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