

Samar Karam
Archeologist

Statement

In 2005, I was one of the participants to the core course on “Conservation and Sites Management” organized by ICCROM in Lebanon, and it was the first time I got the opportunity to learn about the conservation of mosaics and the different problems affecting the historic pavements. Afterwards, when the Mosaikon program initiated a Mosaic course in Tyre -Lebanon in collaboration with the Directorate General of Antiquities, I had the chance to be one of the participants, and I have been trained on the different aspects of management and conservation of mosaics. As result of multiple experiences and courses, I contributed with my colleagues to the creation of the MMU (Mosaic Management Unit) in Lebanon and also the workshop of Byblos.

Currently, I am a co-coordinator of the training on the “Mosaic Conservation Course - Lebanon”, aiming to the creation of a professional team to be in charge of the management of the mosaic heritage in Lebanon.

Joining the ICCM Board is an opportunity to exchange experiences in the field of conservation within an international community of experts, specifically in these particular conditions worldwide. Talking about heritage and mosaic conservation and preservation today is a big challenge, and I would like to be part of the team who will take in charge this responsibility. Coming from Lebanon, country where challenges and exceptional situations are a part of our daily life, I would consider that my input will be positive to face challenges encountering the mosaic conservation and preservation.



Samar Karam is the Head of the archaeological and historical sites in North Lebanon at the Directorate General of Antiquities-Ministry of Culture. She has a BA and a MA in art and archaeology from the Lebanese university.

She started her career as archaeologist in Beirut during the urban archaeological excavations after the end of the civil war. In 1996 she joined the Directorate General of Antiquities-Ministry of Culture, and she was directly assigned as archaeologist in charge of the world heritage site of Byblos. She was responsible of the management of the archaeological site and the rescue excavations, of controlling projects in the historical city, of the coordination of the Unesco delegations for the examination of the state of conservation of the site, of the reorganization of the archaeological storages abandoned since 1975. She also participated to the creation of the site museum of Byblos in 2001.

In 2000, she was promoted to be in charge of a bigger area, North Lebanon, which include several archaeological sites and historical cities. She participated to the rehabilitation and presentation of different sites, such as Tripoli castle and its two museums, Hammam Ezzedine in Tripoli, Monuments in the World Heritage Site of the Holy Valley (Qadisha Valley). She is member of the committee of the revival of the historical city of AL Mina.

Since 2000 she is the focal point for the world heritage sites of Lebanon. She had a key role in the updating of the tentative list of Lebanon, and in the periodic

reporting for the 5 Lebanese sites on the World Heritage list specifically the site of the Holy Valley and the Cedars Forest.

Since 2010, she has been trained within the Mosaikon program, to the different aspects of the conservation and management of mosaics. As a result of these trainings, she acquired knowledge in the conservation and restoration methods and approaches as well as the management of archaeological sites with mosaics. Currently she is a member of the Mosaic Management Unit in Lebanon, and she is the co- coordinator of Mosaic Conservation Course - Lebanon”

She is member of the committee for the management of the National Museum of Beirut. She is member of ICOM Lebanon.