Item 45 of the provisional agenda

PROPOSALS BY MEMBER STATES CONCERNING THE CELEBRATION OF ANNIVERSARIES IN 2010-2011 WITH WHICH UNESCO COULD BE ASSOCIATED

SUMMARY

This document provides detailed information on proposals by Member States concerning the celebration of anniversaries in 2010-2011 with which UNESCO could be associated, as submitted for decision in document 181 EX/45.
MEMBER STATES’ REQUESTS DEEMED ADMISSIBLE BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

1. **The Permanent Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to UNESCO** requested that UNESCO should be associated with the **100th anniversary of the first independent periodical (Seraj-ul-akhbar) created in 1911 by its founder-editor Mahmud Tarzi, the father of journalism in Afghanistan, in 2011.** The Director-General considers that this request meets the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

   The proposal is laudable in its objectives and is in good alignment with UNESCO’s Communication and Information programme priorities (Freedom of Expression/Memory of the World). This magazine debated issues of regional and global character in its articles. The creation of independent *Seraj-ul-akhbar*, by Mahmud Tarzi, in 1911 in Kabul was an important event in Afghanistan and in the region that has contributed to the advancement of knowledge, education, culture, freedom of expression and the right to education. (CI)

2. **The Armenian National Commission for UNESCO** requested that UNESCO should be associated with the **800th anniversary of the birth of Toros Roslin, manuscript illuminator (1210-1270), in 2010.** The Director-General considers that this request meets the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

   Toros Roslin (c.1210-c.1270) was the most distinguished Armenian manuscript illuminator and copyist of the High Middle Ages. Drawing on his knowledge of Western European and Byzantine art, Toros Roslin made great innovations in the art of illumination, thus opening new horizons for future generations. He introduced new stylistic forms and bold interpretations in his treatment of subjects and figures. He devoted his art to representation of the human figure, particularly in his quest for the absolute. He introduced the individual portrait, thus breaking with the standard, rigidly determined iconography. Very little is known about Toros Roslin’s life, and the exact dates of his birth and death have not been recorded. However, seven splendid manuscripts bearing his signature have survived, together with three other unsigned manuscripts that are generally attributed to him. He is thought to have worked at the scriptorium of Hromkla, mainly in the service of the Catholicos Constantine I and of Hethum I, King of Little Armenia. (CLT)

3. **The Armenian National Commission for UNESCO** requested that UNESCO should be associated with the **1,600th anniversary of the birth of Movses Khorenatsi, historian (c. 410-493), in 2010.** The Director-General considers that this request meets the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

   Movses Khorenatsi (c. 410-490), Armenian historian, poet and grammarian, is credited with the earliest known historiographical work on the history of Armenia. Movses Khorenatsi’s work holds particular significance because it records the old oral traditions in Armenia and traces Armenian history from its origins. He was sent to study in Edessa, Constantinople, Alexandria, Athens and Rome. Several treatises (on rhetoric and geography), as well as the “Commentaries on the Armenian Grammarians” and other theological texts, are attributed to him. The most celebrated work, however, is the “History of Armenia Major”, practically the only work preserving the early history and traditions of pre-Christian Armenia. (CLT)

4. **The Permanent Delegation of Belarus to UNESCO** requested that UNESCO should be associated with the **200th anniversary of the birth of Ivan Khrutsky, painter (1810-1885), in 2010.** The Director-General considers that this request meets the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:
In the first half of the nineteenth century, Ivan Khrutsky was the best master of still-life painting style. He developed his own type of still life by introducing it into portraits.

For his outstanding talent, Saint Petersburg Academy awarded him the title of Academician in 1839. The following year he settled in the family estate in the Polotsk region. This period was one of commissioned religious art, mostly from Lithuania. Besides religious paintings, he also worked on portraits of renowned personalities. (CLT)

5. **The National Commission of the Republic of Bulgaria for UNESCO** requested that UNESCO should be associated with the **200th anniversary of the birth of Zahari Zograf, representative of Bulgarian Renaissance art (1810-1853)**, in 2010. The Director-General considers that this request meets the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

Zahariy Hristovich Dimitrov (1810-1853), better known as Zahari Zograf (or Zahariy Zograf) is the most famous Bulgarian painter of the Bulgarian National Revival, noted for his church mural paintings and icons and often regarded as the founder of secular art in Bulgaria. He was proclaimed a master at the age of 21 in 1831. Painter of icons and frescos, he has decorated a number of churches and monasteries which are widely admired. Zahari Zograf lived and worked on Mount Athos between 1851 and 1852, where he decorated the outer narthex of the Great Lavra. (CLT)

6. **The Chilean National Commission for UNESCO** requested that UNESCO should be associated with the **100th anniversary of the birth of Roberto Matta Echaurren, painter (1911-2002)**, in 2011. The Director-General considers that this request meets the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

Roberto Matta Echaurren (1911-2002), a Chilean painter, initially studied architecture before giving up his studies in 1933 to settle in France, where he very soon joined the surrealist movement led by André Breton. His painting then became influenced by the process of automatic writing. He experimented with new techniques to find more effective ways of reproducing the images in his head using both a dazzling display of colour and a very strict internal structure. He was able to break loose from movements and establish himself in the art world through the force of his art and the power of his convictions. His phenomenal international career was interspersed with action to protect individual rights.

When UNESCO Headquarters was being built in Paris in 1958, Roberto Matta was commissioned to paint a mural called *The Greatest Opening to the Cosmos* to decorate the interior of the building. (CLT)

7. **The Croatian Commission for UNESCO** requested that UNESCO should be associated with the **100th anniversary of the discovery of the Mohorovičić Discontinuity by Andrija Mohorovičić (1910)**, in 2010. The Director-General considers that this request meets the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

Andrija Mohorovičić was a notable meteorologist and seismologist. In 1909 an earthquake struck the Kupa Valley with an epicentre about 40 kilometres south-east of Zagreb. Mohorovičić carefully measured the seismic waves created by the earthquake at the Zagreb observatory. By analysing data received from more observation posts, Mohorovičić concluded that the Earth consists of surface layers above an internal core. He was the first scientist to establish, based on the evidence of seismic wave behaviour, the discontinuity that separates the crust of the planet Earth from the mantle. (SC)
8. The Croatian Commission for UNESCO requested that UNESCO should be associated with the 300th anniversary of the birth of Ruđer Josip Bošković, physicist, astronomer, mathematician (1711-1787), in 2011. The Director-General considers that this request meets the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

Rudjer Joseph Bošković was a Jesuit, physicist, astronomer, mathematician, philosopher, diplomat and poet. He is famous for his atomic theory, given as a clear, precisely formulated system utilizing principles of Newtonian mechanics. This work inspired Michael Faraday to develop field theory for electromagnetic interaction. Bošković also made many important contributions to astronomy, including the first geometric procedure for determining the equator of a rotating planet from three observations of a surface feature and for computing the orbit of a planet from three observations of its position. (SC)

9. The Croatian Commission for UNESCO requested that UNESCO should be associated with the 450th anniversary of the birth of Marko Antun de Dominis, philosopher and scientist (1560-1624), in 2010. The Director-General considers that this request meets the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

Dominis was a member of the colleges of Venice. A trace of that time can be found in his celebrated works of physics: De radiis visus et lucis in vitris perspectivis et iride. This work is in fact a compilation of his lectures in physics in 1591 and 1592, thus 20 years before Galileo’s demonstration of the telescope. The book was published in Venice in 1611. Here Dominis explained the origin of the rainbow, the work of telescopes, the basic functioning of the eye and so on. In a second work: Euripus seu de fluxu et refluxu maris, he interpreted the ebb and flow of the tide as a result of the work of the sun and moon upon the earth with a force similar to magnetism. This was confirmed almost a century later by Newton when he explained gravitation. (SC)

10. The Cuban National Commission for UNESCO requested that UNESCO should be associated with the 100th anniversary of the birth of José Lezama Lima, writer (1910-1976), in 2010. The Director-General considers that this request meets the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

José Lezama Lima (1910-1976), a Cuban poet and writer, is considered to be one of the most original writers of twentieth-century Latin American literature. He founded various avant-garde magazines, including Orígenes (1944), a focus for the “transcendental” poets who were influenced by surrealism and existentialism. As well as being a hermetic and baroque poet (Death of Narcissus; Rumour, The Enemy; Dador), he was also the author of many critical essays. His best known work, Paradiso, received international critical acclaim. It is both a colourful saga of a Havana family and a literary and poetic adventure in which the cultures of the Old and New Worlds meet. (CLT)

11. The Permanent Delegation of the Czech Republic to UNESCO requested that UNESCO should be associated with the 100th anniversary of the birth of Karel Zeman, film-maker (1910-1989), in 2010. The Director-General considers that this request meets the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

Karel Zeman (1910-1989), a Czech cartoon producer and film-maker, is one of the founders of the renowned Czech animated-film school. He began in advertising, in which he experimented with puppets for the first time. His first short film, Christmas Dream, won the award for the best puppetry animated film at the 1946 Cannes Film Festival (France). Later,
in his “Fairy Tales for Old and Young” series (*A Deadly Invention, Journey to the Prehistory*), he created an original world that was to enchant cinema-goers worldwide. By combining puppets, special effects, animation and live actors, he produced a clever synthesis of fantasy and reality and made these films wholly mysterious. His adaptations of Jules Verne’s novels gave him further scope for exploring how to adapt the fantastic for the big screen. (CLT)

12. **The National Commission of the Democratic Republic of the Congo for UNESCO** requested that UNESCO should be associated with the **50th anniversary of the University of Kisangani**, in 2011. The Director-General considers that this request meets the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

The University of Kisangani is one of the three main state universities in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. It is a first-generation African university. In terms of importance, it ranks third after the universities of Kinshasa and Lubumbashi, established in 1954 and 1956 respectively. Originally founded and run by Protestants as the Free University of the Congo (1959-1971), it became one of the three campuses of the National University of Zaire from 1971 to 1981 before once again becoming a separate state university. The University of Kisangani used to be best known for its role in training teachers and education staff. It is now a comprehensive university and has a Medical Faculty, a Science Faculty and a Faculty of Politics, Social Sciences and Public Administration, in addition to the Faculty of Educational Science and Psychology.

13. **The Culture Ministry of Ecuador** requested that UNESCO should be associated with the **100th anniversary of the birth of Monsignor Leonidas Proaño (1910-1988)**, in 2010. The Director-General considers that this request meets the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

Monsignor Proaño devoted his life to human rights and the fight against poverty and illiteracy, focusing his actions on Indians. He was particularly active in the Foundation of Indian People of Ecuador. In 1960 he was delegated from Ecuador to the Latin America Episcopal Council (CELAM). He also created the Itinerant Pastoral from the Latin America Institute.

He participated in the Council of Theology of Liberation which considered poverty as a social matter and an obligation of the Church to protect the poor. As an example, he decided to use the fund of the Church to divide the properties of the Chimborazo Province and give them to the Indians for free, instead of constructing a new church.

Through his work and efforts during his life, Monsignor Proaño left a significant mark in Ecuador and the whole of Latin America. (SHS)

14. **The French National Commission for UNESCO** requested that UNESCO should be associated with the **500th anniversary of the publication of In Praise of Folly by Erasmus (1511)**, in 2011. The Director-General considers that this request meets the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

Planned in 1509 and written in Latin that same year upon Erasmus’s return from Italy, dedicated in 1510 to the English jurist Thomas More, first printed in Paris in 1511 under the title *Moriae Encomium* and then expanded in various editions published in Basel up until 1532, *In Praise of Folly* was one of the great European successes of the Renaissance. Beyond the fact that the work is generally thought to have ushered in the Protestant Reformation, *In Praise of Folly* seeks the truth, combining religious considerations with
philosophical principles. Erasmus’s work thus encourages philosophical thought and reflection. (SHS)

15. The French National Commission for UNESCO requested that UNESCO should be associated with the 1,100th anniversary of the founding of the Abbey of Cluny (910), in 2010. The Director-General considers that this request meets the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

The Abbey of Cluny was founded in 910 by William the Pious, Duke of Aquitaine. Cluny symbolized the monastic revival in the Western world and was a leading intellectual centre in the High Middle Ages. By the end of the eleventh century, the Abbey of Cluny was an influential force throughout Christian Europe with a network – the first of its kind – of approximately 1,400 houses and some 10,000 monks. In 1088, work began on the Maior Ecclesia, the largest Romanesque abbey church ever built, with arches 30 metres high. During the French Revolution, the monks were expelled and dispersed throughout the surrounding parishes; the buildings were seized as national property and sold off. The remains of the Abbey bear witness to the architectural and spiritual magnificence of this masterpiece of the Romanesque, a unique part of French heritage. The Abbey of Cluny was recently awarded the European heritage label by the European Commission. The label is intended to highlight the European dimension of cultural properties, monuments, natural and urban sites and places of memory betokening European history and heritage. It aims to strengthen a sense of belonging to a common cultural area in the spirit of the 1972 Convention; it thus complements UNESCO’s work in the field of protection and safeguarding of cultural heritage to ensure, among other things, that conservation of sites and monuments is conducive to social cohesion. (CLT)

16. The Georgian National Commission for UNESCO requested that UNESCO should be associated with the 150th anniversary of the birth of Vazha Pshavela, writer (1861-1915), in 2011. The Director-General considers that this request meets the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

Vaja Pshavela (the pseudonym of Luka Razikashvili, 1861-1915) was a Georgian thinker, poet and writer. Vaja Pshavela’s poetry represents the summit of nineteenth-century Georgian realism.

He was born in the small Pshavian village of Chargali. He graduated from teachers’ seminary and studied law at Saint Petersburg University. Vaja Pshavela wrote most of his verses, poems and stories in the vicinity of his native village. His works are mainly devoted to human relationships towards the material world. The national epic works of Georgian poetry in the nineteenth century and the revival of poetic epos are also connected with his name. Heroism, tragedy and humanity define the epic creativity of Vaja Pshavela. His poems and narrative stories are widely translated into a number of languages. (CLT)

17. The Georgian National Commission for UNESCO requested that UNESCO should be associated with the 100th anniversary of the birth of Vakhtang Chabukiani, ballet dancer, choreographer and teacher (1910-1992), in 2010. The Director-General considers that this request meets the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

Vakhtang Chabukiani (1910-1992), ballet master, choreographer and teacher, was one of the great dancers of his generation and, with Galina Ulanova, Maya Plisetskaya and Boris Asafiev, one of the stars of the Russian Ballet.
He is considered to be one of the most influential male ballet dancers in history. He did much to promote the cause of the male dancer in classical ballet, seeking to restage the 19th-century repertoire in order to boost the male role to beyond that of mere partner. In this regard he created the majority of the choreography of the male variations. In 1934 he toured the United States of America, becoming, with Tatiana Vecheslova, the first Soviet dancer to do so. He directed and danced the leading roles in a number of films, such as Masters of the Georgian Ballet and Othello. He taught extensively in his country and abroad. (CLT)

18. The Georgian National Commission for UNESCO requested that UNESCO should be associated with the 1,000th anniversary of the commencement of construction of Svetitskhoveli Cathedral, in 2010. The Director-General considers that this request meets the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

Svetitskhoveli Cathedral in Mtskheta, the ancient capital of Georgia, is an outstanding example of medieval architecture in the Caucasus region. The current cathedral was built in the eleventh century by the Georgian architect Arsukisdze, though the site itself is even older dating back to the early fourth century and is surrounded by a number of legends associated primarily with the early Christian traditions. Svetitskhoveli Cathedral is the second largest church building in the country, after the recently consecrated Tbilisi Sameba Cathedral, and it is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site along with other historical monuments of Mtskheta. (CLT)

19. The German Commission for UNESCO requested that UNESCO should be associated with the 550th anniversary of the birth of Tilman Riemenschneider, sculptor (c. 1460-1531), in 2010. The Director-General considers that this request meets the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

Tilman Riemenschneider (1460-1531), German sculptor, was one of the last generations of Gothic sculptors in Southern Germany, who worked largely in Würzburg (Bavaria). Riemenschneider and his workshop produced a large number of altarpieces in wood, but also made tombs and statues, and sometimes worked in alabaster and limestone.

Striking a rare balance between formal elegance and expressive strength, he stands solidly anchored in the late Gothic tradition while also reflecting emerging humanist concerns. He was one of the first sculptors to abandon polychromy on occasion. Towards the end of his life, the prosperous and successful Riemenschneider suffered a dramatic reversal of fortune. His sympathies for the rebellious peasants in the region in 1524 cost him dearly. Tilman Riemenschneider’s outstanding work was rediscovered on the eve of the nineteenth century. (CLT)

20. The German Commission for UNESCO requested that UNESCO should be associated with the 150th anniversary of the death of Arthur Schopenhauer, philosopher (1788-1860), in 2010. The Director-General considers that this request meets the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

Arthur Schopenhauer is known for his atheistic pessimism and philosophical clarity. His most influential work, The World as Will and Representation, emphasized the role of man’s basic motivation, which Schopenhauer called “will”. His metaphysical analysis of “will”, his views on human motivation and desire, and his aphoristic writing style influenced many well-known philosophers, including Friedrich Nietzsche, Ludwig Wittgenstein, and Sigmund Freud. In this sense, the request is in line with the priorities and the Philosophy programme at UNESCO. (SHS)
21. The German Commission for UNESCO requested that UNESCO should be associated with the 200th anniversary of the death of Heinrich von Kleist, writer (1777-1811), in 2011. The Director-General considers that this request meets the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

It was only in the twentieth century that Heinrich von Kleist (1777-1811), a German writer and playwright, came to be acknowledged as the most original dramatist of German Romanticism. Unrecognized during his lifetime, Kleist’s short life of only 34 years was as romantic and tragic as his works. As a poet of extremes, he created characters which disconcerted his contemporaries but which became more intelligible as psychoanalysis developed. His best-known works include The Broken Jug, The Schroffenstein Family, The Marquise of O, Penthesilea and The Prince of Homburg, which have all become classics of world literature. (CLT)

22. The German Commission for UNESCO requested that UNESCO should be associated with the 200th anniversary of the birth of Robert Schumann, music composer (1810-1856), in 2010. The Director-General considers that this request meets the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

Robert Schumann (1810-1856), German composer, aesthete and music critic, was one of the most famous Romantic composers of the 19th century. During his brief career, he worked as a piano professor at the Leipzig Conservatory under Mendelssohn and also later as a conductor. Starting much later than some other composers, he completed four symphonies, a well-known piano concerto, some chamber works, songs and song cycles and a wealth of shorter works for piano. Schumann had a great interest in literature, philosophy and the arts. He was also accomplished in journalistic circles as a music critic, and in that capacity he recognized and promoted the talents of Chopin, Brahms and Berlioz. In 1840, Schumann married his teacher’s daughter, pianist Clara Wieck, who also composed music and had a considerable concert career, including premieres of many of her husband’s works. (CLT)

23. The Hungarian National Commission for UNESCO with the support of the French National Commission for UNESCO requested that UNESCO should be associated with the 200th anniversary of the birth of Franz Liszt, composer (1811-1886), in 2011. The Director-General considers that this request meets the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

A virtuoso pianist, Franz Liszt (1811-1886) invented modern piano and recital technique. From 1830 he struck up a friendship with members of the Romantic movement in Paris and formed friendships with three important musical figures: Chopin, Berlioz and Paganini. He had three children, including Cosima, who would later marry Richard Wagner. In 1835 the family settled in Switzerland and then a few years later in Italy, where Liszt composed the first two Années de pèlerinage (“Years of Pilgrimage”).

The years 1839-1844 established his reputation as a piano virtuoso, with constant travel throughout Europe. He was the most admired and most highly paid pianist of his time. Being very generous by nature, he unhesitatingly used his money to assist the very poor. In 1848 there began a new period in his life; he settled in Weimar as the Kapellmeister to the court and thereafter dedicated himself to performance as a pianist and conductor. In 1865 he decided to take holy orders. (CLT)

24. The Permanent Delegation of India to UNESCO requested that UNESCO should be associated with the 150th anniversary of the birth of Rabindranath Tagore, thinker, philosopher and poet (1861-1941), in 2011. The Director-General considers that this request
meets the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

Rabindranath Tagore (Calcutta, 1861-1941), poet, music teacher, playwright, visual artist, was a myriad-minded personality who experimented in all fields of creativity, and who authored more than 250 books, the most famous being *Gitanjali* (1912) that won him the Nobel Prize in 1913. Rabindranath Tagore created an alternative education system; developed rural reconstruction services; set up a school on traditional lines in 1901 which grew organically into a university in 1921 and is now an institution of national importance in India. Tagore was also a cultural reformer and polymath who modernized Bengali art. His paintings and songs have unleashed new horizons of experience. His significant work, which has earned him universal respect and admiration, provides a philosophical system emblematic of Asian civilizations. It addresses all the issues and social contradictions underlying the struggle for political independence and respect for cultural and linguistic identity, while offering ideals and practices based on tolerance and dialogue with the West. A contemporary of Gandhi and Nehru, a friend of Einstein and of many artists and scientists, a member of the International Institute for Intellectual Cooperation (IICI) which preceded the creation of UNESCO, this humanist in search of the universal continues, moreover, to have an impact on the international community as a whole. (CLT)

25. The Permanent Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran to UNESCO requested that UNESCO should be associated with the 1,250th anniversary of the birth of Farsi Beyzavi, known as Sibouyeh, philologist (761-796), in 2011. The Director-General considers that this request meets the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

Farsi Beyzavi (761-796), Arabic grammarian and philologist, studied grammar under Abu Khatab Akhfash (recognized scholar). His book known as *Al-Kitab* is an important and pioneering work on Arabic grammar.

Farsi Beyzavi owes his historic importance to the privilege of being the first to write a grammar book for the Arabic language and to develop a methodology for distinguishing and studying the sounds in the Arabic language. (CLT)

26. The Permanent Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran to UNESCO requested that UNESCO should be associated with the 1,000th anniversary of the composition of the *Shâhnâmeh* (Book of the Kings), in 2010. The Director-General considers that this request meets the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

The *Shâhnâmeh* is the work of the renowned tenth-century poet Ferdowsi (941-1020), who was the Persian equivalent of such poets as Homer for the classical world, and Shakespeare and Pushkin for English and Russian speakers. The work established Persian as a significant literary language, and is a key text in the history of the Persian Empire. International art historians consider this text as one of the most important of its kind ever produced. The text is also of critical significance as it helped to establish Persian as a monumental language and saved it from disappearing.

Prince Bayasanghor, who commissioned the work, was the grandson of Timur, known to Western history and literature as Tamerlane.

The *Shâhnâmeh* is listed on the Memory of the World Register and its world significance is consequently established. The Islamic Republic of Iran plans to organize an international congress to commemorate this anniversary, and UNESCO should be associated as a partner
of the conference in order to stress the importance of safeguarding documentary heritage and its contribution to preserving memory. (CI)

27. **The Permanent Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran to UNESCO** requested that UNESCO should be associated with the 750th anniversary of the active life of Khaje Nasirodin Toosi, scientist (1201-1274), in 2011. The Director-General considers that this request meets the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

Khaje Nasirodin Toosi (1201-1274) was the father of the renaissance in astronomy in the Islamic world and designed the observatory of Maragheh in 1261, which was the turning point in his life and consolidated his renown. He was able to revitalize the sciences of mathematics and astronomy in his time because of the comprehensiveness of his personality. His fields of study were mathematics (arithmetic, geometry and algebra), astronomy, ethics, jurisprudence, literature, music, mineralogy, medicine, literature, basic sciences, and engineering; he was thus extremely comprehensive and was the pioneer of his time in these diverse fields. He is also named the father of mathematics, and computer studies and aeronautics were later inspired by his works. (SC)

28. **The Permanent Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran to UNESCO** requested that UNESCO should be associated with the 700th anniversary of the death of Qutb al-Din al-Shirazi, scientist (1236-1311), in 2011. The Director-General considers that this request meets the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

Qutb al-Din al-Shirazi (1201-1274) wrote critiques of the Almagest of Ptolemy. He also continued the optical studies of Alhazen. It was Qutb al-Din al-Shirazi who first gave a correct explanation for the formation of the rainbow, which was elaborated on by his student Kamal al-Din al-Farisi. He produced two prominent works on astronomy – The Limit of Accomplishment concerning Knowledge of the Heavens, and The Royal Present. Besides astronomy, he wrote extensively on medicine, mathematics and “traditional” Islamic sciences. (SC)

29. **The Japanese National Commission for UNESCO** requested that UNESCO should be associated with the 1,300th anniversary of Nara Heijo-kyo Capital (710), in 2010. The Director-General considers that this request meets the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

Nara was the capital of Japan from 710 to 784. During this period the framework of national government was consolidated and Nara enjoyed great prosperity, emerging as the fountainhead of Japanese culture. The city’s historic monuments – Buddhist temples, Shinto shrines and the excavated remains of the great Imperial Palace – provide a vivid picture of life in the Japanese capital in the eighth century, a period of profound political and cultural change.

Nara is a World Heritage site. The flowering of Japanese culture during the period when Nara was the capital is uniquely demonstrated by its architectural heritage. The layout of the Imperial Palace and the design of the surviving monuments in Nara are outstanding examples of the architecture and planning of early Asian capital cities. The Buddhist temples and Shinto shrines of Nara demonstrate the continuing spiritual power and influence of these religions in an exceptional manner. (CLT)

30. **The Lithuanian National Commission for UNESCO** requested that UNESCO should be associated with the 100th anniversary of the death of Mikalojus Konstantinas Čiurlionis, painter (1875-1911), in 2011. The Director-General considers that this request meets the
procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

Mikalojus Konstantinas Čiurlionis (1875-1911) was one of the most important Lithuanian artists and a pioneer of the abstract art movement in Europe. He contributed to symbolism and art nouveau and was representative of the fin de siècle epoch. During his short life he created about 300 paintings. The majority of his paintings are housed in the M.K. Čiurlionis National Art Museum in Kaunas, Lithuania. His works have had a profound influence on modern Lithuanian culture. Čiurlionis' musical legacy is symphonic, choral compositions and music for piano. His musical works implicate elements of late Romanticism and suggestive expression. (CLT)

31. **The Polish National Commission for UNESCO** together with the Lithuanian National Commission for UNESCO requested that UNESCO should be associated with the **100th anniversary of the birth of Czeslaw Milosz, writer (1911-2004)**, in 2011. The Director-General considers that this request meets the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

Czeslaw Milosz (1911 (Šeteniai, Lithuania) – 2004 (Crakow, Poland)), a poet, prose-writer, essayist and translator, won the Nobel Prize in 1980 and received a number of other literary awards. He held honorary doctorates from a number of universities in the United States of America, Italy, Lithuania and Poland and was an honorary citizen of Lithuania and the City of Crakow.

After spending his youth in Vilnius, where he took his first steps as a poet, he worked in the Polish diplomatic service after the War – in the United States of America and France. He became a political exile in France in 1951 and was appointed professor of Slavic languages and literature at the University of California, Berkeley (United States of America) in 1960. He is unanimously considered to be one of the most important poets of the twentieth century. (CLT)

32. **The Norwegian National Commission for UNESCO** requested that UNESCO should be associated with the **150th anniversary of the birth of Fridtjof Nansen, explorer**, and the **100th anniversary of Roald Amundsen, explorer, reaching the South Pole**, in 2011. The Director-General considers that this request meets the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of these anniversaries, whose description appears hereafter:

Fridtjof Nansen (1861-1930) was a Norwegian explorer, scientist and diplomat. He is widely regarded as one of the greatest personalities in the history of Norway. Nansen initially started out as pioneer sports skier, and soon became interested in Arctic exploration. He led the first crossing of Greenland by ski, and achieved great success with his Arctic expedition aboard the Fram. He later became noted as a zoologist and oceanographer, and was a pioneer of the neuron theory. His work had a genuine impact in the world as a whole by his scientific achievements in oceanography.

Roald Amundsen (1872-1928) was a Norwegian explorer of polar regions. He led the first Antarctic expedition which reached the South Pole in 1911. He was also the first person to reach both the North and South Poles, and he is known as the first to traverse the Northwest Passage in a small sailing vessel. He disappeared in June 1928 while taking part in a rescue mission. (SC)

33. **The Philippines Permanent Delegation to UNESCO** requested that UNESCO should be associated with the **400th anniversary of the University of Santo Tomas (1611)**, in 2011. The Director-General considers that this request meets the procedure and the criteria adopted by the
Executive Board and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

The University of Santo Tomas covers the fields of expertise of UNESCO in education, science, culture, social and human sciences, communication and cross-cutting disciplines. The celebrations of the University of Santo Tomas will have an international impact as many of the university's graduates have contributed globally to advance the ideals valued by UNESCO. UNESCO will be associated through the UNESCO Chairs for Cultural Heritage and through its support and advocacy for the University.

The Director-General of UNESCO, Mr Matsuura, has a Doctor of Law honoris causa from the University. (ED)

34. The Polish National Commission for UNESCO requested that UNESCO should be associated with the 150th anniversary of the birth of Ignacy Jan Paderewski, pianist and politician (1860-1941), in 2010. The Director-General considers that this request meets the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

Ignacy Jan Paderewski (1860-1941), Polish pianist, composer, diplomat and politician, studied music in his childhood at the Warsaw Conservatorium. In 1881 he went to Berlin to study music composition and in 1884 he moved to Vienna, where he made his musical debut in 1887. He soon gained great popularity and his subsequent appearances (in Paris in 1889, and in London in 1890) were major successes. His brilliant playing created admiration; and his triumphs were repeated in the United States of America in 1891. His name became synonymous with the highest level of piano virtuosity. He became one of Poland’s world-renowned pianists and composers. In addition to delighting Poland and the world with his music for over 50 years, Paderewski also became one of Poland’s great statesmen. (CLT)

35. The Polish National Commission for UNESCO with the support of the French National Commission for UNESCO requested that UNESCO should be associated with the 200th anniversary of the birth of Fryderyk Chopin, composer (1810-1849), in 2010. The Director-General considers that this request meets the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

Fryderyk Chopin (1810-1849), a Polish composer and pianist, was one of the most famous virtuoso pianists of the nineteenth century and an important composer of Romantic music. His music (Fantasy on Polish Airs, piano concertos, mazurkas, nocturnes, the Opus 10 Études, Ballade No. 1, and others) is still among that most frequently played today and remains essential to an understanding of piano music.

He spent the first part of his life in Warsaw, where he became a virtuoso pianist and a highly talented musician. In 1830 he settled in Paris. Promptly joining the circle of musicians most in the public eye (Liszt, Ferdinand Hiller and Berlioiz), he was enormously successful and soon became a famous and celebrated musician. Together with Franz Liszt, he was the father of modern piano technique and inspired a whole line of composers in his wake. (CLT)

36. The Permanent Delegation of Romania to UNESCO requested that UNESCO should be associated with the 50th anniversary of the death of Simion Stoilow, mathematician (1887-1961), in 2011. The Director-General considers that this request meets the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:
The mathematician Simion Stoilow (1887-1961) laid the foundations for and developed a new branch of mathematics, the topological theory of analytic functions. Three theorems of Stoilow, published in 1928, 1932 and 1935, constitute his main contribution to this field. (SC)

37. **The Permanent Delegation of Romania to UNESCO** requested that UNESCO should be associated with the 50th anniversary of the death of Lucian Blaga, poet (1895-1961), in 2011. The Director-General considers that this request meets the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

Lucian Blaga (1895-1961), a poet, but also a philosopher by training, pursued a career in the diplomatic service until 1939. His contribution to philosophy was marked by the development of a metaphysics of culture that made the “Romanian village” a locus for self-awareness in harmony with omnipresent nature. This extremely original work earned him recognition worldwide and an international reputation. (CLT)

38. **The Permanent Delegation of Romania to UNESCO** requested that UNESCO should be associated with the 50th anniversary of the death of Mihail Sadoveanu, writer (1880-1961), in 2011. The Director-General considers that this request meets the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

A highly prolific writer, Mihail Sadoveanu (1880-1961) combined his great narrative gifts with a personal style in which the vernacular of Moldavia and Bucovina held pride of place.

His great historical epic *The Jderi Brothers* and his novel *Neamul Soimarestilor* are among the classics of Romanian literature. He is one of the leading Romanian authors of the twentieth century. (CLT)

39. **The National Commission of the Russian Federation** requested that UNESCO should be associated with the 1,000th anniversary of the foundation of the city of Yaroslavl (1010), in 2010. The Director-General considers that this request meets the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

Lying at the confluence of the Volga and the Kotorosl, some 250 km north-east of Moscow, the historic city of Yaroslavl developed into a major centre of trade from the eleventh century onwards. It is renowned for its many seventeenth-century churches and is an outstanding example of the urban redevelopment programme ordained for the whole of Russia by the Empress Catherine the Great in 1763. While some of its important historic buildings were retained, the city was redeveloped in the neoclassical style on a radial plan. Remnants from the sixteenth century are also to be found in the Spassky Monastery, one of the oldest in the Upper Volga region, which was constructed in the late twelfth century but has been rebuilt over the years.

The historic city, with its seventeenth-century churches, neoclassical radial urban plan and civil architecture, is an outstanding example of the interchange of cultural and architectural influences between Western Europe and the Russian Empire.

The historic city of Yaroslavl has been inscribed on the World Heritage List since 2005. (CLT)

40. **The National Commission of the Russian Federation** requested that UNESCO should be associated with the 50th anniversary of the first manned mission into space (1961), in 2011. The Director-General considers that this request meets the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:
In 1961, the Soviet spaceship-sputnik Vostok 1 was put into orbit around the Earth taking on board the first ever man from Earth: Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Alexeevich Gagarin (1934-1968). This historical flight brought about a real orbital revolution with remarkable scientific effect. It was a very important event and has paved the way to numerous discoveries in space and opened up a new era of outer space exploration. (SC)

41. The National Commission of the Russian Federation requested that UNESCO should be associated with the 150th anniversary of the birth of Anton Pavlovich Chekhov, writer (1860-1904), in 2010. The Director-General considers that this request meets the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

Anton Pavlovich Chekhov (1860-1904), Russian short-story writer, playwright and physician, is considered to be one of the greatest short-story writers in world literature. His career as a dramatist produced four classics (*The Seagull*, *Uncle Vanya*, *Three Sisters* and *The Cherry Orchard*) and his best short stories are held in high esteem by writers and critics. He made formal innovations which have influenced the evolution of the modern short story. His originality consists in an early use of the stream-of-consciousness technique, later adopted by James Joyce and other modernists. Chekhov practised as a doctor throughout most of his literary career. (CLT)

42. The National Commission of the Russian Federation requested that UNESCO should be associated with the 300th anniversary of the birth of Mikhail Lomonosov, scientist and writer (1711-1765), in 2011. The Director-General considers that this request meets the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

Mikhail Lomonosov’s work in science was of an encyclopaedic scope. He was actively engaged in physics, chemistry, astronomy, geology, meteorology, and navigation. He also contributed to population studies, political economy, Russian history, rhetoric, and grammar. He brought the most advanced scientific theories to Russia, commented on their strengths and weaknesses, and advanced original ideas. (SC)

43. The Slovak Commission for UNESCO requested that UNESCO should be associated with the 100th anniversary of the birth of Ján Cikker, composer (1911-1989), in 2011. The Director-General considers that this request meets the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

Ján Cikker (1911-1989), Slovak composer and pedagogue, was the main representative of modern Slovak classical music. In a number of his works, Cikker utilized traditional Slovak melodies. In others, he moved towards expressionism and eventually embraced serial procedures. His works for the stage are particularly notable. In 1966 he was named National Artist by his homeland, and that same year he was awarded the Herder Prize by the University of Vienna. In 1979 he received the UNESCO/International Music Council Prize. (CLT)

44. The Slovak Commission for UNESCO requested that UNESCO should be associated with the 150th anniversary of the birth of Martin Kukučín, writer (1860-1928), in 2010. The Director-General considers that this request meets the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

Martin Kukučín (own name Matej Bencúr, 1860-1928), Slovak prose writer, dramatist and physician, was the most notable representative of Slovak literary realism, and considered to be one of the founders of modern Slovak prose. He studied medicine in Prague and spent
his adult life in Croatia and Chile working as a physician. He maintained contacts with Slovakia largely by correspondence and publishing a series of texts on Dalmatian topics. His novels (Dom v stráni, Mat’volá, Dies irae) have been widely translated and have led to film productions and adaptations. (CLT)

45. **The Tajikistan National Commission for UNESCO** requested that UNESCO should be associated with the **100th anniversary of the birth of Mirzo Tursun-Zade, poet (1911-1977)**, in 2011. The Director-General considers that this request meets the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

Mirzo Tursunzoda (1911-1977) was an important poet and a prominent political and public figure, who has been elevated to the level of national hero of Tajikistan. The town of Tursunzoda is named in his honour. Poems Khasan Arbakesh, The Voice of Asia, The Eternal Light brought to the poet great popularity and recognition. In 1960, Tursun-Zade was given the honorary title of Laureate of the Lenin Prize. (CLT)

46. **The Thai National Commission for UNESCO** requested that UNESCO should be associated with the **100th anniversary of the birth of Kukrit Pramoj (1911-1995)**, in 2011. The Director-General considers that this request meets the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

M.R. Kukrit Pramoj (1911-1995) was a Thai politician, writer, journalist and scholar. He was the thirteenth Prime Minister of Thailand, serving in office from 1975 to 1976. He is also known as a veritable "Thai public intellectual" and a great Thai writer. Kukrit Pramoj was a prolific writer in prose as well as poetry. His short story Morm has been proclaimed as one of the best national short stories. It narrates the career of a stray mongrel through the ups and downs of his master’s fortunes. (CLT)

47. **The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia National Commission for UNESCO** requested that UNESCO should be associated with the **50th anniversary of the first holding of the International Festival “Struga Poetry Evenings” (SPE)**, in 2011. The Director-General considers that this request meets the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

The International Festival “Struga Poetry Evenings” (SPE) is one of the oldest poetry festivals in the world, which takes place in Struga (the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia). Over the years, a great number of world-famous poets have been invited to participate in this annual event. Each year, the international jury that consists of outstanding intellectuals in the field of literature and poetry awards the famous “Golden wreath” prize to an internationally recognized poet. Poetry New Anthologies are published each year and through this activity, the SPE library has become one of the biggest in the world. Today, the SPE represents a universal poetic centre, associated with UNESCO’s cultural action. (CLT)

48. **The Permanent Delegation of Turkey to UNESCO** requested that UNESCO should be associated with the **100th anniversary of the death of Osman Hamdi Bey, painter, archaeologist and art expert (1842-1910)**, in 2010. The Director-General considers that this request meets the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

Osman Hamdi Bey (1842-1910), Turkish painter, archaeologist and musicologist, was a distinguished Turkish intellectual as well as being a famous painter and a successful archaeologist. For his services as a musicologist, he was considered as the pioneer of the
museum curator’s profession in Turkey. He was the founder of the Istanbul Archaeology Museum and of Istanbul Academy of Fine Arts known today as the Mimar Sinan University of Fine Arts. (CLT)

49. The Permanent Delegation of Turkey to UNESCO requested that UNESCO should be associated with the 400th anniversary of the birth of Evliya Çelebi, writer (1611-1682), in 2011. The Director-General considers that this request meets the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

Evlıya Çelebi (1611-1682), famous Turkish traveller, writer, calligrapher, poet and musician, is one of the greatest representatives of travel literature. He has visited almost all the cities and towns of the Ottoman Empire and took long trips to foreign lands. He tried to cover history, buildings, customs, traditions and famous people in his writings. His collection of notes on his journeys formed a 10-volume work called the Seyahatname (Book of Travels). It is the first and the greatest travel book of Turkish literature.

Evlıya Çelebi placed special emphasis on the languages and local dialects of the people and, with the aim of addressing all, he adopted a simple, humble and clear writing style. (CLT)

50. The United Kingdom National Commission for UNESCO requested that UNESCO should be associated with the 450th anniversary of the birth of Francis Bacon, writer and philosopher (1561-1626), in 2011. The Director-General considers that this request meets the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

Francis Bacon was an English philosopher, one of the leading figures in natural philosophy, a statesman and a scientist. He is well known for his treatises on empiricist natural philosophy (The Advancement of Learning, Novum Organum Scientiarum) and for his doctrine of the idols, which he put forward in his early writings, as well as for the idea of a modern research institute, which he described in Nova Atlantis. (SHS)

51. The Viet Nam National Commission for UNESCO requested that UNESCO should be associated with the 1,000th anniversary of the foundation of the city of Thang Long Ha Noi (1010), in 2010. The Director-General considers that this request meets the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

Thang Long, which is Hanoi’s centre nowadays, was chosen by Ly Thai To, the founding king of Ly Dynasty, as the capital of Dai Viet Kingdom (nowadays Viet Nam) in autumn 1010. Thang Long means ascending dragon, symbolizing the will and thirst for independence of the Vietnamese people. Thang Long was almost continuously the capital city of Dai Viet Kingdom through different reigns.

The Cultural Heritage Complex of Thang Long – Hanoi consists of Thang Long Imperial Citadel, Thang Long Tu Tran and the Van Mieu – Quoc Tu Giam (Temples of Literature – Imperial College).

From December 2002 to the beginning of 2004, the Viet Nam Archaeology Institute excavated on a large scale the archaeological site. This is the largest-scale archaeological excavation in Viet Nam and South-East Asia. A complex of abundant relics and vestiges has been discovered from Dai La citadel (seventh-ninth centuries) to Thang Long Citadel (eleventh-eighteenth centuries) and Hanoi citadel (nineteenth century).

Thang Long has been on the World Heritage Convention tentative list since 2006. (CLT)