

Restricted
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International Symposium on Saudi Arabia's Heritage

(working title)

to be held at the

**Department of Archaeology
University of York**

Main purpose of event:

To highlight the exceptional heritage of the Kingdom (both natural and cultural) to a global audience – discuss its vulnerability, its role in respect to national cohesion and sustainable development

Organized by: Andy Spiess and co-organized by Geoff Bailey and Talal Al-Maghrabi

Dates: In spring 2014 (May/June)

Duration: 3 days

Type of event: Based entirely on volunteer work with a focus on scholarly excellence (website, publication with Springer, government policy paper, etc.)

Number of expected delegates: 250 -350

Type of delegates: Mainly established scholars from multiple disciplines, representatives of international orgs (ICOMOS, UNESCO, UNWTO, etc.), various regional stakeholders, business representatives and the media

Structure: Multidisciplinary symposium and round table discussions scrutinizing an estimated ten predefined questions dealing with heritage preservation in the Kingdom (e.g. climate change, employment, poverty alleviation, national identity, public diplomacy, infrastructure, renewable energy, etc.)

Outcome:

- a) A synopsis of the symposium as well as the results of the roundtable discussions with feasible recommendations for respective government agencies in the Kingdom
- b) Depending on the number of suitable quality contributions the objective will be to publish another edited volume (most likely with Springer or IB Tauris)

What is noteworthy: There will be a special focus on **participating Saudi nationals** - the current objective is to ensure that 50 percent of the presentations will be held by Saudis and that nationals will be involved in determining which questions should be discussed at the round tables.

What are the ROE: SCTA is not to be approached for any funding or any other questionable business deals! The university had to agree to these terms prior to its nomination as a suitable venue – however they would like to organize a complimentary educational tour for SCTA officials, since York serves as a center for UK heritage development (if there is interest).

Extras: photo exhibition of Saudi traditional architecture by students from KAU

Backstopping: The Saudi Embassy in London will constantly be updated with the development of the event and any questionable concerns will be discussed