

# UNESCO DIRECTOR GENERAL IN THE FIELD OF HERITAGE

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# UNESCO DIRECTOR-GENERAL'S ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD OF HERITAGE

## NEWS



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### The Director-General pays an official visit to Albania

On 3 June 2009, Mr Koïchiro Matsuura, Director-General of UNESCO, travelled to Albania to meet Mr Bamir Topi, President of Albania, and visit the city of Berat. During their discussions, the President and the Director-General expressed satisfaction about the state of cooperation between UNESCO and Albania, particularly in the field of culture. Since Mr Matsuura's first visit to Albania in 2001, the country had ratified the major culture-related UNESCO Conventions – the 2001 Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage, the 2003 Convention

for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage and the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions. Albania had two sites inscribed on the World Heritage List – Butrint (1992) and the historic centres of Gjirokastra and Berat (2005 and 2008) – and the Albanian folk iso-polyphony included in the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity (2008). The President expressed his appreciation about UNESCO's assistance to Albania in the field of education and scientific research and mentioned Albania's contribution to the promotion and preservation of cultural heritage in Kosovo (Serbia).



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### The Director-General calls for short and long-term strategies to address climate change in South-East Europe

On 2 and 3 June 2009, Mr Koïchiro Matsuura, Director-General of UNESCO, visited Athens to attend the International Conference on Climate Change and Challenges for the Future Generations, organized under the auspices of UNESCO by the Foundation for the Child and the Family and the Energy and Resources Institute (TERI).



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### [français] Le Directeur général rend hommage à la diversité du patrimoine culturel immatériel de la Géorgie

Koïchiro Matsuura, Directeur général de l'UNESCO, a ouvert, le 27 mai au Siège de l'UNESCO une soirée musicale organisée à l'occasion des célébrations de la fête nationale de Géorgie et de l'adhésion en 2008 de la Géorgie à la Convention de 2003 pour la sauvegarde du patrimoine culturel immatériel. Participaient également à la cérémonie M. Nikoloz Rurua, Ministre de la culture, du patrimoine et des sports de la Géorgie, et M. Mamuka Kudava, Ambassadeur de la Géorgie en France et Délégué permanent auprès de l'UNESCO.

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### Director-General receives president of the Republic of Chile at UNESCO Headquarters

On 28 May 2009, Ms Michelle Bachelet, President of the Republic of Chile, was received at UNESCO Headquarters by Director-General, Mr. Koïchiro Matsuura. Ms Bachelet was accompanied by an important delegation of parliamentarians and personalities of Chile's culture and business sphere, as well as several members of the government, among whom the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Mariano Fernandez, Education, Ms. Mónica Jiménez de la Jara, Culture, Ms. Paulina Urrutia, and Energy, Mr. Marcelo Tokman.



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### Director-General visits four UNESCO World Heritage Sites in northern Portugal

On 21 and 22 May 2009, the Director-General of UNESCO, Mr Koïchiro Matsuura, visited four World Heritage Sites in northern Portugal. He was accompanied throughout his trip by the President of the Portuguese National Commission to UNESCO, Ambassador Fernando Andresen Guimarães.