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Korean
National Commission

Ref: KNCU-127

24 February 2026

Subject: Call for Participants – World Heritage Young Professionals Forum 2026

Dear Secretary-General,

It is our honour to announce the call for participants for the World Heritage Young Professionals Forum 2026. As part of the 48th session of the World Heritage Committee, the Republic of Korea, through the Korea Heritage Service (KHS) and the Korean National Commission for UNESCO (KNCU), will host the Forum from 13 to 21 July 2026, in the Republic of Korea, primarily in Busan, Seoul, Suwon and Gyeongju, under the theme “World Heritage, Communities and Education: Empowering Youth as agents of change.”

The Forum will highlight the importance of communities, youth, and education in enhancing the protection, management, and transmission of World Heritage. The Forum seeks to explore the essential role that communities play in safeguarding World Heritage through people-centred approaches. It will further examine how World Heritage acts as a platform for learning, knowledge creation, and transmission. Above all, the Forum will highlight the role of youth as engaged community members, decision-makers, and mediators, serving as proactive agents of change.

This international forum will bring together 30 outstanding young professionals aged 23 to 32 from around the world, fostering exchange and promoting global dialogue. Participants will have the unique opportunity to present their Declaration during the 48th session of the World Heritage Committee.

We kindly ask for your support in sharing this call for applications through your national networks, so that talented young professionals in the field of World Heritage have the opportunity to participate in this programme.



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Application forms should be submitted online between 23 February and 15 March 2026 via the World Heritage Centre's website (<https://whc.unesco.org/en/news/2862>). For further details regarding eligibility and the application process, please refer to the attached Call for Applications.

We sincerely appreciate your support and consideration.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, written in Korean characters, which reads '윤병순' (Yun Byung-soon).

YUN, Byung Soon
Acting Secretary-General
Korean National Commission for UNESCO

Encl.: Call for Applications