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I am Diana Digna from Sudan and I work at the Sudan National Museum as a museum designer who is responsible for the re-exhibit of the museum collections and all things that relate to the displays.



First of all I would like to thank the British Museum and all the sponsors of the International Training Programme for supporting us to develop our skills in the field of museums.

The ITP is so good and such a useful programme. From my personal experience, as a museum's designer, I had a great chance to learn more about different fields of museum work that I didn't have any experience of before, such as excavation work, restoration, conservation and storage. Also the ITP gave me the self-confidence on how to communicate with my colleagues from different countries because it was a chance to practice my English language skills which is very important in the ITP Programme so we can all communicate with each other. The most beneficial thing that I learned from ITP programme was the new skills



concerning museum display, which encouraged me to apply new ideas at the Sudan National Museum in the proposed renovation project I am working on. This included 'pinning' as a method used to display small and medium size objects. British Museum colleagues showed me how to

use special tools and equipment including pins, tubing and special pliers to do this. I am very keen to apply this at my organisation and this will be one of the priorities for change that I would like to adopt although one of my problems will be to obtain the material and equipment needed.

During ITP summer programme, I spent ten days at UK Partner museums at The Collection: Art and Archaeology in Lincolnshire and Nottingham University Museum learning and gaining more information. This focused on museum display methods and kids activities which particularly attracted me because these programmes do not exist in our museum and although we have a large number of visitors from schools the kids are sometimes bored due to the space and time that they have during their trip to the Sudan National Museum. For this reason I have decided to apply this idea as one of my main ambitions and the second priority that I would like to add in my proposal for the rehabilitation of the Sudan National Museum. For this there will be a problem of fundraising, which is real barrier to implement many projects, but we can solve it by contacting with many sponsors (for instance communication companies such as Zain and MTN or the embassies or other sponsors who are interesting in preserving cultural heritage).

The ITP, from my own experience, is a good school for learning more about museum work. This summer programme helped me a lot to set-up, with my colleagues in the Sudan National Museum, an exhibition and carnival concerning the *Kandake* with the title *An Icon queen...a revaluation Icon*. The idea of this festival comes from the role of women in the recent Sudanese revolution. Sudanese women have definitely played a great role in political life during the history of the country and the ITP helped me to know how to get funds from many sponsors to set-up the festival and many other events at the museum.

Finally, I would like to thank again The Barakat Trust for their support for the ITP the summer programme and I appreciate their effort towards the fellows. Also I would like to thank Mr Seif El Rashidi for his visit to our Supporters Reception for the *Object in focus* project, I am so glad to know and meet him.



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