

ITP2019' Report

First: My overwhelming thanks go to the ITP team, who has in every way been available as a support emotionally and academically with their guidance.

I also, would like to express my thankfulness to all the sponsors of the ITP for their support.

I was to express my deepest gratitude to the ITP's UK partner museums in Manchester for the warm welcome and great sessions and discussions. Special thanks to Campbell Price, Ronan Brindley and Uthra Rajgopal.

Finally, my deep passionate appreciation to my ITP friends for their experiences, help and fun times we spent together.

Indeed, the ITP was one of my dreams to attend as this training has become a slogan for clever museologists in my country. From the first day the training impacted my confidence to listen and speak with other colleagues in issues related to our work. The sessions took me smoothly to greater ambitions and thinking internationally about different issues that can be handled through museums; previously I was thinking always locally in my community. Different sessions about temporary exhibitions and the renovation of some galleries in the British Museum astonished me as to how the teams looked towards diversity, equality and respecting other cultures and shed light on this. That inspired me with different ideas for my work and enlightened my mind to look about all of humanity.



Moreover, I gained new skills during the training, such as how to organise training in accurate details that fits all people.

Even if some sessions are not related directly to my work, I will try to transfer my new knowledge to my colleagues in my institution.

Furthermore, I gained skills to work in team, faced challenges to deal with people speaking English in different accents, gained confidence to speak with new people on new issues, to work under pressure sometimes. The most effective skills that will change my work are how to present exhibitions about objects or collections that I'm not a specialist in.

Other skills I gained from my partner museums in Manchester were how to work with communities through an art collection and how to make museums a community space for diverse people. Now I'm preparing two community exhibitions about art in celebration with the Ministry of Culture to change peoples' vision about art in my country and to engage people in new styles of museums.



I was inspired by the session on the Manga exhibition. The great exhibition team dealt with this huge, amazing exhibition and the different challenges

that they met, their communication with authors and publishing houses and the great marketing campaign.

The Manga session impacted me to think, with a previous ITP fellow from 2016, to prepare an exhibition about the history of LEGO for the children museum in Egypt in 2020 and we started to communicate with LEGO to cooperate with us.

I gained new skills to think about different audiences of the museum and to add *hands on* activities. I know it is difficult in my museums to have hands on with real objects but we can suggest using replicas that will be helpful for visitors with special needs to touch and feel the objects.

Now I'm looking to transfer what I learned to my colleagues through some sessions and practical workshop.



One way I want to start to change in my work is with volunteers to have a clear agreement to invite them to work with us. Currently we were working without a clear agreement and this caused some problems in my work last year.

With the new agreement I received this week the first volunteers to work on organising the next community exhibition. I applied what I learned to present training for them, hear their needs and discover their skills and determine their roles.

A big priority that I gained from my partner museums in Manchester is to make museum spaces for the public by looking for international issues such as climate change, diversity and equality, homelessness and refugees.

In the sessions about the renovation of Islamic Gallery, The Albukhary Gallery, I learned many things. The first was how to study deeply about other cultures and before starting renovations visit different galleries, meet specialists, study, and listen to people's opinions.

One of my opinions during the session was that I like the name of the gallery "the Islamic world" and that it respects the diversity and reflects the similarities. We have an Islamic Art Museum in Cairo and I know it will be hard for me to change the name of art, but why art? But at least I will speak with my colleagues there see if they can reflect the Islamic world through their activities and education programme, not just focus on the chronological display.

One of the best sessions was "Cultural Heritage and Peacebuilding" and the idea of the 'conflict tree' that helped me to search for the deep roots that has caused heritage damage and museum looting. I'm living in the era of terrorism. I know it is hard to deal with this issue, but I will try, through a learning programme, to engage the community with policemen and security to cooperate to stop looting and raise public awareness about the value of their heritage. We started last march with policemen at the Egyptian Museum to give some sessions for the public, now I will apply the 'conflict tree' concept we learned in an ITP session to have clear vision about the problem and invite the community to hear their opinions.



I want to refer to my benefits from the "Object in Focus" project. It was my first time to work on an object from a different country and culture, to write a label and panel, prepare a poster and design activities including a brochure. I transferred all of this knowledge

and experience to my colleagues working in temporary exhibitions at the Egyptian Museum.

Sessions in mounting and handling objects will help to develop my work with students in my project 'From land to exhibition' to teach them the principle of properly mounting and handling objects.

All the sessions were great and helped me to think how to improve my work, also, sessions on interpretation were perfect to develop my studies and my project "Women and Heritage Interpretation", using new tools of interpretation.

The ITP was a dream which became reality and I can't explain fully how these 40 days changed me personally and impacted my way of thinking. I studied two years of museums studies but this course, with the experiences of every participant, improved my knowledge to think internationally, to see museums and heritage as human issues, not only as my projects in my country. I have attended many training courses outside of my country, but it is my first time to feel that I have an international

family and I'm really hoping to be in touch with most of my colleagues and discuss with them my new ideas about my work. I'm also looking forward to being a part of ITP global network through writing future blogs about my work. I would like to suggest also an idea to have 'skip level meetings' organised by the ITP team to introduce each other and speak about our experiences. In Egypt I suggest to setup an ITP community to try to prepare a small conference or exhibition about the development of ITP from 2004 till now.

At the end, thanks to the ITP for this great opportunity.