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Local diplomat elected to UNESCO presidency

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Mr. Koichiro Matsuura, Director-General of UNESCO congratulates Dr. Davidson L. Hepburn on being elected President of the 35th General Conference of UNESCO. Paul Farquharson, QPM, watches on.

Published On: Tuesday, September 15, 2009

IN WHAT is being described as a "proud moment" in Bahamian history, local career diplomat Dr Davidson Hepburn was yesterday elected to the presidency of the 35th General Conference of UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation).

Minister of Education Carl Bethel in making the announcement, said that he is delighted at the news of Dr Hepburn's presidency and noted that it is a success story for the Bahamas.

Mr Bethel said that no government in the Caribbean sub-region of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean (GRULAC) has ever held such a distinguished position in UNESCO.

The minister also expressed gratitude to the supporting countries, particularly the CARICOM states.

Nine countries including the Bahamas vied for

the position.

The election was held yesterday morning in Paris, France.

Mr Bethel said he believes Dr Hepburn will bring innovative ideas to the General Conference and assist in strengthening the image of the organisation both internationally and locally, as well as cause the Caribbean region to have a greater participation in the affairs of UNESCO.

"Dr Hepburn, OBE, is a seasoned and decorated individual of distinguished, public, diplomatic and civic service currently serves as the chair of the Antiquities, Monuments and Museum Corporation. He will be presiding over the General Conference of UNESCO to be held in Paris, October 6 -23, 2009. The meeting will be attended by all member and associates states of UNESCO," the ministry said in a statement.

The Bahamas has been a member of UNESCO since 1983, and through the National Commission of the Bahamas for UNESCO, has been active in promoting the purpose of the organisation by upholding human rights and fundamental freedoms proclaimed in the United Nations Charter.

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Question: Haitians living in Abaco's The Mud and Pigeon Peas claim immigration officials used violence during a recent raid. Should Bahamian authorities treat people better in these situations? Let us know what you think in comments below

- Yes, all people deserve respect
- No, they shouldn't be here in the first place

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