Report on the 7th Meeting of the International Friends

- The International Friends agree there is no need for an umbrella association which may interfere in direct communication between the Friends Associations and the Bibliotheca Alexandrina. Links between the Associations and with the Library will be further established through the website of the BA and the Mexican Friends, possibly including a "chat room" for all of the members to use.
- The proposed logo from Mexico for the international friends has been put to use on the e-Newsletter. Most Associations prefer to keep their own logo, but they may use the new logo as well.
- The International Friends Associations endorse the proposal by AEAS to encourage partnerships and exchange through the use of internships to and from the Library. They also agreed with the proposal to promote their country's scholars to work with Egyptian counterparts on specified research for the Library. Dr. Mostafa Abbadi will draft the guidelines for such research collaboration.
- Friends Associations endorse the proposal to provide book and journal donations within the scope of the Library's Collection Development Policy (CDP), especially with the aim to build the special collections on the ancient Library, Alexandria, Egypt, the ethics of science and technology, Egyptology, papyrology and the history of science. Journal subscriptions under the "adopt-a-journal" plan will be institutional subscriptions and for a period of three to five years. The Library will issue the CDP (in brief) to the Friends within two months.
- The Friends endorse the proposal for a "Peace Library" at the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, which can begin in the Nobel Section, but will be housed later in any other suitable section of the building. The Friends will provide two members (UK and Norway) to help build this section, promote it, and work together with the library on the cataloguing for users to identify and access the material. They also propose to consider the position of Honorary Peace librarian, the criteria for the position and the funding. Associations are invited to bring books on "peace" from their country to the next annual meeting.
- Whereas the art of poetry can be easily integrated into the Arts programs already flourishing within the Library; and whereas the poetry collection at the Library has already benefited from the poetry donated at the reading at the 7th meeting of the International Friends; and whereas the meeting of Mediterranean Poets held at the Library has begun a tradition of awareness of poetic expression within the region that may spread globally; it is resolved that works of established poets be donated to the Bibliotheca Alexandrina through the Friends Associations, or other avenues, thus enriching the collections of the Library.
- The International Friends will not endorse any award at this time. Individual Associations may give an award within their own scope of work.
- The International Friends welcome the opportunities to support the fund-raising efforts for the Library operations and maintenance during the next two year program as discussed by Dr. Bernard Salome. If needed, Dr. Salome will work with each association to assist in planning their fundraising activities. It is also recommended that each Association continue to carry out fundraising for the support of its own activities and in support of the Library.
- Whereas poetry is an art form which crosses cultures; and whereas at the 7th meeting of the International Friends a creative poetry reading program was introduced through the California Friends; and whereas both readers and auditors learned through this event more of each other's culture; and whereas there was enthusiasm for reading poetry at the first poetry reading amid the participants; it is resolved that a poetry reading program be an integral part of the next annual International Friends Meeting.
- The International Friends prefer to hold their annual meeting in October in honor of the Library's anniversary. However, they agree to hold their next meeting in the first week of November 2005 in order to avoid the Frankfurt Book Fair and the Month of Ramadan.