



## **Rediscovering the Culture of Upper Egypt in the Seventh BA Cultural Debate**

**Alexandria, 3 March, 2015** - The Bibliotheca Alexandrina is organizing a cultural debate under the theme of “The Culture of Upper Egypt: A Rediscovery for the Future”. The debate will be held on Thursday the 5th of March at Assiut University.

The event is implemented under the theme of Cultural Debates; a project fostered by the program Support to Cultural Diversity and Creativity in Egypt. The project holds several events at which important issues and topics related to improving the cultural sector in Egypt are raised, and where experts and policy makers are invited to discuss and make recommendations regarding drafting a national cultural policy for Egypt.

The 7th debate seeks to shed light on the culture of Upper Egypt, which represents a significant element in the Egyptian culture as a whole, that confirms the latter’s depth and power. Being marginalized by the media, there is not a proper exposure for writers and poets from Upper Egypt who did not leave to Cairo in search for fame. Furthermore, there are many cultural expressions associated with Upper Egypt, such as popular storytelling and Tahtib, that are in danger of disappearing as a result of urbanization and the lack of encouragement for these types of art.

On the whole, the debate aims to connect and bring to light the culture of Upper Egypt. Significantly, developing the Egyptian culture is intertwined with promoting diversity, contrasts and integration. This will only be achieved through exploring the cultural geography of Egypt.

This activity is part of the “Support to Cultural Diversity and Creativity Program”, an initiative co-funded by the European Union with 1 M EURO, which aims to strengthen the development of the cultural sector in Egypt with a particular focus on contemporary arts and the cultural and creative sectors.

The program seeks to map the cultural industries in all Egyptian governorates, conduct a series of cultural debates, bring arts to the classrooms and implement other cultural and artistic activities in the Kom El Dikka area (Alexandria) and the Sennari House (Cairo).



The program also includes the “North and South” initiative, which aims to train young people on five artistic forms (painting, essay writing, photography graphics and documentary making).

