



The Bibliotheca Alexandrina Reviews the Achievements of the Support to Cultural Diversity and Creativity in Egypt program

Alexandrina 14 November – The Bibliotheca Alexandrina (BA) launched the closing conference of the Support to Cultural Diversity and Creativity in Egypt program today at the Bibliotheca Alexandrina Conference Center. The program, which started two years earlier in November 2013, is a joint project between the Bibliotheca Alexandrina (BA) and European Union (EU). Held under the title of “Suggestions for a Framework of a National Cultural Policy in Egypt”, the conference extends over a period of three days; from 14 to 16 November.

The conference started with an opening session presented by, Dr. Ismail Serageldin; Director of the BA, Dr. Haytham El Haj; on the behalf of Helmy El Namnam; Minister of Culture, and Gusiepe Vasques; on the behalf of Ambassador James Moran; Head of European Union Delegation to Egypt. A large and diversified number of public figures, artists, ministry officials, and intellectuals, as well as representatives from national and international cultural bodies also participated in the event including; Badr el Din al Alayly; assistant Secretary General of the Arab League, and Amira Medhat Reyad; on the behalf of Sahar Nasr; Minister of International Cooperation.

Following the opening speeches, the first session served as a review of the achievements realized through the program. The session was chaired by Dr. Sameh Fawzy; Director of the BA Center for Development Studies, and was opened with a speech by Engineer Hoda El Mikaty; the Action Director and the Head of the BA Cultural Outreach Sector, where a quick review of the program and its objectives was established.

In line with the objectives of the Library to increase the outreach of cultural and artistic activities throughout Egypt, El Mikaty pointed out to the fact that, out of the twenty-seven governorates of Egypt, the activities of the program were implemented in twenty of them.



El Mikaty also gave a review of the three main pillars that form the backbone of the program and under which the activities are regrouped. The first pillar, A Dialogue Process for a Cultural Policy in Egypt, aims at initiating a national dialogue in the country which eventually can lead to the formulation of a cultural strategy for Egypt. The second, Interventions to Identify and Support Egyptian Cultural Operators and Industries; seeks to map and consolidate cultural industries and operators all over Egypt, while the third and final pillar, Actions to Support Youth and New Talents, seeks to broaden the scope of cultural projects in Egypt and to nurture new emerging talents through a variety of activities and initiatives.

The session also provided a detailed review main six activities implemented under the program; the “Kom el Dikka Development Project”, “Mapping and Supporting Cultural Industries in Egypt”, the “Cultural Debates”, “North and South”, “Bayt al-Sinnari”, and “Arts in the Classroom”. Speakers in this session included the officers of the main activities, where each of them gave a short brief on the implementation and achievements of their activities.

To further highlight the achievements of the program, an exhibition that features the main six activities of the program and captures the work of the participants was held at the margin of the conference. The exhibition was inaugurated by Dr. Ismail Serageldin and Engineer Hoda El Mikaty following the first session of the conference.