

Tyre Foundation and AIST have organized the second Forum of the "League of Canaanite, Phoenician and Punic Cities" under the joint High Patronage of UNESCO and its Cultural Sector, and the "Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie". It was held on October 30th, 2009, at the Auditorium of the St. John Mark Convent at Jbail-Byblos, in Lebanon.

This high level event was attended by over 400 persons in the presence of Ministers, Members of Parliament, Diplomats, political, cultural and scientific personalities, Directors, Businessmen, representatives of international organizations, researchers, educators, craftsmen, environmentalists, SMB's, and students.

Ten Municipalities took part in Forum II: Sanaa (Yemen); Beirut, Baalbeck, El-Mina, Jbail-Byblos (Lebanon); Cabras, Oristano (Italy); Cadiz (Spain); Essaouira, Tetouane (Morocco).

At 10:00, Mrs. Marie-Therese Achkar Malezet, *Coordinator of the Forum*, presents Forum II, the four roundtables and their moderators.

Mr. Henri Zogheib, *Poet and Writer*:

Welcomes the participants in the name of the AIST and Tyre Foundation, and underlines the important role played by the Lebanese diaspora and the status of Lebanon in the world.

Dr. Joseph Chami, *Mayor of Jbail-Byblos*:

Praises the efforts deployed to bolster international cooperation and exchanges between the various shores of the Mediterranean. A film on Jbail-Byblos is shown.

Mrs. Anne-Marie Lizin, *Honorary President of the Belgian Senate*:

Praises the launching of the LCCPP and stresses the importance of the Union for the Mediterranean.

Dr. Maha El-Khalil Chalabi, *Secretary General of AIST and President of Tyre Foundation:*

Thanks UNESCO for its support, especially Mrs. Françoise Rivière, Deputy Director for Culture, as well as H.E. Mr. Abdou Diouf, President of the "International Organization of La Francophonie", for their patronage. She extends thanks to the attending Municipalities, speakers and friends of the Foundation. She presents the projects of the League which focus on four themes: Culture and Education, Cultural Tourism, Environment, Handicrafts and SMB's Development.

THE ROUND TABLES were organized around these four themes.

At 10:30, roundtable of the Committee of Education and Culture on the theme "Intercultural Exchanges and Dialogue", chaired by the Director General of the Lebanese Ministry of Culture, Mr. Omar Halablab, with:

Dr. Samar Makki Haidar, *Architect, Town Planner, Landscaper, Associate Professor at the Lebanese University, Moderator*

Professor Josef Mifsud, *Chairman of EMUNI University:*

"EMUNI, A Beacon of the Union of the Mediterranean"

"EMUNI represents the most concrete project for the Union for the Mediterranean and was approved by all Prime Ministers of the Union. The University offers a complete curriculum with B.A., Master and PhD, as well as diplomas from various associate schools. It aims at developing new and not traditional ideas."

Dr. Farouk Ismail, *Historian, Professor at the University of Aleppo, Syria:*

"The Canaanite kingdoms of the 15th Century B.C."

"The Amarna era, from the name of the site south of the town of Minia in Egypt, is known from the letters exchanged between the kings of Egypt and the monarchs of the ancient kingdoms of the East, particularly the Canaanite coast. This correspondence was a fundamental source in the reading of interregional relations, conflicts, alliances and internal problems. The translation of this correspondence in Arabic has shed light on that important period of the ancient world."

Mr. Côme Carpentier de Gourdon, *Writer, Lecturer:*

"Mare Nostrum, a Phoenician Notion"

"History describes three types of States: Multinational states, empires or republican federations. The first type consists in contiguous territories on the same continent such as the Persian, Chinese and Russian monarchies, among others. The second is built around an insular metropolis which has spread its influence across the seas. The British Empire is the best illustration. The network of colonies around an internal sea such as the Phoenicians weaved is an accomplished example of the type of community created by commerce and culture more than by power. The contemporary project for the Union of the Mediterranean aims at the revival of that political archetype."

At 11:45, roundtable of the Committee for Cultural Tourism, chaired by the Director General of the Lebanese Ministry of Tourism Dr. Nada Sardouk, on the theme "The Blue Dialogue" with:

Mrs. Lina Hamdan, *Media and Communication Consultant,*
Moderator

Mrs. Elisabeth Fontan, *Curator of the Department of Oriental Antiquities at the Louvre Museum, Paris:*

"The Bronze figurines of the Lebanese Mountains, a Controversial Production"

"About thirty bronze figurines from Southern Lebanon appeared on the art market between the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century. Because of their crude workmanship, their genuineness was questioned. However a feminine statuette of this series had belonged since 1752 to the collection of the Count of Caylus who offered it to King Louis XV. This piece, which is kept at the Bibliothèque Nationale, has made it possible to confirm the authenticity of that strange production, backed by recent laboratory investigations."

Mr. Henri-Christian Shroeder, Secretary General of the Mare Nostrum Racing Club, St. Tropez:

"The Trophy of the Bailiff of Suffren: In the Wake of the Phoenicians"

"The Trophy of the Bailiff of Suffren, which was created in 2001 by a group of friends motivated as much by the preservation of the nautical heritage of ancient sailing as by the history of Mediterranean maritime cultures, aims at celebrating the saga of the Knights of Malta as well as of their "caravans" which sailed the Mediterranean in the wake of Phoenician navigators calling at the ancient counters. This race, which is unique in the world of sailing, links calling ports that are all ancient Phoenician or Phocaeen sites: St. Tropez (Heraklea then Athenopolis), Porto-Rotondo near Olbia in Sardinia, Pantelleria and Malta."

Dr. Manuel Muñoz Gambero, Archaeologist and Writer, Malaga Foundation, Spain:

"Sacred Rituals of Punic Votive Settings at Turtle Hill, Malaga"

"The analysis of rituals by way of the votive settings and artifacts found at Turtle Hill enable us to perceive a religious syncretism between East and West. It reflects a reality which also marked other socio-economical aspects of daily life throughout a period comprised between the 6th and 5th centuries B.C. and the arrival of the Romans in the sanctuaries of the Malaga coast."

Dr. Salem Salem, *Endocrinologist, representing the Lebanese Yachting Club:*

"The Phoenician Trireme"

"On the importance of the Lebanese Yachting Club for sports, culture and the environment. Presentation of a project for the construction of the Phoenician boat "Ashtart", which will be built in Tyre and launched during the Beirut Sailing Day. The boat will call on various Phoenician counters with the help of Tyre Foundation."

13:00, a seated lunch offered by the Municipality of Jbail-Byblos at the Locanda Restaurant to the 380 participants in Forum II.

14:30, under the patronage of the Lebanese Environment Ministry, with Dr. Nina Zeidan, *Architect and Urbanist*, as Moderator, members of the Environment Committee spoke on the theme of "Sources and Resources".

Dr. Ionna Siokou-Frangou, *Director of the Hellenic Center for Marine Research:*

"Global Change and Marine Ecosystems"

"Global warming influences the structure and functions of marine ecosystems through various physical, chemical and biological processes. They affect biogeography, phenology and the dynamics of marine species, the composition of

communities, metabolic and productive rhythms, trophic networks and the interaction between their compartments. Significant changes have been detected in the oceans and the Mediterranean is considered as one of the most sensitive marine environments."

Professor Frédéric Briand, Director General of the Mediterranean Science Commission, CIESM:

"Biodiversity in the Mediterranean"

"The CIESM is a league for marine researchers without borders since 1910. They have found out that the Mediterranean offers the richest biodiversity of the globe. It has more than 12,000 species, a number assessed since the opening of the Suez Canal. The largest part of that marine over production is linked to marine bacteria. These marine species constitute a sort of mosaic which reflects the entire history of the geology of the Mediterranean, with species originating from tempered, boreal, cosmopolitan and exotic regions."

Dr. Nicolas Carayon, Archaeologist, PhD in the Sciences of Antiquity from the University of Strasbourg:

"Geoarchaeology and Geomorphology of the Phoenician and Punic Ports"

"Dr. N. Carayon, Dr. N. Marriner and Professor Ch. Morhange have conducted the geoarchaeological study of the ports of Byblos, Beirut, Sidon and Tyre within the framework of the Franco-Lebanese CEDRE agreements to define the port geomorphology of these four major Phoenician cities. This multilateral research has contributed significantly to Phoenician and Punic ports research in the Mediterranean. This intervention presents the main results of the geoarchaeological study of the Lebanese ports and their importance in drawing

up a geomorphologic typography of Phoenician and Punic ports."

Dr. Marie Abboud Abi-Saab, *Director of Research at the National Center of Marine Sciences, Lebanon:*

"Research on the Morphology and biology of the Lebanese Coast":

"This is a presentation on the importance of the Lebanese coast as a focal center of the Eastern Mediterranean. It focuses on the morphology of the coast and the hydrologic characteristics of the Lebanese waters and their impact on marine resources and biodiversity, the importance of Lessepsian migration on biodiversity and bioscenosis. It is important to create protected zones and to bolster regional and Mediterranean projects to safeguard this shared sea."

16:00, under the patronage of H.E. the Lebanese Minister of Social Affairs, Dr. Mario Aoun and with Mrs. Eva Atallah, *Interior Architect and Landscaper*, as Moderator, the Crafts and SMB's Committee members spoke on "Competence and Solidarity":

Minister Aoun presented the Crafts program of his Ministry.