

Under the patronage of the UNESCO and the support of the Cultural Council of the Union for the Mediterranean, Tyre Foundation organized Forum III for the League of Canaanite, Phoenician and Punic Cities, on 8-10 July, 2011, in Larnaka, Cyprus.

Larnaka Municipality, headed by Mayor Mr. Andreas Moiseos, organized a conference on 8-9 July that focused on developing the infrastructure of the city in a manner that corresponds to the city's great historical heritage. The League of Canaanite, Phoenician and Punic Cities (LCCPP) was addressed an invitation by the Mayor and Municipality to take part in the proceedings of this high level meeting and present issues that deal with the historical and cultural aspects.

The 3rd LCCPP Forum gathered a large number of participants from various countries, including mayors of member cities of the league, as well as Friends of Tyre from Lebanon, France and the USA.

The morning session began with a welcome address by **Mr. Antonis Pashalides**, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Tourism in Cyprus, and the Mayor of Larnaka **Mr. Andreas Moiseos**, at the conference hall Ktima Makenzy, followed by breakfast for forum delegates, hosted by the Municipality of Larnaka.

Mrs. Rodi Kratsa, Vice-President of the European Parliament inaugurated the forum with an intervention on ***The Common Mediterranean Culture and Potential for the Future***: "The Phoenician Seas project, which is building a network between Phoenician cities, has allowed us to dream of a peaceful, stable, secure and flourishing Mediterranean, as well as a nation rich in culture, economy and history. It is a project

within the realm of our political interests which can serve as a model for similar projects.”

Ms. Maha Al-Khalil Chalabi, President of Tyre Foundation, discussed the program of the LCCPP which gathers to date 40 cities of common history, culture and values. The cities have associated around a “Charter of values” to establish a mode of cooperation based on reciprocation of skills and expertise. Mrs. Chalabi thanked all those who supported the forum, taken part in its organization and participated in its proceedings.

Dr. Samar Makki, Head of the Education and Culture Committee of the LCCPP, moderated the first discussion panel which centered on preserving the past of Kition (modern day Larnaka), one of the oldest Phoenician colonies. Prominent panelists included:

Dr. Richard Arndt, Head of the US Committee to Save Tyre and professor and lecturer in Columbia, Virginia, Georges Washington, Johns Hopkins and Princeton Universities, who talked about the commerce culture of the Phoenicians and its boundaries which stretched south and north of the Mediterranean Sea. He added that Phoenicians were not only skilled sailors, but also represented a well organized civilization who managed to develop new models of stone buildings, promote luxurious textiles, and carve into wood, stone, ivory and bronze.

Dr. Sabine Fourrier, Director of the French Archeological Mission of Kition (Ministry of European and External affairs and the CNRS), presented Bamboula Ancient Harbour as a Phoenician Kingdom.

Dr. George Georgiou, Cyprus Antiquities Dept, revealed new evidence of the Phoenicians' existence in Kition, as discovered through the excavations in Cyprus.

Concluding Remarks were given by **Mr. Floros Voniatis**, Managing Director of Med Golf Group.

The Second round of discussion was moderated by **Mrs. Lina Hamdan**, communication specialist and Head of the League's Cultural Tourism Committee.

During this round, **Mr. Alexis Michaelides**, Vice-Mayor of Larnaka Municipality, elaborated on the Adonis and Aphrodite celebrations in Larnaka today.

Mr. Grant Holmes, CEO of Progress International, discussed prospects of linking ancient ports & potential itineraries.

Mrs. Rosalind Newlands, O.B.E, WFTGA President, highlighted the impact of tourism on the city.

Conclusion of Forum III

Honorary President of the Belgian Senate, **Mrs. Anne-Marie Lizin**, concluded the forum's activities, pointing out that Cyprus is a culture haven in a region boiling with political turmoil. She called on the mayors of member cities to hold on to that desire of establishing or reestablishing cultural bonds created over a historical period between the Phoenician and Punic cities. She also hoped that efforts would be undertaken to learn new languages.

On the morning of the 9th of July, 201, participants went on a guided tour to Larnaka followed by lunch at the Milidjis restaurant.

A handicraft exhibition at the Square Europe was also held, where the league's "Label of Quality" was awarded to three participants from Cyprus.

The College of Mayors' Meeting took place at the Municipality of Larnaka, from 4:00-6:00 pm, to discuss next year's work agenda and the results of the LCCPP's feasibility study, carried out by the consulting firm, Booz and Co.

The forum wrapped up with an exceptional tour that gave participants the opportunity to discover historical and archeological sites in Paphos (rock of Aphrodite) and Limassol (the forte, stadium, and the old city of Amatount), which is the ultimate proof of the Phoenicians' existence in the city, as early as the 10th century BC.