

**Conclusions of the
Second Meeting on Cultural Cooperation
between Egypt and Norway
Røros, Norway
4 – 6 March 2009**

The cultural dialogue between the Ministers of Culture of Egypt and Norway was initiated in Luxor, Egypt in October 2007. Following the recommendations from Luxor, the Minister of Culture of Egypt and the Minister of Culture of Norway met in Røros, Norway on 4 - 6 March 2009 for the Second Meeting on Cultural Cooperation between Egypt and Norway. The Ministers were accompanied by delegations including artists and representatives from the cultural sector as well as from non-governmental organizations.

While acknowledging the role of culture in relation to other political and socioeconomic goals, the parties agreed on the following objectives of cultural cooperation between Egypt and Norway:

- Strengthen the intercultural dialogue, promote innovation and cultural cooperation
- Promote knowledge of Norwegian culture in Egypt
- Promote knowledge of Egyptian and Arab culture in Norway

The agenda of the meeting was based on the recommendations of the first meeting in Luxor. The following items were discussed: The Intangible Heritage and the Film Heritage, Promoting Creativity: Art and Culture for Children and Young People and Literary translation.

Constructive discussions, based on presentations of specific projects and exchange of best practices, resulted in identification of a number of projects of co-operation with a view to strengthening the cultural dialogue and promoting mutual understanding and solidarity. Projects should be sustainable over time. Both parties agreed to implement the following:

- Cultural projects that can contribute to the sharing of experience, knowledge and ideas
- Creating favorable conditions for broad cultural cooperation
- Endorsing cooperation between national institutions and governmental and nongovernmental organizations in the two countries.

Cooperation shall be implemented, in particular, through:

- a regular dialogue between the organizations and institutions involved, i.a. in view of initiating short-term residence or touring programmes for visiting performing artists
- regular exchange of information and ideas in every sector of cultural cooperation, including the organization of meetings of officials, experts and other parties concerned
- transfer of expertise and training
- implementation of joint actions such as seminars, workshops and cultural events.

In identifying cooperation projects, programmes and joint activities, special attention shall be given to:

The Intangible Heritage

- Initiation of cultural exchange within the field of traditional arts and crafts, to be carried out on a cost-sharing basis. This will, among others, include:
- A project on Sufi music and singing of the Alghori Palace of Heritage in Egypt.
- “The Open Door” project including different artistic expressions from both sides, i.a. traditional arts and crafts, the details of which should be worked out later.

Promoting Creativity: Art and Culture for Children and Young People

- Investigate the possibility of establishing a residency programme on the basis of the activities of “The Studio” in the Cairo Artistic Creativity Centre in Egypt.
- A cultural rucksack pilot project in one governorate of Egypt to be carried out by the Egyptian Association for Educational Resources in co-operation with the Norwegian Cultural Rucksack.

Literary translation

- Promote literary translation between Norwegian and Egyptian writers (in Arabic) involving the National centre for translation in Egypt and NORLA in Norway. Co-operation in this field will be initiated within a year, on the basis of an action plan developed by the parties concerned.

The Egyptian authorities through the Ministry of Culture and the Norwegian authorities through the Norwegian Embassy in Cairo will be in charge of the following-up of the bilateral co-operation.

The Egyptian side deeply appreciated the hospitality and warmth bestowed upon them by their Norwegian counterparts.

Røros, 6 March 2009