

Speech of H.E. The Ambassador of Italy, Claudio Pacifico

Excellencies and distinguished guests,

It is a pleasure for me to attend this Graduation Ceremony for the conferment of the degrees to the participants in the restoration courses, organized in the framework of the project “The Redesign of the Egyptian Museum of Midan Tahrir”, financed by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs- Directorate General for Development Cooperation and implemented by the Italian Ministry of Cultural Heritage.

Furthermore, it is also an honor for me that this ceremony is the occasion to present the Arabic translation of the “Theory of Restoration” by Cesare Brandi, founder and first Director of the Istituto Superiore per la Conservazione ed il Restauro. Such translation will allow the spread of the contribution of Cesare Brandi to the modern restoration history, through a wider arena, which includes not only Egypt, but the whole Arab world. Hence, it represents a significant step towards the enhancement and promotion of the Italian culture abroad.

Today’s Ceremony is included within the events of the Egyptian-Italian Year of Science 2009, which aims at strengthening the relations between Egypt and Italy in the field of science and technology and to emphasize the close ties between Egyptian and Italian scientists, in addition to supporting the educational system in Egypt.

Through the restoration courses, successfully carried out by the Istituto Superiore per la Conservazione ed il Restauro, we aimed at promoting the exchange of information and high technology and at transferring the latest restoration methodologies, thanks to our recognized experience in such field. It is worldwide known that Italy hosts the best restorers in the world, who are renowned by our partners in Europe and outside Europe, both for their cultural background and for their technical skills.

Hence, I would like to express my congratulations and my best wishes for a brilliant carrier to all the qualified museum officers, who are going to receive a diploma from the Istituto Superiore per la Conservazione ed il Restauro.

Finally, in consideration of the fact that the project is leading towards its

conclusion, I would like to express once more my deep gratitude to all the Institutions, who have contributed at ensuring its excellent achievements (the Supreme Council of Antiquities, the Egyptian Museum, the Italian Ministry of Cultural Heritage, the Institute for Conservation and Restoration, the General Directorate for Development Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and its office in Cairo) and I hope that the cultural, scientific and technical cooperation between our two countries will be further enhanced in the coming years.