

Press Release



CAIRO, 7th-22nd, NOVEMBER 2012

WORLD CLASS MUSEOLOGY AND CONSERVATION TRAINING PROGRAMME IN CAIRO

The Levantine Foundation, a charity registered in England and the Arab Republic of Egypt, is running a world-class training programme in Paper and Book Conservation. The programme, organized in partnership with the Ministry of Antiquities, The National Library and Archives of Egypt and Leiden University is a follow up to a very successful 2010 programme for professionals from the leading museums, libraries and monastic collections in Egypt and MA students from the major universities in Cairo. It will be hosted by The Ministry of Antiquities and the National Library & Archives of Egypt.

The programme is funded by the Sawiris Foundation for Social Development, a charitable organisation that has been supporting the conservation of Egyptian cultural heritage and the development of local expertise in the field for a number of years.

Commenting on the initiative, Professor Gannat El Samalouty, Chief Executive of the Sawiris Foundation said: "The Sawiris Foundation has been supporting the conservation of Egyptian cultural heritage and the development of local expertise in the field for a number of years, with the aim of boosting the number of skilled Egyptian conservators able to care for Egypt's cultural treasures and safeguard its heritage".

The Programme

The programme, which has been developed by academics specializing in Christian and Islamic history, art history, codicology and experts in the field of book and paper conservation, takes into account Egypt's unique cultural heritage and the intricacy of its ancient treasures. The aim of the Programme is to educate museum personnel to be able to handle their own conservation needs in order to be less dependent on foreign support.

The objectives are to establish a better understanding of the basic practices of conservation, protection and maintenance of collections, development of skills and the creation of a safer environment for employees and museum collections alike. The projected result will lead to more qualified museum personnel, employment opportunities and the preservation of Egyptian heritage for future generations.

Elizabeth Sobczynski, founder and CEO, The Levantine Foundation said: 'The singular motivation to organise a training of this type was to encourage our Egyptian colleagues to interact directly with the Western experts, to share our knowledge and expertise that will lead to more qualified museum personnel, employment opportunities and the preservation of Egyptian heritage for future generations. We are honored to be working with the Ministry of Antiquities, The National Library and Archives and Leiden University. We are indebted to The Sawiris Foundation for Social Development for endorsing the programme and for their financial support'.

Dr. Khalil Nougaim, Executive Director of The Levantine Foundation in Egypt said: 'I am pleased that our work in setting up the Foundation a few years ago is already yielding results. I look forward to see more and more courses offered in Egypt for the training of conservators

and for the museum staff, particularly in view of the vast collections of antiquities available in Egypt'.

NOTES TO EDITORS

For an advance copy of the training programme, contact:
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Interviews and enquiries

To arrange an interview with one of the organisers of the training programme or tutors and for all other enquiries please contact: Nevene Sami at: nsami@cf-holding.com