

GALASSIA GUTENBERG: ALLIANCE AMONG CIVILISATIONS RELAUNCHED

(ANSAméd) - NAPLES, APRIL 3 - The idea of promoting a dialogue and a strong alliance among civilisations was relaunched today here at the Galassia Gutenberg Book Fair by Michele Capasso, president and chairman of Fondazione Mediterraneo. "The Manifesto for the alliance among civilisations," he said, "represents an instrument to promote mobilization. "The project has already collected 20,000 supporters among intellectuals, politicians and representatives of the society coming from the two sides of the Mediterranean". The initiative also gained support from the Egyptian writer Gamal Al Gitani and Nasser El Ansari, president of Cairòs Book Fair, during Galassia Gutenberg's third day. According to Al Gitani, it is necessary to promote more translations of literary works from one language into another and create a TV channel in two languages, following the model of the French-German TV, launched by then French President François Mitterrand in Germany to foster a mutual knowledge between France and Germany. (ANSAméd). KTY-KWM

03/04/2006 19:09

GALASSIA GUTENBERG: AL-HAYAT WINS MED INFORMATION AWARD

(ANSAméd) - NAPLES, APRIL 3 - The Pan-Arab English-speaking newspaper Al-Hayat has won the Mediterranean Award for Information, a prize endowed by Fondazione Mediterraneo. The prize was awarded today to an Al-Hayat collaborator, journalist Dunia Abu, by ANSA CEO Mario Rosso, during the third day of Galassia Gutenberg Book Fair. According to Rosso, the initiative is based on a seemingly simple principle: a network realized through 18 Mediterranean and Naples-based press agencies. Rosso also illustrated future initiatives: the Beirut's conference on "women and the media", to be held in six weeks, and the Mediterranean Economic Forum, to be held in June in Cagliari. (ANSAméd). KSY-KWM

03/04/2006 17:53

GALASSIA GUTENBERG: MEDITERRANEAN NETWORK OF BOOK FAIRS

(ANSAméd) - NAPLES, APRIL 3 - A network of the Mediterranean books fairs will soon be created thanks to an agreement signed today between the Fondazione Mediterraneo of Naples and Cairòs Book Fair, during the third day of Galassia Gutenberg Book fair. The agreement was signed by ANSA CEO Mario Rosso, Michele Capasso, chairman of Fondazione Mediterraneo of Naples and Nasser el Ansari, president of Cairòs Book Fair. "We hope," El Ansari said, "Galassia Gutenberg's Mediterranean section will turn, from next year, into a hub to set up a network of the Mediterranean books fairs". The agreement envisages the creation of a catalogue with the main publications in the Arab world, translated in different languages and publicised through the Fondazione Mediterraneo's network. The agreement envisages also promoting Arabic language and Arab culture with translation of works from Arabic into Italian starting from the Southern seats of Lecce and Cosenza. (ANSAméd). KWM-RED

03/04/2006 14:39

GALASSIA GUTENBERG: GITANI CONFRONTS CLASH OF CIVILISATIONS

(ANSAMed) - NAPLES, APRIL 3 - Italy-Egypt, there and back. A report originating from the 19th century, from which flows a painstaking knowledge about our country. A tradition which needs to be recovered and which today, more than ever, needs a strong reciprocity. These are the thoughts of renowned Egyptian writer Gamal al-Gitani, author of "Schegge di Fuoco" (Slivers of Fire), published in Italy by Jouvence and winner of the 2006 Grinzane Cavour Award for foreign literature. Taking part at Galassia Gutenberg in the meeting named "Culture of Dialogue, Culture of Blood", organised by the Mediterranean Foundation, Gitani impetuously hurls himself against the idea of "clash of civilisations". "The worst thing to do at this time is generalise," he says. "There are human objectives which need protection, and one can only do this with knowledge and respect for others, only with a mutual transfer of cultures. "This process has made huge steps backwards since the United States coined their slogan 'clash of civilisations': civilisations do not confront, they react. From time to time it is me who influences, sometimes I am being influenced." Italian Ambassador to Egypt, Antonio Badini, also had his say on the "clash of civilisations". "Human vicissitudes concern everyone, human stories are all similar. The presumed 'clash of civilisations' is a foolishness, originating from prejudices and lack of knowledge, and therefore of culture in a broader aspect," he comments. Culture, therefore, viewed as the only possible antidote. A culture that begins with books, "a privileged instrument of consciousness of others," the Ambassador said. (ANSAMed) RED-KWK
03/04/2006 10:40

GALASSIA GUTENBERG: MED FOUNDATION, CAIRO FAIR SIGN ACCORD

(ANSAMed) - NAPLES, APRIL 3 - The creation of a network between the Mediterranean book fairs, which would cross the basin from south to north and stretch from Cairo to Frankfurt, is the subject of an accord to be officially signed today by the Cairo International Book Fair, the region's most renowned event, and the Fondazione Mediterraneo of Naples. The initiative was presented yesterday by the Cairo fair's director, Nasser el-Ansari, and the president of the Fondazione Mediterraneo, Michele Capasso, during the second day of the Galassia Gutenberg, currently under way at Castel dell'Ovo. "Through projects of the kind, we would like to relaunch cultural cooperation with Italy, which has a millennium-long history. With this regard, we have given a go-ahead to negotiations with the Italian Ambassador in Cairo Antonio Badini, aimed at officially presenting Italy's candidacy for being the guest of honour at the Cairo International Book Fair 2007," el-Ansari said. The Cairo fair is a cultural event, which last year enjoyed the participation of almost two million people, the presence of more than 700 publishers and 300 conferences and debates. "The Mediterranean book fairs' network aims at promoting the reciprocal knowledge between the northern and southern coast of the Mediterranean," Capasso said. "There is another project, which is initiated in collaboration with the civil service and is aimed at the drawing up of a catalogue of all publications in Arab language, for distribution on the northern coast of the Mediterranean," Capasso added. "Because of ignorance, politicians and bureaucrats, Europe is still paying the price of lacking knowledge about the Arab world and its culture." (ANSAMed). RED-KTX
03/04/2006 10:25

GALASSIA GUTENBERG: ALLIANCE AMONG CIVILIZATIONS MANIFESTO

(ANSAmEd) - NAPLES, APRIL 3 - 'Manifesto among civilisations'. This is the title of the document prepared by the Fondazione Mediterraneo of Naples with the aim to rebut to "those who are opposed to a real alliance among civilisations". The document was presented today by the President of the Fondazione, Michele Capasso, at the opening of the third day of the Galassia Gutenberg International Book Fair at the Castel dell'Ovo in Naples. Some 20,000 people have already signed the Manifesto which is "the result of a common great work", said Capasso underlining that Egyptian writer Gamal Al Gitani and director of the Cairo Book salon Nasser El Ansari also signed the document. (ANSAmEd). KSY-KTX

03/04/2006 10:13

GALASSIA GUTENBERG DRAWS 15,000 VISITORS IN NEW VENUE

(ANSAmEd) - NAPLES, APRIL 2 - More than 15,000 people, including many tourists, visited Castel dell'Ovo at the weekend, where the Galassia Gutenberg Book Fair is currently being held until April 4. A positive result for the organisers of the event, which marks its 17th edition, dedicated to slain journalist and historian Samir Kassir, in a new and picturesque seaside venue. Among program highlights is the 10.30am the conference titled 'The Manifesto for the alliance among civilisations' ('Il Manifesto per le Alleanze tra le civiltà'), organized by the Fondazione Mediterraneo of Naples, which will assign the Mediterranean Information Award to daily Dar El Hayat. The conference will be followed by a presentation of the project to set up a network of the Mediterranean books salons. In the afternoon, at 5pm, a discussion with Palestinian writer Suad Amiry will be held. (ANSAmEd). KTX-RED

02/04/2006 17:39

GALASSIA GUTENBERG: MESSAGE FOR PEACE IN MEDITERRANEAN

(ANSAmEd) - NAPLES, APRIL 2 - At its new location Castel dell'Ovo, Galassia Gutenberg offers enjoyment to its visitors and contributes to the dialogue for peace in the entire Mediterranean region, said Naples mayor Rosa Russo Iervolino at the launch of the 17th edition of the international book fair. Books, underlined the mayor, are an essential instrument for cultural formation, while according to the president of the Province of Naples, Dino Di Palma, literature mirrors the soul and can help dialogue. The president of the Fondazione Mediterraneo Michele Capasso, the Italian ambassador to Egypt, Antonio Badini, and Nasser El Ansary, president of the Cairo Book Fair, said that an agreement for translation of important Arab works in Italian will be signed at Galassia Gutenberg. The opening of the book fair was attended by the president of the Galassia Gutenberg Association, Franco Liguori, the regional human resources councillor Andrea Abbamonte, and writer Alberto Arbasino, while journalist Mimmo Liguoro hosted the ceremony. (ANSAmEd). RED-KTX

02/04/2006 14:43

JOURNALISM: MEDITERRANEAN AWARD IN MEMORY OF SAMIR KASSIR

(ANSAmEd) - NAPLES, APRIL 1 - A journalistic award in memory of Lebanese colleague Samir Kassir, killed in a bomb attack on June 2, 2005, was announced today by ANSA Foreign Chief Giulio Pecora at the roundtable 'Democracy of information in the Arab World', organized by Ansamed within the Galassia Gutenberg Book Fair. The award, which consists of a one month internship at the Ansamed headquarters in Naples, will be given to a young journalist of a country of the Mediterranean Southern shore. (ANSAmEd). KSY-KTX

01/04/2006 15:14

GALASSIA GUTENBERG: MEDIA SHOULD FOLLOW SOCIETY, BADINI

(ANSAmEd) - NAPLES, APRIL 1 - "Naples must regain what it had in the past, emerged from its sluggishness and provincialism", says Antonio Badini, the Italian ambassador in Cairo, at the round-table conference organized by Ansamed at the conference 'Democracy of Information in countries of the Arab World' at Castel dell'Ovo in Naples. "In the Muslim world", he said, "media usually moves faster than society. Information shouldn't be disconnected from society". (ANSAmEd). KSY-KWM

01/04/2006 15:06

GALASSIA GUTENBERG: KHOURY, LEBANESE PRESS NOT A SLAVE TO USA

(ANSAmEd) - NAPLES, APRIL 1 - "I refuse the idea that the Lebanese press was exploited to oppose the anti-American forces in the Middle East region", said Gisele Khoury in reply to a question from the public during the conference 'Democracy of information in the Arab World' at Castel dell'Ovo in Naples. "We are journalists and not US agents. The popular march of March 14 was a Lebanese initiative that brought one and a half million in the streets. An event made possible not by Bush but by Samir Kassir, Lebanese martyr and martyr of the Syrian opposition", concluded Khoury, Al Arabiya tv journalist, and wife of Kassir. "There are many barriers imposed upon the local and foreign press in Syria. We cannot talk about the President, the Muslim Brotherhood and the internal opposition", added George Baghdadi, editor in chief of Cham Press Center in Damascus, who participated at the same conference. "The Syrian press lives with big difficulties since the coming into power of the al Baath party even if today we can talk about security forces. But the barriers remain, and soon a new law on the press, which will put stronger ties on Internet press, will be passed". According to Khalid Chaouki, journalist of Ansamed, "finally Arab intellectuals have the possibility of self-criticism. This helps to create a strong trend on the internet, in the forum and gives the chance for writers and intellectuals to be heard". (ANSAmEd). KTX

01/04/2006 15:05

GALASSIA GUTENBERG; ALLAM, DEMOCRACY AN ANTHROPOLOGICAL ISSUE

(ANSAmEd) - NAPLES, APRIL 1 - "Society owes to a man who gave his life for democratic passion". This is the memory of Samir Kassir, the Lebanese journalist and historian killed on June 2 2005, in the words of Khaled Fouad Allam, columnist of daily 'La Repubblica' in his intervention to the conference 'Democracy of Information in the Countries of the Arab World' at Castel dell'Ovo in Naples. "Democracy in the Arab world", said Allam, "is not only a political issue, but also an anthropological and cultural one. The battle for freedom and democracy is also a cultural battle". "When someone speaks about democracy of information it is necessary to think of Samir Kassir and all of those who died in the name of freedom of the press in the Arab World", said Assem El Kherish, editor in chief of the English version of Egyptian weekly Al-Ahram. "We are facing many challenges. For example, we live in a time with plenty of means of information, but the number of people who read is declining". According to El Kherish "means of information can help open the route to democracy". For his part, Lebanese journalist Ziad Talhouk, who also attended the conference, spoke about the press situation in his country. "Beirut has always been at the centre of press freedom in the Arab world and this has disturbed the other Arab governments", he said. "We should not forget that for 15 years after the end of the civil war there were many pressures on the Lebanese press imposed by a puppet government. But during this period there were journalists like Samir Kassir, who fought for freedom in Lebanon, and in other countries such as Syria". "Kassir, concluded Talhouk, paved the way and today, despite the difficulties, we are optimistic that through the freedom of press we can reach a real independence, stronger than the one obtained in 1943. (ANSAmEd). RED-KTX

01/04/2006 14:08

GALASSIA GUTENBERG: BOOKS PRESENTED IN MEMORY OF SAMIR KASSIR

(ANSAmEd) - NAPLES, APRIL 1 - The 17th edition of the Galassia Gutenberg Fair opened today, dedicated to the memory of Samir Kassir. The Lebanese historian and journalist, killed in a car bomb on June 2 last year in Beirut, was a host at the 2005 edition of the Book Fair. His voice was remembered through two books and the story of his wife, Al-Arabiya tv journalist, Gisele Khoury. "Samir had a very precise idea of Italy", she said, "for him there is Italy on one side and the rest of the world on the other. About his trip to Naples, he told me it was his first political victory. The only thing that troubled him was that in Italy you can no longer smoke". This personal memory told by Khoury introduced the two books, 'Arab unhappiness' (L'infelicità araba) and 'Spring' (Primavera), for a democratic Syria and an independent Lebanon, a collection of editorials signed by Kassir, published in the Al-Nahar daily. The publishing house Mesogea has translated the books in Arabic and they are now available. (ANSAmEd). KTX

01/04/2006 12:36

GALASSIA: ITALY LACKS CULTURAL POLICY TOWARDS ARAB COUNTRIES

(ANSAmEd) - NAPLES, MARCH 30 - Italy lacks a cultural policy towards Arab countries, with opportunity left entirely to individual initiative. This is a limit which, apart from doing little for intercultural dialogue, impedes real understanding and does not favour economy and business. These are words of Isabella Camera d'Afflitto, Professor in Arab Literature at the La Sapienza university who has been working for more than 20 years on translation and popularization of Arab culture. For a second year in a row, she will be moderating the 'literary cafe' within the book fair Galassia Gutenberg, between April 1 and 4. "Galassia Gutenberg is an important meeting which is very useful, also thanks to the great attention it pays on the Arab literature, especially this year. In this sense it could become a permanent point of reference," Camera d'Afflitto said. At Gutenberg, Arab literature seems to replace its 'usual' position in a niche with a more general position. "Yes, our sector is still believed to be 'of niche' despite the fact that many things were done in the past 10-15 years," Camera d'Afflitto lamented. This is due to an attitude of superiority which, the professor said, is typical of European, not only Italian, orientalists. Even now when people speak of dialogue between cultures, the value of literature as a vehicle of knowledge does not seem to be fully appreciated. "I repeat it all the time, literature is fundamental to know the other, most of all to those who work on Italian culture in those countries," said Camera d'Afflitto, who received this year the Premio Grinzane Cavour award for translation. "If we were less provincial, much more business would have been made, culture would have helped economy. Often people interested in translating Italian authors in Arabic, for example, contact me to ask whom to turn to for the rights." It is a gap to fill in a territory where there is, the professor noticed, a particular interest for Italy. There are experts in Italian studies in Egypt and thousands of children study Italian, while much was done in Libya between the 1950s and the 1960s, or more recently in Morocco and in Lebanon which has always had a big interest for Italian culture, not to mention what Italian authors are translated in other languages - Calvino, Moravia, Pirandello but also Tabucchi, Baricco and Dario Fo.(ANSAmEd). KSY
30/03/2006 13:20

GALASSIA: SPOTLIGHT ON DEMOCRACY-INFORMATION IN ARAB WORLD

(ANSAMed) - NAPLES, MARCH 29 - The relation between freedom of information and democracy in the Mediterranean, one of the earth's most restive regions. This is the objective of the meeting-debate organised by ANSAMed, the agency created by ANSA to spread certified and shared information from and for the Mediterranean, within the Galassia Gutenberg book fair on April 1. The fair, which celebrates its 17th edition, is dedicated to the memory of Lebanese journalist Samir Kassir, who spoke at Galassia's 2005 edition and was killed weeks later. In a particularly sensitive moment, characterised by the clash between Islam and the west, elections in Israel, Hamas victory in the Palestinian elections and scenes such as those after the publishing of the cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad, the meeting on democracy and information in the Arab world will also be an occasion for an exchange of opinions on the topical themes and the perspectives for the region. Gisele Houry, a journalist from the Arab satellite television Al-Arabija, and Kassir's widow, will be guests of honour at the event. Ziad Talhouk, correspondent for years at the ANSA-ANSAMed bureau in Beirut, will also be present at the meeting. Talhouk witnessed the latest restless decades in the history of the Land of the Cedars. Assem El-Kersh, editor-in-chief of the Al Ahram Weekly, the English weekly publication of Egypt's most popular daily, will talk about the situation in Egypt, which has always been at the centre of the complex network of international mediation for the Middle East. The complex and in many ways delicate situation in Syria will be illustrated by George Baghdadi, director of the Cham Press Centre in Damascus. Many experts will take part in the debate, to be moderated by ANSA's foreign desk deputy director Giulio Pecora. Luigi Mascilli Migliorini, professor in modern history at the Orientale university in Naples, will also contribute to the debate with his experience in the field of cooperation and partnership between the two shores of the Mediterranean. Stefano Sieni from the Italian national order of journalists will present the activity to defend the freedom of press. Columnist Khaled Fouad Allam will express the point of view of an Arab intellectual who has been following very closely the political and social developments in the countries in the region. Khalid Chaouki, president of the young Italian Muslims and member of the council for Italian Islam at the Italian Interior Ministry, will speak about his experience in the world of mass media in Italy. (ANSAMed) RED
29/03/2006 19:21

GALASSIA: AN OPPORTUNITY FOR DIALOGUE BETWEEN CIVILISATIONS

(ANSAMed) - NAPLES, MARCH 29 - "Grand Mediterranean: From Dialogue to Alliances Between Civilisations" is the topic of the international meeting promoted by the Mediterraneo Foundation as part of the 17th edition of book and multimedia fair Galassia Gutenberg, which this year will be hosted for the first time at the picturesque Castel dell'Ovo. The international event, promoted by the Foundation chaired by Michele Capasso, will be held on Sunday, April 2, at 16.30 local time at the Aula Magna of Federico II, in Partenope Street, and will be divided into several sessions. The first will concern "Cultures of Dialogue, Cultures of Blood: the Representation of the Other," and participants will include Dunia Abu Rachid, professor in Arab Literature who will present a report on contemporary Arabic poetry; Nasser El-Ansari, president of the Cairo Book Fair; Antonio Badini, Italian Ambassador to Egypt; Amin Zaoui, writer and director of the Algiers National Library. Caterina Arcidiacono will be co-ordinator. The agreement between the Mediterraneo Foundation and the Algiers Library will be presented at the event. The second session, "A Manifest of Alliances between Civilisations", will be held in the Aula Magna in Partenope Street at 10.30 local time on Monday, April 3. Participants will include Campania regional President Antonio Bassolino and writers Predrag Matvejevic, Gamal al-Ghitani and Abdo Wazen. The Prison Hall (Sala Delle Prigioni) in Castel dell'Ovo will host the presentations of three books between 16.00 and 18.00 on April 3. The titles of the books are 'Cursed Europe' by Predrag Matvejevic, 'The Mediterranean Mirror' and 'Picturesque Mediterranean' by Capasso, Matvejevic, Congedo, Pisano and De Luca.(ANSAMed) RED-KUZ

29/03/2006 19:10

GALASSIA GUTENBERG: BOOK FAIR TO BE PRESENTED ON WEDNESDAY

(ANSAMed) - NAPLES, MARCH 27 - The full program of the 2006 edition of the Galassia Gutenberg (Glutenberg Galaxy) Book Fair will be staged on Wednesday at the 'Sala delle Prigioni' at Castel dell'Ovo in this city. The 17th edition of the fair, scheduled from April 1-4, will be dedicated to Lebanese journalist and historian Samir Kassir, assassinated in Beirut on June 2 last year. Kassir opened the 2005 edition of the event with a conference on the link between literature and information in Mediterranean countries, organised in collaboration with ANSAMed. A conference titled "Democracy of Information in Arab World Countries" organised by ANSAMed will open the book fair on Saturday. Gisele Khoury, a well-known journalist at Al Arabiya television, will attend the event, along with columnist Khaled Fouad Allam, Moroccan journalist Khalid Chaouki, Lebanese journalist Ziad Talhouk, Assem El Kersh from Al Ahrum Weekly, Luigi Mascilli Migliorini from the University of Naples and Stefano Sieni, in charge of foreign relations at the National Council Order of Journalists. The meeting will be chaired by ANSA's Chief Foreign News Editor Giulio Pecora. Arab studies expert Elisabetta Bartuli will present Samir Kassir's last works. Initiatives to take place as part of the book fair include an exhibition dedicated to Arab novels presenting authors such as Rashid Daif, Fuad Al Tararli and Alia Mamdouh. (ANSAMed). KWK-RED

27/03/2006 19:27