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Pak Italy friendship

in the shadow of mountains

From the Duke of Abruzzi to the EvK2Cnr Committee: story of an epic on the big mountains. At the National Art Gallery in Islamabad, a photographic exhibition, a mountain film festival, an archaeological finds exposition, a new Italian-Pakistani cooperation project presentation, to celebrate an hundred years of collaboration between the two countries.

Italy and Pakistan have a special relationship, one extending beyond continents and identified by a symbol: K2, the mountains of the Italians. Since Ardito Desio led his mountaineering expedition to scale the world's second highest and, certainly, most dangerous summit, the friendship with Italy has been continually strengthened.

What started as scientific collaboration has now extended to society, socio-economic and, from now on, even the environment, thanks to the work of the EvK2Cnr Committee, heir of Desio's legacy. But to tell the truth, cooperation between Italy and Pakistan, while



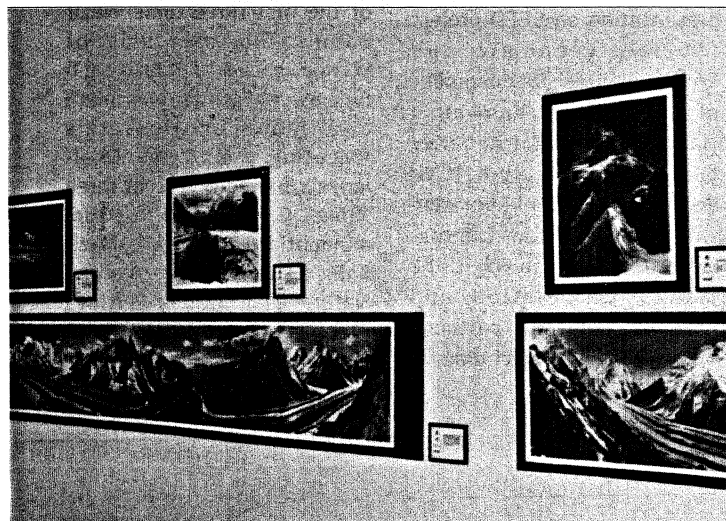
evolving over time, has even earlier origins, dating back to the early 1900s, when the Duke of Abruzzi arrived in the area to explore the mysterious valleys of Karakorum, and was literally awe-struck by the beauty of its mountains, rising up like pyramids from the valley floors. It was an adventurous, daring

challenge he faced.

And K2 rejected him. However, the Duke's men did go on to break the mountaineering height record of the time, when they scaled Chogolisa.

Among its many activities, Ev-K2-CNR Committee has always been committed to the promotion of the mountain environmental world among the larger public and keen to disseminate its culture, its peculiarities and its utmost importance. That is the reason why scientific research and development cooperation activities have always been supported by a thorough communication programme.

To celebrate those times and the hundred years of friendship between the two countries, Ev-K2-CNR organized, on December 14th, 15th and 16th, at the National Art Gallery, pavilion 5, in the capital's sector F5/ 1 in collaboration with the Embassy of Italy in Islamabad and different Pakistani partners, such as the Karakorum International University and the Alpine Club Pakistan, a joint Pakistani-Italian celebration for the 100 Years of the Expedition of Prince Luigi Amedeo of Savoy to Karakorum, as well as the 100 years of friendship and collaboration between Pakistan and Italy.





"100 YEARS AFTER" initiative aims, through different events, to the dissemination of the knowledge related to mountain environment, biodiversity, culture, tourism, but also to promote the potential of the mountain region in terms of sustainable development and entrepreneurship.

The National Art Gallery in

Islamabad hosted the formal inauguration of the photo exhibit "100 years after: on the route of Duke of Abruzzi expedition to Karakorum" as well as review of the historical pictures taken by Vittorio Sella during the 1909 Italian expedition to Karakorum were held on December 14th 2009.

The same evening at the NAG Auditorium there was formal

presentation on SEED project (Social, Economic and Environmental Development of the Central Karakorum National Park). An initiative promoted by the Ev-K2-CNR Committee, in collaboration with the Karakorum International University in Gilgit, the Italian Cooperation and different Pakistani partners.

The five years project aims at

an integrative development of CKNP region through supporting the implementation and management of CKNP, improving local wellbeing and livelihood options.

The SEED project represents a real and concrete example of the collaboration between Italy and Pakistan: realizing the close interrelation between poverty alleviation, social and economic development for local people, environmental research and conservation of the unique natural beauty of the area, the SEED project aims to catalyze an integrated social, economic and environmental development, including the realization of Central Karakorum National Park.

The presentation was followed by documentary film "Challenge to K2 - The Italians' mountain" produced by Italian National Television illustrating the Ev-K2-CNR activities in the Northern Areas of Pakistan.

Another important moment during the December 14 evening was the official opening of the first Pakistani Mountain Film Festival: starting from the next year, in fact, Islamabad will host a real international film contest like Trento and Banff.

On December 15th and 16th, for this first edition of the PMFF, at the NAG Auditorium was shown to the public 6 documentary films dedicated to the mountains. On 15th starting there was a showing of the first three films: Nazir Sabir's "To the Ends of Himalayas"; Donagh Coleman's "Stone pastures"; and Manzoor Hussain's "Meeting the Paiju Challenge"., next day further three films: Carlo Rossi's "Quei momenti così intensi"; Nazir Sabir's "Everest Men Against Nature" and Guido Perrini's "Ten, a cameraman's tale" were shown. ☐