



News Flash Jameena Baig inaugurated International Mountain Film Festival in Islamabad (By: S. QAZI)

Century of Italian Presence in

Century of Italian Presence in Karakoram marked

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"It is one hundred years that the Italians are working in the Karakorum, having inherited Professor Desio's dreams and scientific planning the Ev-K2-CNR on its way to explore, research and mainstream the issues of the Karakorum. For the last five years, we are focused on the consolidation of the great Central Karakorum National Park (CKNP) in the K2 region under the framework of the SEED project." This was stated by Agostino da Polenza, president of the Ev-K2-CNR while marking a century of Italian presence in the Karakoram. The event, held in Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA), was inaugurated by the Italian Embassy with the opening of Filippo de Filippi photo exhibition 'Rediscovering the abode of snow' and a documentary screening under the title: 'Italian Science and Cooperation at the Shadow of K2'.



The mountaineer Agostino, who led the "Ev-K2-CNR Project" with Prof. Ardito C. Desio, the Italian National Research Council (CNR) in the Karakorum mountain range including the superlative features that make up the Karakoram. The features include size, shape, harmony, shape, colour, and light, to name a few. The Karakoram is a vast mountain range in the K2 region.

The photo exhibition showcases the work of the Italian researcher and explorer Filippo De Filippi, who led the expedition in 1913, and the footprints of his adventures in the Karakoram and Central Asia. 'Rediscovering the Karakoram' is a photo exhibition dedicated to the great scientific expedition led by the Italian scientist and explorer Filippo De Filippi in 1913.

The expedition was a major step forward for the knowledge of Karakoram on its scientific side.

Federico Bianchi, Head of the Cultural Affairs at the Italian Embassy, said "The Karakoram has been familiar names in Italy for very long time. It was 1909, when the Duke of Abruzzi, the son of the Duke of Salaparuta, crossed the Karakoram, creating an ideal bridge between our two countries. Since then, many scientists, explorers and mountaineers came to the region. Amongst these: Ardito Desio, who led the expedition in 1929 for the first time, together with his companions Lacedelli and Compagnoni, was the first to reach the top of the K2 in 1954, and he continued his expeditions until few years before his death in 2001. An Italian Museum was inaugurated to commemorate such achievements in Skardu in 2004.

"Today, as Italy and Pakistan enjoy excellent bilateral relations, the Italian Government, within its portfolio of development programmes worth over 226 million euro, has decided to fund different activities in the mountainous areas of Pakistan. The main one is the Social Economic Environmental Development Project (SEED), in the framework of the Pakistani Italian Debt-for-Development Swap Programme, that amounts to about 8 million euros and is implemented by the "Everest K2 CNR Committee" in collaboration with the Karakorum International University and several prestigious Italian, Pakistani and international partner institutions." Bianchi concluded.

The Ev-K2-CNR Committee and the Karakorum International University (KIU) in the framework of the SEED Project have also organized a series of events in Islamabad and Skardu to celebrate and underline the development of the bilateral cooperation between Italy and Pakistan.

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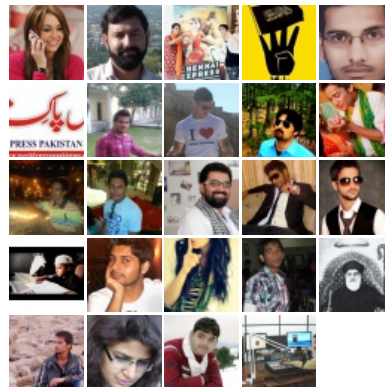
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