



Pakistan marching towards the future

I've seen a country marching towards the future

geopolitical importance could also be extended to a geo-economic role. It's a complex country, but one that nobody wishes to see destabilised. Not China nor India, nor the US, and certainly not the Arab countries. Eni and Fincantieri are investing and building bases in Pakistan. Fiat continues to build there 30 thousand tractors a year, albeit on rather old production lines, with eyes fixed firmly on the future development of Pakistan's farming and food-processing sector and laying bets on innovation. Impregilo, in its turn, is now returning to Pakistan to work on dam construction, after its successful experience of a few years back in the construction of the Tarbela dam. Put briefly, if some of Italy's most important companies are investing in the country, there must be some reason.

Italy and Pakistan's shared tradition of exploration and collaboration is more than a hundred years old, and the two countries also share the history of Pakistan's symbolic mountain, K2. Moreover, for more than twenty years, the EvK2Cnr Committee has been furthering this exploratory, mountaineering and scientific tradition in Pakistan, in the area of Karakorum, through its collaboration initiatives

and, in more recent years, a series of development cooperation projects.

Having said all this, to help people, businessmen, scientists and politicians towards a greater appreciation of the true worth of Pakistan, I want to speak about Seed, the most important international cooperation project devoted to the safeguard and development of the Karakorum region. It is an experience that has astounded both myself and my co-workers. A couple of months ago, with the valuable assistance of our Embassy and Italian Cooperation agencies, we signed a contract in the framework of the agreement that allows the Pakistani government to convert its debts into development projects. The Seed contract was ready to be signed. Three months ahead of the date initially anticipated and, after a couple of weeks, we were handed a cheque for the first major advance sum. It's a small example, but one that reflects a really efficient way of working based on a clear will to get things done, to get international collaboration operational. It is undeniable that Pakistan also means safety checks, difficulties in getting around and road

blocks, security service warnings received via SMS, news of terrorist attacks, and anti-terrorist military actions. It's a difficult country with fundamentalist leanings, tribal interests, cultural and political problems, but it is also a nation with a strong cultural and scientific tradition. The University of Lahore is the oldest in Asia. Eighty percent of Pakistan's population depend for their income on agriculture, a sector representing little more than 20 percent of the gross national product. Desperate and widespread poverty and land neglect are the realities of a country made up of laudable contradictions, but also a land of great opportunity. For the few reasons I have mentioned, along with thousands of others that reflect the reality of this great country, I will continue to advise and promote Pakistan for its splendid mountains, deep valleys, through which flow great rivers, like the Indus, the green oases of high-altitude deserts, its universities where the hopes of young people reside, its men and women and those cities so full of people, tension, enthusiasm and movement. A country that is mostly poor, but strong like its land and its people.



A century-long friendship in the shadow of K2

From the Duke of Abruzzi to the EvK2Cnr Committee, story of an epic on the big mountains

In Islamabad, a photographic exhibition and a mountain film festival to celebrate an hundred years of collaboration between countries. Among its many activities, EvK2Cnr 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.

As far as public event concerned, EvK2Cnr is currently organizing, on December 14th, 15th and 16th, 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.

This initiative, "100 YEARS AFTER", 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 Galley in Islamabad will host on Monday December 14th the official opening of this three days initiative. This first day will be reserved only to invited guests; the representatives of the local and international authorities will attend to the formal inauguration of the photo exhibit "100 years after: on the route of Duke of Abruzzi expedition to Karakorum", a review of the historical pictures taken by Vittorio Sella during the 1909 Italian expedition to Karakorum.

The same evening at the NAG Auditorium will be also formally presented the SEED project (Social, Economic and Environmental Development of the Central Karakorum National Park). An initiative promoted by the EvK2Cnr Committee, in collaboration with the Karakorum International University in Gilgit and the Italian Cooperation. The five years project aims at an integrative development of CKNP region through supporting the implementation and management of CKNP, improving local welfare and livelihood options.

The presentation will be followed by documentary film "Challenge to K2: The Italians' mountain" produced by Italian National Television illustrating the EvK2Cnr activities in the Northern Areas of Pakistan.

Another important moment during the December 14th evening will be 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 Bormio.

For this first edition at the NAG Auditorium on December 15th and December 16th will be shown to the public 6 documentary films dedicated to the mountains.

Always at the NAG on December 15th will open another exhibit "Valleys of Memory. Ancient people sites and Images from Swat"; the exhibition runs the Italian archaeological mission in the Swat Valley.

The exhibitions at NAG will remain open from Dec 15th 2009 to Jan 31st 2010



Embassy of Italy

The Ev-K2-Cnr Committee and the Italian Embassy Present

The Joint Pakistani-Italian celebration for the 100 Years of the Expedition of Prince Luigi Amedeo of Savoy to Karakorum

14-15-16 DECEMBER, 2009 – Islamabad

Three days of events celebrating the long and historical collaboration and friendship between Pakistan and Italy

National Art Gallery F-5/1, Islamabad

Monday, December 14, 2009

(only for invited guest)

5.15 pm - Formal inauguration of the photo exhibit: "100 years after, on the route of Duke of Abruzzi expedition to Karakorum"

5.45 pm - AUDITORIUM: Official opening of "PAKISTAN MOUNTAIN FILM FESTIVAL" and "SEED Project Presentation" by EvK2Cnr Committee and Karakorum International University

6.30 pm: Showing of the documentary film "Challenge to K2 - The Italians' mountain". EvK2Cnr activities in the Northern Areas of Pakistan" produced by Italian National Television in collaboration with the EvK2Cnr Committee

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

5.30 pm - Formal inauguration of the exhibit: "Valleys of Memory. Ancient people sites and Images from Swat" by IMAO - Istituto italiano per l'Africa e l'Oriente in collaboration with Department of Archaeology & Museums, Ministry of Culture, Government of Pakistan

5.30 pm: "PAKISTAN MOUNTAIN FILM FESTIVAL" in collaboration with Cervino Film Festival and Alpine Club of Pakistan

Movie shows:

"To the Ends of Himalayas" by Nazir Sabir
"Stone pastures" by Douglas Coleman
"Meeting the Paju Challenge" by Manzoor Hussain

Wednesday, December 16, 2009

5.30 pm: "PAKISTAN MOUNTAIN FILM FESTIVAL" in collaboration with Cervino Film Festival and Alpine Club of Pakistan

Movie shows:

"Quel momento così intenso!" by Carlo Rovelli
"Everest Men Against Nature" by Aviad Ourfali
"Ten, a cameraman's tale" by Guido Perrini

The exhibition will remain open from December 15th 2009 to January 31st 2010

