

INTERNATIONAL THE NEWS

Celebrating friendship under the shadows of mountains

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Celebrating the century-long friendship with Pakistan under the shadows of the glorious mountains of the Northern Areas, the Italian embassy joined EvK2CNR Committee and Pakistan National Council of the Arts to hold a photo exhibition, highlighting the epic story of the first Italian Mountaineering Expedition led by Duke Abruzzi and his team back in 1909, opening at the National Art Gallery on Monday.

The three-day events, marking the century celebration, also include a film festival and a presentation by EvK2CNR Committee on 'Seed Project' — a Pak-Italian collaboration on socio-economic development.

Inaugurated by Senator Nayyar Hussain Bokhari, Leader of the House, the exhibition showcases a vibrant display of the stunning spectrum of the world's most beautiful yet most dangerous mountain peak, K2, and Karakoram Range, captured by Vittorio Sella during the historic expedition.

Titled '100 Years After: On Route of Abruzzi Expedition to Karakorum', the photographs displayed at the exhibition are a review of the historical photographs taken by Sella during that expedition, showing high and mighty peaks with the wide stretched mountain ranges and valleys captured through the lens.

Speaking to 'The News', the Italian ambassador said, "We are proudly celebrating a new beginning of the century old friendship with Pakistan under the shadows of mountains." He said Italy is starting a number of important projects to promote the Gilgit-Baltistan region under the collaboration of EvK2CNR on economic, environmental, educational and cultural fronts that would open a new chapter for yet another hundred years of Pakistan-Italy friendship.

The ambassador said the friendship between Italy and Pakistan has been increasing continually with closer scientific collaboration that also extends to society, socio-economics, and now towards the aim of achieving greater sustainable environmental cooperation.

The exhibition followed the screening of a documentary titled 'Challenge to K2 - The Italian's Mountain' produced by Italian National Television, illustrating the EvK2CNR activities in the Northern Areas of Pakistan. Among its many activities, EvK2CNR Committee has also been committed to the promotion of the mountain environmental world among the larger public and is keen to disseminate the importance of cultural heritage along with scientific research and development through highly communicative programmes and interactions.

The three-day Italian gala also includes a film festival on December 15 (today) and 16 (tomorrow), screening six documentaries dedicated to the mountains of Pakistan. The films to be screened also include Nazir Sabir's 'To the Ends of Himalayas', Donagh Coleman's 'Stone Pastures', Manzoor Hussain's 'Meeting the Pajju Challenge', Carlo Rossi's 'Quei Momenti Cost Intensi', Guido Perrini's 'Ten - A Cameraman's Tale', and another of Nazir Sabir's docu-films 'Everest - Men Against Nature'.

Apart from the film fest, there is another exhibition titled 'Valleys of Memory; Ancient People, Sites and Images of Swat'. This exhibition is the result of an Italian archaeological mission in and around Swat valley, organised by the Italian Institute of African & Oriental Studies (ISIAO) in collaboration with Department of Archaeology & Museums, a part of Pakistan's Ministry of Culture.