

*Between ourselves*

**Pakistan "System"**

BY AGOSTINO DA POLENZA

Five years ago in view of a Side Event that EvK2Cnr was organizing at the UN Commission on Sustainable Development, we started to think on the evolution of our activities. We realized that in the last twenty years we have reached an absolutely innovative approach which had the mountains in its centre and found in the scientific research the link to several activities which spaced from basic research to cooperation activities and capacity building, reaching evolved entrepreneurial systems, able to guarantee a sustainable and lasting development in the countries where we were working.

In these days I have realized that this paradigm is exactly what we are applying today in Pakistan: science, cooperation and entrepreneurship for a long and sustainable development. The strong link with the territory and the population, the deep knowledge of different realities, the need of these lands and the efficient scientific expertise have put EvK2Cnr by a natural process and without forcing in the situation of using instruments and methodologies in an innovative system for the development cooperation.

A system composed by single specific initiatives, but inserted among the all cooperation projects like the Seed project, has been conceived to create managerial competences and promote sustainable and commercial initiatives, destined to be transformed into stable sources of local well-being. Since the beginning of our presence in Pakistan the scientific research has represented a precious instrument for the local decision-makers to allow them to protect and efficiently manage the Karakorum resources.

A research addressed to strategic areas of intervention dictated by the same inhabitants, the study of the territory and the endemic potential: environment and natural resources; natural resources; sustainable tourism; agriculture and commerce; education and consolidation of professional competences; entrepreneurial development.

The scientific research in Pakistan - firstly by the Karakorum Trust project and the Hkhk Partnership, now with Seed, Share e KT II, thanks to the hundreds of national and International collaboration with the Cnr institutes, the University of Milan, Trieste and Padua, the local institutions, the KIU, the Wwf Pakistan, the Akrsp, Unep, Wmo and many others - has supported and strengthened the development cooperation interventions, promoting entrepreneurial initiatives which had science as methodological support and presupposition.

Pakistan is going through a very delicate moment. The floods have devastated an already worn out country. A basic economy, which needs new development mechanisms and a deep reinforcement, joins up the humanitarian emergency. The international Monetary Fund and the countries "Friends of Pakistan" are giving a strong impulse to infrastructures and companies. A further effort should be done to better understand in which ways and terms we, as Italians, with our pmi (small and medium companies) can give our support.

*Tragedy numbers: 1800 dead, 3000 injured, 20 millions homeless people*

**The catastrophe**

The flood has submerged entire regions of Pakistan. It is a humanitarian emergency

BY WAINER PEDA

It is difficult to imagine such devastation. Our mind and eyes can hardly reproduce the image of millions of homeless people starving after such a huge disaster. Only pictures can give us shots of the catastrophe that towards the end of the summer swept away entire regions of Pakistan.

The monsoon, which regulates the natural cycle of Central-Asia, this time, has arrived in a very violent way. Several days of rain submerged part of the country and melted the mountains. Landslides did the rest.

(at pages 3-4-5)



**in this issue**



*Let's give a house to the flood victims*

(at page 5)



*New risks after Hunza lake*

(at page 4)



*Minister Frattini: It's time to go over*

(at page 7)

**Emergency, Italians come into action**

The Farnesina and the Italian cooperation immediately rallied for Pakistan



An immediate financial intervention and a cargo with humanitarian aids for the floods victims: these are the aids immediately sent by Italy to Pakistan, kneeled down by the worst floods since 1929. The Minister of the Foreign Affairs, Franco Frattini, during a telephone conversation with his Pakistani colleague Qureshi, said "my hearth felt sympathy for the victims and solidarity of the Italian Government in this moment of great difficulty". Mr. Frattini immediately offered a humanitarian flight from Brindisi, predisposed by the Italian Cooperation with first neces-

sity aids (medicines, generators, water purification units, food products) and he informed his colleague Qureshi of €1 million fund allocation, in favour of the UN agencies which are operating on the areas destroyed by the flood. Further € 2,5 millions will be allocated in the next reconstruction phase.

The Pakistani Minister of Foreign Affairs shown a deep appreciation and gratitude for the Italian act. The Minister of the Foreign Affairs foresees a €400.000 fund allocation to sustain the assistance activities

(follows at page 3)

**Baltoro and K2 cleaned from rubbish**

Tons of rubbish were taken away from the high fields of K2 and the Baltoro glacier. This rubbish will end up in the ecological discharge based in Skardu and made in Italy. These are some of the results obtained by the two expeditions organized by the EvK2Cnr Committee to some of the most beautiful natural sanctuaries of the planet. Maurizio Gallo, technical responsible of the project "Clean up expedition" tells us about the hard working weeks and the need for the alpinists and the trekking who go to the Karakorum to be conscience stricken.

(at page 10)

**Aga Khan and EvK2Cnr Committee together for Pakistan**



Into the emergency

The deep Pakistan. Remote and beautiful lands at the feet of Karakorum which take in people used to live with what such a rich and ungovernable land offers, isolated by the world and sometimes unaware of the wealth and the resources they have. In this framework a historical friendship was which counts nearly a century of exploration, research, alpinism and cooperation. Today it is living one of its most beautiful moments, because of the collaboration between Aga Khan Foundation, a popular and much decorated foundation dedicated to the sustainable development of Asia and eastern Africa, and EvK2Cnr Committee, which is an international point of reference in the sectors of the scientific research and the development cooperation at high altitude. The Aga Khan Foundation, was established in 1967 by Aga Khan IV, it operates all over the

world through local partnerships and strictly selected organizations like EvK2Cnr, which it has been working for more than 5 years with the Pakistani agency Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (Akrsp) for the development of the Central Karakorum National Park. This is an area surrounded by villages, which before the construction of Karakorum Highway in the 70's, it was completely isolated from the rest of Pakistan and it only survives on agriculture. Here the needs are basic: bridges, roads, irrigation systems, jobs, natural resources exploitation and entrepreneurship. It was in 2005 when, for the first time EvK2Cnr and Akrsp got together in favour of the Pakistani mountains, with the aim of promoting the sustainable development, reducing the

(follows at page 5)

**K2, is it a mountain for everyone?**

BY MAURIZIO GALLO

I spent most part of my summer at the feet of K2: the mountain which is in the dreams of all the alpinists, mainly the Italians. For me, during the last years, it has become my second house. After the 2004 expedition which celebrated the 50th anniversary after Ardito Desio's first ascent, I have directly supervised all the activities that the EvK2Cnr is organizing to bring real dignity to the K2 National Park project, one of the biggest frozen park of the world, the "cradle" of the Indo, where the water, which quenches the thirst of half Asia, gushes out. I was there for a clean up expedition of the "perfect mountain", which was in 60 years made dirty by the alpinists in an indecent way. We collected residuals from past expeditions, buried by seven lays of ice: the tents destroyed by the wind reappeared, real finds which could reconstruct the story of the alpinism on this mountain. From Ardito Desio's times up to now everything has changed on K2, especially in the last three years.

Three terrible years for the third millennium alpinism. A real nega-

(follows at page 10)

TESTIMONIES FROM KARAKORUM

## Merelli, the destruction seen by my own eyes

BY VALENTINA D'ANGELLA

On his coming back from K2 Mario Merelli, a mountaineer coming from Bergamo, told us about the flood occurred in Pakistan, and that he did see by his own eyes.

**Mario you were in Karakorum last summer: what did you see? Which are the effects that the flood has left?**

While you were asking me the question my hair stood on end. Reaching Skardu, we realized that having missed K2 was not that indispensable thing. The most shocking experience was to see people losing their houses, to see all roads destroyed, to see people without food, to see Pakistani people, especially the outcasts, being in really bad conditions.

**How was the situation of the country?**

All bridges of Karakorum Highway have collapsed: 5 bridges down, one thousand kilometres of roads closed. 70 km of road from Askole to Skardu have collapsed, in many points it was crashed. We spent 6 days wet from morning to night, and rivers were in flood. However, they've got something that we maybe have forgotten, that is tucking up their sleeves, as to belittle their problem. When we got down the last region, they were completing the potatoes harvesting, which was really good, and dimensions of potatoes were extraordinary. Baltistan economy is based on potato trade, even though it seems to be a banal concept. Quintal sacks of potatoes were heaped at the side of the roads, ready to be carried away by trucks, but if truck don't reach them this year, all potatoes will soon go bad because they haven't any warehouse.

**It seems a blind alley...**

Problems will rise later on, when potatoes will have gone bad, the few supplies will be run out.

We paid an extra for the jeep as the fuel has passed from 50 to 200 rupees, so from 50 cents to 2 euro. They've run out of fruits and vegetables, without flour, yet Skardu is a big town.

**In your opinion, in Europe, has this catastrophe been treated enough or should we talk about it much more?**

I do think that this fact has not been discussed at all. If this should have happened in other countries, the international cooperation would have moved long before. In this case, it moved one month after the emergency had really risen up, during the second flood. Because in Pakistan we had two floods: the first on the Northern region, the second one on the Southern, where there are the big towns and the airports. On the Northern Pakistan, where you need to walk and spend much more exertion, anybody did anything. I dare say that we, as mountaineers, are much more interested into this first part, so we think we should do more.



It has been a new tragic summer on K2. The victim, this time, it is the Swedish Fredrik Ericsson, crashed while attempting to summit launched during the night of 5th August with the Austrian Gerlinde Kaltenbrunner. It happened again on the Bottleneck, about 8,350 meters above sea level: the uphill stretch on the summit of the mountain in 2008 saw the collapse of the crevasses and the death of 11 climbers. He dreamed of ski down from the summit of K2. Indeed, from the top eight thousand of the 3 highest in the world, after having climbed without oxygen. And he wanted to start with the K2, and then he groped for the Everest and Kangchenjunga in the fall within a year. It was not the first time he tried. He was back on the mountain two years after the tragic attempt of the Italian Michele Fait, who died falling from camp 2. Without knowing that he was willing to wait for the same fate.

Ericsson, the Swedish mountaineer and extreme ski champion, crashed in the morning of 6th August by the bottleneck, while he was climbing to the summit with Kaltenbrunner, who sought his 14th eight thousand without oxygen. A 1000 meters fall, which brought him to die instantly.

"Around 8.10 Gerlinde called horrified by camp 2 - tells his husband Ralf Dujmovits - Fredrik was suddenly felt and she was going to verify what really happened. After a while Gerlinde called again, while informing she had found just one ski. Most probably Fredrik had felt from right side of the climb to camp 3. Because of the very bad visibility she could not be more precise.

TRAGEDY AT HIGH ALTITUDE

## K2, Eriksson fell from the Bottleneck and died

DI VALENTINA D'ANGELLA



A spectacular image of K2 just above the Bottleneck

Later, during the second call, Gerlinde communicated that Fredrik, during the free climb into the deep snow, he wanted to plant a piton into the rock and, most probably, he had felt while he was trying to, maybe not finding any grip". Then, Mrs Kaltenbrunner started descending slowly, in bad weather conditions. Around 9 o'clock she met Darek Zaluski and Fabrizio Zangrilli, who were descending too and she came back to base camp with them. Eriksson body has been found and recognized by the Russian Yura Ermachek, 400 meters from camp 3 (7200 mt). The recovery would have expose rescuers to avalanches risk, thus he has been left there, in accordance with his family.

"We must say goodbye to an extraordinarily gentle man -. Most probably, Fredrik Ericsson was the strongest climber here at base camp, and beloved by everyone. As nobody else, he knew to bring good spirits, always optimist, he infected us with his passion for the mountaineering and ski-tourism. Dear Fredrik, you were a nice person and you will be into our memories forever. Our thought goes to your parents and to your friends".

Ericsson was born on 14th March 1975 in Sundsvall, Sweden. When he was 18 he became ski instructor and began to travel all over the world for skiing on the most fascinating mountains on earth. Since 2000, he was living in Chamonix, France, and from 2003 he had started with Himalaya; he run down the Shisha Pangma central summit and he also tried the peak of fabulous Gasherbrum II, Kangchenjunga, Laila Peak and Dhaulagiri before his sad ending on K2.

MN montagnanews

EvK2Cnr Committee - Mountain Issue  
Concept: Wainer Preda

www.montagna.tv  
via G.Falcone 13/15 - 24129 Bergamo  
Tel. +39 0353230536 - Fax +39 035384589  
email: redazione@montagna.org  
Press: Grafistampa srl - Zanica (BG)

## He imagined to have climbed K2: the unbelievable story of Christian Stangl



Christian Stangl

He had imagined it. Accusations were true, Christian Stangl has never reached the summit of K2 last summer, and he just invented it. The sky-runner made a clamorous confession during a press conference in Wien, in front of the Orf Television. He admitted: "I was in trance and thought to be on the summit".

It's over and done with, and perhaps in the worst manner. The strong accusations of his expedition companions, such as Zsolt Torok, Gheorghe Dijmarescu and the Kazakh Maxut Zhumayev, have all been confirmed. Christian Stangl has not reached the peak of K2 on 13th August.

It seems he stopped at around 7500 mt, camp 3 practically, so 1200 meters below the summit and from this position he would have taken the picture. Stangl affirmed to have been into a trance, and have suffered the stress and the fear of failure. Such pressures, he admitted, would have come by himself, by his huge wish to reach the greatest performances, and not by his sponsors; to much an extent that the climber would now be suffering of the burnout syndrome, as pathological result to a stressful process.

The interesting thing is that the climber had spent so much work on the vision of himself on the summit, so to

convince himself to have been up there. "I have built mental images in which I saw myself on the summit", he declared to Austrian press during his last attempt to explain his error.

After having discussed with his girlfriend and his family, the 44 years old sky-runner decided to let the truth become public and to answer to many more and more insistent questions, which local and international press rose. "I regret for myself above all - he declared -. The main damage is for myself".

K2 was not his greatest interest, stated the mountaineer native of Styria. He simply needed to climb it in view of the "14 Seven Summits". On

the contrary, the ascent to K2 would have not brought any joy, so close up the mountain had not seemed so beautiful to him, rather a relict.

The project of "14 Seven Summits" consists of climbing the first and the second highest peaks of the world. It includes the ascent to McKinley, Mount Logan, Elbrus, Dykh Tau, Kilimanjaro, Batian, Aconcagua, Ojos del Salado, Mount Vinson, Mount Tyree, Carstensz Pyramid, ngga Pulu, Everest and K2. To the Austrian only K2 and Mount Tyree were needed. Meanwhile, first "important" comments inside the climbing community have been released.

"Nor a footnote in the history of alpinism", was the comment of Reinhold Messner, who had believed in Stangl since the beginning. For the climber Funes, the falsification of the picture is an "amusing thing", he is not interested in the speed of climbing at all.

Messner said again, through the Derstandard.at website - "This has nothing to share with the strict alpinism, at most it is "tracking alpinism". Obviously his project would have built an ambitious sportive performance, yet the Styrian climber has never chosen "demanding itineraries" in his career. This should make all sky-runners change".



# Pakistan, 450 billions for the emergency

*That's the allocation in dollars by the Monetary Fund. But the situation of the regions which have been damaged by the flood is still dramatic: 8 millions people to be assisted*

BY ANDREA CHIODI

The International Monetary Fund announced the approval for the allocation of 451 thousand millions of dollars to Pakistan through urgency aids for the victims of floods. The money has been directly transferred into the balance of the Pakistani country disguised as loan, as the Fmi statute does not conceive any deed of gift.

Meanwhile, the situation in Pakistan keeps being dramatic. The catastrophic floods which submerged whole regions, last August, caused something like 1.800 victims and at last 20 millions homeless, a third of Italy.

According to the humanitarian organization "Save the children", there are 2,4 millions of children below 5 years old who have not been reached by foodstuffs aids yet. Women well on in pregnancy are about 100.000, and they will give birth within a month, in potentially lethal conditions for their health and for the unborn.

Save the Children are collecting funds for Pakistan emergency even in Italy,

through Agire-Agenzia Italiana Risposta Emergenze, a network which gathers 11 Italian main NGOs. And the same is doing the Red Cross.

"About 8 millions people have the urgent need for the necessities, such as drinking water, food and medicine, emergency shelters, and 4,8 millions are homeless", declared the extraordinary commission agent of

Italian red Cross, Francesco Rocca.

"At today, 80,000 people have been reached by sanitary units of Pakistan Red Crescent. The Red Cross has distributed foodstuffs to 66,000 families (about 465,000 people) and rescue material to over 195,000 people".

"During these weeks - says Rocca - the attention of medias for the Pakistani

people has felt. Yet, not the emergency. Still 8 millions women, men, old people, children need everything: drinking water, food, clothes, and they should be assisted for months.

The International community is activate: The Red Cross, the Pakistani Red Crescent are distributing food, rescue materials, tents, sanitary and hygienic kits and pottery.



## Italian cooperation already in action

(continues from the front page)

in favour of Unicef and about 25000 families. And a contribution of € 600.000 in favour of the World Food Programme is foreseen for the emergency food assistance. The aim is to fight against eventual epidemic spread and to sustain the assistance activities in the health sector, the hygiene, the water access and the nutrition, with special attention to the most vulnerable ones like women and children. "There is also a bilateral initiative worth €1,5 millions which will identify interventions, in line with what the Pakistani authorities will indicate, and which will involve, for their fulfilment, the Italian NGO present on such territory" Farnesina reports. The Ambassador Attilio Massimo Iannucci announced the new Italian engagement in New York, the Afghanistan and Pakistan special correspondent for the Minister Franco Frattini, during the extraordinary general Assembly of United Nations held last 19th August. The new effort

of the Italian Cooperation can be added to the aids already allocated in line with what the Pakistani authorities and the Italian NGO present on such indicated territory.

To this, two further millions must be added, foreseen to answer to the appeal launched by the United Nations for the floods.

Italy is still active also with interventions already approved, in the development of the rural sector and of the agricultural production, destined to improve the economy of the country. Italy has already confirmed its participation to the Multi Donor Trust Fund (Mdtf) of the World Bank for the reconstruction and the development of the North-Western border areas for a sum of €4 millions. In such contest also the debt conversion, of a total value of €80 millions, foresees specific massive interventions in the areas hit by the floods, while the professional formation programs which mainly interest the most destroyed provinces, will be accelerated.



## Hervè Barmasse: it seems to be at war with nobody

"It seems to be at war, but with nobody". This is how Hervè Barmasse describes the landslide that blocked the Hunza Valley. The climber, native of the Val d'Aosta, was there with Kris Erikson, Eneko Pou and Oscar Gorgorza when an enormous landslip stopped the expedition. Barmasse saw with his own eyes the drama of that people. "The situation up there is still difficult. It is even difficult to tell it. It seems that the Pakistani army is taking everything under control, but we don't really know if it really is, here, there is the same risk of Vajont".

"Things are even more complicated for those who stay upriver - says Barmasse -. There are thousands of inhabitants completely isolated, because the bad weather

prevents all helicopter flights. There is no electricity, no water, because in winter everything is frozen there, neither Internet nor phone connection".

Barmasse was with Marco Cavana, doctor at Aosta hospital, who joined the climbers in their expedition. Once in Gulmit, he became a frontline doctor: "A 30 years old boy suffered a bad spinal lesion, which caused a tetraplegia; he could hardly breathe and swallow. The doctor, who was there, didn't know how to intervene, and that boy was not properly attended. So, we treated him, yet he needed to go to a clinic, but he could not reach the hospital because the helicopter could not flight. Another boy picked up a very nasty wound with electric cables. Each accident, each illness

becomes difficult to manage".

"It is a surreal situation - goes on Cavana -. It seems that the only active thing is the wind. There is one only hospital, even a beautiful structure, but completely empty. There was only a generic doctor, and few medicines, but they do not know how to use them.

"It seems to be at war - adds Barmasse -, but against nobody. The situation is a little gloomy, all isolated, all destroyed. People who try to recover all they can from their house, meanwhile the water of the lake increases. They take the roof wood, or the internal one, while desperately looking for a place whereto build their new house. They take down and load everything on their shoulders. As if in wartime.

### Gilgit Baltistan

## Landslides and overflowing: Hunza is not alone

*The vicissitudes of Attabad Lake could also repeat in other parts of the region*

BY WAINER PREDA

Everything started by an enormous landslide which caused tens of deaths and disappeared, and isolated twenty thousands people. It was January. Those giant stones, which detached from the mountain and fell down, have blocked the river and created an artificial lake, Attabad, which rapidly swelled even to impend onto the Hunza valley, in the Northwest region. For long time, we feared that the artificial dam was suddenly giving way, twenty-three kilometres of water, ready to flow onto the villages. In short, a national emergency.

In order to solve this situation, the authorities have employed the best engineers of the country. The soldiers are creating a drawn, by mean of dynamite, which now seems to work, after thousands of ups and downs. The thaw water comes down from the glaciers, goes into the lake and finally comes out from the drain. Linear, clear and efficient.

Then comes the monsoon, and what a monsoon! Torrential rains brought wet shudders and tense days, but the dam resisted. Today, the situation is under control. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan, Mr Arbab Alamgir, said "floods have

diverted our attention, but now we will concentrate on population who lives in the Attabad lake region, and we will ameliorate the conditions of Karakoram Highway", which has been threatened by the flood up there.

Five villages have been submerged upriver, causing 5,000 homeless people.

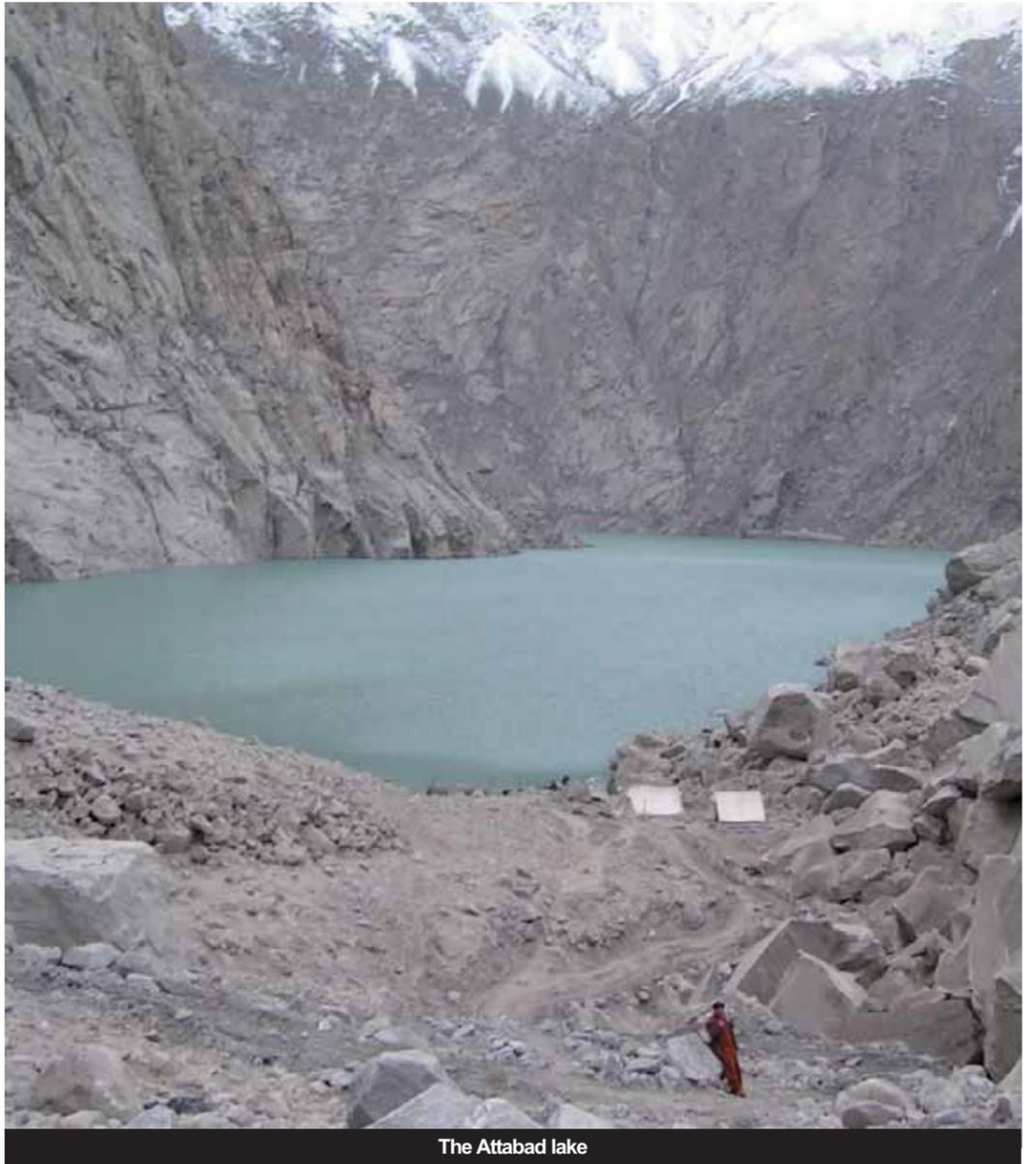
Over 25,000 people are isolated because the only way to go there was the link with Gojal, which was collapsed under the landslide.

Evacuee's life is still precarious. They live under tents or temporary shelters. They claim that water is everywhere, and that children and women cannot leave the refugee camp for playing or working, as if they were in confinement. Obviously, the electricity is a mirage. The Government offered 500 thousand rupees to each family, which lost their fields. Evacuees claimed they were too little, thus the offer rose to 500 thousand. Meanwhile, they built 150 drains in order to direct water.

Then, in August, floods reached also this area. According to official statistics, floods have damaged more than 370 villages and almost one thousand roads in Gilgit-Baltistan, while killing 183 people and wounding hundreds. Over than 2,800 families were affected by

the landslides. Five thousand heads of cattle have been swept away. Water fury destroyed 182 bridges, cutting off any link among the villages for over than a month, and causing a new alimentary crisis. Into the agriculture field, about 70 thousand km<sup>2</sup> of land have drowned in the water. And 500 drains have been lost.

After the floods, the Governor of Gilgit-Baltistan quantified all damages, and this is the result: 12 thousand millions euro. The announcement of aids did not bring any effect on the Attabad inhabitants, who are tired and fed up to lead a refugee life. Unfortunately, the destiny of Attabad people could be common to other people of that region. In fact, according to the local press, landslides begin to block some other torrents and rivers, and floods in that area are going to increase. For instance, the village of Chilas has been completely submerged by an artificial basin, which had been created by a landslip, following the intensive torrential rains. As it happened in Attabad. The three hundreds houses, which composed the village, totally disappeared. Now people have only got to pray to Government and to God, but not necessarily following this order.



The Attabad lake

### interview

Luigi Sanseverino  
Duca degli Abruzzi Association

## Italia-Pakistan and the dream of schools connected through iPad

The goal of the Association Duke of the Abruzzi, led by Luigi Sanseverino, is helping Pakistani children through the school.

**Mr Sanseverino, where did your history begin?**

In Somalia. Years ago, we created an orphanage and a school for 300 children. Then, we settled a first aid station. After that, we had no longer possibility to enter in Somalia. I did wait for one year and with 12 friends of mine we decided to create an association for doing something for Pakistan. **Which differences did you find?**

I had already been to K2 base camp in 2004, for carrying the Jack of Military Navy in memory of Duke of Abruzzi. In 2008 I met Maurizio Gallo in Askole and I said to him:

"I'm interested in finding a school to be put back in order. My theory was to settle a school with 5,000 dollars. We did find it and completely restructured it. We bought desks, toys and stoves.

**Which kind of school is it?**

It's a non-denominational school.

**What did the people think?**

We proceeded tactfully. It's been a cultural Exchange. There was no colonization.

**How many children are attending the school?**

At the beginning they were 44, now they are 56, and 10 of which are little girls. Then, the responsible person of the Education Minister in Skardu told me: "it should be nice to create a connection with other school in the Braldo Valley, so

we took in charge other 6 schools. Slowly, we will put back in order classrooms, desks and structures. We also opened a library in Sino, where shelves are full of books, tables and little armchairs. We did everything by ourselves, supported by a minimal budget. Obviously, we also pay for our journey, board and lodging.

**What does push you over there?**

It is a challenge. We conceive it like that. We adopt a school and follow those boys until they come of age. During the first year, we built an experimental school. After that, we had the opportunity to take 6 governmental schools. We will set a 7 schools network. But we immediately face an exigency: the training for the teachers.

**How to do that?**

In accordance with the Ministry of Education we decided to create a training centre for the teachers. The Agnelli Foundation supported us. At the moment we are facing the executive project, we are in contact with Teresa Mapei, who owes a worldwide known architectural office. We found her a very helpful person. We met in Madrid and in 48 hours we put down in black and white the projects of the library, of the training centre and other schools. The designs fully respect the materials, the local building method and the environment. All schools and their interiors will be redesigned. Within a year, we will create the training centre

in Shigar, inside a governmental school. There will be a pair of classrooms and a library. Books will be both in Urdu and English. Textbooks will be agreed with the population. Shigar is the last place to be reached by electricity. We also contacted producers of multimedia boards and iPad, able to include 4-5,000 books, in order to let all students read. Thanks to this technology we will link Pakistani schools with Italian ones. We did find some schools willing to try a cross-lesson via iPad. This is the challenge: set up schools which become part of the environment, because children are equal everywhere, the most important thing is that they live in the beauty.



(continues from the front page)

poverty and improving the Northern Areas lifestyles.

The Aga Khan also supported EvK2Cnr during the delicate moments of the rescue missions of the Italian alpinists, like at Nanga Parbat, offering its means. "The first contacts with the Aga Khan started 20 years ago" says Agostino Da Polenza, president of the EvK2Cnr Committee. "I am talking about the 8000 metres altitude projects and the pyra-

## Together for Karakorum population

mid laboratory. Consequently the collaboration has grown up to a series of common projects under the aegis of Karakorum Trust, the great programme of development cooperation promoted by EvK2Cnr to implement the Central Karakorum National Park (Cknp), the K2 park, Ardito Desio's dream, it already existed decades before but only on papers".

In a few years EvK2Cnr and Akrsp have allowed villages of

the Braldo and Hushe, near the K2, to change and improve their health, work, environment and tourism sectors, which thanks to trekkings and expeditions represent one of the most fruitful source of wealth: from the professional education, to women's work, from the reforestation to fruit plant cultivation, from irrigation channels to connection roads, to improve the socio-economic conditions. They spe-

cially took action in the villages of Pakura, Mongrong e Askole, which rises at 3048 metres of altitude, and it is the most ancient village of the valley, a historical rest point for expeditions, which, from here onward, they continue without means of transport with trekking on glaciers. Akrsp has also taken a "census" in the High Valley Braldo which it has allowed a first demographical registration of the area,

with information on resources, infrastructures, social capacity and on the living state of buildings.

Considering the excellent obtained results with Karakorum Trust, today the collaboration with Akrsp has grown with Seed, the EvK2Cnr Committee development cooperation project, signed last year and funded by of Pakistan Italian Debt for Development Swap agreement (Pidsa), which consists in a new and vast number of

initiatives in favour of the Karakorum Mountains. Seed has drawn on the same Karakorum Trust projects, which were successfully concluded, taking them in other Northern Areas and enlarging the activities in the medical sector, with professional courses for nurses, obstetricians, the realization of a medical dispensary network in different villages. It will consequently be necessary to work on irrigation to make new lands cultivable and supply

drinkable water to villages, improving at the same time the hygienic conditions of the population.

Roads will be built among villages and markets, schools, fruit tree nurseries and greenhouses. Managing training courses will be held for agricultural firms and teachers. In other words, much work will be done to give these people some development basis which should last long, respect the environment and the local tradition.

## Here Baltistan

### That's what Italian experts found when they arrived in the Northern areas

BY SARA SOTTOCORNOLO

Valleys submerged by mudslide. Men in water up to their knees who wonder around some destroyed houses powerless. Crowded funerals behind lines of corpses which seem endless. Children who open their hands asking a soldier for some rice. Improvised rafts on grey water, with which the people try to keep safe their few belongings: a blanket, a motorbike, some piece of wood. This is what the flood images tell, a catastrophe which submerged the Pakistani valleys, from the Gilgit-Baltistan mountains up to the sea, about a month ago. Two millions houses destroyed or damaged. Twelve millions people in need of humanitarian help and two and a half millions of cultivation went destroyed. These are the scary numbers, given by the Ministry of the Pakistani agriculture through the National Disaster Management Authority. Indo and its effluents left millions of people in desperate conditions with the winter approaching: many of them, in the areas of Punjab and Sindh, are still without drinkable water and data show that exponential increases of intestinal, respiratory and coetaneous illnesses are increasing. The disaster hit a country already made fragile by the huge hearth-quake in 2005 and from the landslide that 10 months ago eviscerated the Hunza Valley, creating an artificial lake 23 km long, which has isolated dozens of thousand people. The government tries to help, but during the ONU summit he admitted not being able to face the enormous emergency on his own.

Many international aids arrived and are arriving to Pakistan. But the mountains are a remote place where, bringing help is very difficult. There is however someone, who has been working for these remote and magnificent areas. It is an Italian association, who has been close to the Karakorum for years, through a story of exploration, scientific activity and alpinism, ended up in a great International cooperation activity, for the sustainable development of these areas. It is the EvK2Cnr Committee, funded by Ardito Desio, the popular explotaror, who, in 1954, guided the first expedition which reached the K2 summit, which lays in the earth of the Pakistani Northern Areas. The Committee, today guided by Agostino Da Polenza, is helping Pakistan, together with a historic partner: the Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (Akrsp). Together, EvK2Cnr and Akrsp want to give back a roof to those people who have lost it in the flood. The project, which has received the authorization from DGCS, it will be financed in the framework of the Debt Swap Agreement and at the same time it will be sustained by the Committee through a fund collection which foresees the building of 500 houses in the Baltistan and Ganche districts, where



# Let's give a house to the flood refugees

### How to donate

The fund collection in favour of Akrsp is sustained, in Italy, by the EvK2Cnr Committee, which, for decades, has been promoting research projects and cooperation for the sustainable development of the Pakistani mountains. Once again, it is in frontline to help Pakistan towards the emergency. Participating to the house reconstruction for the flood victims is easy. Donations can be made:

**By current account to Comitato EvK2Cnr at Banco Desio**  
Iban: IT50 W034 4011 1000 0000 0372 400 reason for payment "pro alluvione Pakistan".

**By credit card through our website [www.montagna.tv](http://www.montagna.tv)**

Karakorum and K2 people, indelible symbol of each person who loves mountains, especially the Italians, wait for help from those who live and love the high peaks.



it will be necessary to intervene also on roads and infrastructures and re-activate the local economy. The works will be given to the people of the villages hit by the flood, under the Akrsp supervision. A project, then, which it will not be limited to a donation. But it lets the protagonist to live the reconstruction, creating competences and economic mechanisms able to auto-sustain. An action in line with EvK2Cnr Committee, which has worked for decades for the development of these areas, with projects, such as Karakorum Trust and Seed. And with which, it intervened in other extreme situations, like the earthquake in 2005, where EvK2Cnr engaged himself in the reconstruction, financing the schools building.

## Riaz Ul-Hassan: the Seed seeds will blossom in the tourism

The link between two very different worlds. The contact point among methods of Western way of work and the culture and the institutions of the Central Asia. Riaz Ul-Hassan is the resident officer of the EvK2Cnr Committee in Pakistan. He gives support in the scientific research and in the sustainable development activities, which the Italian Committee is trying to achieve, in a not-so-easy country.

### Riaz, how do your activities proceed in Pakistan?

In Pakistan with the EvK2Cnr Committee we have various ongoing projects. The main one is the Seed project, engaged in the social-economic development of the country, in collaboration with the Italian and Pakistani governments through the Pakistani Italian Debt for Development Swap agreement. It is a five-year project for the development of the Central Karakorum National Park and the Gilgit-Baltistan area. This summer, we worked on the high altitude experts training, people who could succeed in the Baltoro cleaning expedition. Besides cleaning the mountains, in the villages, we are trying to install some water

gathering systems to make it cleaner. Thirdly, we have a plant development program in the Upper Braldo region. At the end of the last year we planted 18.000 plants, this year we aim to add another 10 thousand.



Riaz Ul-Hassan

### Which are the major difficulties you come across in your job on those regions?

During the last twenty years EvK2Cnr Committee has developed several activities in Pakistan and I must say that the collaboration with the Pakistani government has intensified, with very good results. The same goes for the local

governors and the communities. There are still, to tell the truth, problems with the transports and the communications in the areas where we are carrying out our projects. In the Skardu area, for instance, we still have difficult air connections. This is the major difficulty that we have to face.

### How do you judge your experience with EvK2Cnr?

It is definitely a very good experience. I deal with a completely different organization, compared to the traditional Pakistani ones. We carry out research and development activities in the poorest areas and we surely bring benefits to the local population. This is why I am very happy to work for the EvK2Cnr Committee in Pakistan.

### What kind of collaboration prospects are there?

The sector, in which we will promote the major collaboration activities in the next period, will be the touristic one. The tourism in Pakistan, a country with many incredible natural beauties, could be a great resource for the country, a complete new resource to exploit. For this reason we are organizing new training courses for por-

ters, guides, and new roles within the tourism sector of the Northern Areas and in the Gilgit-Baltistan.

### Pakistan is rich of resources and natural beauties. Will the country be able to exploit them as it should?

There was an important conference between ambassadors in Skardu last month to present new economical and commercial in the Gilgit-Baltistan area, especially in the tourism, the precious stones and mineral products sectors. At the conference took part 22 ambassadors, who expressed their countries' interests in developing economical and commercial activities in those areas.

### Are there possible developments also for the agriculture?

Together with Italy and the Italian government we funded Impresa, a company with the mission of introducing new and modern technologies in the agricultural field of Pakistan. The technologies used nowadays in Pakistan are old and obsolete. We are trying to introduce new ones in the agriculture of the Northern Areas, through the Seed project.



The European Council Building

## Friends of Pakistan: Frattini, large consensus for a long period strategy

The aim is to stabilize Pakistan and the entire region with a long-term strategy, not merely to provide aid for the emergency exit. This, as reported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Franco Frattini, is the strategy on which "large consensus was found" in the ministerial meeting of the "Friends of Democratic Pakistan" (now enlarged with the presence of Egypt) organized by EU in the European Council headquarters in Brussels.

Leaving the meeting, Frattini confirmed that, with regard to cutting tariffs on Pakistani exports to Europe, Italy agreed as long as they are "targeted measures, not extendable to other countries, with certain time limits". Frattini added that "we are negotiating the list of products". Anyhow, the Minister warned, "the cost of inaction

is higher than the one of action". Without those investments that will enable Pakistan to get out of the conditions that allowed the spread of extremism, he said, "we will have to pay a much higher price". "It's very important to give opportunities and possibilities - he concluded - rather than being donors".

During the meeting, Frattini emphasized the need to ensure strong solidarity to Pakistan in order to prevent the radicalization of extremists, who can exploit the hardship of the civilian population exposed to the tragedy of the floods.

(source Italian Foreign Affairs Minister)

### January 2011 Italy-Pakistan Days

*Six months after the flood, representatives of the two countries will meet to plot future collaborations*

BY ANDREA MAZZOCCHI

Evaluating the cooperation between Italy and Pakistan, after the terrible flood that has devastated the Asian country in the last months. This is the objective of the meeting scheduled on January 26th and 27th in Rome, between the representatives of the two long-time friends countries. The meeting - coordinated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (General Directorate for Asia and the General Directorate for the Cooperation Development), the Embassy of Pakistan, the Italian Development Council in Karachi, the Italian Geographic Society, and the EvK2Cnr Committee, will be held at Villa Celimontana, with the presence of the Italian Ministers and the Pakistani colleagues.

The meeting will be the opportunity to analyze the before and after flood and to fix a common strategy to enable the population of the Asian giant to get out of one of the worst disasters of the recent years.

By assessing some environmental issues characteristic of the new millennium, such as climate change, pollution, energy, anthropic and environmental risk and industrial development, the main aim of this

initiative will be to point out the Italian initiatives in Pakistan.

In the space of the last ten years the relationship between the two countries has developed. In the framework of research and cooperation activities, it has been adopted a cross-cutting and integrated process against a classical top-down approach, and a systemic methodology instead of a charitable action which includes fundamental features such as multiple disciplines, specialization, excellence in the partnership areas, always focusing on the socio-geographical context.

On the basis of needs analyses and local development priorities, working systemically with local stakeholders and international partners, and interacting with broad programs, the priority has always been to carry out activities in different sectors (cooperation, environment, research, entrepreneurship) oriented to the improvement of the quality of life and the well being in developing countries, making the most of local potentials in a sustainable and ecological way.

Last summer flood and its repercussions should make us reflect on the methods of intervention in this country.

What has happened in the post flood period, further confirms that, for being successful and



## Italy holds out his hand to Pakistan

having a lasting stability, the knowledge, the scientific research and obviously the cooperation projects, must be supported by capacity building activities as well as by appropriate local managerial

skills, able to guarantee a strong economic development.

The role of science, research and cooperation is also important in this context of entrepreneurial development,

and it maintains its propulsive connotation. Commercial and industrial undertakings are more certain and prudent if based on authoritative and in-depth scientific knowledge.

The two-days event intends to analyze the Pakistani priority needs six months later the terrible flood that hit the country, analyze how and in which terms our country has supported Pakistan during the emer-

gency, focus on the existing collaborations between Italy and Pakistan and give impulse to new synergies between Italy and Pakistan in the economic, cultural, scientific and entrepreneurial fields.

#### interview

Giuseppe Vegas

Economy vice-minister

### Business initiative: Pakistan may be alternative to China and India

**Vice-minister Vegas, when did you start to deal with Pakistan?**

About six years ago. I went to Skardu with the EvK2Cnr friends and I crossed the Karakorum Highway to see the base camp from which Italians departed to ascent the K2. It was almost a touristic beginning, considering my passion for mountains, but in that occasion I also started to have meetings with local politicians.

**What can you remember of the trip?**

A fascinating and a bit risky trip. Of course there wasn't the danger of the Taliban, therefore you could better appreciate the tourist attractions. I discovered that there was "another Pakistan" than that of the

collective imagination: Pakistan has got stunning landscapes, friendly and clever people, and a territory rich in resources but it is fragile.

**The relations between Italy and Pakistan, history of friendship and exchange, are experiencing a political and economic propulsive phase. Minister Frattini in Brussels for the meeting of the "Friends of Democratic Pakistan" said that the common design is to stabilize Pakistan with a long-term strategy, not limited to providing post-emergency aid, underlining that it is important to give opportunities rather than do donors. What do you think about it?**

I agree with Frattini, who will also go to Pakistan next

month. There is a fundamental point: we can not leave Pakistan at risk of rising extremism and a pervasive presence of the Taliban. We all know what is the danger that comes from the fundamentalism of certain individuals that, under the banner of religion, pursue goals of personal power. Pakistan is at risk because there are areas and populations that have very difficult life conditions, so there is the danger of infiltration by suspected Taliban friends who offer help in exchange of political allegiance. It absolutely must be avoided. Pakistan is a historical friend of the West and it has always been a stabilization force in the region. This stabilization should be maintained and the Government of

Pakistan should be helped in fighting extremists and terrorists. For this, aid resides by the political neighborhood, but also by the material support. Among other things, Pakistan has been firstly hit by the earthquake and then by a serious flood. Everyone should help the Pakistani friends, not only with the emergency aids but also for the reconstruction of the social sector. The flood has taken away a thousand bridges. Infrastructures must be rebuilt and it is necessary to give a modern industrial system to the country.

**What are the appropriate strategies to create new business and exchange opportunities between Italy and Pakistan?**

Pakistan has 180 millions inhabitants. It's a democracy with very low average age: that means that potentially it is a place where you can install ventures and industrial initiatives as an alternative to India and China with a good chance of success. Among other things, Pakistan, geographically, is closer to the Western world. It needs more trade, not just exports. It needs to install manufacturing firms. Italian companies should intervene in Pakistan with projects and infrastructures needed to transport people and goods. Without neglecting that the food industry in Pakistan is currently very backward it could, if properly developed, provide food to the Western and European countries.



# Frattini: Pakistan is a "key player"

*The Italian minister of Foreign Affairs visits Islamabad and speaks of the Asian country as central in terms of political, economic and cultural issues*

BY WAINER PREDÀ

Being able to look forward. It's the hope that the Italian Foreign Minister Franco Frattini made during his visit to Pakistan on November 11 to bring a message of concrete solidarity to the country brought to its knees by the floods that hit 20 million people on 20 percent of the country. "After the initial phase of emergency aid, we must look ahead to lay the foundations for sustainable economic growth for Pakistan and for the entire region," the minister said the Pakistani colleagues during the visit to Islamabad following a few weeks the meeting of the Friends of Pakistan Group in Brussels, and seals the intensification of bilateral cooperation with Islamabad. The meeting in November was part of a process which in the last year saw visits to Italy of

ment: roads, railways, dams, plants for the cold chain, works at the port of Karachi. Good possibilities could open up even in the energy, agriculture and agro-industry, marble and stone, textiles, leather, wood and biotechnology. To promote Italian presence in the country, is expected to Islamabad in December, the second session of the Joint Commission bilateral economic. "Italy - said Frattini - has always spent with conviction at the political level within the European Union to conclude a free trade agreement between EU and Pakistan, which is taking shape in recent weeks. And this, while recognizing that there are many areas where direct competition with those manufactured in Pakistan would be heavy Italian. Indeed, precisely for this reason "the Italian government - continued the Minister - has promoted a project to explain to the Italian business world, the specificity of such

an agreement with Islamabad, Pakistan to ensure that the concessions would remain in a system of uniqueness". Minister Qureshi showed Pakistan satisfaction for the two days meeting that will be held in Rome in January, with the direct participation of Evk2Cnr Committee. On strictly political aspects, Italy insists on the importance of Pakistan as a "key player" in the fight against terrorism and the stabilization of neighboring Afghanistan. And he is "confident of finding a serious ally in Islamabad in the dialogue between civilizations and religions". Before returning to Rome after the political meetings with minister Qureshi and Prime Minister Gilani, Frattini held talks with minister for Minorities Shahbaz Bhatti and made a Lectio magistralis at Qaid e Azam University in Islamabad.



President Zardari, the Finance Minister Shaikh and the Minister for Minorities Bhatti. In Islamabad, Frattini had met top Pakistani authorities (Prime Minister, minister of Foreign Affairs Shah Mahmood Qureshi, minister for Minorities and Chief of the Armed Forces). Many of the objectives of the diplomatic mission given the importance of Pakistan to Central Asian regional balance and stability of the border with Afghanistan. Frattini expressed the Italian and European support for the democratic process and the Pakistani government's efforts against terrorism. he has enhanced the Italian contribution to the post-flood reconstruction and development of EU-Pakistan. The minister said the interest of our country for the rights of minorities and freedom of faith and called for a more effective engagement of the Pakistani government in this field. Frattini also took the opportunity to improve the bilateral relations between Italy and Pakistan. On the economic front, for example, Italian firms will find space in major infrastructure projects, projects initiated by the Pakistani govern-

Excerpt from Lectio Magistralis  
University of Islamabad, November 11, 2010

“

## Ladies and Gentleman,

It is an honour and a pleasure for me to be speaking here today in this prestigious university to an audience of young students on a subject that is particularly close to my heart. I speak to you today in the same spirit that has always inspired Italian foreign policy on these questions: the awareness that it is only through open debate and the dissemination of different points of view that we will be able first, to understand each other. Second, to appreciate the progress promoted by so many governments in this respect. And third, to abandon certain all too deeply-rooted stereotypes. This is not a question of delivering lessons, but of discussing questions that, for all those who truly care about global progress and stability, are of central importance in today's world.

...A world as interconnected as ours is a world that calls upon each of us - states, citizens and organised groups in civil society - to become more engaged, to take on more responsibility to safeguard peace and harmonious co-existence. Each of us must necessarily have a direct interest in the well-being of the others, which in turn will have repercussions for the stability of each and every one of us. The speed with which the contagion of crises now spreads has grown exponentially, as has the ability of those crises to project their effects over a very broad range and with repercussions that can set off chain reactions.

...But the disastrous floods that struck Pakistan in September, causing thousands of victims, millions of homeless and incalculable damage to the economy can also be taken as an emblem of the new international dynamics. We can ponder here the causes of those floods, the climate change that is the subject of so much debate and which, more and more often, is making its effects felt with an unprecedented virulence. Effects that we are unprepared to manage. We can ponder, too, their repercussions: the floods were a humanitarian emergency with strong political effects. It immediately became clear to the international community that it was vital to avoid any negative fallout for the democratic process in Pakistan or the stability of the country, and indeed of the entire region.

...Lastly, the response of the international community also illustrates its awareness of the need to tackle today's crises using an approach and instruments that do not focus solely on humanitarian needs but are designed to lay the foundations for a sound reconstruction and sustainable development over time.

...We are living at a time when it is urgent to mend the global fracture between, on the one hand, an open and tolerant conception of human co-existence and, on the other, totalitarian pressures that are reluctant to accept the diversity that is inherent to our world. That is why recourse to the spiritual dimension offers us an unrivalled instrument for dialogue and mutual understanding. At the international level, naturally, but also at the national level.

...The Italian Government is battling on all fronts to defend freedom of religion, understood in its broadest sense as the right to profess a religion and manifest one's faith in public. It is for us the heart of civil co-existence, the individual right par excellence. But it is also a guarantee of a society's founding values since the religious dimension encompasses both the individual's intimate relationship with God and the drive to create a community with others.

...Religious freedom is a cardinal principle of our civilisation....We are each of us called, therefore, to help prevent and avert all cases of intolerance through the only two tools that are truly effective: dialogue and multilateralism. It is the world of politics that is called upon first and foremost to do so. At the national level, it is the leaders who must provide solutions to the problems of multi-ethnic co-existence without losing sight of the sensibilities at stake. And at the international level, states have the task of working together with conviction in all those fora that have been created to foster dialogue, bring cultures closer together and ensure that the full weight of religion is brought to bear both in crisis prevention and in resolving conflicts. Conflicts and crises that today more than ever require a multi-dimensional response.

....Finally, co-existence is also a challenge for civil society, for students, for associations, for all of that closely-woven fabric that makes up society and has the power to influence policy and make its voice heard with true courage... in the hope that our views might coincide on certain fundamental principles. The first principle that I wish to underscore is that religion cannot be instrumentalised to justify violations or abuses of human rights, including the right of full religious freedom.. we all belong to a society, and to humanity.

**Franco Frattini**  
Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs

**Let's give a house to the flood refugees**

## Ten alpinists for Pakistan

“ Let's give a house to the flood victims. The most awful and terrifying thing was to see people losing their house, destroyed roads, children left without food, starving and desperate. As alpinists, we can do something for the Pakistani people. You can help us too! ”

**Mario Merelli**



Kurt Diemberger



Michele Compagnoni



Agostino Da Polenza



Hervé Barmasse



Daniele Bernasconi



Simone Moro



Mario Merelli



Silvio Mondinelli



Mario Panzeri



Marco Confortola

smiling is life. give



# them a roof to keep on smiling.



Last summer several waves of floods devastated Pakistan, causing thousands of deaths and leaving millions of people homeless. Crops, roads and bridges were destroyed. The whole economy has been forced down to its knees by the frightful force of nature.

This awful force did not manage to break Children's smile. In spite of everything, life smiles at them and they smile back to life. Help us to keep these smiles alive.

Aga Khan Rural Support Program, together with EvK2Cnr Committee, has developed a plan to build

500 houses in the Gilgit Baltistan area. 500 sound and safe roofs, able to preserve the most precious assets of every country:

its future.



AGA KAHN RURAL  
SUPPORT PROGRAMME, BALTISTAN



## DONATE NOW:

Make an online donation with credit card through our web site [www.montagna.tv](http://www.montagna.tv)

By bank transfer:  
Our bank account information is:  
Account Owner: Comitato Ev-K2-CNR  
Bank : Banco Desio  
IBAN: IT50 W034 4011 1000 0000 0372 400  
Reason: Pro Pakistani floods

## Rescue Team: The Sirdar Training

At Hushe started the "rescue team" training. Andrea Testa, the alpine guide, responsible for the training, arrived at Ali Camp to start the course. The EvK2Cnr Committee experts also prepared a special text book for porters and Pakistani guides, which will be the base for a new mountain school which is growing in Shigar. In the last session 30 high altitude guides were formed (in the local language Sirdar). The project also included 100 trekking guides, always in collaboration with the Pakistan Alpine Club. In October, another 12 will be formed.



squeezed like being under a roller. One day I saw a pretentious young Bulgarian guy arriving at the base camp asking everyone to step back because he needed some space in order to get ready for leaving the morning after. We looked at each other silently, saw what happened, asking ourselves who was this "big head", who, without any acclimatization, wants to go up to the top. The morning after the unknown left for camp 1. He decided to stop there to sleep, instead of going down, like he should have done. Consequently, he went up to camp 2 and what did he do? He stopped there to sleep at 6800 metres of altitude. They found him two days later, still in his sleeping-bag: dead.

At the base camp, which was full of alpinists alone, without a reference group, but with only a food tent in common, no-one was taking care of him, no-one knew him, therefore he got moved from the tent, which will be used by other people of the group and put there aside, under a line of stones. It also happened to find an Iranian girl, escaped from Teheran, after selling her house, to climb the K2. She got oxygen bottles carried for her at camp 3, consequently, without leaving the base camp, she kept crying for the bad memories she had of her friends killed at university. The weather is nearly always bad. Rain, low clouds, high temperatures, snow only at high altitude and frequent falls of stones less than 7000 metres. Everything is very difficult, both for the alpinists and our team, engaged in the cleaning project. Meanwhile the very strong wind kept destroying all the tents fixed there and provoking further renounces and going back. However, none of these tents were taken home by the alpinists! A tent for high altitude only weights two kilos,



it is easy to carry down, especially from camp 1 or 2, but no-one does it, nor even thinks about it. The Koreans left the strong wind kept destroying all the tents fixed there and provoking further renounces and going back. However, none of these tents were taken home by the alpinists! A tent for high altitude only weights two kilos,

but none does it. Gerlinde alone tries to go towards the bottleneck at 8000 metres where the K2 is really scary; she goes up in the snow in very difficult conditions. Next to her there was a young man, an extreme skier who wanted to go down the K2 skiing. Suddenly he slides down and Gerlinde

saw him falling. He was alone, she was alone: everyone is on his own, in a place where to a team is a must. Dying is a real shame! This is the thought which has been worrying me for some time. But I still need to tell you the biggest one: one of these young guys without a story or will to learn they are always on blogs and learning how to climb on YouTube, instead of studying books written by the alpinists, who had been there before them. Unknown to everyone, he told to have climbed on top of K2 in very bad conditions on his own. Someone doubted it. The young guy, offended, said that everyone should believe him, who is in doubt is in bad faith. After 15 days he confessed he prepared himself for the climbing with some autogenous training and to consequently realize to have climbed the mountain only with his imagination.

## Clean Expeditions

# Mountain for everyone?

(continues from the front page)

ive revolution which has brought a lot of friends to die on this mountain and on the other eight-thousand. To understand what happened I want to start from Ardito Desio: I had the pleasure to know him and to go with him at the Pyramid on Mount Everest. A very lively and curious person. An iron little-great man who had organized the K2 expedition with a maniacal precision: in the good and evil an example of expedition-leader to follow.

For many years the alpinism

has been inspired by this expedition. Everyone went along the Baltoro glacier again on the same footprints and took the same pictures. In reality many things have changed: from lamb wool boots to membrane spatial shoes, from cotton tents which weighted 10 kilos to the ultra light nylon ones which weight less than 2 kilos. And finally the number of camps: Desio installed 10 of them, while today alpinists go up with 4. However the thing, which it has radically changed in the last three years, is the alpinist. When I arrived at the base camp at 5300m of altitude I found expeditions divided in half between the Abruzzi spur and the Cesen way. Only the Korean expedition which could be defined "classical-Desio's style", formed by a team of alpinists who knew each other, guided by a responsible expedition-leader, who had to decide the roles and the times of the ascent, the others were aggregated. That is to say, however they were formed by high level alpinists, they got together for permit reasons but in reality they were completely autonomous in the ascent. It is the new version of the criticized commercial expeditions which are, at least on K2, nearly inexistent. The days went by and new faces appeared at the base camp, which had nearly become a rail station with continual arrivals and departures, renounces and new aspirants which went and came. On the mountains the alpinists were nearly solo climb, with a useless organization and without coordination among them. There were

also Gerlinde and Ralf, first-level alpinists. Gerlinde was at her forth attempt to complete the K2, independently, without oxygen the 14 eight-thousand. But there were mainly new faces, light-hearted young people who were taking strolls among the tents. By looking around Merelli and I, an alpinist with great experience on the 8000, we could see eyes which were too sure of succeeding, who were not trying to learn the old secrets and tricks that only the experience can give. There were iPods everywhere, caps down on their forehead, a fashionable and coloured way of dressing, they had parties and played poker in the food tents. It was like being among coloured young people at the start of the cableway, ready for a free-ride skiing, and not at the feet of one of the most difficult mountain on Earth, which hasn't been climbed by anyone for three years with or without oxygen, which only by looking at its summit, you feel

## And toilets arrive to Circo Concordia

Who has been there knows. With its view on K2, Concordia is one of the most spectacular places in the world, but it is racked by the smell of detection produced passing-by expeditions and from the local military camp. Rubbish scattered on the glacier, which besides spoiling the environment, they contaminate the waters. Rifiuti sparsi sul ghiacciaio, che oltre a rovinare l'ambiente, rischiano di contaminare le acque. However, things are going to change, thanks to Seed, the EvK2Cnr Committee development coopera-

tion project, signed last year and funded by of Pakistan Italian Debt Swap Agreement (Pidsa), in fact together with the Pakistani institutions, they installed eight toilets up there. Such initiative has received the approval for the direct expeditions to K2 and to the surrounding mountains. The ecological platform transport from Islamabad was not easy at all. On the way by jeep, from Skardu to Askole, a destroyed bridge forced the porters to long waits and several trips. It was not easy to find suitable porters for

carrying heavy iron load, in the still high snow. However, on 11th June the first ecological platform was installed at Circo Concordia. In a week time, all the toilets were operational. Every arriving expedition was contacted and asked to use the platforms. And the Sirdars were trained to clean and differentiate the rubbish. The first result of the operation "Keep Baltoro clean" is of 80 tanks of collected excrements, consequently buried in the surroundings of Pajju. On the glacier 4.190 kilos of other kind of rubbish were

collected and burnt in the ecological Earth. The cleaning team is composed by Pakistani people, formed by Maurizio Gallo from EvK2Cnr Committee, and funded by of the project Integrated Management of Natural Resources and Culture of the Cknip in collaboration with Cesvi (Cooperation and Development Italy) and the Pakistan Alpine Club. The toilets, on the other hand, are part of the Seed project, promoted by EvK2Cnr and Kiu with the Pakistani government.

## Baltoro Clean: more than 14 tons of rubbish collected in one year and a half



The ecological Earth

### Let's stop the rubbish on K2

Unfortunately I must tell you a bad story. After those from the Korean expedition, we found a heap of rubbish easily left on top of the Glacier. where, unluckily, there were flags of an Italian expedition, the only one, who had already left the base camp.

100 kilos of rubbish circa that we had to carry from Askole at our charge. I want to say something very easy. If you come on these mountains, or you can bring everything back yourself, once the expedition has finished, or you must pay high altitude porters to do it. It is like being at home: if you have time and will, we do the clearing ourselves. Otherwise we pay a domestic help and we make sure he/she does everything right. The expedition leader must be the last one to leave the base camp, after verifying that all the rubbish has been taken away. Let's stop it! I would also like that the expedition "Clean" could be valued on the basis of how much it will change the alpinists and porter's behaviour: this is the only way to obtain a good result. Otherwise next year we will be at the same starting point.

To bring things down, 100 euros are sufficient to pay the porters for doing the job. 100 euros are nothing if compared to expeditions worth thousands of them. Do we want to change the way of seeing mountains only like something to conquer? Let's learn to do it with different eyes, trying to live them in all their aspects and always putting in first place the respect for the white which it is always in our eyes...and must stay the same even after we go back home.

The Baltoro clean team cleaned the G1 and G2 base camps, which were particularly dirty. The rubbish load of the last 50 years expeditions re-emerged from the glacier, but it looks like that the 9000 kilos gathered last year was only the first hard task, not sufficient to bring the glaciers back to their natural conditions. I visited the Askole ecological discharge channel which is working at full power after the winter maintenance, despite some scepticism on its functionality at high altitude. Five thousand kilos have already arrived at destination. The total collected rubbish of a year and a half

is of 14 tons: an incredible result. We foresee to reach a total of 20 tons. We wonder what the alpinists have been doing during these years to reduce the glaciers in such a state. And why we have never realized that such a disaster was there. The toilets installed at Concordia were also a success: 1200 kilos of dejections in a month, ended up to manure the fields outside Baltoro. It seems nearly impossible, beyond our expectations, but it explains how much the porter number can influence the total presence on Baltoro, where this year, fewer expeditions have arrived compared to last years.



Glaciers cleaning

Date / /

GOOD JOB BOYS!!

FREDRIK ERICSSON www.FREDRIKERICSSON.COM

- Thanks so much for all your hard work to clean up Concordia, the Baltoro Glacier and K2, Broad Peak and Gasherbrum base camps. Concordia is a totally changed place since I was here in 2007 thanks to your efforts. Keep up the good work! - Tracy Cook, (Curator, F...

Date / /

Schweizer International Expedition  
Kobler + Partner 2010

11 Teilnehmer 1 Bergführer 4 Hülftreger + Küllmannhülft

Ich habe sehr schöne Plätze gesehen auf der Anarassid und im BC. Am Berg im Camp St Camp & nicht so sauber.  
Macht weiter so tut ihr.

Leader Rolf Trossel  
CH 3206 Sers-Fla

R. Trossel

KEEP THE MOUNTAINS CLEAN!

Kobler (ITALY)

The expeditions messages

The alpinism thanks

Mountains of rubbish collected on Baltoro. The arrival of porters, loaded with oxygen bottles and tins, descending from the high fields. The "recyclable-waste collection" on Concordia glacier. And the messages left by the alpinists who, passing by to reach their destination, assisted enthusiastically at the Pakistani staff "school" and engaged themselves in the cleaning of the glacier. All this can be seen in the gallery dedicated to the projects "Keep Baltoro Clean" and "Keep K2 clean" by the EvK2Cnr Committee, which in a few weeks got rid of 8 tons of rubbish from those splendid mountains.

"Thank you, I will support your work anyhow" - says the Canadian alpinist Allen Bohn - I am impressed and comforted by this cleaning project and by the involvement of all the stakeholders".

"I am proud of these men, who spend their time cleaning the powerful Baltoro - writes Cleo Wiedlich from California - It is a great task and I hope to give my contribution to achieve the best results".

"Congratulations to EvK2Cnr - says Miguel Angel Perez from the Egocheaga expedition to K2- because it is not enough to keep Baltoro clean but to educate all of us, from trekkers to alpinists and porters, to preserve the most beautiful places in the world".

"I think it is very important to educate tourists and the Pakistani people to keep the glacier clean- writes Herbert Wolf from the Amical Alpin expedition at GII - Thanks to Italy and Pakistan for organizing and paying this staff on Baltoro".

"The EvK2Cnr proved that all this is possible - says David Hamilton, leader of the Jagged Globe GII Expedition - That is to say, get organized to keep the environment clean, for the recyclable-waste collection, for giving a job to porters also on the way back

from expeditions. It is a service that should be paid by tourists and alpinists and that the Pakistani authorities should keep"

"EvK2Cnr is educating people who live here and the tourists on how to protect this remote area from rubbish - writes the Iranian expedition leader - It is a new idea whose effort is very much appreciated".

And then other messages, and many more again. Some thanks, some wish success, they promise their commitment for the environmental cleaning. There is someone who complains about the situation in Tibet and says that it is beautiful to see people caring so much for Karakorum. And there is someone, who suggests ideas for the future. Here are the messages left from the passing expeditions to Concordia, and the pictures of the activities to Keep Baltoro Clean.

Date 18/7/2010

I HAVE FINALLY DISCOVERED THE BEAUTY AND MIGHT OF BALTORO GLACIER. BEING A PAKISTANI I WOULD WANT EVERY AMBASSADOR WITH AN EYE FOR ADVENTURE TO COME AND VISIT K2 WHICH LITERALLY SITS IN OUR BACKYARD

SUBHAN ALLAH  
SAMBER AHMED 18/7/10  
SAMBER.AHMED@PAKMAIL.COM

Date 12/04/2010

Tre han korvat bi omis  
Nave samozna la Frank Expedition int la Gasherbrum II et nous avons fait de grande efforts pour ramener nos déchets des hauteurs d'altitude - c'est bien de savoir que les déchets sont correctement traité, qu'on a subventionnés. Bonheur de la lettre postale. Bonne nouvelle!

Keep going, Thomas Bruner climbingtom@gmail.com

Alpine juices  
we are extremely concerned by the environment and clean mountains. We have ideas to improve the situation (orientation on waste management in some parks in Pakistan (Anon Land) and 20 years mountaineering experience (Phil Crompton)). We will discuss these ideas with Alpine Club and Ministry for Tourism. We hope for good results! thank you to EvK2Cnr for their work. climbingtom@gmail.com

DEJAN MIŠKOVIC 3315 dan@gmail.com

Date / /

Slovenska odprava Gasherbrum, mladinska odprava planinske zveze Slovenije je ekološko osveščena in podpira vse napore za izboljšanje stanja in izobraževanja vseh ljudi, ki so vključeni v visokogorsko okolje. Prav tako pomembno je tudi strokovno ravnanje z novimi in starimi odpadki.

Razumevanje, ozaveje, ravnanje

Dejan Misic

Date 14/07/2010

Korea Korea Sport GI & GII Exp.  
Leader: Kim Jun Soo Member: Son Byung-Ho

안녕하세요! 이번 여름을 가진 카리코라 리프트야! 원래 아름다웠던 지역 K2 그리고 남부코리안 그 지역 좋은 풍경이 더더욱 아름답고 좋아합니다... 한 가지는 부분은 생각해보고 싶고... 카리코라의 K2, 보드피크, GI, GII를 청결하게 하는데 깨끗하고 아름다운 산을 위해서 더더욱 노력하겠습니다. 카리코라 지역 환경들이 유감스럽고 있는 것도 감사하고 싶은데, 그리고 환경이 깨끗하고 아름다워야 하는 것은 당연한 일입니다. Thank you & God bless you!!!

Kim Jun Soo

Date / /

This is my first ever trek, I could have not imagined this cleanliness throughout the trek from sharada to Concordia. I am really pleased to know that an organization managing this whole operation & could have made realize with all coming here that we have in Pakistan world's most beautiful glacier Baltoro" & am in love with Baltoro, Concordia, K-2 and all peaks around and also I like the behaviour of alpinist people they are so lovely.

Zahid Ali Khan  
D-1/5 Afghan Complex Houses  
Block-3, Gulistan-e-Jahar  
Karachi. 0300-8224643

Date / /

MARCIN PIUS (KARO) /AUC  
MARCINPIUS@GMAIL.COM  
marcinpius@gmail.com

## interview

Franco Mari

Scientific advisor of Seed Project

# The Karakorum park takes shape

BY CARLO DIGNANI

**Professor Mari, we are talking about the Karakorum park, one of the most difficult areas of the Earth...**

Ten thousand squared kilometres of mountain park. The central Karakorum park is in Pakistan on the border with Afghanistan, China and India. Three significant borders, with the biggest extension of glaciers after the Antarctic. It is easy to imagine the environment and the extension in which people might work here.

**And how do you work there?**

Thanks to the Seed, the EvK2Cnr Committee development cooperation project, signed last year and funded by Pakistan Italian Debt Swap Agreement (Pidsa), which has a double component. The first one supports the development in the local socioeconomic ambit, strictly linked to the development of this park, already constituted but still on papers, the second one supports the applied research. The Kcnp in fact is not active yet, even if there is already a directorate and a park authority.

**What is the main characteristic of your job?**

It's mainly managerial. How to use resources among local populations in order to maintain everything inside the park. Therefore, with Seed we are working on both the socioeconomic and the applied research sectors. We will get to the end of the project with an "updated management plan" which

gathers everything we have done. The current research tends to deeply analyze the management subjects and we will have operational lines by 2014, this is when the park will be really working.

**From a socioeconomic point of view what will be changing for the local populations?**

Firstly, I shall say, an acknowledgement. I will use a not-so-good word: we are not dealing with a "conquest" that is to say, something which comes from outside. We do something, instead, starting from the real needs of the local popula-

area with no much water. It is an arid area. We must therefore understand how this water, coming from glaciers and precipitations could change and foresee the scenarios on the basis of the climate changes.

It will give these populations an idea from which might come sustainable ways of development. On the other side the attempt of creating a management plan. It will be finished as data collection and draft by 2013. Consequently we will have an all year to share it with the local realities, to avoid making a beautiful volume which remains in some libraries unread. It must be an instrument for the park and the community.

**What kind of difficulties have you had so far?**

The scenario is vast and different. There is, like in any other country, very different and sometimes difficult situations. We have an area, in the North, near the border, which we don't know if it is going to be part of the park. What we intend doing is to start from the beginning with involvement. It will not be easy, but we will find, through the park structure and the local ambit, all the groups who have the knowledge and decisional power on different subjects, to have them sat around the same table and start to talk. We are convinced that such approach must be applied since the beginning. It is ambitious, but if it wasn't we wouldn't be there.

**When are we going to see the park?**

The park already exists and it is partly working. We hope to

have the very first development of it in the Seed ambit. There are already some tangible developments of the touristic services. We are talking about the glaciers cleaning and more functional campsites. The people, who arrive now, can already see a different reality, in evolution if compared to the previous one. We want to start a process and give the park authority a good practice manual to use. I hope it will not take too long. We want to finish the project with something real and finished in a part of the park, take it as example and export it to other parts.

*Ten thousand squared kilometres of mountains and green areas To manage them is the target of the complete masterplan by 2013*

tion and from the analysis of the endogenous potential of the territory. For instance, one of the activities is to see how the resources are traditionally used and analyze how much of this is valid. We are going towards the conservation but with a new approach, as if we were learning. This is not an aseptic approach, for us, coming from different cultures and approaches. I take two examples. The first one is linked to the fact that the research groups, that will go and operate on the territory, will organize seminars once there. Both for the local researchers, to supply information, both for local populations, to explain them how much of what we are doing will change their way of life. A practical example: we are in a glacier

country, very different and sometimes difficult situations. We have an area, in the North, near the border, which we don't know if it is going to be part of the park. What we intend doing is to start from the beginning with involvement. It will not be easy, but we will find, through the park structure and the local ambit, all the groups who have the knowledge and decisional power on different subjects, to have them sat around the same table and start to talk. We are convinced that such approach must be applied since the beginning. It is ambitious, but if it wasn't we wouldn't be there.



The extraordinary natural beauties of Karakorum National Park



## Gilgit University: twenty Phds for the Environment

## Interview

Anna Bocci

Scientific advisor EvK2Cnr

**Could you tell us about your experience in Pakistan?**

I work on scientific reports with the Karakorum International University and, more specifically, on the programs included in Seed, the EvK2Cnr Committee development cooperation project, signed last year and funded by Pakistan Italian Debt Swap Agreement (PIDSA).

**So the Seed project foresees, among the other things, the creation of 20 Phds...**

Exactly, in the project are foreseen 20 Phds, spread over two years. The selection for the first 10 has already finished. Consequently, there will be others for next year.

**In which subjects?**

The subjects have been chosen following the management plan that we will have to create at the end of the Seed project.

These are environmental sub-



jects, for the territory and park management. That is to say: wildlife conservation and management, forests, geology, applied geology, water management, glaciology, climate studies, information systems

applied to the management of the territory, and local subjects, such as rural development, agriculture and the sustainable tourism development.

**As a researcher, how is it to work in such a different envi-**

**ronment if compared to the Western one?**

From the university and scientific approach is difficult, for the different way of doing research. The Phds idea was born to give a "capacity building" to Kiu.

The subjects suggested have the aim to give us the instruments to create this management plan, and secondly, to give the Kiu the possibility to grow through specific competences born on the territory. The final objective is to

create a university department in order to have scientific points of reference inside the academy and to educate people who can operate on the territory: the Karakorum park.

**People have been talking**

**about the Karakorum National park for a long time. When are we going to see it?**

The project has ambitious targets. Only in the first six months it started a series of researches of which we are just about to see the results. It will definitely take some time, because it is a huge park. Ten thousand squared kilometres are not easy to manage because some areas like the glaciers are impenetrable. Moreover, let's consider that there is a series of local communities who live in the periphery of the park and they have always exploited a series of resources for free. Now they will be asked to protect and manage them with some limits. It is not only a change of territory but also of mentality.

**Talking about mentality. How was your life as a woman, over there?**

Very good. Being foreign and having a specific and well defined role, they don't see me as a woman in the general way. It prevails the fact that I bring knowledge. From this point of view I have found very open-minded people. And to be honest it is not what I expected.



President Zardari looks at the pics donated by EvK2Cnr Committee

## To Zardari the mountain as seen by the Duke

*Agostino Da Polenza consigned the Pakistani president two panoramic pictures of the mountain chain taken by Vittorio Sella during the 1909 expedition*

BY ANDREA CHIODI

A tangible sign of friendship between two nations. With this motivation the EvK2Cnr Committee president, Agostino Da Polenza consigned the Pakistani president Asif Ali Zardari two period pictures taken by the famous photographer Vittorio Sella during the Karakorum expedition in 1909, being among the Duke of Abruzzi's suite. The official consignment was held last May in Islamabad, in the president's seat.

To the ceremony, took part the Italian ambassador Vincenzo Prati, the Karakorum International University vice-chancellor Aziz Ali Najam, the EvK2Cnr Representative Officer Riaz ul-Hassan, and the Italian coordinator for Pakistan Luca Listo. It was also the occasion for a change of opinions on the different collaboration projects that the two countries are working on. Special emphasis was given to the activities they are developing through a series of projects concerning some cooperation activities among the two countries. In this ambit, the EvK2Cnr Committee, activated Seed (Social Economic Environmental Development), the EvK2Cnr Committee

development cooperation project, signed last year and funded by Pakistan Italian Debt Swap Agreement (PIDSA), financed with 10 millions euros in 5 years which supports the Pakistani government, the institutions and the local populations in the achievement of a natural park around the mountain K2, the symbol of this country, through the scientific research, in support of environmental protection initiatives and the socioeconomic development of the

*Objective: to extend the scientific cooperation on glaciers and water resources studies*

Gilgit Baltistan region in the Northern part of the country. "K2 is the best positive brand in Pakistan, the symbol of the friendship between our two countries" convened president Zardari and Da Polenza. "Pakistan has got the strategic need to know its water resources, to better protect and manage the populations' life, the energy production, which is always more inadequate, and the agriculture" underlined president Zardari. They discussed the possibility of extending the ongoing scientific coopera-

tion on two fronts: the study of glacial masses and water resources, also with the use of the Italian satellite technologies, of a more diffused observational net and of anticipatory climate models, the study of security and emergency systems in the Hunza valley, hit by the terrible landslide which caused dozens of victims and created a dangerous artificial cavity.

On this front, Da Polenza assured that the EvK2Cnr Committee is already going

ahead, and funded by of Share and Seed projects: the hydro geological programs and the climate and environmental research will be strengthened in collaboration with the Karakorum International University, the Pakistan Meteorological Department, the Focus Humanitarian Assistance and other authorities. During the meeting, it was particularly stressed by the Italian ambassador Vincenzo Prati and professor Aziz Ali Najam - ex vice-chancellor of the Karakoram International

University and member of the EvK2Cnr Scientific Board, the crucial role that these scientific organizations of cooperation and entrepreneurial promotion can have, to guarantee a solid and lasting development, by promoting one of the natural vocation, the tourism, however limited, by the not so easy political situation of these regions in the North of Pakistan. Fragile territories from a socioeconomic point of view, but at the same time precious for their natural resources that, if properly studied, analyzed and managed, can represent a real wealth to sustain sectors such as agriculture, energy, water resources and attract national and international tourists, as long as the major capacities of transport, reception and security can be guaranteed.

It is really through a careful management of the naturalistic estate and resources that these territories could reach a lasting stability. Also the president Zardari underlined the importance of it: "Like the tourism, the water and the energy are strategic resources for our country" and "we ask to the Italian and European EvK2Cnr researchers, to help us in the effort of understanding and



The meeting



From left: professor Aziz Ali Najam, Agostino Da Polenza, president Zardari e the italian ambassador Vincenzo Prati

monitoring our resources and to manage them towards the climate changes". The ambassador Prati asked the drawing up of a complete agreement between Italy and Pakistan and funded by of

the scientific research, which could reinforce the ongoing activities and allow to intervene to wider levels. He also asked the Italian and Pakistani institutions to start to share the meeting sub-

jects. At the end, two big panoramic pictures were given to the president Zardari, who said "they will always stay in the presidential seat, to symbolize the historical friendship".



## An hope called agriculture

*Italians export to Pakistan knowledge and technology to help the country to go over the heavy food crisis*

BY CARLO PERONI

The humanitarian emergency which hit Pakistan, is strictly linked to the food emergency: one of the worst problems in the next months. There will be scarcity of rice and wheat. With this disastrous event, it is to be feared a new big alimentary crisis like that occurred in 2007. Pakistan, one of the main producer and exporter of rice at an international level (60% comes from Punjab and 30% from Sindh, two of the most damaged regions) always have had an economy based on the primary sector. Most of the population lives in rural areas and its maintenance is strictly connected to the agriculture. With more than one fifth of flooded territory, in addition to the crops also the alimentary supplies and the seeds for the next agricultural season got lost, the order of the fields was damaged and 30 millions tons of rice got lost, which for this year should have been exported (FAO data). On the whole, the floods ruined approximately 1,1 millions agricultural soil acres that are more than 450.000 hectares: 280.000 hectares planted with cotton, 80.000 hectares of rice-fields and other 80.000 hectares of sugar cane plantations. It has been lost also 100.000 head of cattle, approximately 120.000 hectares of pasture, 500.000 tons of wheat supplies, valued by defect considering the real problem also without environmental disasters. The reckoning of the damages for agriculture is about 2,9 billions dollar. Impresa Pvt. Ltd. is a newly established company, consisting of Italian and Pakistanis entrepreneurs, working since many years in the field of development and business cooperation between the two countries. The company is active in various fields of the agri-business and agro food areas and is addressed primarily to the Pakistani market. Impresa Pvt.Ltd., thanks to new and innovative entrepreneurial, productive, technological and financial part-

nerships, promotes and supports the penetration of the Italian sector leader companies in the Pakistani agribusiness market, through the establishment of collaboration, investment opportunities, trade, pilot projects and marketing, disguised as joint ventures or public and private industrial partnerships. Working for the promotion and collaboration between Italian and Pakistani business communities for the sustainable development of

products, Impresa Pvt.Ltd. provides the following products and services: design and building of complete grain storage facilities, either vertical silos or horizontal silos, extension and maintenance of existing facilities; a complete range of accessories fixed and mobile grain dryers; machinery and equipments for livestock; pre cleaners, cleaners, separating apparatus for cereals; systems for seeds selection; different machines for the

involved a great part of the country with the loss of more than half of the supplies collected for the current year; considering Impresa Pvt. Ltd. skills, a company composed by Italian actors having its headquarters in Islamabad as well as the ad hoc solutions that the Italian companies involved in the Agristan project are able to provide, the idea of starting the draft of an executive project became a priority.

It is important to underline that the Board of Investments of Punjab and the Italian Council Development of Karachi have already informally sent a request (that will be soon formalized) to Impresa Pvt. Ltd. In order to organize a meeting between institutions, Pakistani and Italian public and private operators to set up the "Food Storage System for Pakistan" project, which besides the planning and operative aspects, takes also into account the financial and economic facilities that international and Italian organizations could put at its disposal. By saving the 500 thousands tons grain lost due to the recent floods, thanks to a quality storage, may mean an investment of 35-35 millions Euro circa, for the next years.

### Impresa Pvt points to the mechanization and made safe of food

the agri-business sector, Impresa Pvt. Ltd. is addressing to the agribusiness companies producing, agricultural mechanization & technologies, agricultural equipments and services, organic agriculture, greenhouse technologies, water and irrigation technologies.

Impresa Pvt. Ltd. includes different branches, characterized by different specific tasks. This quick and flexible structure would allow the company to better allocate human and financial resources, optimizing the results as well as the returns of the investments.

Among its projects, the most important is "Agristan", a chain of shop, in franchising style, selling and distributing products, equipments, services, consulting, hand key projects and everything concerning the agribusiness and agri-food fields.

Agristan includes thirty Italian companies, leader in different field of agricultural sector that, in a commercial and exclusive agreement with Impresa Pvt.Ltd., export equipments, technology and study projects in Pakistan.

Among the Italian companies involved in this project, there is also who provides solutions and services concerning engineering, sales, storage, installation and drying facilities for all kind of cereals.

Using totally "Made in Italy"

integration or completion of plants.

Impresa Pvt. Ltd. can also provide the assemblage and working of plants thanks to qualified experts, technical assistance during the warranty period and post-warranty, spare parts, consultancy for the implementation of key in hand projects with specific solutions based on every single client need.

Considering the tragic Pakistani situation regarding the food security, already delicate and that got worse due to the recent floods that





*A cultural and historical heritage to be protected. The Foundation Polytechnic University in Milan comes into actions through its competencies*

BY DANIELE BEACCO

**M**adinatual Aulya, which means Town of Saints in Arabic, it is the other name that describes Multan, a famous city in the Muslim world, for its high concentration of shrines and for being well known for centuries as an important spiritual and Sufism centre.

It is a town, or better, a potential megalopolis, with its 4 millions of inhabitants, in the middle of Punjab, surrounded by a wide plain where you can see several chimneys used for the baking of bricks, and by large expanse of fields cultivated with cotton, rice, several vegetables and mango. Located at 300 km on the south of Lahore, it is considered the most ancient town of Pakistan, even though there is no certitude of its foundation.

It has been witness of legendary invasions; starting from Alexander the Great (here he reached the farthest eastern point of his empire), until a succession of Arabic, Mongolian, Persian, Afghan and finally English conquests.

Thus, several pilgrims and the very rare travellers who reach this region, even walking on barefoot, find its complex urban composition, with its architectural witnesses of great value.

A fortress gives hospitality to white dome-shaped mausoleum (a Unesco patrimony), which dominates the densely populated historic centre, surrounded by bastions and circular turrets, which house residences adorned by inlaid balconies, minarets and white pinnacles of ancient Hindu temples.

Such testimonies well describe the importance of it as capital of Punjab, and make it extremely interesting both for its unique architecture and the potentiality of its future economic developments, linked to the new companies, which were born in the last years, and to the flourishing agriculture of the infinite surrounding country.

Yet, today, urban systems of developing areas as Multan,

seem to be more vulnerable; from one side, the historic core which makes continuous changes and progressive obsolescence of traditional architectural structures, due to a constant depopulation of ancient residences, which do not offer neither comfort nor hygiene; from the other side, the powerful development that submit these regions to new anthropic pressures and to rapid procedures of transformation, not coordinated at all, thus, all local institutions

Multan historic core, by meaning of an action that will be initially circumscribed to a pilot area, in order to create long-term strategic developments for the whole city.

In this way, an analytic and scientific project will be set in motion in order to solve the local criticalities. Subsequently, a sequence of project activities, managed by the different research centres, will be consciously developed.

In particular, the project cal-

*In the most ancient town of Pakistan a project of sustainable protection and development*

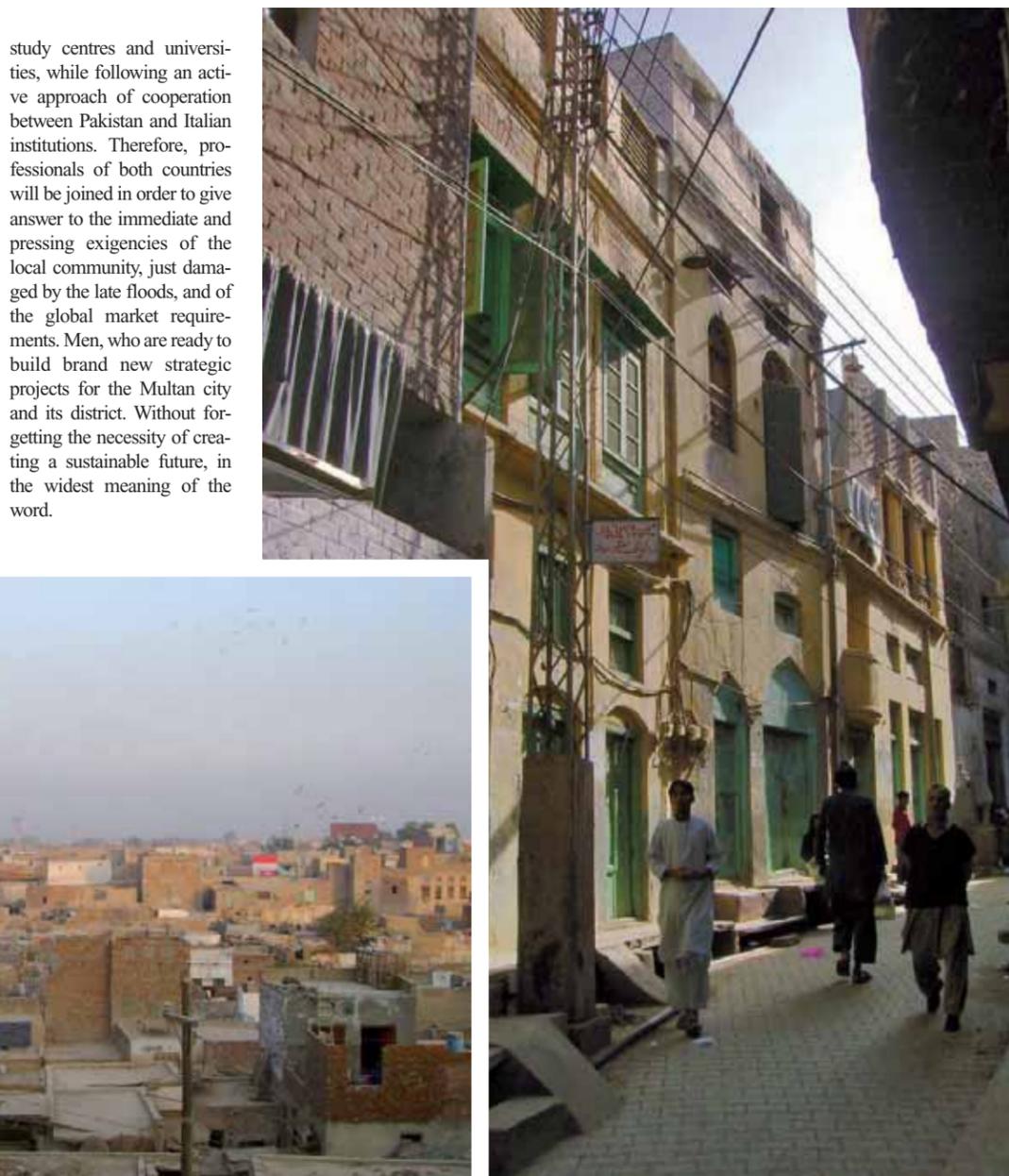
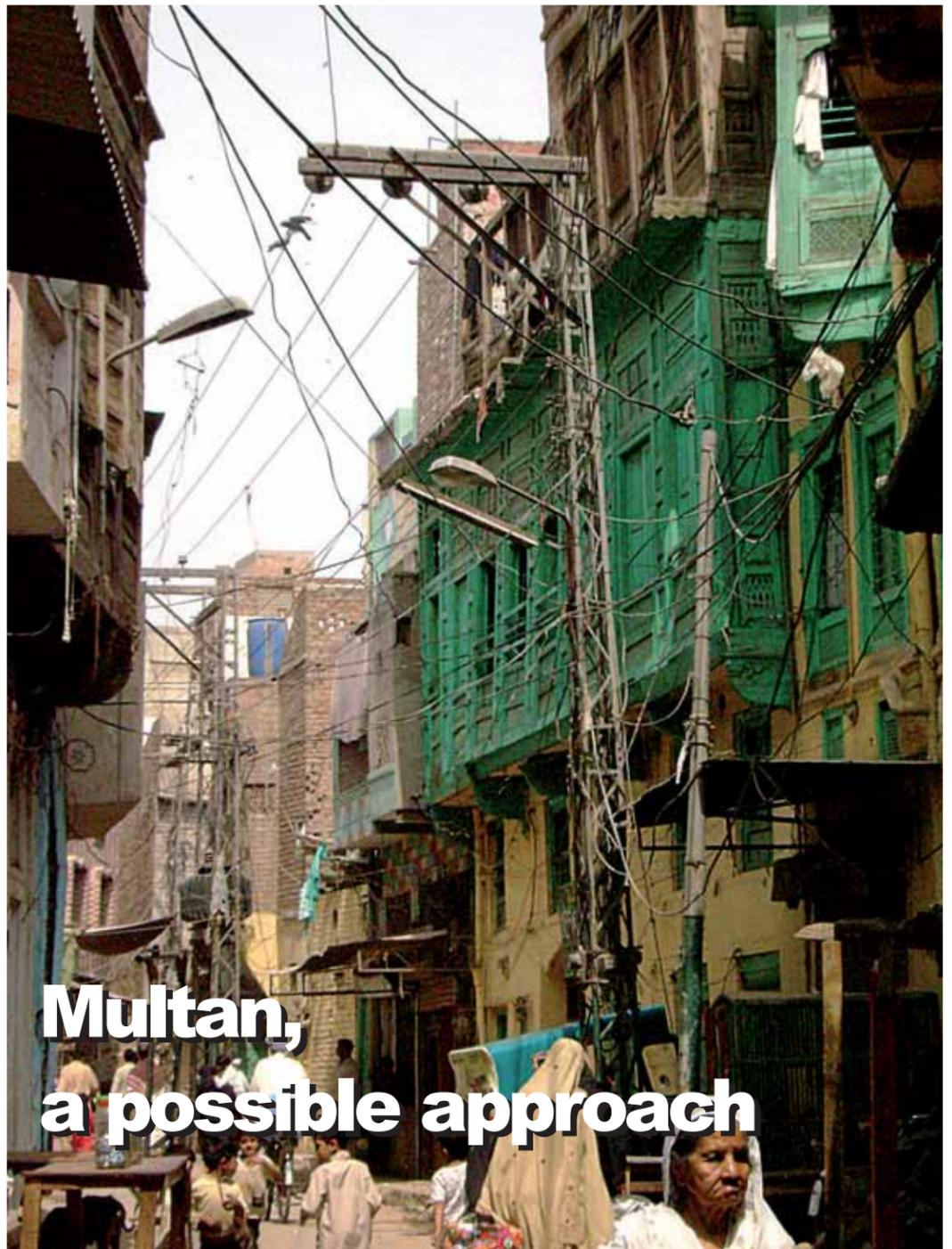
are usually unprepared. The "westernization" process, the progressive approaching of new communication systems are causing urban and behavioural changes that do not fit with sustainable increase concept.

Whether these external pressures could be a strong criticality, they could be an occasion of increase, development and evaluation for the local population and territory, if they are well exploited.

For this reason, the Polytechnic Foundation in Milan decided to activate a project of safeguard and sustainable development of

led "Sustainable Social Economic and Environmental Revitalization in the Historic Core of Multan City" will have the task of demonstrating to the population the local increase of the sensibility for the exceptional historic patrimony, and the exploitation of it, and of other urban and country potentialities, as new possible economic sources for the local population.

Thanks to the funds for the debt conversion, Pakistan Italian Debt Swap Agreement (PIDSA), this network of knowledge will include local institutions,





From left, Kiu vice-chancellor Najma Najam and EvK2Cnr researcher

**interview**  
 Najma Najam  
 Karakorum international  
 University vice-cancellor

DI WAINER PREDÀ

During three days of meeting in Bergamo between the Italian researchers from EvK2Cnr Committee and Pakistani scientists from Karakorum International University, focused on Seed Project and the Karakorum National Park, we met the Kiu vice-chancellor Najma Najam for this interview.

**Miss vice-cancellor, looking at Seed project, what will be the future in Cknp area?**

This is an historical event, because never before the major scientific collaboration has taken place, between a scientific organization and Pakistani university. This will set a model. There is a scientific approach that we are going to be used in for training human resources to mountain areas. The Cknp area is important not only for Pakistan but for the entire world. It is politically, geostrategically and economically to focus on. This is the right time. We have to monitor their population, animals, glaciers and the changes that are taking place so to ensure the whole heritage will be preserved.

**There was a period before the park was planned but remained on paper. Now something is moving on. How long it will take to have the park?**

The activities are ongoing. There are many resources. I think now we have to regulate those activities and monitor the deforestation that are taking place, the killing of animals and even the overabundance of use. Don't forget that the park is open. It is a huge area. We have to monitor people that are going in and out. And even the animal that are moving in the different regions of the park.

**Monitoring this huge area is quite hard. What do you think you have to do to increase monitoring?**

We can monitor this area using a satellite system and also boarder guards. It's very hard to monitor this region but we have to set a system of guard with mobile capacity. In the ancient time we used horses. This is a just a preliminary initiative but will be able to reach the goals.



## Kiu-EvK2Cnr Committee collaboration will set a model

**What is the relevance of the park for the local community?**

The importance is very well documented with the glaciers, the water resources, the forest resources, the animals that we were talking about. They are unique. You can't find them in any other part of the

world. It's hard to maintain this uniqueness, we have to put on it all our capacity. This uniqueness is important not just for Gilgit and Baltistan but also for Pakistan because wherever you look you can observe that water resources come from there. Karakorum is not shown the glacier melts

as in the other part of the world. Now is the time on which our intervention is important.

**How is working with the Italian researcher and EvK2Cnr Committee?**

Very easy, because we have a cultural link that come from many years ago. It is an histo-

rical relationship, very important. Working with the Italian people, moreover, is quite easy to work, because they are wonderful people, as scientist and as normal people.

*Central Karakorum National Park is an opportunity not only for Baltistan but for the whole Pakistan*



From left, Franco Mari and Andrea Lami from EvK2Cnr Committee

