Mediated Storytelling at Islamic Arab Satellite-television

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WOCMES in Figures

The Congress Goals

From 19th to 26th June 2010, the World Congress on Middle Eastern Studies (WOCMES) turned the city of Barcelona into the world capital of studies on three regions. Over 2,300 international academics, scientists and researchers from 70 countries presented their studies, debated and shared points of view during the intensive working days.

Organised by the European Institute of the Mediterranean (EIMed), WOCMES Barcelona 2010 programme comprised more than 500 academic sessions, held in blocks of 10 sessions, on a wide range of disciplines and issues focusing on the Middle East and North Africa, including political and economic aspects, the environment, literature, history, gender issues, religion, town planning, contemporary artistic creation and identities.

The scientific programme, which was prepared for two years based on the proposals and contributions of 2,401 academics, was accompanied by a notable and intensive cultural agenda including a cinema festival, eight exhibitions, theatre and music performances, and a book fair.
WOCMES: in Search of a Route of Ideas

"After the Silk Route, we need a route of ideas." In this spirit, Prince Hassan Bin Talal of Jordan opened the WOCMES Barcelona 2010 Congress in an inaugural lecture in which he emphasized the difficult international situation in the region and his pledge to contribute to dialogue and the peoples and countries of the Mediterranean.

Listening to the Prince, in a full auditorium, were some of the academics who from that moment and until 26th July would examine the state and progress of research at an international level on the Middle East and North Africa with a multidisciplinary approach.

Some of the issues addressed or which aroused interest were the analysis of the political situation in the region, the democratic advances and the questions linked to social evolution, although youth, the media and Internet, and new forms of artistic expression received a lot of attention from congress sessions.

WOCMES Barcelona 2010 represented for the host country and city an unique opportunity to learn first-hand from the most experts and researchers of two regions, the Middle East and North Africa, which have an outstanding cultural influence in political, social and cultural environments. Moreover, it meant for the participating themselves the opportunity for an academic dissemination of their work in the region, academics and professors from Spanish and Catalan universities, who took advantage of the event to participate in the congress in greater numbers than in previous year, shared working sessions with academics from prestigious Anglo-Saxon universities such as Harvard, Stanford, UC Berkeley, Georgetown, Cambridge, Oxford, London, Glasgow and Edinburgh, and other universities such as the Middle Eastern Technical University and Bosphorus University (both in Turkey), the universities of Al-Quds Al-Sharif and Paris Descartes (France), Free University and Zayed Mohamed University (UAE), the universities of Tunis, Mawr and Naples (Italy), Cairo University and The American University in Cairo (Egypt), Moscow State University (Russia), the universities of Tlemcen (Algeria), the Hebrew University and those of Tel Aviv and Haifa (Israel), the universities of Tunisia and Morocco (Tunisia) and the University Mohamed Premier Oujda (Morocco), among many others.

The WOCMES Barcelona 2010 has been carried out with the collaboration of the International Association of Independent Producers of the Mediterranean (AIIPMED). It organized in cooperation with the International Association of Independent Producers of the Mediterranean (AIIPMED) and the pickup of the nearly 200 participants of the congress with the congress, as programmed two dance performances.

Music, Cinema, Theatre and Exhibitions

WOCMES has included an intensive cultural programme and several social events.

In different venues of the congress it was also possible to visit eight history, sculpture and painting exhibitions.

The exhibition, which came from Yemen, Australia, France, the United States or Spain, were: "Le Förenen de derad", "Persian Illustration Script 18th Century", "Poèmes de la Méditerranée, poésie arabe contemporaine", "Piracy and Re-Encoding in Khubra (Iraq)", "Manifest and dans en Sahara. La tradition dans le contemporain", "Images from Bosphor & Codor", "Sciences et politique au Pakistan", "The Media in the Mediterranean Sea", and "The Mediterranean of the 20th Century: Realities and Images", which could be seen at the Palau Robert in Barcelona until 21st August.

The programme, published in English and French is an updated guide to experts and issues of interest in the study of the Middle East and North Africa.

(Available at www.iemed.org/wocmes)
The IEMED set out on a long journey of over two years of preparation leading up to the WOCMES Barcelona 2010 Congress. The efforts made have been very well worth it. The third year of this congress has achieved the highest figures of participation and has again revealed the capital status of the city of Barcelona in the Mediterranean as a meeting centre of dialogue and debate on issues related to stability, cooperation and progress in the region.

Our main objective is the promotion of activities, projects and actions contributing to mutual awareness, exchange and co-operation between different countries, continents and cultures. Although our activities are framed within the Mediterranean, the current, complex, interdependent and globalised world dictates as to take into account everything occurring further beyond, because in the end it affects our reality.

The programme, published in English and French is an updated guide to experts and issues of interest in the study of the Middle East and North Africa.

Music, Cinema, Theatre and Exhibitions

WOCMES has included an intensive cultural programme and several social events

A Framework Favourable to Dialogue in the Mediterranean

This year, the WOCMES Barcelona 2010 has incorporated for the first time, along with research on the Middle East and North Africa and the Asian Muslim states, studies on the Mediterranean region. An issue that could not be ignored this year, when the Congress was held in the city where the Permanent Secretary of the UN for the Mediterranean is based.

WOCMES Barcelona 2010 has been a privileged space for re-charging and meeting for scientific and academic knowledge for more than 2,000 participants. An initiative both to dialogue and cooperation between people from 13 countries from a wide range of disciplines and fields of study. It has been, therefore, one of the best instruments in which the IEMED could have in solved itself to advance in our mission, which is to work for a Mediterranean of peace and stability, shared prosperity and dialogue between cultures and civilizations.

Senén Florensa
Director General of the IEMED

Institutional Support

The congress participants sided with Barcelona City Hall for the period and the Palau de la Generalitat de Catalunya, while the Vice-President of the Government of Catalonia, Joaquim García Albiol, offered them an institutional reception.

WOCMES 2010 Awards

Barcelona honours two of the congress participants with the WOCMES 2010 Award for their career and the outstanding academic contribution: the Middle Eastern studies Roger Owen, at the Maya Professor of Middle Eastern History at Harvard Univer- sity; and José Viñes Sáez, Emeritus Professor of Arabic Studies and Semitic Languages at the University of Toulouse (France). The event took place at the Palau de la Música in Barcelona.
A Framework Favourable to Dialogue in the Mediterranean

The IMDM set out on a long journey of over two years of preparation leading to the WOCMES Barcelona 2010 Congress. The efforts made have been well worth it. The third year of the congress has achieved the highest figures of participation and has again revealed the capital status of the city of Barcelona in the Mediterranean as a meeting centre for dialogue and debate on issues related to stability, cooperation and progress in the region.

Our main objective is the promotion of activities, projects and actions contributing to mutual awareness, exchanges and cooperation between different countries, societies and cultures. Although our understandings are framed within the Mediterranean, the current, complex, interdependent and globalised world, obliges us to take into account everything occurring in it, as it affects our reality.

In this context, WOCMES 2010 has incorporated the peaceful space of exchange and meeting for scientific and academic knowledge for more than 2,500 participants. An initiative both to dialogue and cooperation between people from 79 countries (from a wide range of disciplines and fields of study). It has been, therefore, one of the key instruments in which the IMDM could have involved itself to address our reality, which is to work for a Mediterranean of peace and stability, shared prosperity and dialogue between cultures and civilizations.

Senem Floreena
Director General of the IMDM

Music, Cinema, Theatre and Exhibitions

WOCMES has included an intensive cultural programme and several social events.

Film Festival and Theatre

Around twenty films from Iran, Palestine, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, Turkey, Morocco and France, among others, were screened at the WOCMES Film Festival, organized in collaboration with the International Association of Independent Producers of the Mediterranean (APIEMED). It enjoyed the presence in two debates of the directors Hamid Rahmanian (Iran), who presented The Glass Houses, and Najwa Rajaj (Palestine), who presented Pomegranates and Myrrh. The UAB auditorium, coinciding with the congress, also programmed two dance performances.

Concerts

The Orquestra Arab de Barcelona offered the inaugural concert of WOCMES-Barcelona 2010. The university campus also hosted the performance by the Algerian Meira Benoua, who offered a journey through the great classics of popular music on his country. At the Palau de la Música, within the presentations of the WOCMES 2010 Awards, Folklorique performed Catalan folk music.

Exhibitions

In different venues of the congress it was also possible to visit eight history, photography and painting exhibitions. The exhibitions, which came from Yemen, Australia, Russia, the United States or Spain, were: “Le Fonds en devenir”, “Présentation Illustration & Script 19th Century”, “Présence de la Méditerranée : poètes arabes contemporains”, “Projetant et Reboquant en Kabylie (Algérie, Iraq)”, “Musique et danses au Sahara, Le tradition dans le contemporain”, “Iran: Images From Bosphoth to Chador”, “Sculpture et polymonce au Pakistan”, “The Media in the Mediterranean Sea” and “The Mediterranean of the 20th Century: Realities and Images”, which could be seen at the Palau Robert in Barcelona until 29 August.
After more than two years of preparations, WOCMES Barcelona 2010 brought together in the Catalan capital over 2,500 participants, largely surpassing the participation of the two previous years. Especially notable was the presence of academics from the Anglo-Saxon world, Mediterranean countries (headed by Turkey), European countries (mainly Spain, Germany, France and Italy) and Asian countries (Japan, in particular). The more than 550 sessions attended by the congress participants addressed a wide range of issues from different approaches and disciplines.

**Encouraging Mutual Awareness**

Researchers and experts shared the results of studies and research that may contribute to improving mutual awareness in the Mediterranean and the Middle East. Barcelona introduced for the first time research on the Mediterranean in the congress debates.

**Integrating Cooperation Research Networks**

With the creation of this bridge between researchers, the congress promoted a participatory and shared historical vision. Moreover, it was the opportunity to publicise research carried out in the South – often of difficult access – and increased South-South academic and regional cooperation.

**WOCMES in Figures**

The European Institute of the Mediterranean (EIMED), founded in 1996, is a consortium comprising the Governments of Italy, Spain, Tunisia and the Mediterranean Institute of Oceanography (MIO). It promotes research, training and co-operation in the Mediterranean and the Middle East.

**The Congress Goals**

- **Cooperating New Approaches to Breaking Down Stereotypes**
- **Promoting a Shared Historical Vision**
- **Integrating Cooperation Research Networks**

**WOCMES 2010**

Barcelona, World Capital of Studies on the Middle East and North Africa

From 19th to 24th July 2010, the World Congress on Middle Eastern Studies (WOCMES) turned the city of Barcelona into the world capital of studies on three regions. Over 2,500 invited experts, academics and researchers from 72 countries presented their studies, debated and shared points of view during the intensive working days.

Organised by the European Institute of the Mediterranean (EIMED), WOCMES Barcelona 2010 programmed more than 500 academic sessions, held in blocks of 10 sessions, on a wide range of disciplines and issues focusing on the Middle East and North Africa including political and economic aspects, the environment, literature, history, gender issues, religion, town planning, contemporary artistic creation and identities.

The scientific programme, which was prepared for two years based on the proposals and contributions of 2,421 academics, was accompanied by a notable and intense cultural agenda including a cinema festival, eight exhibitions, theatre and music performances, and a book fair.
From 1998 to 2010, the World Congress on Middle Eastern Studies (WOCMES) turned the city of Barcelona into the world capital of studies on three regions. Over 2,700 innovative reports, academic and research works from 79 countries presented their studies, detailed and shared points of view during the intensive working days.

Organised by the European Institute of the Mediterranean (EIMed), WOCMES Barcelona 2010 programmed more than 500 academic sessions, held in blocks of 10 sessions, in a wide range of disciplines and topics focusing on the Middle East and North Africa including political and economic aspects, the environment, literature, history, gender issues, religion, town planning, contemporary artistic creation and identities.

The scientific programme, which was prepared for two years based on the proposals and contributions of 2,401 academics, was accompanied by a notable and intense cultural agenda including a cinema festival, eight exhibitions, theatre and music performances, and a book fair.