Mediated Storytelling at Islamic Arab Satellite-television

Galal, Ehab

Publication date:
2010

Document version
Early version, also known as pre-print

Citation for published version (APA):
After more than two years of preparation, 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 academic 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 500 sessions attended by the congress participants addressed a wide range of issues from different approaches and disciplines.

**WOCMES in Figures**

The European Institute of the Mediterranean (EIMed), founded in 1996, is a consortium comprising the Government of Catalonia, the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation and Barcelona City Council. It incorporates a civil society through the Board of Trustees and an Advisory Council formed by Mediterranean universities, companies, organizations and personalities of renowned prestige.

In accordance with the principles of the Euro Mediterranean Partnership (B regional, and today with the objectives of enhancing the role of the Mediterranean, particularly in terms of a higher degree of regionalization, exchange and cooperation between the different Mediterranean countries, sciences and cultures, as well as to promote the prosperity and the balance of peace and stability, shared prosperity and dialogue between cultures and civilizations in the Mediterranean.

Adopting a clear role as a think tank specialized in Mediterranean relations based on a multidisciplinary and networking approach, the EIMed promotes analyses, understanding and cooperation through the organization of seminars, research projects, debates, conferences and initiatives to further the cultural programme.

The European Institute of the Mediterranean:

**The Congress Goals**

- **Promoting New Approaches to Breaking Stereotypes**
- **Organizing Major Events**

WOCMES Barcelona 2010 was organized by EIMed in collaboration with the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation and Barcelona City Council. The main objective was to bring together researchers, experts and academics from around the world to discuss mutual awareness and understanding in the Mediterranean region.

The large participation, of broad academic and geographical representation, and the high scientific level of the working sessions mean for Barcelona an important step in the consolidation of WOCMES as a congress of international reference after the two previous years (2008 in Germany and 2010 in Jordan). Moreover, the high level of participation also called the appetite following the candidacy of Barcelona in 2008 to host the congress, when it was chosen in open competition over other candidate cities.

The scientific programme, which was prepared for two years based onler the proposals and contributions of 2,350 academics, was accompanied by a notable and intense cultural agenda including a cinema festival, eight exhibitions, theatre and music performances, and a book fair.
The MED 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 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, exchanges and cooperation between different countries, societies and cultures. Although our endeavours are undertaken within the Mediterranean Lo, the current, complex, independent and globalized world challenges us to take into account everything occurring further beyond, because in the end it affects us all.

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

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 exhibition history, sculpture and painting exhibitions. The exhibitions, which came from Yemen, Australia, France, the United States or Spain, were: “La Face en deroute”, “Persian Illustration Script 18th Century”, “Princesse de la Mediterranée : poétises arabes contemporaines”, “Projektung and Bestuur in Khordiba (Baghdad, Iraq)”, “Musique et danse au Sahara, la tradition dans le contemporain”, “Iran; Images From Sassan and Chador”, “Souillence 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 29 August.

Book Fair

Around twenty publishers, as well as university presses, NGOs and other associations from several countries, displayed their publications in the congress venue.

A Framework Favourable to Dialogue in the Mediterranean

In this respect, 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 area as a region. An issue that could not be ignored this year, when the Congress was held in the city where the Permanent Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean is based.

WOCMES Barcelona 2010 has been a privileged space of encounter and meeting for scientific and academic knowledge for more than 2,000 participants. An invitation 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 best instruments in which this IEMed could have contributed to lead us to our mission, which is to work for a Mediterranean of peace and stability, shared prosperity and dialogue between cultures and civilizations.

Senen Florensa
Director General of the IEMed

Institutional Support

The congress participants visited Barcelona City Hall for the opening, and the Palau de la Generalitat de Catalunya, where the Vice-President of the Government of Catalonia, Joaquim Roderic, offered them an institutional reception.

WOCMES 2010 Awards

Barcelona honoured two of the congress participants with the WOCMES 2010 Award for their career and the outstanding academic contributions: the Middle Eastern studies: Roger Deane, A.J. Meyer Professor of Middle Eastern History at Harvard University (USA) and José Víctor de Eguía, Emeritus Professor of Islamic Studies and Semitic Languages at the University of Toulouse (France). The event took place at the Palau de la Música in Barcelona.

Film, Poetry and Theatre

Around twenty films from Iran, Palestine, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, Turkey, Morocco and France, among other countries, were screened at the WOCMES 2010 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 Bahrani (Iran), who presented The Glass House, and Najeeb Rajaj (Palestine), who presented Pomegranates of the Sky. The UNH audience, coinciding with the congress, also programmed two dance performances.

Concerts

The Orquesta Arab de Barcelona offered the inaugural concert of WOCMES-Barcelona 2010. The university campus also hosted the performance by the Algeciras Nuba Band, who offered a journey through the great classics of popular music in her country. At the Palau de la Música, within the framework of the WOCMES 2010 Awards, Folklórica performed Catalan folk music.
WOCMES: in Search of a Route of Ideas

"After the Silk Road: we need a road of ideas." In this spirit, Prince Mansour bin Talal of Jordan opened the WOCMES Barcelona 2010 Congress—an inaugural lecture in which he emphasized the difficulties that international situations in the region and for this, he pledged his commitment to dialogue in order to unite the peoples and countries of the Mediterranean.

Listening to the Prince, in a full auditorium, were some of the academics who from that moment on and until 24th July would examine the state and progress of research at an international level on the Middle East and North Africa with a multidisciplinary approach.

A Framework Favourable to Dialogue in the Mediterranean

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 the congress has achieved the highest figures of participation and has again revealed the capital status of city 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, societies and cultures. Although our activities are oriented within the Mediterranean, the current, complex, interdependent and globalized world obliges us to take into account everything occurring further beyond, because in the end, it affects us.

In this respect, 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 in a region. An issue that could not be ignored this year, when the Congress was held in the city where the Permanent Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean is based.

WOCMES Barcelona 2010 has been a privileged space of exchange and meeting for scientific and academic knowledge for more than 2,300 participants. An invitation both to dialogue and cooperation between people from 75 countries from a wide range of disciplines and fields of study. It has been, therefore, one of the best instruments in which this IEMed could have intervened to further develop our mission, which is to work for a Mediterranean of peace and stability, shared prosperity and dialogue between cultures and civilizations.

WOCMES has included an intensive cultural programme and several social events

Music, Cinema, Theatre and Exhibitions

WOCMES Barcelona 2010 represented to the host country and city an almost unique opportunity to learn first-hand from the vast experts and researchers in two regions, the Middle East and North Africa; with these two outstanding world influencers in political, social, cultural and economic issues. Moreover, it meant for the participants themselves, the opportunity for an academic dissemination of their work in the respect, academics and professionals from Spanish and Catalan universities, who took advantage of the event to participate in the congress in greater numbers than in previous years, shared working sessions with academics from prestigious Anglo-Saxon universities such as Harvard, Stanford, UC Berkeley, Georgetown, Cambridge, the Lords, Glasgow and Edinburgh, and other universities such as the Middle Technical University and Birkatgo University (both in Turkey); the universities of Oslo, Stavanger and Bergen (Norway); Free University and Zhejiang University (China); the universities of Tübingen, Munich and Naples (Italy); Caro University and The American University in Cairo (Egypt); Al-Quds University (Ramallah); Masaryk University (Czech Republic) and the universities of Tehran, Isfahan and Marand (Iran); the Hebrew University and the universities of Tel Aviv and Haifa (Israel); Kyoto and Nagoya (Japan); the universities of Tunes and Manchester (United Kingdom); and the University Mohammed Premier Oujda (Morocco), among many others.

Books Fair

Around twenty publishers, as well as university presses, NGOs and other associations from several countries, displayed their publications in the congress venue.

Exhibitions

In different venues of the congress it was also possible to visit exhibitions of sculpture and painting exhibitions. The exhibition, which came from Yemen, Australia, France, the United States or Spain, was “La Frontera en desnudo”; "Persian Illustration & Script 15th Century"; "Poèmes de la Méditerranée: poètes arabes contemporains"; "Projecting and Reforming in Kurdistan (Baghdad, Iraq)"; "Musique et danses au Sahel, La tradition dans le contemporain"; “Iran: Images From Bosoath to Chador”; "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 and 28th August.

Institutional Support

The congress participants sided Barcelona City Hall for the pride of the Palau de la Generalitat de Catalunya, where the Vice-President of the Government of Catalonia, Joaquim Forn, offered them an institutional presentation.

WOCMES 2010 Awards

Barcelona honoured two of the congress participants with the WOCMES 2010 Award for their career and the outstanding academic contribution the Middle Eastern studies: Roger Dana, AJ Meyer Professor of Middle Eastern History at Harvard University (USA) and José Viñas, Emeritus Professor of Islamic Studies and Semitic Languages at the University of Tubingen (Germany). The event took place at the Palau de la Música in Barcelona.
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 of the region and he pledged his commitment to dialogue in order to unite the peoples and countries of the Mediterranean.

Listening to the Prince, in a full auditorium, were some of the academicians who from that moment and until 24th 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 on which academic 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 of congress sessions.

WOCMES Barcelona 2010 represented for the host country and city an almost unique opportunity to learn first hand from the vast experts and researchers of two regions, the Middle East and North Africa, which have an outstanding world influence in political, social and economic issues. Moreover, it meant for the participants themselves the opportunity for an academic dissemination of their work in the respect, academic and profession from Spanish and Catalan universities, who took advantage of the event to participate in the congress in greater numbers than at previous years, 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 East Technical University and Bosphorus University (both in Turkey), the universities of Nis in Serbia, Amman and Paris Descartes (France), Free University at Zuidas (Amsterdam), Maastricht University (Netherlands), the universities of Tunis and Misk and Naples (Italy), Cairo University and the American University in Cairo (Egypt), Amin Bina BSB in Tehran (Iran); the universities of Tehran, in Jordan and Amman (Jordan), the Hebrew University and those of Tel Aviv and Haifa (Israel); those of Tokyo, Kyoto and Nagoya (Japan); the universities of Tokyo and Muscat (Oman) and the University Mohammed Premier Oujda (Morocco), among many others.

In this respect, 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 as a region. An issue that could not be ignored this year, when the Congress was held in the city where the Permanent Secretary of the Union for the Mediterranean is based.

WOCMES Barcelona 2010 has been a privileged space of exchange and a meeting of scientific and academic knowledge for more than 2300 participants. An invitation 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 best instruments in which the EIMed could have involved itself to advance in our missionary, 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 EIMed

Music, Cinema, Theatre and Exhibitions

WOCMES has included an intensive cultural programme and several social events in the framework of the WOCMES Barcelona 2010 Congress.

In different venues of the Congress it was also possible to visit night photography, sculpture and painting exhibitions. The exhibition, which came from Yemen, Australia, France, the United States or Spain, was "La Frontera se detiene"; "Phenomen Illustration & Script 19th Century"; "Poesía de la Mediterráneo - poesías andalusíes contemporáneas"; "Proyectando y Reestructurando en Kadhafiya (Síquia, Iraq)"; "Música y danza en Sahara. La tradición en las contemporâneas"; "Arts; Images From Besançon a Chad"; "Sciences et politiques 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 from 26th August.
After more than two years of preparation, WOCMES Barcelona 2010 brought together in the Catalan capital over 2,300 participants, largely surpassing the participation of the two previous years. Especially notable was the presence of academics from the Anglo-Saxon world: Mediterranean 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.

**Academic Excellence**

Two committees of experts (international and scientific) guaranteed the high academic level of the congress programme and the presence of disadvantaged areas for the first time with prominent academics.

The scientific programme, which was prepared for two years based on the proposals and contributions of 2,300 academics, was accompanied by a notable and intensive cultural agenda including a cinema festival, eight exhibitions, theatre and music performances, and a book fair.

From 19th to 24th June 2010, the World Congress on Middle East Studies (WOCMES) turned the city of Barcelona into the world capital of studies on these regions. Over 2,300 invited reports, academic papers, 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 50 academic sessions, held in blocks of 10 sessions, on a wide range of disciplines, and debates 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 large participation, of broad academic and geographical representations, and the high scientific level of the working sessions have meant for Barcelona an important step in the consolidation of WOCMES as a congress of international reference after the previous years (2003 in Germany and 2016 in Jordan). Moreover, the high level of participation also called the expectation following the candidate of Barcelona in 2008 to host the congress, when it was chosen in open vote over other candidate cities.

The scientific programme, which was prepared for two years based on the proposals and contributions of 240 academics, was accompanied by a notable and intense cultural agenda including a cinema festival, eight exhibitions, theatre and music performances, and a book fair.