

TANGIER

A CANDIDATE CITY

TANGIER 2012 EXHIBITION NEWSLETTER



Bureau International
des Expositions



TANGER
EXPO 2012

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« TANGER 2012 : A RENDEZ-VOUS WITH HISTORY »

History has often been written within the walls of Tangier, this legendary city which lies at the meeting point of two seas and two continents.

The Ancient Greeks believed that the city dated back to the very dawn of antiquity, and that it had served as the backdrop for some of Hercules' exploits.

Later on, it became Morocco's window on the world, retaining this function for centuries and becoming the country's diplomatic capital.

At the beginning of the twentieth century, the Great Powers gave Tangier the status of international city. During the Second World War, because of this special status, it became a haven for thousands of the world's citizens, including victims of oppression and racism, Jews and freedom fighters. Tangier provided them with a safe refuge, and for some of them it offered a route across the ocean to America.

In April 1947 another distinguished defender of freedom, His Majesty Mohammed V, chose Tangier as the venue for his famous speech calling for the independence of Morocco and other colonized nations. This speech has gone down in history for its universal appeal. It raised the subjects of freedom, equality, cohabitation and

tolerance, all values which Tangier has taken to its heart.

Today the city is writing a glorious new page in its history. His Majesty King Mohammed VI made Tangier the first stop on the long tour of the kingdom which he began in July 1999. That visit was the starting point for a dramatic upsurge in the city's fortunes, economically, culturally and socially, which has been borne along by vast new infrastructure projects and urban renovation programmes.

And still the city clings tightly to the key values of openness and fraternity which are the heritage of its long history. In Tangier, the muezzin's call to prayer is echoed by the bells of the cathedral and the sacred songs of the synagogue.

This city, which has witnessed so many seminal events, which serves as a bridge between Africa and Europe and between East and West, can now write a new page in the history of humankind by hosting the first International Exhibition to be held in Africa, and by bringing together all the world's nations to design and build a more united world.



THE SYMPOSIUM



For its second international symposium since the submission of Tangier's bid to host the 2012 International Exhibition, Morocco welcomed around 150 BIE delegates to Marrakech on 12 November to reflect upon the theme of "Encounters and cultural diversity"

After the symposium, the delegation traveled to Tangier, where the visitors were able to see for themselves the extent of the city's current economic boom and ongoing urban development, and to appreciate its people's enthusiastic support for the candidature. As the delegates took a long walk in the Tangier sunshine, they were accompanied by the singing of more than 10,000 schoolchildren and overwhelmed by the hospitality of Tangier residents, who approached them to welcome them and argue their city's case. Thousands of roses were presented to them or thrown to them from balconies as symbols of the whole population's passionate support for the Exhibition and their awareness of all it will mean to them.



During the symposium, a number of distinguished speakers stressed the wealth of issues raised by the theme chosen for Expo Tanger 2012 and its important role in promoting intercultural dialogue. They also expressed sincere thanks to the Tanger 2012 team for organizing the symposium, which had provided its participants with so many enriching exchanges and unforgettable emotions, offering just a foretaste of what Expo Tanger 2012 would be like.



Mr Gonzalez Loscertales
Secretary General of the BIE

« The theme of Tanger 2012 possesses all the qualities needed for it to contribute to enhancing the image of International Exhibitions »
Mr. Gonzalez LOSCERTALES, Secretary General of the BIE

Mr. Vicente Gonzalez Loscertales, secretary general of the BIE, emphasized the universal character of the theme selected for Expo Tanger 2012.

In fact, it is "a theme which is genuinely universal in its appeal, and which it itself sums up the essential aspect of our social nature: the fact that no man is an island," he declared, adding that the theme has all the qualities needed to make a contribution to enhancing the image of International Exhibitions.

Mr. Loscertales also stressed the importance of the issues raised by the theme, noting that these "are all the more important in today's world, where our constant quest for mobility has resulted in a multiplication of the types and means of exchange, leading to a world in which everything is interdependent". Finally, the BIE secretary general reminded the audience of the theme's capacity for involving all the world's countries and stimulating a real debate: "When we talk about encounters, diversity and cultural exchange, we become aware of the many dilemmas faced by nations and their citizens; and it is precisely because the theme of Tanger 2012 examines so many dilemmas that it is an ideal choice for an International Exhibition."

« The Moroccan government is firmly committed to the Tanger 2012 project »
Mr. Abbas EL FASSI, Prime Minister of Morocco

Mr. Abbas EL FASSI, Morocco's new prime minister, whose government was formed after the recent general election, took the floor to reiterate his own commitment, and that of all the government, to fulfilling all the engagements made in connection with the organization of the 2012 International Exhibition.

The Prime Minister also recalled that Morocco has opted for democracy, and enjoys a political stability which is undoubtedly the best guarantee of the country's ability to handle the organization of major international events in an atmosphere of calm, serenity and enthusiasm.

Mr. Abbas EL FASSI concluded by reminding the audience that "A vote for Morocco's candidature is a vote for a country of the Euro-Mediterranean region, for an African, Arab and Muslim country, but also a vote for a city with a unique location, a city steeped in history and with an undeniable international appeal."



Mr Abbas El Fassi
Prime Minister of Morocco



Federico Mayor Zaragoza
former Director General of UNESCO and President of the
Tanger 2012 International Support Committee

« The time has come for the countries of the north to listen to the countries of the south »

Mr. Federico Mayor ZARAGOZA, former Director General of UNESCO and President of the Tanger 2012 International Support Committee

"The choice of Morocco would confirm the truly universal nature of these international exhibitions and would provide an example for other emerging countries", declared Mr Federico Mayor ZARAGOZA.

The former Director General of UNESCO reminded the audience of some remarkable and regrettable facts: to date, there have been 27 International Exhibitions in Europe, ten in North and South America, eight in Asia and not a single one in Africa. He argued that it was time to correct this injustice.

Mr. Mayor also called upon all countries to come together to discuss the world's current problems in a spirit of greater mutual understanding and intercultural dialogue.

"It is time for the countries of the North to listen to the countries of the South, which have always supported them through difficult times", he concluded.



André Azoulay
Advisor to His Majesty King Mohammed VI

« The time has come to do justice to Africa »

Mr. André AZOULAY, Advisor to His Majesty King Mohammed VI

"The time has come for the international community to do justice to this part of the world, by finally acknowledging that the African continent and the Arab-Muslim world have the ability and the means to host an International Exhibition", Mr. Azoulay insisted.

He elaborated on how Tanger 2012 would be able to play a historic role in a world tortured by doubt and filled with fear. For a victory for Tangier would be a victory for reason over all types of obscurantism, and a victory for modernity over all types of archaism. .

For Mr. Azoulay, Tanger 2012 could be the starting point for a new contract of confidence between the world's cultures, religions and civilizations. "The world needs the kind of electric shock this event would provoke, and the international community must not miss the rendez-vous with history which Morocco is offering them", he concluded.



Edward Nell
Professor of Economics at New School University,
New York

« Controlling globalization by putting back the human element »

Mr. Edward NELL, Professor of Economics at New School University, New York

The well-known economist Edward Nell, International Coordinator of the Expo Tanger 2012 Support Committee, stressed the damage that uncontrolled globalization is causing in Africa. This particularly vulnerable continent is being "invaded and compressed by globalization", he declared.

He argued that it is only by placing more stress on social issues, by giving priority to education and offering the peoples of Africa real opportunities, that globalization can be brought under control. "And it is precisely this that Tanger 2012 represents", he declared.

« Living together, different yet equal »

Mr. Jorge Sampaio, UN Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations

Mr. Jorge Sampaio, former President of Portugal and UN Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations, was particularly concerned to applaud the theme chosen for Expo Tanger 2012.

For indeed, "in a world where dialogue is becoming more and more difficult", Expo Tanger 2012, thanks to its theme, could offer us an opportunity to learn once again how to "live together, different yet equal".

WHY TANGER 2012 WILL MAKE HISTORY

1st Exhibition in an African, Arab and Muslim country

It is high time that an African, Arab and Muslim country hosted an International Exhibition. Expo Tanger 2012 will be a chance for Africa and the emerging countries to make their voice heard.

A powerful and original theme

"Routes of the world, cultures connecting. For a more united world." Expo Tanger 2012 will explore a theme which has never before been dealt with by an International Exhibition, and one which raises pressing questions of importance to all the world's countries

The high quality infrastructures needed for a successful Exhibition

Thanks to the spectacular economic boom Tangier is currently enjoying, the region is acquiring transport and accommodation infrastructures which meet international standards, and it has all the resources needed to ensure that Expo Tanger 2012 is a success on the technical level.

Proven skills and know-how

With long experience in hosting important international events in the political, sporting and cultural fields, Morocco possesses the skills and know-how needed for the organization of events on the scale of an International Exhibition.

Numerous advantages for participants

In Tangier, and in Morocco as a whole, the participants will find at their disposal all the human and logistical resources needed to help them throughout the Exhibition. Participants will also appreciate the very reasonable participation costs.

To ensure that the participants provide a balanced representation of all the regions of the world, Expo Tanger 2012 will pay all participation costs for developing countries.

An exhibition with unanimous support

The Moroccan government is firmly committed to Tangier's candidature. Elected representatives, civil society, the business world and the general public of both Tangier and Morocco as a whole are equally enthusiastic about Tangier's bid. The support of all the key sectors of Moroccan society is a guarantee of the success of Expo Tanger 2012.

A country just made to host an International Exhibition

As a crossroads of civilizations, a land of encounters, a country of tolerance and dialogue, Morocco has always demonstrated its commitment to the values of exchange and progress which are the key elements of the spirit of International Exhibitions.

Tangier is ready for the Exhibition!

The company which will be responsible for organizing the Exhibition, Tanger 2012 SA, was set up in June 2007, and has already taken possession of the magnificent plot of land which will provide the site of the Exhibition. And the infrastructures needed for the organization of this great event are rapidly being developed in Tangier and the surrounding region.



For all these reasons, Expo Tanger 2012 will be a historic turning point for the BIE and for the world