



CONSULATE GENERAL
OF SWEDEN

Jerusalem

Inauguration of cultural heritage building

The Consul General inaugurated the building Dar Canawati together with staff members on Thursday. With financial support from Sweden, this cultural heritage building has been restored by the Center for Cultural Heritage Preservation (CCHP).

2013, November 22

Dar Canawati is an early 20th century residential building that is situated in the northern part of Bethlehem city, composed of two floors with a total area of 560m² and over 827m² land areas. The building has been abandoned for more than 15 years and is currently owned by the John Paul II Foundation. The historic building will be reused for two main functions, as health center, in cooperation with Al-Rahma Association, and additional lecture rooms designated for teaching languages by John Paul II Foundation.

The building was selected carefully to suit the needs by these organizations and their activities. Its location on the main street facilitates accessibility for people and makes it well suitable for a health center. During the design phase, CCHP considered the future main functions of the building and ensured accessibility for people with special needs. During the restoration CCHP focused on re-using materials already existing on the site such as stones, steel and wooden doors and windows.

The presence of the Consul General of Sweden, Axel Wernhoff, and he's speech was highly appreciated during the inauguration ceremony. Those involved with the restoration, and first and foremost the John Paul II Foundation, expressed great gratitude towards the Swedish financial support that made this restoration possible. Sweden has cooperated with CCHP since 2005 to preserve the Palestinian cultural heritage and create job opportunities in Bethlehem and the surrounding area.

Among others, the Mayor of Bethlehem, Mrs. Vera Baboun, Director of CCHP, Arch. Issam Juha and the UNESCO representative from the Ramallah Office Mr. Junaid Sorosh also attended the inauguration.