



BLUE SEA LAND 2015: THINK BLUE, MAKE PEACE

From 8th to 11th October 2015 was held Blue Sea Land: the Expo that gathers the Agrofood Clusters of the Mediterranean, of Africa and of the Middle-East.

Blue Sea Land is an initiative which develops within the Blue Economy basic model. The water and its socio-economic implications have been the common theme of several events held within Blue Sea Land such as the preservation and the sharing of water as a resource; its rational use in agriculture, and maritime activities as well as in productions systems; the respect for the marine environment; food safety; the religious dialogue and cooperation among the Nations of the Mediterranean, of Africa, and of the Broader Middle-East.

The event was organized by the Fishing Production District in cooperation with the District Centre of Competency; Trapani Chamber of Commerce; the Observatory for Fishery in the Mediterranean Sea; the Ministry of Economic Development; the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies; the Region of Sicily; Confindustria Sicilia (the federation of Italian employers), Coldiretti (the federation of Italian farmers); Rotary International and ANCI Sicilia (the federation of Sicily municipalities).

By the reading to the 42 Countries attending the event of the written message of the President of the Italian Republic, Sergio Mattarella, and of the President of the Republic of Ghana John Dramani Mahama it was opened the inaugural conference in the "Sala Gialla" (Yellow Room) of the Palazzo dei Normanni (Palace of the Normans) in Palermo. Following, the name of the representatives that took the floor: Vincenzo De Luca (Deputy General Manager and Central Manager of the Internationalization of the State System and of Local Authorities for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation); Leoluca Orlando (President of ANCI and Mayor of Palermo); Antonello Cracolici (President of the Institutional Affairs Committee of ARS, the Assembly of the Region of Sicily); Francesco Milazzo (Governor of Rotary 2110 District), Cecilia Obono Ndong (Ambassador of Equatorial Guinea in Italy and Deputy Dean of the African Diplomatic Corps accredited to the Quirinale), Hanny-Sherry Ayitey (Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture of the Republic of Ghana), Khalid Omar Ali (Somalia Minister of State of Foreign Affairs and Investment Promotion), Giuseppe Castiglione (Undersecretary of State of the Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies), Farid Ahmed Saeed

Mogawar (Yemen Minister of Agriculture), Rosaria Barresi (Regional Assessor of Agriculture, Rural Development and Mediterranean Fisheries of the Region of Sicily) and Mariem Aouffa (Ambassador of Mauritania in Italy).

Blue Sea Land continued, then, with a series of events held in Mazara Del Vallo.

- The day of October the 9th, began with the Conference on “*Instruments of Internationalization and Cooperation*” attended by: Vincenzo De Luca (Deputy General Manager, and Central Manager of the Internationalization of the State System and of Local Authorities for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation); Nino Salerno (Deputy President of Confindustria Sicilia charged with Internationalization); Alberto Scuderi (President of the Marsala Institute of Chartered Accountants); Giuseppe Pace (President of Trapani Chamber of Commerce, Agriculture and Handicraft); Maria Stassi (Sprint Sicilia Manager); Gabriele Barone (representative of ICE – Italian national institute for foreign trade); Paolo Di Marco (South Area contact person for SIMEST) and Giovanni Tria (President of the National School of Administration). Each of them provided an overview of those instruments that have been promoted by all of the different Ministries as well as their associated agencies and that can help companies to start or strengthen an internationalization path.

- Afterwards in the morning, the event went on with a Conference on “*Italy - Africa: the shared past, and future. Comparing diplomatic relations*” opened by Cleo Li Calzi (Regional Minister of Tourism of the Region of Sicily) and by the Ambassador of Equatorial Guinea Cecilia Obono Ndong with the participation as well of Umberto Vattani and others African Ambassadors - Manuel Amante Da Rosa (Cape Verde) and Molly Anima Addo (Ghana) - as well as institutional representatives (Congo and Somalia).

- “*Europe, Mediterranean and Middle-East: what’s happening? Comparing Diplomacies*” and “*Health Care and Immigration: regulations and governance*” within the current geopolitical context in the Mediterranean and in the Middle-East. Works had been moderated by Michael Frendo (Emeritus Foreigns Ministry of the Republic of Malta) who introduced the speeches of Simone Baldelli (Vice President of the Chamber of Deputies), Youssef Chahed (Undersecretary of State of Fisheries and Agriculture of the Tunisian Republic), Giovanni Umberto De Vito (Italy Ambassador to Malta), Giorgio Starace (Ambassador to Italy, Libia Special Envoy), Mohammed Bekkat Berkani (President of the Conference of the Order of Doctors of Algeria), Hassan Abouyoub (Ambassador of the Kingdom of Morocco to Italy), Marco Carnelos (Ambassador of Italy to Iraq), Farid Ahmed Saeed Mogawar (Yemen Ministry of Agriculture), Raimondo De Cardona (Ambassador of Italy to Tunisia), Guido De Sanctis (Ambassador of Italy to Qatar).

Below

- *Focus on Production Districts* as a model of virtuous development promoted by the Parliament’s Intergroup for the Subsidiarity of the Chambers of Deputies and of the Senate in the presence of Michela Giuffrida, European Deputy of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development.

- Conference on Blue Economy and Fishing – *“Blue Mediterranean: heritage, integration and development”* with the participation of Fisheries Ministers and Directors (Somalia, Yemen, Ghana, Egypt, Tunisia, Italy, Algeria, Libya, Equatorial Guinea) and FAO representatives.

Three main events had also been promoted and organized by **Rotary** within Blue Sea Land:

1. CIP Italy – Tunisia: co-chaired by Francesco Milazzo (Head of 2110 District) as well as Mohamed Ghammam (National Coordinator of CIP Tunisia) and Mario Giannola (National Coordinator of CIP Italia) who were also supported by **two chairmen of the Italy -Tunisia Committee Giovanni Tumbiolo and Meher Maamri and with the participation of the Italian Ambassador to Tunis Raimondo De Cardona and Youssef Chahed Secretary of State – Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries of the Tunisian Republic and Italian as well as Tunisian representative of the Committee.** The discussed topics dealt with the Cross-Border cooperation between the two sides and were mainly focused on water as a resource and on peace in the Mediterranean in the light of the current events.

2. A Conference was also held on **“PEACE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN: WATER AS AN ASSET DO BE “FOSTERED” TOGETHER”** by the Italy- Tunisia Intercountry Committee and Districts of 2080 and 2110 Rotary International. This conference was moderated by Giovanni Pepi, Director of the Giornale di Sicilia.

3. PRAYER FOR PEACE AMONG PEOPLES (a moment of great emotional emphasis) that took place in the heart of Mazara’s Kasbah with the aim of conveying a message of brotherhood, unity, peace, dialogue and cooperation among peoples. The ceremony had been presided by Francesco Milazzo, Head of the Sicily-Malta 2110 Rotary District, who was supported by Mohamed Ghammam (National Coordinator of CIP Tunisia) and Mario Giannola (National Coordinator of CIP Italy) and in the presence of Mons. Domenico Mogavero (Bishop of Mazara del Vallo), Baba Mond (Governor of the Bektashi Community of Albania), Muhammad Hassan Abdulghaffar (Imam of the Great Mosque of Rome), Abdelhafid Kheit (Imam of the Mosque of Catania and President of the Islamic Community of Sicily), Ahmad Abd al Majiid Macaluso (Sicilian Manager of the Islamic Religious Community). During this event **“The Charter of Water”** was also presented: a document written and signed by the Rotary Italy- Tunisia Intercountry Committee. Furthermore, on this same occasion the Tunisian Habib Benour was awarded the “Al Idrissi” Prize. Habib Benour is the Governor of the 9010 District, a Founder Member of Sousse-Doyen Rotary Club from 1985 and a representative of Utica and of the Hoteliers National Federation of Tunisia as well as a precursor of the Italo-tunisian joint-venture within Fishing Industry.

More than 1000 B2B meetings took place within Blue Sea Land and 42 foreign delegations attended the exhibition. B2B meeting had been promoted and organized by ITA-ICE, Sprint Sicilia and ENN.

Below an overview of all of the foreign delegations that had been attending the event.

	Business Delegations	Institutional Delegations
1. Australia	X	
2. Austria	X	
3. Belgium	X	X
4. Bulgaria	X	
5. China	X	
6. Czech Republic	X	
7. Denmark	X	
8. Georgia	X	
9. Holland	X	
10. Poland	X	
11. Romania	X	
12. Russia	X	
13. Spain	X	
14. Tunisia	X	X
15. Turkey	X	X
16. United Kingdom	X	
17. USA	X	
18. ALGERIA	X	X
19. BURKINA FASO	X	X
20. BURUNDI	X	X
21. CAPE VERDE	X	X
22. CYPRUS		X
23. CONGO	X	X
24. IVORY COAST	X	X
25. EGYPT	X	X
26. UNITED ARAB EMI-RATES		X
27. GABON	X	X
28. GHANA	X	X
29. EQUATORIAL GUINEA	X	X
30. LIBYA – Tobruk	X	X
31. Libya – Tripoli	X	
32. MALTA	X	X
33. MOROCCO	X	X
34. MAURITANIA	X	X
35. PRINCIPALITY OF MONACO		X
36. SENEGAL		X
37. SOMALIA		X
38. YEMEN		X
39. PHILIPPINES		X
40. LITHUANIA		X
41. FINLAND		X
42. Iraq		X