



TUNISIA NEWSLETTER

November 2009

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TUNISIA AND JAPAN

President Ben Ali receives congratulatory message from Japanese Prime Minister

CARTHAGE, Nov. 4, 2009 (TAP) - President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali received a congratulatory message from Japanese Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama, on the occasion of his re-election to the Presidency of the Republic.

Mr. Hatoyama voices, on behalf of the Japanese government and people, his high consideration to the Head of State and extends to him his best wishes of good health and continuous success.

He also expresses will to strengthen the friendly relations binding the two countries and to develop co-operation ties on the international scale with President Ben Ali who, he writes, is endowed with great insight and a rich experience in this field.

President Ben Ali receives credentials of the new ambassador of Japan in Tunis

CARTHAGE, Nov. 19, 2009 - President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali received, during an official ceremony held Thursday, the credentials of the new ambassadors of brotherly and friendly countries including Mr. Toshiyuki Taga, Ambassador of Japan, Mr. Gordon Gray, Ambassador of the United States of America and Mr. Pierre Menat, Ambassador of France.

Japanese firm Yasaki to create 5,000 jobs by 2011

Tunis, Nov. 30, 2009 (TAP)-Yasaki, world leader of cable beams (with 23 pc of the market) is to create, in the region of Gafsa, some 5,000 jobs during the next two years.

Presently, the firm employs 700 workers, a number to exceed 1,000 by late 2009.

Yasaki rented premises in the Gafsa industrial zone. A manufacture is to be built later with 30,000 square meters.

Besides, the group is to open a second manufacture in Oum Larayes. 25 million euros is the total investment of these projects.

Tunisia- Japan triangular cooperation : Training session on maternal and infant health

TUNIS, Nov. 25, 2009 (TAP) - A training session on trainers' instruction in communication for behaviour change in the area of sexual and reproductive health ended, on Wednesday in Tunis, after a three-week session of theoretical courses and field visits in several regions.

Participants from Sub-Saharan countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Djibouti, Madagascar, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Chad) took part in this training which focused on improvement of maternal and infant health.

The session was held by the National Family and Population Board (ONFP), in association with the Japanese International Co-operation Agency (JICA).

The training session aimed at empowering skills in participating countries to devise, plan, implement and evaluate communication programmes and develop prevention materials in the area of sexual and reproductive health.

An additional session is expected to be in 2010 in Tunis on development of strategies.

The closing ceremony was attended by Messrs. Nebiha Gueddana and Michiyo Hashiguchi, ONFP Director General and Director General representative of JICA in Tunisia, respectively.

JICA is presently making a television report on Tunisia and Senegal focused on South-South co-operation and projects conducted by ONFP with JICA's support. This work, to be broadcast in March 2010 by 45 African channels, will shed light on ONFP and its leading role in reproductive health in Africa.

Tenth Tunisia-Japan symposium on society, sciences and technologies

HAMMAMET, Nov. 12, 2009 (TAP) - The 10th Tunisia-Japan symposium on society, sciences and technologies is held, on the 11th-14th instant in Hammamet, with the participation of 100 Japanese and 250 Tunisian researchers from universities and research centres.

This annual symposium is a space to enhance scientific exchanges and enrich experiences of the two countries' researchers, especially as works of this colloquium are based on exposés about researches conducted in key areas, particularly agriculture, food sciences, environment, water,

communications, mathematics, human and social sciences, management and innovation.

In his opening address, Higher Education, Scientific Research and Technology Minister Lazhar Bououni laid emphasis, in particular, on Tunisia's keenness to further develop contribution of research and innovation system, by constantly increasing funds appropriated to this sector.

For his part, President of Tsukuba University, Prof. Nobuhiro Yamada, expressed conviction that this symposium will provide a great opportunity to the two countries' researchers to present findings of their researches, to further boost scientific co-operation between the two sides and establish a permanent scientific partnership which could be widened to shine on the whole North African region.

Aspects of scientific co-operation between Tunisia and Japan had been multiplied, notably with the creation of Borj Cedria technological pole, within which a technical co-operation programme would be achieved between the existing research structures specialised in the fields of water, environment, biotechnology and renewable energies.

It is worth pointing out that 29 Tunisian students are taking, for the last two years, their doctoral studies in Japanese universities, notably in the above-mentioned specialties. It is expected that bilateral co-operation would be consolidated during the coming years, thanks to the achievement, as of 2010 and for a five-year period, of a project providing for reinforcing biological resources in arid and semi-arid areas, in service of regional development.

Five Tunisian higher-education establishments and research centres and three Japanese universities are taking part in this project.

The opening session of the symposium was attended by Japan's ambassador in Tunis, university presidents and directors of Tunisian research centres.

Tunisian exhibition "Legacy of Carthage," at Okayama City's Museum

TUNIS, Nov. 3, 2009 (TAP)- After the popular and media success witnessed by the Tunisian exhibition "Legacy of Carthage" in three Japanese cities (Sendai, Kanazawa and Tokyo), it was the turn of the Museum of the southwestern city of Okayama to host the Carthaginian archaeological pieces.

The official inauguration of this fourth stage of the exhibition took place on Saturday, October 2009, in the presence of a host of political and cultural figures from both countries, including the Director General of "IOEI" institution and executives of the National Heritage Institute and representatives of the Ministry of Culture and Heritage Preservation.

The Japanese officials commended the organisation of this event which provides the opportunity to learn about the wealth of the succession of civilisations in Tunisia through displayed archaeological pieces, stressing the cultural and tourist influence of Tunisia. "The Legacy of Carthage" was the subject of many cultural programmes on television, which reflects Tunisian and Japanese organisers' readiness to ensure all conditions for the success of this initiative.

POLITICS & DIPLOMACY

President Ben Ali participates in World Summit on Food Security and World Food Situation in Rome

TUNIS, Nov. 17, 2009 (TAP)- President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali participated in the World Summit on Food Security and the World Food Situation in Rome.

The Head of State's delivered an address in which he highlighted Tunisia's approach and reformist policies which have placed the issue of food security at the forefront of its priorities and provided the necessary mechanisms and incentives to cope with it, especially as regards agricultural investment and scientific research and its utilisation for development ends.

The President of the Republic also stressed the need to take practical initiatives to fight against hunger and malnutrition in the world, reiterating Tunisia's strong will to boost international co-operation in this field and contribute, thanks to its experience, to achieving the objectives set by the international community, through international solidarity, to eradicate hunger and poverty.

[Full text of President Ben Ali's address](#)

As to First Lady Leila Ben Ali, she took part in Rome in the 2nd Summit of Non-Aligned Countries' First Ladies on " Food Security and Women's Access to Resources."

In an address delivered on the occasion, she emphasised the leading role assumed by women in boosting development and fighting against hunger and malnutrition.

Mrs. Ben Ali reaffirmed, during the debate, the important role devolved upon Tunisian women in achieving food security, stressing the achievements carried out in Tunisia in matters of reinforcing women's rights and promoting women to the rank of partners, in addition to the sustained care taken of the education and training of women in general and rural women in particular, so as to entitle them to fully discharge their mission in the country's development process.

The First Lady highlighted, in this regard, the fundamental role of the principles of equality, justice and fair partnership between men and women in the achievement of progress and development.

[Full text of the address](#)

Swearing in of President Ben Ali after his re-election for a new presidential term

BARDO, Nov. 12, 2009 (TAP) - President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali was sworn in after his re-election for a new presidential term, at a special joint session of the Chambers of Deputies and Councilors.

This session was also marked by the speech program delivered by President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali to the Tunisian people.

The Head of State was greeted, on his arrival at the premises of the Chamber of Deputies, by the Prime Minister and the speakers of the Chambers of Deputies and Councilors. President Ben Ali saluted the flag as the national anthem was performed and reviewed a detachment of the presidential guard paying him honours.

A warm welcome was then reserved to the Head of State by deputies and Councilors on his arrival at the Chamber's plenary sessions hall.

Pursuant to Article 42 of the Constitution, The President of the Republic takes the following oath: "I swear by Almighty God to safeguard national independence and integrity of territory, to respect the constitution and the law and see scrupulously to the interests of the nation."

The President of the Republic underlined that he will pursue action in the service of people and the

country, pointing out that he has placed his programme for the coming five-year term under an ambitious motto: "Together We Meet Challenges" so that it would serve as a catalyst for all to acquire the abilities and capacities that allow the country to join the rank of developed countries.

The Head of State announced, in his speech, a set of decisions related to employment, knowledge society, technological innovation and acceleration of the investment pace, boosting of private initiative and developing the customs and fiscal system.

Having indicated that he has established programmes and opened up prospects for Tunisia that are up to its glorious history and prestige and are in harmony with its people's aspirations and ambitions, President Ben Ali underlined that the citizens' dignity and invulnerability are indissociable from their country's dignity and invulnerability.

He stressed keenness to strive to make sure Tunisians live in security, quietude, serenity and dignity in their country, their heads held high with honour and dignity, and that Tunisia remains a unique and distinguished model in its regional environment, always respected in held in high regard and continuously embracing success and excellence.

[Full text of President Ben Ali's Speech](#)

President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali chairs ceremony on 22nd anniversary of Change

CARTHAGE, Nov. 7, 2009 (TAP)- A ceremony was held Saturday under the chairmanship of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, on the 22nd anniversary of the November 7 Change.

The Head of State honoured, on this occasion, several officials, executives, national skills and creators.

The President of the Republic made an address in which he underlined that he will pursue the process with the Tunisian people, driven by commitment to the historic mission he has assumed for their sake while being proud of the renewed confidence of the people in his person.

The Head of State said the will to enrich the process of democracy and pluralism and to expand the scope of progress and well-being in Tunisia is as firm and strong as never before and that he will forge ahead with this action, adhering to his programme for the coming five-year term.

The President of the Republic extended his thanks and consideration to all those who supported his candidacy, voted for him and responded positively to his Electoral Programme. The Head of State also thanked the Constitutional Democratic Rally (RCD) and all national opposition parties, organisations and associations, expressing his pride and satisfaction at the success of the presidential and legislative elections at all stages and at all levels.

President Ben Ali also offered his congratulations to the members of the Chamber of Deputies who won the confidence of citizens in their respective electoral districts, saying that he will be pleased to visit them soon at the parliament's premises to take the constitutional oath before them and before the Chamber of Councilors' members.

During this ceremony, the Head of State honoured Dr. Bellachheb Chahbani, Professor, Researcher at the Institute of Arid Areas (IRA) in Medenine, by awarding him the "November 7 Prize for Creativity," in consideration for his researches and for having invented a new irrigation water saving technique. Dr. Bellachheb Chahbani had earned the International Water Prize of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).

The Head of State also decorated several officials, executives and creators with the insignia of the Order of the November 7, in consideration for the commendable efforts they have exerted to strengthen the civilisational project and enhance its attributes.

The ceremony was attended by the Prime Minister, the Speakers of the Chamber of Deputies and Chamber of Councilors, RCD politburo members and the Mufti of the Republic.

Were also invited the secretaries-general of political parties, the chairmen of national organisations, official bodies and consultative councils as well as several senior executives and national figures.

President Ben Ali's address at the Twenty-first RCD International Symposium

GAMMARTH, Nov. 2, 2009 (TAP) - The 21st International Symposium of the Constitutional Democratic Rally (RCD) started works, on Monday in Gammarth, under the theme: "Which Global Economic System to Ensure Stability and Development in the World?" The event is part of the celebration of the 22nd anniversary of the Change.

President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali addressed participants in this Symposium with a speech delivered on his behalf by RCD Deputy Chairman and Prime Minister Mohamed Ghannouchi.

The President of the Republic underlined, in this address, that this meeting takes place just after the presidential and legislative elections which constituted a major historic event that reflects once again the degree of maturity achieved by the country and the solidity of the democratic pluralist edifice in Tunisian society.

He emphasised that these elections were held in a climate of transparency and fair competition among all lists of the political parties and the independent lists, thanks to the guarantees provided to them, "which have been praised by the observers from sisterly and friendly countries who followed these elections and confirmed by the report of the National Elections Observatory."

The President of the Republic expressed the pride he takes in the Tunisian people's confidence in his person and their adherence to his choices and programmes for the coming five-year term. He also commended the prestigious stature and large popularity enjoyed by the RCD in all regions and among all social categories and its deep-rooted presence in all circles.

The Head of State pointed to the crucial importance of the theme of the international symposium which raises the main problems and challenges that face humanity in this decisive period of its history. He underlined that the world is experiencing today deep changes, as globalisation is expanding and many countries are moving into regional and international blocs.

He added that the internationalisation of markets, the globalisation of production systems and the global financial integration led to remarkable results at the international level, in terms of growth.

However, he pointed out, this did not prevent the appearance of many drawbacks resulting in successive financial convulsions.

President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali said Tunisia was among the first countries to have monitored developments taking place in the world financial markets since the emergence of the first signs of this crisis, by establishing vigilance and follow-up units as of late 2007, which helped formulate a coherent national strategy to face up to the impact of the crisis and preserve the country's internal and external balances.

The President of the Republic pointed out that the gains and achievements in the economic and financial sectors prompt the State today to step up action and show greater vigilance and caution so that Tunisia achieves its development goals and meets the future challenges highlighted in the electoral programme for 2009-2014.

President Ben Ali reiterated his confidence in the country's ability to recover the highest growth rates at the beginning of the new stage and to pursue action of construction and accomplishment so as to achieve the objectives set for the coming period.

The Head of State underlined the call he had launched to the international community to set rules under the shape of a binding UN code of ethics, ensuring adequacy between the financial sector and the economic sector, further co-ordinating efforts to intensify the mechanisms of international co-operation between these sectors and show continuous vigilance.

He also highlighted the importance of a consensus on a global financial system that guarantees security in the world and establishing an equitable and non-discriminatory global strategy.

[Full text of President Ben Ali's Speech](#)

Prime Minister Mohamed Ghannouchi presents at Chamber of Deputies the Government Statement on the draft 2010 budget

BARDO, Nov. 30, 2009 (TAP) - Debates of the Chamber of Deputies on the draft State budget for 2010 started late on Monday morning in Bardo. As instructed by President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali, Prime Minister Mohamed Ghannouchi presented, at a plenary session chaired by Speaker of the Chamber Foued Mebazaa, the Government Statement on the draft economic and State budgets for 2010.

On this occasion, the prime minister underlined the special importance of debates, in the coming days, insofar as they constitute a starting point of the new legislature and a decisive stage in the development process, whose outlines had been drawn by President Ben Ali's electoral programme for the next five-year term, to carry on labour and self-sacrifice, to achieve the new qualitative targets that meet the national community's aspirations and enhance the attributes of Tunisia's invulnerability and glory.

The prime minister said that the reference speech delivered by the President of the Republic, on November 12, on the occasion of his constitutional oath-taking, illustrates the Head of State's unfailing determination and firm will to honour commitments contained in his electoral platform, in all areas, and start effectively implementation of its different aspects, in accordance with a well-defined schedule.

Mr. Mohamed Ghannouchi added that next year's general budget draws its importance from the fact that 2010 is the year of the implementation for the flexible plan, which is a link between the present development plan and the new development plan, which coincides with the period of the implementation of the new electoral programme.

[Full text of the Prime Minister's Address](#)

Foreign Minister Abdelwaheb Abdallah receives Chinese Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Zhai Jun

TUNIS, Nov. 25, 2009 (TAP) - Foreign Minister Abdelwaheb Abdallah Tuesday received in Tunis Chinese Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Zhai Jun, who is attending in Tunisia the conference of China's ambassadors to Middle East and North Africa countries.

The Minister voiced satisfaction at bilateral relations characterised by sustained consultation and coordination between the two countries' foreign ministries over mutual interest issues.

He affirmed that Tunisia is taking major care of its relations with China, stressing the positive results recorded through the exchange of Tunisian and Chinese high officials' visits which allowed, he said, to reinforce bilateral co-operation.

The Minister also emphasised the private sector's role in increasing and developing co-operation between the two countries in the different fields through partnership projects that serve the interests of the two countries and the two friendly peoples.

The Chinese official reiterated, for his part, his country's congratulations to President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali on his re-election and lauded the achievements carried out in Tunisia under the Head of State's wise leadership, wishing Tunisia and its people further progress and prosperity.

He also hailed the long-standing relations between the two countries which celebrate this year their 45th anniversary, expressing satisfaction at

Tunisia's active contribution and positive role in the success of the Forum on Chinese-African Co-operation, held in Sharm El Cheikh last November 8-9.

The Chinese official said the meeting had allowed to exchange views on means likely to promote the "excellent" bilateral relations, voicing satisfaction at the development of these relations.

He also expressed will to boost co-operation between the two countries in the various political, economic and cultural fields.

Defense minister receives Executive Secretary of North African Sector Unit within African Intervention Forces

TUNIS, Nov. 19, 2009 (TAP)- National Defense Minister Kamel Morjane Wednesday received in Tunis Brigadier General Ahmed Aoun, Executive Secretary of North Africa Sector Unit within the African intervention forces, who handed over to him a message from Lieutenant-General Abou Bakr Younes Jaber, Secretary of Libya's Interim General Defense Committee, regarding the next meeting of defence ministers of this structure's member states.

The Minister reviewed, on the occasion, the experience of Tunisia's army pertaining to participation since the 1960 in peacekeeping missions the world over under the banner of the United Nations or the African Union, stressing the importance of co-operation and consultation among the countries of the region in order to strengthen fraternal ties.

The meeting also allowed to discuss prospects of boosting fraternal co-operation between Tunisia and Libya, in materialisation of the mutual political will of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and his brother Leader Mouammar Kadhafi.

The meeting was attended by members of the delegation accompanying Brigadier- General Ahmed Aoun and the General Representative of Libya in Tunisia.

Tunisia takes part in Arab Peace Initiative Committee's Ministerial Meeting

TUNIS, Nov. 14, 2009 (TAP) - Secretary of State in charge of Maghreb, Arab and African Affairs Abdelhafidh Harguem took part in the Arab Peace Initiative Committee's Ministerial Meeting held on Thursday in Cairo.

The meeting looked at the latest developments in the Arab-Israeli conflict and the need to adopt a joint Arab stand in this regard.

The secretary of State reiterated Tunisia's position of principle regarding the Palestinian just cause.

He laid emphasis on the Head of State's keenness to support all initiatives and efforts aimed to reach a just, comprehensive and lasting settlement to the Middle East conflict, on the basis of international resolutions and reference documents of the peace process and the Arab Peace Initiative, so as to help the Palestinian people recover their legitimate rights and create their independent State on their own territory and contribute to the re-establishment of security and stability in the region.

Mr. Harguem highlighted the importance of re-launching the peace process and putting an end to the conflict and tension in the region, on the basis of the two-state solution, saying that the establishment of peace remains difficult to undertake with Israel's occupation of Arab territories, its persistence to free itself from the peaceful option and its continued settlement in the occupied territories.

He highlighted the need to combine efforts of the international community to overcome the state of stagnation facing the peace process and provide appropriate conditions likely to help resume negotiations, in accordance with a definite agenda.

On the sidelines of his participation in the meeting, Mr. Abdelhafidh Harguem had talks with Arab League Secretary-General Amr Moussa and several Arab ministers on issues on the agenda of this meeting.

Foreign Affairs Minister Abdelwaheb Abdallah receives delegation of Polish MPs

TUNIS, Nov. 13, 2009 (TAP)- Foreign Affairs Minister Abdelwaheb Abdallah received, on Friday in Tunis, a delegation of Polish MPs led by Mr. Wieslaw Woda, Chairman of Poland-Tunisia Friendship Group.

During the talk, Mr. Abdelwaheb Abdallah praised the quality of Tunisian-Polish co-operation, reminding of the State visit paid by President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali to Warsaw in March 2000 and the one paid in Tunis by the Polish President in October 2002. He said these visits were key stages in developing bilateral relations.

The minister pointed out that bilateral exchanges remain, however, below the economic and commercial potential of the two countries and the firm political will of the two sides to further step up these exchanges and hoist them to the level of a mutually beneficial partnership.

Mr. Abdelwaheb Abdallah expressed hope that the two countries' businessmen will establish more contacts to identify opportunities of exchanges and incentivers in matters of investment.

The two sides also stressed the importance of parliamentary diplomacy in bringing peoples together and enriching and strengthening bilateral relations at all levels.

Following the meeting, Mr. Woda said the talk had made it possible to review the development of Tunisian-Polish relations and ways to boost them in the two countries' interest, particularly, he pointed, on the celebration, this year, of the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Tunis and Warsaw.

He said, in this regard, that there are real opportunities of co-operation in the tourism, industry and trade sectors.

Chamber of Councilors President receives Speaker of Congo's National Assembly and former Italian PM

BARDO, Nov. 3, 2009 (TAP)- President of the Chamber of Councilors Abdallah Kallel received, on Tuesday in Bardo, Mr. Everiste Boshab, Speaker of the Democratic Republic of Congo's National Assembly.

The talk examined bilateral relations and ways to boost co-operation between the two countries.

Mr. Abdallah Kallel underlined, on the occasion, the African dimension of Tunisia's foreign policy, stressing President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali's sustained keenness to strengthen co-operation between African states. He pointed to the importance of the generous efforts exerted by the Head of State in the service of Africa and its causes, particularly the continent's security and stability as well as development and solidary partnership.

The Chamber of Councilors' President emphasised, in this regard, the deep changes experienced by Tunisia in the different areas, stressing the country's readiness to lend assistance to the African brothers so that they draw on the Tunisian experience in matters of development.

For his part, the Congolese guest expressed admiration at the comprehensive development, economic growth and social progress witnessed by Tunisia under President Ben Ali's leadership which earned it esteem, consideration and influence on the regional and international scale.

He reiterated determination to consolidate the relations of co-operation with Tunisia in different areas, stressing the important role of parliamentary diplomacy in enriching bilateral and regional co-operation and strengthening solidarity and fruitful co-operation in the African continent.

Mr. Abdallah Kallel also conferred, on Tuesday, with Mr. Lamberto Dini, former Italian Prime Minister, former Minister of Foreign Affairs and current Chairman of the Foreign Affairs' Commission at the Italian Senate.

Mr. Abdallah Kallel stressed the close and long-standing friendship and co-operation relations between Tunisia and Italy, stressing the noticeable progress they have experienced in different areas.

In this regard, he underscored the need to seek to further strengthen the bilateral co-operation in different areas, particularly in the parliamentary fields which is likely to serve the mutual interests of the two countries and two friendly peoples.

Mr. Lamberto Dini expressed satisfaction at the excellent level reached by the Tunisian-Italian relations and the exemplary co-operation between the two countries which have been marked constantly by its comprehensive and diversified nature.

He stressed Italy's determination to further contribute to enrich this co-operation so that it remain a model in the Mediterranean region.

He also commended the qualitative leap recorded in Tunisia in the political, economic and social areas, as well as the climate of security and stability prevailing in the country thanks to the pertinent and enlightened leadership of the Head of State as well as his judicious choices and successful approaches which materialise the Tunisian people's aspirations to a better future.

The Italian guest highlighted the need to step up efforts and strengthen Tunisian-Italian co-operation, particularly in the parliamentary field.

Chamber of Deputies Speaker receives Speaker of Djibouti's National Assembly

BARDO, Nov. 2, 2009 (TAP) - Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies Foued Mebazaa received, on Monday in Bardo, Mr. Idriss Arnaoud Ali, Speaker of Djibouti's National Assembly and Secretary-General of the People's Rally for Progress who is taking part in the Constitutional Democratic Rally (RCD) International Symposium, held on the 22nd anniversary of the Change.

The talk made it possible to review bilateral relations and stress the need to further boost them in all sectors, particularly in the parliamentary area to serve the two brotherly peoples' mutual interests.

The two sides highlighted the need to step up contacts and enhance co-ordination between the two countries' MPs, as part of meetings of regional and international parliamentary authorities.

Mr. Idriss Arnaoud Ali expressed admiration and consideration to Tunisia for the success made on the path of progress, stressing his country's will to make the most of the Tunisian parliamentary experience.

The Djiboutian guest informed the Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies of the latest developments of the situation between Djibouti and Eritrea and his country's view on this issue.

BUSINESS & ECONOMY

Ways to promote Tunisia-Africa technical cooperation in customs field examined with World Customs Organisation Secretary-General Kunio Mikuriya

TUNIS, Nov. 19, 2009 (TAP) - Secretary of State in charge of Foreign Trade Chokri Mamoghli conferred, on Thursday in Tunis, with World Customs Organisation (WCO) Secretary- General Kunio Mikuriya.

Mr. Mamoghli pointed out to WCO's role in reinforcing technical co-operation in Africa, by helping African countries make the most of the Tunisian experience in matters of foreign trade facilitation.

Mr. Kunio Mikuriya highlighted the role of customs in protecting citizens, easing exchanges and insuring foreign trade.

He added that 2010 will be a year of partnership between customs services and enterprises and that

the code of Tunisian customs is the product of this partnership.

He pointed out that WCO is ready to recruit, as part of technical co-operation, Tunisian customs officers for Africa, with the aim of introducing local expertise in matters of facilitation of foreign trade procedures and fight against counterfeit.

This meeting was an occasion to discuss the possibility to organise regional workshops to exchange expertise between neighbour countries and present the Tunisian expertise in matters of fight against counterfeit and review the customs code.

Opening of 64th JCI world congress

HAMMAMET, Nov 17, 2009 (TAP)- The 64th world congress of the junior chamber international JCI, held in the resort city of Hammamet, November 16-21, started works on Monday under chairmanship of trade and handicrafts Minister Ridha Ben Mosbah and JCI president Jun Sup Shin, with attendance of delegations of 120 countries representing the different continents.

This congress, the minister said in his address, is being held for the first time in the region of the Middle East and Africa, and provides a propitious occasion to exchange expertise and thoroughly debate the main concerns in the world, notably unemployment, achievement of food security, health for all , climate change and environment protection.

JCI president Jun Sup Shin outpointed for his part the important responsibility devolving upon junior chambers' members in taking up the challenges facing the world today especially as regards climate change.

German cable manufacturer creates 1,750 jobs in Béja

BEJA, Nov. 11, 2009 (TAP) - Some 1,750 jobs were generated by German cable manufacturer "Kromberg end Schubert," settled in the industrial area in Beja, since March 2009.

Two hundred and fifty jobs out of this total have benefitted to university graduates.

The enterprise's workforce is made up, at 90%, of youth and, at 70%, of women.

The number of jobs is expected to be raised to 2,000 by 2009 and up to 3,400 after completion of the extension works that are going on at an accelerated pace.

Cable manufacturer "Kromberg end Schubert" has a network of subsidiaries in several European, Asian and African countries. Its Beja plant, which covers a 22,000-square-meter area, is its largest production and storage space.

Devising ways to revitalise Tunisian-French textile exchanges

TUNIS, Nov. 11, 2009 (TAP) - Tunisia's textile-clothing exports to France posted a downward trend since the dismantling of the multi-fibre agreements in 2005, to the extent that France might lose its rank as Tunisia's first customer, for the benefit of Italy.

This drop is a source of concern for Tunisian textile professionals who have been used to French expertise in all areas (training, technical assistance and design, etc.).

The meeting, held on Wednesday in Tunis, by the Tunisian-French Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CTFCI) and the National Textile Federation (FENATEX) on "Revival of Tunisian-French Partnership in Textile-Clothing Sector" helped the two countries' experts explore ways to stimulate exchanges (exports and imports) of textile and clothing products and ensure a better positioning for Tunisian products in European distribution channels.

CTFCI Chairman Foued Lakhoua recommended, to this effect, developing Tunisian-French partnership by increasing French exports of fabric and accessories to Tunisia.

The overall value of these items totalled 2 billion dinars, 29% of which are provided by France.

Mr. Lucien Devaux, Chairman of the French Union of Textile Industries, pointed out that after having won the "just-in-time" (compliance with deadlines) wager, Tunisia is presently called upon to take up an important challenge, viz. that of creativity and moving up from the position of sub-contracting to a force of proposals for buying groups."

The country is "well equipped" to win this "bet of geographical and cultural proximity," he argued, pointing out that Tunisian textile professionals ought to defend and protect their creations with patents.

Mr. Daniel Harari, Director General of LECTRA company called upon Tunisian industrialists to re-invent their business model and make the most of the production tool.

Tunisia's textile-clothing sector has some 2,100 companies that employ over 200,000 people. Eighty-three percent of companies are totally exporting, 46% are in partnership or with 100% foreign capitals.

The branch attracts currently an average of 5 billion dinars of exports a year with an added value nearing 1.5 million dinars.

Tunisia, which is among the world's key clothing suppliers, is Europe's fourth supplier and France's second supplier of France.

Development of industrial sites management

TUNIS, Nov. 11, 2009 (TAP) - A forum on industrial sites was held, on Wednesday in Tunis, by the German Co-operation Agency (GTZ), in association with the Ministry of Industry, Energy and Small and Medium-sized businesses.

It appears from this forum that maintenance is lacking in 69% of the 121 Tunisian industrial zones.

These industrial zones, 82% of which were established by the Industrial Landed Agency (AFI) and 39 fitted out by municipalities, are currently the focal point of a project designed to reinforce their sustained management capacities.

This six-yearly project which is financed by the German Economic Co-operation and Development Ministry, in collaboration with the Industry, Energy and Small- and Medium-sized Enterprises Ministry had been launched in 2008.

Exposés on ways to develop and run industrial zones in France, Yemen and Ghana were presented during this forum.

ENERGY & ENVIRONNEMENT

Presentation of «Desertec» friendly energy project

TUNIS, Nov. 23, 2009 (TAP) - Ways to maximise the Mediterranean countries' potential in solar energy, as part of the "Desertec" project and Tunisia's production capacities in this area, were the main topics discussed at a international

conference on " Desert's Friendly Energy as a Challenge for Regional co-operation and the Union For the Mediterranean," held on Monday in Gammarth.

German, Tunisian and Moroccan experts took part in this meeting organised by the German Konrad Adenauer Stiftung Foundation, in association with the Tunisian Industry, Trade and Handicrafts Union (UTICA)'s Junior Managers Centre and the Club of Rome.

According to the Chairman of Club of Rome Maw Schoen, the "Desertec" project, which was launched last July by the foundation which has the same name, provides for creating an inter-connected energy network supplied by solar power plants in Morocco and Saudi Arabia.

He pointed to the importance of activating and boosting energy co-operation between countries surrounding the Mediterranean, through achievement of concrete projects in matters of fight against climate warming and renewable energy.

National Energy Control Agency (ANME) Director-General Ben Aissa Ayadi expressed Tunisia's total adherence to the "Desertec" project, underlining that several sites have been identified in the country to install thermo-solar plants.

As regard the Tunisian solar plan, Mr. Ayadi specified that the cost of this project, which covers the 2010/2016 period, is estimated at 4 billion dinars. It includes 40 projects, 17 of them dedicated to water heating, production of cold, drying of products, development of solar energy power production as well as 3 wind energy projects.

In this regard, a small 25 Megawatt-power plant (pilot project) carried out by the Tunisian Electricity and Gas Company (STEG) will be operational in 2013.

Tunisia-Italy Energy Cooperation : integrating Maghreb into European power market

TUNIS, Nov. 24, 2009 (TAP) - The Ministry of Industry, Energy and Small- and Medium-Sized Enterprises, the Italian Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea and the National Energy Control Agency (ANME) signed, on Tuesday in Tunis, a memorandum of understanding for conducting two studies of feasibility for carrying out electrical inter-connection between Tunisia and Italy.

By virtue of this agreement, signed on the occasion of the information day organised by the

Mediterranean Renewable Energies Centre (MEDREC) on "electrical inter-connection project between Tunisia and Italy and development of renewable energies," the signatory sides will guarantee achievement of these studies in close collaboration with MEDREC.

The first study will provide for the assessment of the maximum capacity of electricity generation from a potential of renewable energy in Tunisia.

The second will be devoted to the analysis of the regulatory and institutional framework for the implementation of Article 9 of the European parliament's directive on the development of use of renewable energy sources.

Signees of the agreement are to form, to this end, a working team made up of representatives of Tunisian and Italian institutions involved in electrical inter-connection projects between the two countries.

Secretary of State in charge of renewable energy and food industries Abdelaziz Rassaa underlined, during this day, that the inter-connection project of the electrical network in the two countries will spare no effort to boost energy exchanges between Tunisia and Italy and contribute to the integration of Maghreb electrical market into the European electrical market.

This project called "ELMED," he reminded, includes an under-water cable link with a capacity of 1,200 MW meant to ensure economic viability of the project.

The electrical inter-connection between Tunisia and Italy will allow, Mr. Rassaa said, to improve reliability of the regional electrical system and contribute to the creation of a regional electrical market and a green energy market.

In this connection, the Secretary of State placed emphasis on the energy policy adopted by Tunisia and on the Tunisian Solar Plan (PST), a plan which integrates all fields of energy efficiency and renewable energies, according to the approach adopted by the Mediterranean Solar Energy (PSM).

This PST, at a cost estimated at 2 billion euros, covers the 2010-2016 period and includes some forty projects, including 17 solar energy projects for the water heating and electrical production, 3 wind projects, 7 energy-efficiency projects, including notably co-generation projects, 7 other projects essentially of valorisation of biomass and 6 studies for implementing PST.

The Italian officials attending this event were unanimous in underlining that electrical inter-connection between Tunisia and Italy is a strategic project which will undoubtedly contribute to rapprochement of the two shores of the Mediterranean and open up new horizons for relations binding the Maghreb and Europe.

This inter-connection, acknowledged as a project of Mediterranean interest, will be of a valuable contribution to the achievement of regional integration and creation of a renewable energy market, they said.

For a better quality of air in North Africa

TUNIS, Nov 25, 2009 (TAP)- The UN environment programme UNEP urged North African states to work out joint programmes of action to improve air quality in the region.

At a workshop held here on Tuesday on the following subject « for a better quality of air in North Africa » Mrs Jane Akumu, UNEP representative , reminded that air in North Africa is considered as the most polluted in the African continent , due to the fact that 50% of people of the region live in cities . She warned against the increasing pollution and reminded that the diseases caused by pollution account for 800 000 deaths per year in the world.

Transport represents the first polluting sector in North Africa due to the unprecedented rise in the number of cars. So the UN delegate suggested to generalize the experiences of some countries as electric rail transport in Tunisia and the “day without car” programmes.

Environment and sustainable development minister Nadhir Hamada reviewed for his part the different laws, mechanisms and programmes set up to reduce air pollution and polluting gases especially those affecting the ozone layer and greenhouse gases.

These programmes, he said, will enable Tunisia to work out in 2010 an integrated national strategy aimed to get adapted to climate change and to contribute to world efforts to reduce greenhouse gases emissions. He reminded that Tunisia has been among the first countries to ratify the Vienna convention for the protection of the ozone layer .

The minister stressed Tunisia’s constant care to boost south-south development, saying that there are opportunities to reinforce joint cooperation in the field of environment among African states.

Seminar on air pollution in Maghreb

TUNIS, Nov. 23, 2009 (TAP) - Air pollution in the Mediterranean and prospects for partnership to bring down its negative impact were focal points of the communication presented, on Monday in Tunis, by Mr. Mohamed Mehdi Mlika, Minister-Adviser to the Prime Minister and chairman of the Association of the Mediterranean Network for Sustainable Development (AREMEDD).

Taking the floor in the regional workshop held by the Sahara-Sahel Observatory (SSO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on the theme "For a Better Air Quality in North Africa," (November 23-25, 2009), Mr. Mlika stressed the major sources of atmospheric pollution in the region and their negative effects on people's health, environment and development.

He pointed out that the Tunisian environment and sustainable development strategy helped the country sort out many problems resulting from urban expansion, industrial development and transport.

Mr. Mlika argued that Tunisia has endeavoured continuously to encourage partnership and that AREMEDD has launched a programme on the theme "Pure Air for All." The latter, the first of its kind, will be carried out, with the assistance of associations and public and private companies.

Celebration of the National Tree Day in regions

TUNIS, Nov. 22, 2009 (TAP)-Tunisia celebrates, on Sunday November 22, the National Tree Day. On this occasion, the different governorates of the republic started a national afforestation campaign, chaired by the Constitutional Democratic Rally (RCD) politburo members and the government members with the participation of the citizens, all generations included, as well as the components of the Tunisian civil society.

These festivities provided the opportunity to get acquainted with the advanced stages made by the different regions through the afforestation programmes to develop the country's greenery and contribute to the enrichment of the forest heritage thanks to the plantation of new types of shrubberies and ornamental plants.

They also provide the occasion to reassert the civilisational, agricultural and environmental

dimensions of the afforestation programmes in Tunisia.

In fact, the citizens having participated massively in the afforestation campaigns in the regions, as part of the National Tree Day, reiterated their adherence to President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali's choices to consecrate sustainable development and guarantee the environment protection in the natural and urban sphere as well as their acknowledgement to the Head of State for the efforts exerted, efforts which transformed the country and guaranteed to all the Tunisians the best regional rates in terms of life quality.

Additionally, the citizens taking part in these afforestation campaigns asserted the determination to reach the ambitious targets fixed by the President of the Republic in his new electoral programme aiming at boosting the attributes of a balanced and worth living environment.

Afforestation in support of economy and the ecosystem

TUNIS, Nov 21, 2009 (TAP) – As part of celebrating Tree Day, the Ministry of Agriculture and hydraulic resources specifies that 31,567 million saplings have been produced this year including 3,386 million ornamental ones.

Concerning fodder and wood arboriculture the same indicates that in 2008-2009, 11 249 hectares have been planted with wood trees with a rate of success reaching 65% in addition to 6855 hectares planted with fodder with a rate of success reaching 69%.

The targeted purpose consists in afforesting, by 2020, 250 thousand hectares at the rate of 27 mille hectares a year starting from 2012. The afforestation rate is expected to reach 13,5% in 2011 and 16% by 2020.

As for urban areas, the goal consists in raising the green perimeter by capita to 15m². For this purpose, the Ministry has currently provided the municipal and village councils with 500 ornamental trees against 350 thousand last year.

Furthermore, 4,594 million trees have so far been planted by individual citizens and private parties with a rate of success reaching 50%. Those planted by public corporations are estimated at 635 thousand with a rate of success reaching 58%.

As part of celebrating Tree Day this year 7 thousand posters have been made available to

raise awareness about afforestation and its stakes in addition to one thousand brochures introducing natural parks and reserves.

Green Ifriqiya to promote environmental investment

Kram, Nov. 12, 2009 (TAP) - The second International Forum of Investment and Employment in Environment "Green Ifriqiya" held on November 12-14, under the high patronage of President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali opened, on Thursday at El Kram.

Environment and Sustainable Development Minister Nadhir Hamada inaugurated this event which is attended by nearly 150 foreign and Tunisian companies specialised in environment.

The minister enquired about the different stands set up on this occasion, including the international exhibition of environment technologies and space of environmental associations, and familiarised with themes of workshops scheduled on the sidelines of this exhibition.

The event provides the opportunity to shed light on the increase in environment investments in Tunisia, in line with the presidential decisions aimed to stimulate investment in different sectors of activities to boost job creation, particularly for the university graduates.

Environment investment in Tunisia accounts for 1.2% of the GDP and the State is seeking to improve the legislative and institutional framework governing this sector. This investment increased by 90% over the past 15 years, notably through the creation of new companies operating in the environmental field.

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

“ICT 4 All Forum-Tunis + 4” : Hammamet Declaration



HAMMAMET, Nov. 26, 2009 (TAP) - Participants in the “ ICT 4 All Forum- Tunis + 4,” held in the resort

city of Hammamet on November 24-25, adopted, at the end of their works, a declaration in which they reiterate commitment to carry on efforts so that the ICT 4 All Forum be a key international event to share and exchange information and for partnership and co-operation between countries and concerned parties in the ICTs sector.

Participants hail the decision of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) to acknowledge the "ICT 4 All Forum" as a framework of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) for the promotion of ICT in the world.

They also support all efforts aimed to raise the "ICT 4 All Forum" to the rank of a development and investment platform, so as to contribute to international efforts to reduce the digital gap between countries.

They called upon partners to take the necessary steps to make ICT a strategic lever for innovation, development and establishment of the knowledge society. Participants urged as well to integrate ICT related themes into the agendas of the next international events and conferences, reminding that the 2010 African Union Summit will be a good occasion to promote ICT in Africa.

Additionally, they invited all partners to take advantage of next year's "ICT 4 All Forum" to assess the implementation and progress of the WSIS recommendations in order to contribute to fulfilling the Millennium objectives in coordination with the concerned international organisations.

Six partnership agreements signed by Tunisia on the sidelines ICT 4 All Forum

HAMMAMET, Nov. 25, 2009 (TAP)- On the sidelines of the international information and communication technologies forum "ICT 4 All Forum-Tunis+4" held in Hammamet, Tunisia signed, on Tuesday, several co-operation and partnership agreements, particularly with South Korea, Dubai and France.

The first convention was signed by Messrs. Khaled Jomni, Director General of the technological park of El Ghazala and Sultan Loutah, Executive Director of "Mohamed Bin Rached Al Maktoum Foundation." It aims to strengthen and support the spirit of initiative and coach promoters of creative and innovative ideas in the region.

The second agreement was signed by Messrs. Mohamed Ben Amor, Director General of the

Centre of Telecommunications Studies and Researches (CERT) and Nampyo Suh, Chairman of the Korean Research and Innovation Institute (KAIST).

The third convention was signed by Messrs. Mohamed Naceur Ammar, Dean of the Higher Communications College of Tunis (SUP'COM) and Nampyo Suh, KAIST Chairman.

As for the fourth agreement, it was signed by the Atomic Energy Commission/MINATEC and the TELNET Group. It is a draft agreement designed to define the general framework of co-operation relations between MINATEC and TELNET in the areas of macro- and nano-technologies.

It is also designed to help establish in Tunisia a centre of technological resources specialised in micro- and nano-technologies, conduct joint research programmes and create synergies between the different scientific skills.

The fifth convention was signed by Messrs. Sami Ghazali, Director General of the National Electronic Certification Agency (ANCE) and Kim In Sik, official of Korean "SG" company specialised in electronic exchange services.

A sixth partnership signed between the Technological Park of El Ghazala and the French competitiveness park "Systematic" aims to create an experimental platform as part of the project "Neptune Tunisia. »

Tunisia Korea Cooperation : City of Sciences Information Centre renovated

TUNIS, Nov. 23, 2009 (TAP) - The City of Science's Centre for Access to Information, a Tunisian-Korean project which was renovated, was inaugurated on Monday, on the celebration of the 40th anniversary of the establishment of partnership relations between the two countries.

Moreover, the Tunisian-Korean partnership agreement on this project was extended to 2013.

The Centre includes, henceforth, a new Internet and multimedia training space and new software. It is equipped with 30 new generation computers. Concurrently, the space dedicated to free Internet navigation has been reinforced by advanced computer tools to meet the needs of Internet users with all their categories.

The Centre was created since the holding of the second phase of the World Summit on the

Information Society in 2005 in the context of partnership between the South Korean Agency of Information Society and the City of Sciences.

The Director of the South Korean Agency of Information Society highlighted the long-standing relations of co-operation between his country and Tunisia.

He praised the development recorded in Tunisia in the digital area, pointing out that the volume of investment earmarked for the sector has placed the country at the top of Arab and African countries.

The South Korean official reviewed the training programmes and sessions provided by the Korean Agency in this Centre.

The Ambassador of South Korea in Tunis and the Director General of the Tunisian Internet Agency attended the inaugural ceremony.

First pilot electrons accelerator in Tunisia comes into operation

SIDI THABET, Nov. 14, 2009 (TAP) - The first pilot electron accelerator in Tunisia came into operation, on Saturday, in the National Sciences and Nuclear Technologies Centre stemming from the Sidi Thabet Technopark (Governorate of Ariana).

The electron accelerator, the first of its kind in Tunisia and North Africa, could be used in research, industrial, medical and pharmaceutical applications (sterilisation of medical and surgical equipment..) and food industry (food preservation).

The electron accelerator which required 7.5 million dinars, serves as the basis for diversification of means and processes of ionisation and development of industrial processes.

This technology offers several advantages including protection of the environment, lack of toxic and radioactive waste dumping, uniform sterilisation and continuous and swift processing.

This achievement will contribute to strengthening regional and international co-operation in transfer of technologies and allow economic exporting companies to access international quality and security standards.

A ceremony was held, on the occasion, to sign the service contracts for the benefit of economic companies allowing them to take advantage of the electron accelerator's applications.

During the ceremony, Higher Education, Scientific Research and Technology Minister Lazhar Bououni stressed the importance of this achievement in increasing the national economy's yield and strengthening its exporting capacities.

First 100% Tunisian submarine fibre cable

Nov. 13, 2009 (TAP)- Tunisie-Télécom inaugurated, on Friday, its first own Tunisian submarine fibre cable named "Hannibal."

With an initial capacity of 40 gigabits per second, expandable to 3,200 Gbps, this submarine cable, connecting Kelibia to Italian city of Mazara, is one of the most important telecommunications works in the Mediterranean; it covers the distance of 180 kilometres.

This work required an investment of nearly 16 million dinars.

Laying out of a submarine cable for Tunisia has become an unavoidable choice to have a changing transmission capacity that meets present and future needs.

The submarine cable will satisfy communication needs of Tunisia and the swift increase in the park of ADSL lines for broadband Internet.

The number of subscribers to ADSL reached, by the end of September 2009, approximately 313,000 subscribers.

The cable will also allow Tunisia to secure its international connections, increase attractiveness of its Internet offer, improve fluidity of navigation on global websites and better respond to expectations of Tunisian companies wishing to develop their exporting activities.

TOURISM & CULTURE

Swiss tour operators get acquainted with Saharan tourism

TOZEUR, Nov. 20, 2009 (TAP) – Some 300 Swiss tour operators are visiting, on November 19-22, 2009, Tunisia's south-eastern governorates, on the occasion of the 82nd Swiss tour operators' General Assembly.

This visit provides the opportunity to get acquainted with the key Saharan sites in the region, through a

rich programme made by the Tunisian National Tourism Board.

The programme includes, notably, a tour in the oases of Tamaghza, Chebika and Midas, as well as a trip on board a tourist train going through the Selja areas and their picturesque landscapes. Besides, a tour is scheduled in Douz through Chatt Jérid.

Fourteenth edition of Carthage Theatre Days closes

TUNIS, Nov. 23, 2009 (TAP) – The 14th edition of Carthage Theatre Days (JTC) closed on Sunday evening with attendance of Culture and Heritage Preservation Minister Abderraouf El Basti as well as Tunisian and foreign men of culture and media people.

During this edition, held November 11-22 on the theme “Borderless Theatre,” 70 Tunisian, Arab and African plays were performed; Iranian and German troupes participated for the first time in this event.

On the occasion, Director of JTC 2009 Mohamed Driss highlighted that the present edition coincided with the celebration of the centenary of Tunisian theatre and “Kairouan, 2009 Capital of Islamic Culture.”

The closing ceremony was marked by the tribute paid to Tunisian and Arab leading dramatists.

As part of promoting the presence of Arab women in the drama field, the Arab Women’s Organisation chaired by First Lady Leila Ben Ali paid particular tribute to Syrian Artist Raghda Shaarani for her drama works.

Was also performed at the closing ceremony the Moroccan play “Love Story” directed by Faouzi Ben Saïd

Tunisian film “Les secrets” wins great prize Arte Mare 2009 in Bastia

Tunis, Nov. 29, 2009 (TAP) - “Les secrets” (the secrets) by Tunisian film-maker Raja Amari won the great prize Arte Mare of the 27th Mediterranean cultures and film festival Arte Mare 2009 in Bastia, Corsica, held there November 23-28.

This is her second feature film after “Satin rouge” (red satin). The roles were played by Hafsia Herzi, Sondos Belhassen, Dhafer Labidine, Rim el Benna and Wassila Dari.

This film has already participated in several festivals including notably the Mostra of Venice (September 2009), “Middle East International Film Festival” (October 2009 in Abu Dhabi), the “Tout écrans” festival (October 2009, Switzerland) and the meetings of Apt (November 2009, France).

Seven Tunisian cities to host European Film Days December 1-18

TUNIS, Nov. 26, 2009 (TAP) - The 16th European Film Days (JCE 2009) will be held this year next December 1-18, in Tunis.

Thirty-five short- and long-feature films from 15 European countries (Spain, Czech Republic, Portugal, Germany, Hungary, Belgium, United Kingdom, France, Bulgaria, Poland, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, Malta and Finland) and three Maghreb countries, namely Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco, will be screened.

In addition to the capital city, six other cities, Jendouba, Kairouan, Sfax, Mahdia, Gabes and Sousse, will also host these Days.

The JCE 2009 is also planning to hold, next December 4 in Sousse and December 5 in Tunis, a round table on “Which Prospects for Developing Scripts?” This event will be organised by the European Commission in Tunisia, in association with the embassies of EU member states and the Ministry of Culture and Heritage Preservation.

Professionals, specialists, critiques and film enthusiasts will discuss several subjects related particularly to the position of Arab and African scripts in Europe, their specifics in the audiovisual environment and new logic of script-writing.

A session for children is also scheduled in the seven cities with the screening of five films: Storm Bound (Netherlands), “Said’s Trip” (Spain) “La Reine Soleil” (France), “Pom, le poulain” (Belgium) and “Adventures of Pinocchio” (Italy).