

AX Foundation's Support for St Peter Foundation

AX Foundation recently organized a fund-raising BBQ at the Sun & Surf Lido of the Seashells Suncrest Resort in aid of St Peter Foundation, a registered voluntary organization run by Notary Tonio Spiteri with the support of a number of amateur fishermen together with representation from all the professional stakeholders involved in the Maltese fishing industry. Since 2004, St Peter Foundation has been responsible for the gratuitous distribution of fish to a large number of local charitable institutions.

Among the beneficiaries of the regular fish distributions one finds a number of children's orphanages, homes for the aged, homes for people with special needs, several houses run by Caritas and many others. Up to the end of 2008 the Foundation had already distributed 115,000 fish portions to these Institutions.

Now that the distribution system has been successfully set up and is working to everyone's satisfaction, St Peter Foundation will be dedicating its energy to the construction of its own cold storage facilities on a plot of land recently donated to the Foundation. This will greatly improve its operations and will also enable it to expand its philanthropic network.

It was on the initiative of Josephine Xuereb, chairperson of AX Foundation, that the sum of €2300, raised from the well-attended BBQ, was recently presented to Notary Tonio Spiteri specifically



From left: David Jaccarini, Member AX Foundation, Freddie Clark, Secretary AX Foundation, Josephine Xuereb, Chairperson AX Foundation, Notary Tony Spiteri, Chairperson St. Peter Foundation, Oswald Tanti, Treasurer AX Foundation.

for this ambitious project. The presentation was made in the presence of the AX Foundation Trustees, Mr F. Clark, Mr D.

Jaccarini and Mr O. Tanti. Thanking AX Foundation and Mrs Xuereb, Notary Spiteri pointed out that this generous cash contribu-

tion will be set aside and will be deposited in a special account dedicated to setting up the projected cold storage facility.

Managing Climate Change: Global, EU and Maltese perspectives

The challenges being faced by Europe and globally regarding climate change, the climate deal which, it is hoped, will be reached in Copenhagen in December this year, and the impact of the developed world on climate change as well as the national strategy to address these issues were discussed at a seminar organised by the Malta EU-Steering and Action Committee and the Ambassador of Sweden to Malta.

Swedish Ambassador to Malta Ula Gudmundson said dealing with climate change and its effects is the greatest challenge for the Swedish presidency. She mentioned the EU targets set to reduce carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions by 2020 and the willingness to take on a 30 per cent target if an international agreement is reached in Copenhagen, as well as the recognition that atmospheric greenhouse gas levels must be stabilised to a level needed to stay below the EU temperature target of 2°C. Ambassador Gudmundson stated that Malta has an important role to play in this context. No country is immune to climate change, Ms Gudmundson said. Malta in particular is vulnerable to the rise in sea level and changes in the terrestrial and marine ecosystems.

George Pullicino, Minister for Resources and Rural Affairs, said that awareness of the issue of climate change has increased and discussions have gained momentum in the past months. The government has assessed objectives and capabilities, and is aware that Malta is highly susceptible to climate change due to its dense population and limited resources.

This has led Malta to support the EU climate change package and, in December 2008, Malta had already declared its intention to join Annex 1 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). He stated that Malta never shunned its responsibilities and that the government is aware that this will require drastic and holistic action as well as concrete measures that are

highly challenging for the country.

Mr Pullicino said governments will gather in Copenhagen to forge an agreement on climate change that will reshape the lives of human beings for generations to come. Malta, he said, will not agree to short sighted agreements. Any future agreement must be designed to ensure that adaptation measures are met.

Michael Zammit Cutajar, Malta's Ambassador on Climate Change, gave an overview of the state of play of global negotiations. He also outlined the scientific, economic and political implications of climate change. Ambassador Zammit Cutajar identified a global transition to low emission production and consumption of energy as one of the major challenges, suggesting that energy saving initiatives and better efficiency options of energy production could be major contributors to mitigate climate change.

Mr Zammit Cutajar said that the Copenhagen deal is about moving away from burden-sharing to a shared vision of cooperation against a common threat, shared opportunities and fair outcomes in view of the fact that while, for instance, the EU is committing itself to reduce emissions by 30%, the Russian Federation has not committed itself to reducing emissions, while Japan and the USA have not increased the rate at which emissions will be reduced.

Johan Schaar, Director of the International Commission for Climate Change and Development set up by the Swedish Prime Minister in 2007, presented the Commission's Report "Closing the Gaps". Climate change, stated Dr Schaar, seriously affects under-developed countries and communities. The Commission was thus entrusted with analysing what is needed to strengthen their abilities to adapt to climate change impacts.

In fact, the Commission studied the impact of climate change on vulnerable environments in different parts of the world, such as in Cambodia, Mali and Bolivia.

Equinox at Mnajdra

Heritage Malta is organizing an early morning visit to the Mnajdra Temples on Tuesday, 22 September for members of the public.

On this day the rays of the rising sun pass directly through the main doorway, straight down the central axis, and reach the innermost, central apse. This phenomenon can also be seen during the spring equinox. On the day of the summer solstice the rays fall on the edge of a megalith to the left of the central doorway connecting the first pair of chambers to the inner chambers while during the winter solstice in December the same effect can be seen on the corresponding megalith on the right hand side of this doorway.

Although there is no definite proof that the temples were used as calendars, the orientation of these megaliths is so systematic that it is widely believed that this was very probable. In prehistoric agricultural societies, observation of the motion of the stars, the moon and the sun could have been related to the changing seasons and times of planting and harvesting of crops.

Participants of the morning visit will meet at quarter past six in front of the main gate of Hagar Qim Temples to walk down to the Mnajdra Temples.

Tickets can be obtained from the Heritage Malta Head Office in Merchants Street, Valletta as well as from the Gozo Museum of Archaeology, the Domvs Romana, the Malta Maritime Museum, the National Museum of Fine Art, and Hagar Qim. The price is 15 euros per person and 10 euros for Heritage Malta members. Since only a limited number of persons can participate in this event, tickets will be available on a first come basis. For more information phone Heritage Malta on 2295 4000.