

ADIBF hosts session on Sheikh Zayed & int'l relations

Our responsibility today is to carry the torch that Sheikh Zayed lit and to groom future generations: Al Otaiba



ABU DHABI

In a homage to the founding father of the nation, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the Abu Dhabi International Book Fair (ADIBF) held a sofa session titled, "Sheikh Zayed and International Relations," as part of its silver jubilee celebrations.

Organised by the Abu Dhabi Tourism and Culture Authority, the fair celebrates its Silver Jubilee this year with many special events in the form of cultural, professional and educational programmes. One such event celebrates Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan as the Focus Personality at ADIBF 2015.

A retrospective pavilion is dedicated to his life, work and achievements, with rare photographs and documentaries offering glimpses into the legacy he left not just for the UAE, but the world.

Moderated by Saeed Hamdan, Manager of the Sheikh Zayed Book Award, the session hosted UAE Ambassadors Dr. Hessa Abdullah Ahmed Al Otaiba to Spain and Mahmoud Mohammed Al Mahmoud to Nigeria.

Ambassador Al Otaiba said Sheikh Zayed led a life full of dedication and spectacular achievements during which he laid the foundation stone for constructive and viable international relations.

"The rough course that Sheikh Zayed charted was once full of bumps, curves and challenges, but is today full of hope and aspirations for even more progress and achievements in conformity with global advancements," she added.

"Our responsibility today is to carry the torch that Sheikh Zayed lit and to encourage and groom future generations capable of following in his steps under the prudent leadership of President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Vice President and Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum and His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces," she said.

On his part, Ambassador Al Mahmoud spoke about the evolution of UAE diplomacy and pre-

sented examples of projects undertaken by Sheikh Zayed in other sisterly and friendly countries like Egypt, Pakistan, Morocco, Sudan, Syria, Bangladesh, Lebanon and Afghanistan. He noted that Sheikh Zayed was mainly interested in projects that served and benefited citizens of those countries, particularly in sectors like housing, education, health, water and agriculture.

Some 600 writers will join the fair this year to engage in public talks, open dialogues and sign their latest books. Growing by 20 per cent in terms of space from last year, ADIBF accommodates 1,181 publishing houses from 63 countries. Among them are 130 new publishers, including some from Croatia, New Zealand, Poland, Colombia and Georgia who are taking part for the first time. Arabic titles remain predominant, but there are also books in English, French, German, even Icelandic language. Most exhibited are children's books and novels, but there is also a good deal of history, religion, poetry, science and even art titles.

—WAM