



Consolato Generale d'Italia  
Gerusalemme

## **Press Release: January 28<sup>th</sup> 2014 - Italy Day in Hebron -**

On January 28th, the Consulate General of Italy organised the 'Italy Day' in Hebron at the Auditorium of the Palestine Polytechnic University (PPU).

The event was attended by the Minister of Local Government H.E. Nayef Abu Khalaf, the Deputy Minister of National Economy Taisir Amre, the Governor of Hebron Kamel Hmeid, the Mayor of Hebron Daoud Al Zatari, the Chairman of the PPU Board of Trustees Ahmad Saed Tamimi, the President of the Palestine Polytechnic University Imad Khatib, the Consul General of Italy in Jerusalem Davide La Cecilia, and, as keynote-speaker, the Mayor of Genoa Marco Doria. Also, the Head of the International Cooperation Department of the Municipality of Turin Maurizio Baradello and the Chief Officer of the Foreign Affairs Department of the Municipality of Milan Marco Grandi attended the event.

The Italy Day presented the longstanding cooperation between Italy and Palestine, including the Italian contribution to Palestinian innovation, private sector development, participation in Milano Expo 2015, protection of cultural heritage and academic collaboration including the support offered to postgraduate students.

The Consul General stressed the strong relations between Italy and Palestine as evidenced by 60 projects implemented by the Italian "Palestinian Municipalities Support Programme" in the last 10 years. On this purpose, a particular session was dedicated to the flagship project "*Hebron Innovation Technopark*" aimed at supporting the growth of local industry, attracting investments, encouraging the creation of start-ups, in partnership with the Municipality of Turin. During the Italy Day, the speakers illustrated the Water Management Department, the Renewable Energies System for public buildings in Hebron (RENEP), promoted by the city of Genoa; the Centre for Stone and Marble, established in the Palestine Polytechnic University in Hebron by the Italian Cooperation and UNIDO; and the Palestinian International Arbitration Chamber (PIAC), functioning since last June.

The Italy Day was also an opportunity to highlight major initiatives of the Italian Development Cooperation. In the health sector, it was announced the construction of two important health structures in Dura and Hahul. In the gender sector, Italy supports Palestine in the protection of women, minors and children through adequate legislation. In the economic development sector, credit lines have been set up to sustain small and medium enterprises as well as micro-credit beneficiaries, so as to introduce the Italian experience in cooperative credit in the Palestinian financial system.