



EUROPEAN UNION
Delegation to Egypt

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The EU celebrates the restoration of Sultan Qaitbey's Hawd with its partners

The European Union Delegation to Egypt celebrated in the presence of Minister of Antiquities and Heritage the completion of the restoration work of Hawd Sultan Qaitbey on Wednesday 8 July 2015.

Ambassador James Moran, Head of European Union Delegation to Egypt, H.E. Mamdouh Aldamaty and Raphael Varga, Chargé d'Affaires, Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands inaugurated the ceremony of the restored building. The ceremony marked the completion of the conservation of a building constructed in 1474 by Sultan of Egypt Al-Ashraf Qaitbey. The event took place at the area of the Sultan's mosque/madrassa in the "Desert of the Mamluks" area within the "City of the Dead," where residents of the neighbourhood mingled with the guests.

The project was financed by the European Union Delegation to Egypt within the framework of its Egypt-Europe Cultural Cooperation programme with a contribution from the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The work was designed and carried out by the Cairo-based architectural practice ARCHINOS Architecture in collaboration with the Ministry of State of Antiquities and Heritage and its Historic Cairo Project.

The Hawd was originally founded to provide free drinking water for animals and was part of the huge funerary and religious complex that Sultan Qaitbey established with a fine architectural style that marked his reign. The conservators aimed at preserving and protecting the authentic historic material without introducing modern additions. Before any work on site began, the building was documented on photographs and measured drawing, and its history was studied. Based on this knowledge, the conservation plan was established.

The restored building has been turned into a place where artisans practicing traditional crafts can display their products on a rotational basis.

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