

## **Latin America Handicrafts Week**

### **Kuwait, January 23-27, 2017**

The State of Kuwait, represented by the National Council for Culture, Arts & Letters, hosted a Handicrafts event of Latin America, one of the World Crafts Council regions, during the period 23<sup>rd</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> January, 2017.

This was the third International Handicrafts Event to be organized by the National Council for Culture, Arts & Letters, in collaboration with the Presidency of the Asia Pacific Region, based in the State of Kuwait for the past & current terms 2013 – 2020.

The Inter-Regional gathering included 11 countries (Argentina, Barbados, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Mexico, Paraguay, Uruguay, Venezuela) from Latin America, together with other countries from Asia Pacific Region namely: the hosting country (State of Kuwait), the Sultanate of Oman, the Kingdom of Bahrain, and the State of Qatar (West Asia subregion), Uzbekistan (Central Asia subregion), and Bhutan (South Asia subregion).

The opening ceremony of the Latin America Handicrafts “Exhibition” took place on January 23,2017, at the Kuwait National Library, and was inaugurated by the Secretary General of the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters, Engr.Ali Youha.

The Latin America Handicrafts “Workshop” was also held on January 23,2017, at Beit al-Bader, in the Kuwait National Museum and inaugurated as well by the Secretary General of the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters, Engr.Ali Youha, where artisans demonstrated their craft-skills to the visitors. They as well exchanged and shared their handicrafts knowledge, expertise and marketing techniques with one another.

Moreover, a catalogue with brief information on each of the participating Latin American countries and their traditional crafts, is published in three languages - Arabic, English and Spanish.

A one day lecture was organized on this occasion. The Lecturers were: Dr.Alberto de Betolaza, President of WCC-Latin America, Dr. Kevin Murray, Vice President of South Pacific and SVP of Asia Pacific Region, and myself, Ghada Hijjawi-Qaddumi, President of WCC-Asia Pacific Region.

Such crafts’ gatherings serve the objective and mission of the World Crafts Council towards promoting handicrafts, and supporting the craftspeople on regional and global levels. They also emphasize the collaboration amongst the

people of the world through the support and patronage of the State of Kuwait represented by the NCCAL. His Excellency Sheikh/ *Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah* - Minister of Information, State Minister for Youth Affairs, and President of the National Council for Culture, Arts & Letters, together with the Secretary General–Engineer/ *Ali Al-Youha*, fulfill, by their support to such international handicrafts events, the humanitarian mission adopted by His Highness the Amir Sheikh/ *Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah*, (May Allah protect him) who was granted the title of “Leader of Humanity” by the United Nations. His Highness calls on the people of the World to work towards building bridges of collaboration, friendship and solidarity amongst themselves, guided by the word of Allah in the Holy Quran, addressed to mankind, I quote: “Mankind! We created You from a single (pair) of a male and a female, and made you into nations and tribes, that you may know each other” Chapter 49 “al-Hujurat”, Verse 13.

On behalf of the President and the Artisans of WCC-Latin America Region, and in my capacity as President of the Asia Pacific Region, we all express our thanks and gratitude for the support rendered by the President of the National Council for Culture, Arts & Letters, and the Secretary General.

Also, at the beginning of my new term (2017-2020) as President of WCC-Asia Pacific Region, I would like, in my name and on behalf of the Executive Board of Asia Pacific Region, its members and craftspeople, to extend our sincere gratitude for the commendable support and encouragement we all received from the State of Kuwait - the seat of the past and current Presidency 2013-2020.

We have witnessed an example to follow in realizing the objectives sought by the World Crafts Council, as these international gatherings bring about confidence and well-being to the craftspeople, as well as progress and prosperity for the handicrafts sector, culturally and economically.

May Allah help us in our common endeavor to serve craftspeople and the crafts sectors around the globe.

**Dr. Ghada Hijjawi Al-Qaddumi**

President of WCC-Asia Pacific Region

(2013-2020)

Kuwait

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[www.wccapr.org/eventsimages.php?events\\_cat\\_id=24](http://www.wccapr.org/eventsimages.php?events_cat_id=24)