



Embassy of Italy  
Khartoum

## PRESS RELEASE

### WEEK OF ITALIAN CUISINE IN SUDAN: SUPPORTIVE DIPLOMACY IN ACTION



**Khartoum, 28th November 2016** – The First Week of Italian Cuisine in Sudan has just finished, marked by “Supportive Diplomacy” (#supportivediplomacy and #diplomaziasolidale are the two hashtags which have been coined for social networks by the Embassy of Italy in Sudan).

The guest of honor was the Neapolitan chef Flavia Pantaleo, who has been teaching and promoting Italian and regional cuisine in Italy and in the world for more than twenty years. Flavia has recently published the book “Il libro dei Pasticci e dei Tmballi” (Bonanno Editore, 2016), she has been collaborating in Rome and Catania with associations and culinary hubs of utmost importance, such as Homefood, CuochePerCaso, MediterraneoLab, VillinoVolterra and she has also been rewarded by a special on the New York Times in 2015.

“The priority was to fulfill the needs and the expectations of common Sudanese people, local businessmen and institutions on a congenial level for the (inter)cultural Italo-sudanese synthesis”, explain the Italian Ambassador in Sudan Fabrizio Lobasso.

This is the reason why the Embassy has decided to vary the offer of Italian cuisine in order to meet the most positive feedback of public, press and appreciation by the hundreds of people who have crowded the six different initiatives organized during this Week.

More in details: free culinary workshops for chefs and local food operators discovering how to prepare a whole Italian menu. Workshops of Italian cuisine for the international community in Khartoum to fundraise for the local Institute for Deaf and Dumb people. Training for the detainees of the female prison of Omdurman, discovering a new profession (how to make bread and bake tea biscuits) to undertake once out of the prison. Proposal of Italian menus in about 10 of the most successful restaurants in Khartoum.

Grand finale: a Gala Night by the main sponsor, the Dal group with its brand of pasta NOBO, at the Italian Residence Casa d’Italia, presenting new products inspired to the Italian culinary tradition and which will be launched soon on the Sudanese market (a new shape of pasta; the mozzarella cheese for the first time in Sudan; a new kind of mixed cereal bread like sorghum, nutritious and plentiful in Sudan).

The Italian skill in knowing how to make a system was also present during this Week. Taking advantage of the Program of the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation in Khartoum (AICS) and of the project “Promotion and protection of the rights of orphans with disabilities in Khartoum city”, there was space for the participation of four semi-disabled orphans to the different cuisine workshops, as the first psychosocial exteriorization for curative purposes out of the corrective supervision. This experience has proved to be an excellent experiment which will be repeated again in the next future.

“From intercultural diplomacy to supportive diplomacy, the featuring line of the common Italo-sudanese path on equal basis is the same”, explains the Ambassador Lobasso, “the Italian role is that of a donor of a colorful vision beyond the walls, for a Sudanese future full of possibilities: a completely Italian pat on the shoulder of whom, like common people, looks at our country with great appreciation and gratitude”.

The First Week of Italian Cuisine in the World in Sudan has just ended but the logo “The Extraordinary Italian Taste”, coined by Farnesina, will continue to be in mouths, eyes and hearts of the hundreds of people that here in Sudan don’t get tired to shout “Italy Italy”.

  
L’Ambasciatore d’Italia  
Fabrizio Lobasso