

Queen commends Milan's efforts to promote cross-cultural awareness



Her Majesty Queen Rania with students of the Dell'Infanzia School in Milan on Thursday (Photo by Nasser Ayoub)

AMMAN (JT) — Her Majesty Queen Rania, an honorary citizen of Milan, visited the historical city on Thursday, where she and Princess Wijdan, Jordan's ambassador to Italy, and Mayor Letizia Moratti took part in a class on cultural awareness at Dell- 'Infanzia School.

Noting the value of cultural awareness, the Queen commended the school for cultivating such appreciation at an early age.

The students welcomed the Queen by performing several songs about

peace in Italian, and greeted her with a message in Arabic.

A welcome note in Arabic — written by the students with their teacher's help — and a Jordanian flag hung in the classroom, which was full of symbols of different cultures.

“I'm very touched at the effort you have all gone to, to learn some of my language... Reaching out to other cultures like you have done today is an example for us all,” the Queen told the children.

The school, which has 160 students between the ages of three and six, prepares special programmes for five year olds to familiarise them with world cultures.

The children are taught greetings in different languages and also have a world map in the classroom to visualise the location of the countries and cultures they learn about.

One of the students presented Queen Rania with a sticker and asked her to identify Jordan's location on the map, which she did.

“I hope that when you're all old enough to travel, you will visit Jordan,” Queen Rania said, and told the children about many of the Kingdom's cultural practices.

Mayor Moratti, Commissioner for Social Policy and Education Mariolina Moioli and Amelia Setton, headmistress of Dell'Infanzia School, toured the facility with Queen Rania and briefed her on the school's programmes — specifically an integration programme for children from different ethnic backgrounds.

Queen Rania, Princess Wijdan and Mayor Moratti then held a discussion at the Milan municipality on several issues, including greater social and cultural cooperation between the cities of Milan and Amman and the possibility of a learning exchange regarding vocational training.

They also discussed the upcoming “Italian Forum for Women Entrepreneurs” that will take place in Milan this March and is being organised by Minister for International Trade Emma Bonino, who recently visited Amman to participate in a high level gender policy forum.

Queen Rania, who is an advocate for increasing women's participation in the workforce through both formal and informal channels, will be accepting an award for social solidarity from the Mediterranean Foundation on Friday.

Friday-Saturday, February 9-10, 2007

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