

24 May 2018
Tripoli (Lebanon)

I, the undersigned - Ahmad KAMAREDDINE, Mayor of Tripoli, Lebanon – have been informed of the project to restore the Khan al-Misryyin instigated by Mr Frank Beat KELLER, architect and anthropologist, and director of Ethno-expo S.A.R.L. based at Schafferhauserstrasse 122, CH-8057 ZURICH, Switzerland, www.renoviert.ch, info@ethno-expo.ch, 0041-44-450 8484 office, 0041-76-432 8484 mobile.

The project entails the restoration, renovation and refurbishment of the Khan al-Misriyin in the old town of Tripoli. It will be undertaken in such a way as to conform with the original construction of the Khan and to use no materials posing ecological risk.

The building dates from the mamelouk era (1309-1356 AD/ 709-755 H) and is currently in poor condition. It is a two-storey building made from solid stone blocks. The structure, which consists of vaults, is largely sound. The Khan houses some sixty small shops and, in a first-floor room, a traditional soap manufacturer.

The following has been agreed:

- 1) Mr Keller will be the project leader. He will set up a timetable for the project, determine the plans needed in order to obtain planning permission, draw up the necessary budget, define the implementation phases and settle invoices. The accounting will be open to relevant parties.
- 2) There will be no cashflow movement from the project to the Municipality or the Lebanese State.
- 3) Mr Keller will plan the project-related works with the agreement of the CDR (Council for Development and Reconstruction – Cultural Heritage and Urban Development), Serail Hill; Beirut attn. Mr Nabil S Itani, 00961-1-980 096 (extn. 331), nabil@cdr.gov.lb and in accordance with the laws and regulations governing (re-)construction works relating to the national heritage of Lebanon.
- 4) Mr Keller will, in addition, plan the project-related works with the agreement of the Municipal authorities as described in the planning permission and in compliance with the laws and regulations governing construction works in the town of Tripoli.
- 5) The project will be undertaken in cooperation with the CDR, the Ministry of Culture, and the Board for ancient monuments.
- 6) The Tripoli Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture, represented by its president Mr Toufic Daboussi (co-owner of the Khan), 00961 344 0 888, lends its support to this project.

- 7) The project will be a cooperation between local authorities, the national authority, and the private sector with Mr Keller.
- 8) A large part of the funding will be obtained, through Mr Keller's efforts, from interested parties in Switzerland and Europe (aid and development agencies, private foundations, NGOs, private sponsorship etc).
- 9) To facilitate the seeking of funding from Europe, it will be necessary to involve and engage Syrian refugees as craftsmen during the project so that they may learn skills relating to the restoration of buildings of national significance. This experience will be of value to them during the reconstruction of Syria.
- 10) Mr Keller will present to the municipality all the restoration plans and work schedules in order to obtain authorization for the works to commence. The municipality reserves the right to interrupt the works in the event of non-compliance with the stated conditions.

As Head of the Municipality of Tripoli, I undertake to support the project as follows:

- Assistance in the compilation of the list of proprietors
- Access to archives to facilitate archeological, architectural and scientific research relating to the project
- Attending a press conference upon the granting of planning permission, and an opening event to mark the completion of the project.

Ahmad Kamareddine
Mayor of Tripoli