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Mrs. Asma al-Assad Participates in Ceremony of Concluding 1st Phase of Qatna Kingdom Royal Palaces Renovation Project

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Homs, central Syria, (SANA)- Within the framework of Mrs. Asma al-Assad continued following-up for the exploration and restoration works taking place in various archeological sites in Syria, Mrs. al-Assad participated in the ceremony of concluding the 1st phase of the renovation project of the Royal Palace and the Eastern and Southern Palaces of Qatana Kingdom, eastern Homs, central Syria.

The 1st phase included the restoration works of the discovered sites and places in addition to covering the ceiling of the Royal Palace and Tomb, dating back to the Middle Bronze Age.

The joint Syrian-German-Italian mission, which started its works at the site on 2004, has completed the restoration works in the three palaces. Minister of Culture Dr. Riyad Nassan Agha said that the vision of the humanitarian history was completed by the discovery of Qatna Kingdom, adding that this discovery reviewed the prevailing belief that civilizations had emerged only on the coasts and the banks of rivers but also in the inner areas.

Dr. Nassan Agha praised the Syrian, German and Italian cooperation as a symbol of cooperation among the countries to enrich the common humanitarian civilization.

Rector of Italian Udine University Prof. Cristiana Compagno said everybody is responsible for maintaining this humanitarian heritage for the coming generations, asserting that the archeological discoveries will enhance the Syrian-Italian cooperation.

For her part, Vice President of German Universitat Tübingen, Prof. Stephanie Gruber said that the name of Qatna Kingdom was well-known in Germany, particularly after the "Treasures of Ancient Syria" Exhibition, held in the German city of Stuttgart.

Prof. Gruber hailed the standing cooperation among Syria, Germany and Italy in this field.

Later, Mrs. al-Assad toured the site and listened to an explanation by Head of the German mission Peter Pfiltsenz on the archeological discoveries, including pottery, gold, glass and bronze pieces in addition to the Royal Tomb carved in the rock and dated back to the Middle Bronze Age during the period of 1700-1600 B.C.

Treasures of Ancient Syria exhibition was held in October 2009 at the old Palace of the German city of Stuttgart. The exhibition included 358 archeological pieces discovered in Qatna Kingdom.

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