Italy-Iran: a 60-year-long cooperation in protecting cultural heritage

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The exhibition titled “Italy and Iran, a 60-year-long cooperation on cultural heritage” was opened in Tehran by the Italian Ambassador Perrone together with the Deputy Minister for Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism, Mohammad Hassan Talebian at the National Museum of Iran and co-curated by the ISMEO and the Iranian Research Institute for Cultural Heritage and Tourism. The exhibition narrates and celebrates the 60-year-long presence of Italian archaeological missions in Iran and the bilateral cooperation on the joint protection and promotion of Iran’s cultural heritage through 52 illustrative panels, photographic documentation and the findings from different archaeological sites. Ambassador Perrone said: “Archaeological and conservation missions are the feather in the cap of our articulate bilateral cultural cooperation.” He added: “It is the duty of our two Countries, which are the heirs of millennia-old histories and cultures, to continue to work on strengthening and broadening joint initiatives to protect, conserve and promote Iran’s extraordinary wealth of archaeology for future generations.” The exhibition ribbon-cutting ceremony was also attended by Prof. Adriano Rossi, President of the ISMEO, who emphasised that the exhibition is “the most comprehensive and vast exhibition on archaeological and restoration activities ever set up in Iran or in Italy”. The opening ceremony was followed by a seminar at which the do-directors of the Italian-Iranian joint archaeological missions presented the scientific results achieved up to now and future cooperation prospects.