

Extract from the speech by Dr Ulrike Al-Khamis, Sharjah Museums Department, on behalf of the *Sharing History* partner institutions, on the occasion of the second international meeting:

“For the first time, cultural experts from the Arab world, Turkey and Europe come together and – through the prism of objects in their collections and monuments in their care – reassess, analyse and present the background and legacy of a decisive period in their shared history – in a spirit of peaceful, constructive discourse and enquiry. All the participants are called upon to engage with and acknowledge each other’s diverse local perspectives, experiences and voices equally, thus recognising the truth that there is not ONE past but only the sum of all our pasts, lived and remembered together and apart. As we negotiate the various stages of the process towards the realisation of the project together, we will have opportunity to learn, to grow and acquire new intercultural knowledge, skills and competencies, be they intellectual, organisational, communicative, interpersonal or, on occasion, even diplomatic. In this respect, being part of the process is as important as contributing to the product and its outcome.”