



SIGNING OF A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
BETWEEN THE VATICAN APOSTOLIC LIBRARY AND THE KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN  
15 NOVEMBER 2024

Vatican City, 13 November 2024

In conjunction with the international meeting of representatives from some of the world's leading libraries, *Conservata et Perlecta Aliis Tradere. Libraries In Dialogue*, organized by the Vatican Apostolic Library, 14-16 November, 2024, the Vatican Apostolic Library will sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the Kingdom of Bahrain on 15 November 2024 at 3.30 p.m. at the Vatican Apostolic Library.

The agreement, which refers to the *Document on Human Fraternity* (4 February 2019), the encyclical *Fratelli tutti* (3 October 2020), and the visit of His Holiness Pope Francis to Bahrain (3-6 November 2022), aims to strengthen the relations between the Vatican and the Kingdom of Bahrain, with the goal of establishing and fostering a mutually beneficial cultural and scientific collaboration.

On behalf of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, Dr. Majed bin Ali Alnoaimi, Bahrain's Minister of Public Affairs, will sign the cooperation agreement with H.E. Mons. Angelo Vincenzo Zani, Archivist and Librarian of the Holy Roman Church. The agreement will focus on supporting the design and implementation of an innovative module to be used during conservation work, the cataloging and preservation of Arabic cultural heritage held at the Vatican Apostolic Library, and the organization of joint projects aimed at promoting and disseminating this precious cultural heritage that the Library preserves.

### Statements

"The name Bahrain means 'two sea'. It make us think of the waters of the sea, which bring lands and nations into contact and connect distant peoples. In the words of an ancient proverb, 'What the land divides, the sea unites'. The Earth, seen from above, appears as a vast blue sea that unites different shores. From the heavens, it seems to remind us that we are indeed one family: not islands, but one great archipelago. This is how the Most High wants us to be, and this country, which is an archipelago of over thirty islands, can well symbolize that desire."

— Pope Francis, Closing of the *Bahrain Forum for Dialogue: East and West for Human Coexistence*, 4 November 2022

"'No library is perfectly self-sufficient': this statement by a famous French librarian (Michel Melot) is over thirty years old, but it is more relevant now than ever. That is why the Vatican Apostolic Library is delighted to sign the memorandum with Bahrain: it not only reflects the close collaboration between two libraries, but also demonstrates concretely that two institutions with different cultural and religious backgrounds can work together to enhance the treasures and the heritage of humanity that each one preserves."

— H.E. Mons. V. Angelo Zani, Librarian and Archivist of the Holy Roman Church

"The launch of this collaboration is the result of an intense and very fruitful dialogue, which from the beginning has benefited from the invaluable contribution of "Les Amis de la Bibliothèque Vaticane." This has led to the development of a highly significant project that will have international relevance, particularly regarding the module to be used during restoration work. It also involves 15 specific manuscripts, the majority of which are set to be restored and digitized during 2025. This is a valuable

opportunity to further explore the priceless value of exchanging expertise and resources that are invested and directed into projects of common cultural and social interest.”

— Rev. Fr. Mauro Mantovani, Prefect of the Vatican Library

More information:

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### **Accreditation Procedure**

Journalists and media operators who wish to participate must apply, no less than 24 hours before the event, through the Holy See Press Office online Accreditation System available at: [press.vatican.va/accreditamenti](http://press.vatican.va/accreditamenti)