

Ladies and gentlemen,

I share with you the greetings of the mayor of Cremona Municipality, Mr. Gianluca Galimberti, of Cremona's Municipality Board and of Cremona's entire Municipality's Council.

It's a great honour for me to be here today to represent the town of Cremona for this prize-giving Ceremony that is entitled to our famous citizen Gherardo da Cremona. Congratulations to all the winners of this edition.

In Toledo, far from his home-town, Gherardo worked fruitfully as a translator and he contributed to disseminate not only the scientific knowledge of that time but also the mutual knowledge among the near lands that were exchanging their artistic and scientific information. Thanks to his translations from Arabic into Latin, Gherardo was able to make two worlds come closer: Middle East and Western world were connected by a link that joined the Arabic and Christian cultures.

We are very proud of our citizen Gherardo da Cremona and also of the famous Janello Torriani who, some centuries after, enchanted the two most important kings of that time Charles the 5th and his son Philip II, who wanted him to be part of their court. Janello Torriani was able to create fantastic devices appreciated all over Europe: great mechanisms that were at the basis of our cutting-edge technology. He accepted any kinds of challenge and he was able to raise the waters of the river Tago in order to reach top of Toledo's Alcazar. In fact, he built for the King of Spain the first machine able to raise water for 100 meters in height.

This past, these links and connections among places, this exchange of experiences that seem so far are still alive nowadays and they spur us to keep creating bridges and links. I'm convinced that, thanks to the leverage of culture and knowledge, intended in their comprehensive meaning, we can build a better world, without prejudices that provoke divisions. A world based on trust and on mutual respect that can abolish walls and transform Mare Nostrum, as the ancient Romans called the Mediterranean Sea, in a place of meeting and not of conflicts.

We, Cremona Municipality, the Translators' School of Toledo, the Foundation Roi Abdul Aziz of Casablanca, the University of Castilla La-Mancha, the Programme MED 21, can consider ourselves the heirs to that path of knowledge and hope started in an extremely wise way by Gherardo da Cremona. We all must follow that path. And this Prize Giving Ceremony, that in 2018 is taking place in Cremona, will represent an other important part of that route a sort of symbolic return to the place where it started.

Thank you very much and please now enjoy a video that was recorded on the occasion of Expo 2015 and that shows some of Cremona's beauties: its music, its artistic heritage, the river Po (that is the longest in Italy), its violin-making tradition (part of UNESCO heritage) and its food and wine.

We are looking forward to meeting you in Cremona.

Thank you very much to all of you.