



Italy to be partner country in Kolkata International Book Fair-2011: Monteforte

By Sushil Vakil

New Delhi, Dec 9: Italy has been invited to participate as Partner Country to the 36th Kolkata International Bookfair 2012, reciprocating India's participation in 2010 in Turin, the largest of its kind in Italy which takes place every year in May. This information was disclosed by Mr Giacomo Sanfelice Di Monteforte, Ambassador of Italy to India in a joint press conference addressed by him along with Mr. Chatterjee, Secretary General, Kolkata International Book Fair-2011 at the embassy auditorium.

The Italian participation in the Kolkata Book Fair will not only promote Italian literature with the participation of some of the most translated

and best known Italian writers such as Dacia Maraini, Alessandro Baricco, Beppe Severgnini, Valerio Massimo Manfredi but also authors with a longstanding relation with India and its culture such as Angela Staude Terzani and Sandra Petrigani. Indian authors who contribute to promote Italy in India such as Dalmia (specialist on Italian food and cuisine) or Dileep Padgaonkar will also participate.

This rich and diverse cultural program aims not only at promoting the Italian literature and its publishing industry but also to be a "window" on Italy to the large number of visitors who will visit the Kolkata International BookFair 2012. The Italian

Pavillion, designed by architect Macro Carrano, will cover an area of over 500 sq m and it will represent an Italian "PLAZZA", commonly known as a social gathering point in any Italian city and the hearth of the civic life. This PLAZZA-Pavillion will accommodate a variety of initiatives which will showcase the Italian lifestyle from art to tourism, trade to cinema and music, said Mr. Ambassador.

For the occasion a special guide to Italy written by best-seller author and journalist Beppe Severgnini has been translated into Bengali "La bella figura - An Insider's Guide to the Italian Mind" a funny and insightful discovery of the Italian mind,

he added. The Embassy of Italy in New Delhi - in collaboration with the Italian Cultural Centre and the Consulate General of Italy in Kolkata - will also organize three Special events to celebrate the Italian participant as Partner Country to the Kolkata Bookfair: on January 24th, the opening concert with Jazz pianist and composer Cesare Picco (who will also offer masterclasses to the Kolkata School of Music during his stay in India); an Homage to Tagore buy Italian Odissi Dancer Dr. Ileana Citaristi; and the closing event with guitarist Ganesh Del Vescovo, a composer and player of international repute with a profound interest in Indian music, on February 5th.