Remarks by Ambassador Abercrombie-Winstanley at the Malta VI Conference

November 11, 2013

President of Malta and U.S. Ambassador
Malta VI – Frontiers of Sciences: Research and Education in the Middle East Monday, November 11, 2013 Hilton Hotel

President Abela, Your Royal Highness, Excellencies, Distinguished guests, I am honored to be here today on this special occasion.

I congratulate the Malta Conferences Foundation for its continued efforts to bring together representatives from Middle Eastern countries and other countries around the world. We are all united in an important effort to address the problems that afflict our planet. We appreciate the impressive efforts of the Malta Conferences thus far.

Malta is a cultural, linguistic and geographic bridge between Europe and North Africa, and to the Arab and Muslim world in a larger sense. As such, Malta provides an ideal setting for ‘science diplomacy.’ I’m encouraged to see people use the common language of science to bridge political and cultural differences. It’s a message of hope that scientists from diverse countries are working to build relationships and promote tolerance and understanding.

The first conference in 2003 correctly called research and education in the Middle East “a bridge to peace.” We face common challenges like climate change, water scarcity, diseases, and weak civil societies. But there is hope we can overcome them by working together.

This conference is an important opportunity: through collaboration and cooperation, our solutions are stronger and more complete; by promoting science education, we sow the seeds of solutions to future challenges.

In his New Beginnings speech in Cairo, President Obama called for increased opportunities in science, technology, health and innovation. The U.S. Government is proud to support several programs that advance science and technology in the Middle East. The U.S. Government is honored to support this event and encourage peace through science.

I will end with a quote from a participant in the last conference who referred to the conference as a “thrilling meeting” in which his colleagues were “all united by our love of science and commitment to its use for the benefit of mankind.”
May you all feel the same passion in your work here and at home. I wish you fruitful and rewarding days ahead.

---

http://malta.usembassy.gov/en-11112013.html