



Religious Tolerance in Oman exhibition opens in Madrid

MADRID — Activities of the Religious Tolerance in Oman Exhibition kicked off at Complutense University in the Spanish capital, Madrid, yesterday. The week-long exhibition, which now reaches its 16th destination, is organised by the Awqaf and Religious Affairs Ministry within the framework of its continuous endeavours to

support communication among cultures, religions and peoples. Dr Mohammed bin Said al Ma'amari, Scientific Advisor at the Office of the Awqaf and Religious Affairs Minister and General Supervisor of Foreign Exhibitions, said the exhibition, since its launch in April 2011, aims at finding a common ground that connects peo-

ples and civilizations. He said the 15th destination of the exhibition witnessed a great turnout and scores of invitations have been forwarded to organise the exhibition in areas not planned for. Dr Al Ma'amari added that Madrid has long history for being a model for coexistence and tolerance among different

religions and cultures. Damaso Lopes, Chancellor of Complutense University, hailed the religious tolerance in the Sultanate, its respect for religion and caring for them. He affirmed that Spain considers the Sultanate an important reference for religious tolerance. Lopes said the Sultanate has played and is still playing

an important role in disseminating Islam through religious tolerance and respect of other peoples' cultures and religions in East Africa and West Asia. He added that the university, since its establishment, has dedicated a department for languages including the Arabic language in a bid to understand the Arabic culture and religious

references. The opening ceremony included a documentary for religious tolerance in Oman. The documentary, which was specially designed for this exhibition highlights the Sultanate's religious tolerance experience, as well as its important and effective role in cultural co-operation and communication.

The exhibition includes 20 portraits that showcase the Islamic religion, the Sultanate, general life, the role of woman and the lifestyle of Omanis. It also includes many publications in Spanish in a bid to change the misperceptions about Islam. The publications provide accurate and transparent information about Islam.

The opening ceremony was attended by Shaikh Hilal bin Salim al-Ma'amari, Sultanate's Ambassador to Spain, ambassadors of GCC and foreign countries, the director-general for international co-operation and relations at the Spanish justice ministry, academics, thinkers, intellectuals and Arabic language students. — ONA