

MBVP – Network Most Beautiful Villages of Palestine

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Introduction

Palestine is the holy land , is land of the three religious heavenly messages emitted to the whole world , in our villages as in all Palestine you see a style of unity & solidarity between all sects , you see history within the ancient buildings & monuments , you see all people of Mediterranean on a friendly faces of the Palestinians , you see beauty of nature and sunny region , you see fresh and natural products & foods , you see a society loves freedom , seeks: peace & dialogue , culture exchange & cooperation between peoples and receives & hosts visitors .

By these facts , truths and values : you see Palestine , you see network “ most beautiful villages of Palestine “ .



Back ground

In October 2013 three cities from Palestine : Beit Sahour , Zababdeh and Battteer participated in the regional conference held in Cisternino / Pulia – south Italy under the name “ Most Beautiful Villages of Mediterranean Basin MBVMB “ , representatives from 17 countries and organizations met and have established the “ Conference of MBVMB “ , one of recommendations is asking participants of villages to form their national networks , Palestine is one of those.

This recommendation is ensured in the meeting held in Heraclion city in Crete /Greece , Palestine participated in this meeting and accordingly the three Palestinian municipalities started work to form Palestine national network by patron of ministry of tourism & antique and ministry of local government whom announced in media to local authorities to apply for joining this network according to terms and conditions dependant in the different national networks of different countries taking in consideration the local specialty conditions.

In September 2014 Palestinian minister of tourism and antique declared establishing Palestine national network MBVP from 10 villages & cities (Beit Sahour , Zababdeh , Batteer , Turmisaya , Beir Zait , Deir Istiya , Beit Leid , Berqeen , Sabastiya & Naqora and Core).

In same month September 2014 mayor of Zababdeh participated in the conference of international federation of most beautiful villages of the world “ IFMBVW held in Lovere /Milan/Italy , in this conference Palestine is chosen as observer member looking forward to be complete member , so those 10 Palestinian cities members of MBVP formed founding committee and started process of registering this national network according to Palestinian law of charity associations and social corporations , on mid of May 2015 MBVP is registered officially and licensed .

Any village or stakeholder in Palestine who compile with terms and conditions can apply to and join MBVP .



Beit Sahour - old city



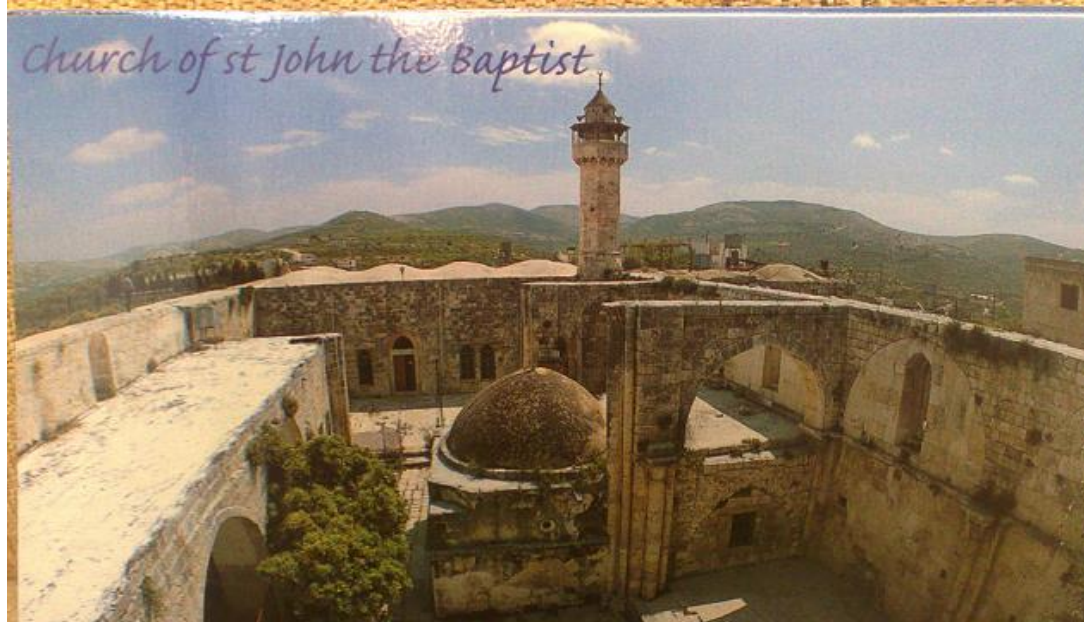
Batteer Town - landscape - Roman pool



Zababdeh Town - landscape - folk band - festival of culture/art/tourism



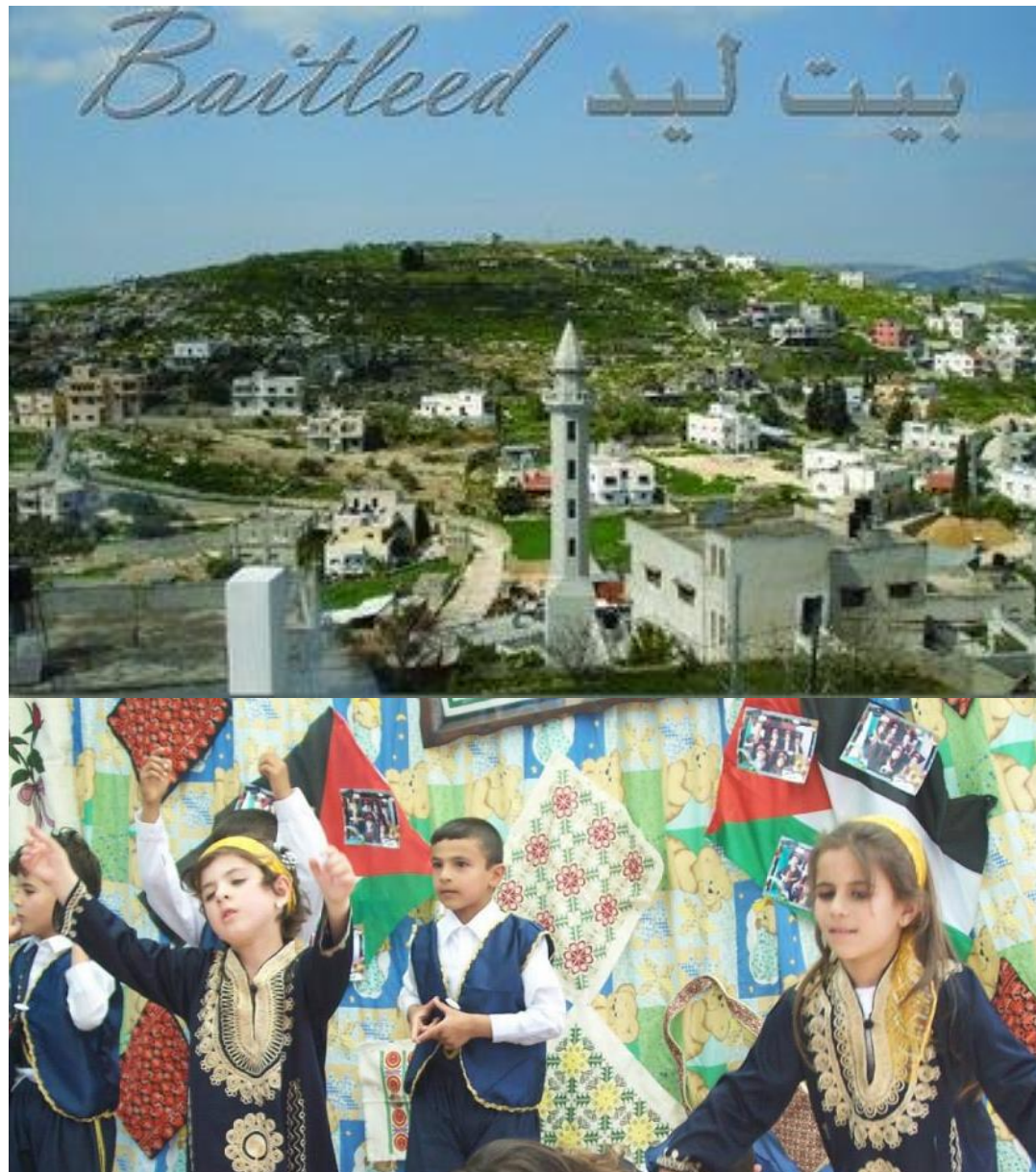
Berqeen Town - 4th oldest church in the world/ Jesus healing 10 lepers – Landscape



Sabastiya Town – Prophet St. John Baptist the former - Roman monuments



Deir Istiya Town - old town centre



Baitleed Town- children folk band



Core village – old palaces – we will stay in our village with little drink water

Objectives

The license granted to MBVP include also approving rule of procedure which include objectives & vision of MBVP which are mostly those are dependent in other national networks of MBVMB and IFMBVW , accordingly :-

MBVP can join IFMBVW and MBVMB and other similar organizations as the representative of national network of state of Palestine and can do :-

- # Exchange : experience , culture , heritage and tourists & youth & people .

- # Participate in different conferences , workshops and seminars of MBVMB , IFMBVW and other societies and organizations for the benefits of members of MBVP and in general for Palestine .

- # Implement joined activities , programs and projects .

Vision

MBVP believe in : - dialogue between peoples of the world and other partners , freedom , self determination & liberation , encourage tourists exchange and traction on local , regional and international level , fight extreme and terrorism and work together on peace issues .

Top priority of MBVP is developing tourism's infrastructure of villages & cities of members specially in the old centers of the cities and villages , encourage private sector and stakeholders to be involved and participate , extend cooperation and work to other national and international societies and NGO's to provide funds and support to improve economic and social situation of members .

Proposed Plan
Innovation & Rehabilitation
of Old centers of Villages



Palestinian old model of Building – OKKAD



Inhabited OKKAD house



Restaurant & Kafateria house

Introduction

Palestine is a small country , but it have a diversity of :-
geography , climate , herbs & wild plants & trees ,
animals , reptiles , birds , vegetables , crops , , olive
trees from days of Roman and fruits , it is rich with
beautiful landscapes , old buildings and religious &
ancient monuments , all of these make Palestine a
beautiful natural landscapes and with a sun shine most
the days of the year in a moderate 5 types of climates ,
villages of MBVP and in general most villages , cities
and places of Palestine are part of this scene .

[Background information: Total area of Palestine (occupied territories) is 6209 km² (5844 km² west bank , Gaza strip 365 km²)(Israel area 20800 km²) , Total population of Palestine as registered in 2014 is 4.5 million persons (1.76 in Gaza strip , 2.79 in west bank) (there are around another 4.5 million refugees spread over all the world), ages between 0-14 years are 45% , employment power is 46% of population , 25% are women , unemployment is 27% . poverty is 26% (in Gaza 37%) , 40% of families have access to internet network (in Gaza 24%) , there are 5 types of climate within this small area , there are more than 128 family types of wild plants and flowers . And currently lives in Palestine between 70-80 species of mammals, and between 500-520 species of birds, and between 100-120 species of reptiles, and 400 species of fish, and about 5,000 species of insects . There are dozen types of : vegetables , crops , wild trees and fruit trees .]

As you see it is clear how much is Palestine suitable for tourists and visitors to come and enjoy this beauty and diversity , on other hand suitable to encourage local tourism between our communities.

From this point of view and beside what we have mentioned in objectives and vision , MBVP are looking to put tourism on the top of their priorities.

Especially we are relaying on the IFMBVW & MBVMB and other European organizations to help and support us to develop our infrastructure especially the old centers of our cities and villages to accommodate and receive tourists from all the world and surrounding.

Due to bad economic and political current situation of our country which is under occupation, funds are not enough for MBVP and our municipalities to implement this development in one shot , many of us are already have innovated part of their old centers , others are in phase of implementation and others have plans but waiting finance.

This development include innovating old buildings belonged to citizens , which are called ‘ OKKAD ‘ which are famous in Palestine since hundreds of years and some of them are still inhibited and most need innovation to be used by owners in this proposed plan.

There are also programs for citizens to explain for them the importance of receiving and exchanging tourists and people from other countries and participate by utilizing OKKAD for providing and offering different services for visitors (i.e shops , restaurants , soft drink shops , souvenir shops , coffee shops , cafeterias , etc....) keeping in mind that most of our villages members are practicing exchange of people and youth with many European municipalities and organizations.

Our people are used to receive and host visitors and welcome them at any time. They are sure that tourism is the most important source of income and also support to our issue to get rid of occupation and have our freedom and build our own democratic independent state. They believe that tourism supposed to be the main source of income as there are no other rich sources in Palestine especially under occupation .

This innovation include old buildings , OKKAD buildings , squares & yards , streets and electricity, sewerage & water networks , we will implement this program in many phases depend on available funds , starting by old buildings OKKAD and main streets in the old centre of MBVP villages . We hope to implement this important tourism project which will also encourage local tourism and strengthen relations between our communities and it will be a complement activity between us and with other communities in the country .

Quick look on OKKAD buildings & architecture

Since hundreds of years , OKKAD buildings are the famous buildings used in Palestine , design and architecture of it is similar in both urban and rural areas , it differ in size and type of finishing . Main material is stones produced from local mines, Palestine is famous in limestone type , outside face of walls use stones with standard height build in raw with simple finishing give it the name “ Topzi “, walls itself are mixture from clay , lime powder , water and small stones to form mud in Arabic language “ TTEEN “, walls approximately one meter thickness, side tiles from stone are used to build the frame of openings of doors, windows and different entrances with different models of finishing with arched shaped tiles on tops of doors ,windows and entrances.

The frame of OKKAD room stand on four thick corner columns of a thick big size stones on face of columns and filled inside by TTEEN , columns start from ground up to start of ceiling in gradual convex shaping , ceiling itself starts from the top of the four columns forming arches , arch is formed from rectangular slides from soft limestone with 15-20 cm thickness called RIYASH, slides are pressed face to face start from the top of the column to form arch of the ceiling in the four corners of the room .



Construction of OKKAD

These four arches continue up in concave shape until it meet in the crossing point in the centre of the ceiling , resulting in hemisphere shape ceiling from inside , from outside it looks like dome, this crossing point is the equilibrium zero resultant forces of the four forces working in the ribs of arches (forcing of each arch is in direction to the point).

OKKAD is the Arabic word of this type of architecture , OKKAD model is applied also for cascading rooms and halls beside each other forming big buildings , mostly seen in cities and old palaces , rooms of OKKAD due to TTEEN, thick walls , stone faces and because of wide inside space of this big room and big inside height (6 meter and more) produce moderate climate with good ventilation inside the room (cool at summer time and warm at winter time). Also this design stands strongly against earthquakes because arches of soft lime bricks actually work as spring which is able to absorb pressure force of earthquake .

Most OKKAD buildings are still inhabited by families and some still used for different shops and purposes , but some are ignored and need innovation, also inhabited and used OKKAD need this innovation to be suitable for accommodating tourists and visitors .

Modern buildings still use stones on outside faces , decorations , arched openings of doors and windows and entrances , stones are with many types of finishing and decorations , while walls and flat ceilings are from concrete. Mud bricks building are used also in Jerrico and Gaza areas specially by poor families and farmers .

Old streets and public squares & yards are paved by tiles from stone , some are with arched ceilings.

Innovation of these streets and squares are complement to innovation of OKKAD to form the good atmosphere for traction of tourists and visitors .







