



Dominican Institute For Oriental Studies

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“The Friends of the IDEO” Association

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In December 1992, sixteen people founded this Association in Paris, with respect to the French law “of 1901” and at the request of Georges Anawati, o.p., who was unanimously elected honorary Chairman. It was later directed to the public benefit (Journal officiel of July 4th 1998). Its headquarters are at the Dominican Priory, 20 Rue des Tanneries, 75013, Paris. Its Board of seven members includes academics, religious and diplomats, who all have a personal connection with members of the IDEO. Its first President was French Ambassador Francois de Laboulaye (d. August 1996). Its current President is French Ambassador Jacques Andréani.

In 2005, the Association counts more than 250 members. Its budget (thanks to donations, contributions and grants) was approximately 200,000 €, from which more than 180,000 € were given to the IDEO in order to pay all of the printing costs of *MIDEO* 24 and to help finance three different fields of activity: building the new library, the acquisition of books and computer equipment.

The reason for founding this Association was twofold:

First of all, a clearly defined legal base was needed for the IDEO. In spite of the work carried out we lacked official recognition. From a legal standpoint, this had financial implications. In Cairo, we are considered as a “Priory” and, from an administrative point of view, it would be much too difficult to change that status. Founding a French legal association seemed a more flexible solution, giving the Institute a *de facto* legal recognition. Furthermore, given our recurrent financial problems, this legal base allows for an easier access to grants, whether from private or public organizations. The Association is then a necessary intermediary and its accounts can be legally verifiable.

Since its creation, in addition to an invaluable moral support, the Association has allowed the IDEO to function much better financially. First of all, drawing from its own funds and also from private donations, it helped finance the construction of the new library, completed in 2002. The Association also contributes to the IDEO’s annual running budget, in particular the purchasing of books for the library; finally, it acts as a relay for an annual grant given by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, specifically aimed at financing the *MIDEO* periodical.

Ten years ago, a French inter-ministry mission was set up in order to evaluate all research institutes connected with France around the Mediterranean. Mr. Louis Fougère, a senator who has since died, headed it. In the conclusion of his report, he emphasized

that an institute like the IDEO needed three or four times more men and six or seven times more money for the same work to be accomplished in the official framework of a French institute abroad!