

Transkription des Interview mit Mohamed Hassan: „StaBene und intangible heritage in Port Said“ (gekürzt und geglättet)

Mohamed Hassan ist Mitbegründer der Kulturinitiativen "Port Said Ala Adeemo" und "StaBene" in der Stadt Port Said. Beide verfolgen das Ziel, das kulturelle Erbe der Stadt zu bewahren und für kommende Generationen sichtbar zu machen. Port Said Ala Adeemo sammelt und bewahrt alte Fotografien, Geschichten, Musik und Erinnerungen, während StaBene Stadtführungen, Ausstellungen und kulturelle Veranstaltungen organisiert, um Geschichte und Architektur Port Sais lebendig zu vermitteln.

TMW: Can you please introduce yourself?

Mohamed Hassan:

My name is Mohamed Hassan. I'm from Port Said, I'm an architect and I'm the founder of Port Said Ala Adeemo NGO, working in preserving the heritage of our beloved city.

TMW: Can you shortly introduce Port Said Ala Adeemo and StaBene?

Mohamed Hassan:

Port Said Ala Adeemo actually I founded in 2014, when I was a student in the architectural department in the university. And our goal was to preserve and to save the heritage, intangible and tangible heritage of the city and to save the whole buildings in the old city from demolition. And we worked for eight years, and then we decided to give a good example for the people to how to adaptive reuse these buildings, the old buildings, by establish StaBene and StaBene is a cultural hub. That was an old garage in the old building. And then we transformed it to be, a cultural hub, which is you can make it, as a research lab to know the history of the city. And we have tools and exhibitions there and get the price of the state in 2023.

TMW: What is the importance of the Suez Canal for the history and heritage of Port Said?

Mohamed Hassan:

Suez Canal for Port Saidian is the source of life, the source of income. That and the place where their grandfather, our grandfathers, sacrificed their life to make this project. So it's very important.

Even the streets and the planning. It guides, when you walk in the city, it just guides you to the Suez Canal or the sea. So usually they say that this canal was the reason of establishing this city. Since the beginning of the first pickaxe of digging of the Suez Canal in 21st of April 1859 until now. So our city is very young in Egyptian history. Well, just to 166 years old, from that time until now. So Suez Canal is the very important thing in our city. Even when we are singing until now, we document that in memory of the digging of the Suez Canal, we, our folk music and our folk songs documented the digging of the Suez Canal, the [birth] of the Suez Canal, the [jobs] in the Suez Canal, like, the songs of, sang in the harbor was talking about the digging of the Suez Canal. Like how many people, like 120,000, passed away while they dig the Suez Canal. Like how the people is, lose their patience of the occupation and the colonization of the company. And they don't take the advantage like like them. So I, I will sing this song. It's called it's called, "SONG".

And there is another song talking about jobs in the Suez Canal. And one of these jobs is called Bambouti. And Bambouti is Port Saidian slang, a Port Saidian word that came from an English word, manboat. So bambout and manboat. And it's working with small boats, selling and trading the products in the Suez Canal with the big ships with this small boat - rowing and throwing the rope to sell the Egyptian souvenirs and Egyptian products in the Egyptian market. And, this song is saying, that we are the Bamboutis , we are the traders on the Suez Canal and we are happy and dancing on that. "SONG"

So, Suez Canal, like you see, is very important for all of us and for Port Saidian people.

TMW: Name three reasons people should visit Port Said?

Mohamed Hassan:

Three reasons. I will give you three reasons to visit Port Said. The first one is the rich and cosmopolitan history and culture. The second, the good food and fish. The third one, that this is the only place in the world where Africa and Asia have met together.