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**Press Release**

**Pakistani paintings draw visitors at Art Expo Malaysia 2011**

Nearly three dozen paintings drawn by nine celebrated Pakistani artists, including Ismail Gulgee, Jamil Naqsh, Shahid Jamal, Rahat Masud, Bin Qullander and Chitra Pritam, have made the Pakistani gallery at the 5<sup>th</sup> Art Expo Malaysia 2011 as one of the sought after corners for thousands of art lovers thronging the Matrade Exhibition and Conference Centre in Kuala Lumpur.

Led by Lahore's famous Ejaz Galleries and represented among others by M. Ramazan, Chief Executive of Ejaz Galleries, and Principal College of Design & Art, University of Punjab, Prof Dr. Rahat Naveed Masud, whose own artworks are also included in the 30 Pakistani art pieces displayed at the six-day exhibition, the Pakistani gallery has been visited by a large number of interested visitors and prospective buyers so far.

The AEM 2011 which was officially opened by Malaysia's Tourism Minister Datuk Seri Dr. Ng Yen Yen is represented this year by over 2,000 works of 400 local and foreign artists, reknowned for their strokes in traditional, modern, contemporary and new-age art. The expo also features pieces by leading international artists, including Pakistan's Ismail Gulgee, Pablo Picasso, Joan Miro, Salvador Dali and Antoni Tapies.

High Commissioner for Pakistan in Malaysia, Mr. Masood Khalid who also attended the exhibition on invitation from the Royal Patron Raja Muda Perlis Tuanku Syed Faisuddin Putra ibni Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Jamalullail, appreciated the Pakistani artworks and paintings demonstrating the skills of Pakistani artists and their "exuberant style, colour, design and dexterity with the brush".

He said artists like Ismail Gulgee, Jamil Naqsh, Shahid Jamal, Rahat Masud, Bin Qullander and Chitra Pritam and their world-renown paintings had brought laurels for the country from all over the globe. He also appreciated the Ejaz Gallery for playing a major role in enhancing the contemporary art scene in Pakistan by representing Pakistani artists abroad and by curating distinctive shows of local and international artists.

Mr. Masood Khalid said the participation of Pakistani artists and the exhibition of their artworks in events such as Art Expo Malaysia 2011 showcased their talents and allowed them an opportunity to express their ideas in visual arts and engage themselves in exchange of ideas with contemporary artists. "I am sure their contribution would make a great impact on the art scene of Pakistan," he added.

**Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2011**

# Picture Gallery

