

**June 27, 2011**

## **IFTAHU – Presentation of a Virtual Museum on Islamic Art**

The **Austro-Arab Chamber of Commerce** and the **Cultural Office of the Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt** invited their respective members and friends to the presentation of “**IFTAHU**”, a virtual Museum of Islamic Art on June 27, 2011. The venue of the presentation was the beautiful and spacious premises of the Egyptian Cultural Office. “**IFTAHU**” is a **project of the Center for Translation Studies at the University of Vienna** under the supervision of **Prof. Dr. Annelies Glander**.

**Mag. Philippe BATKA**, the Cultural Affairs Specialist at the Egyptian Cultural Office represented Prof. Dr. **Morsy ABOU-YOUSSEF**, the Cultural Counselor at the Embassy, by opening the presentation with introductory words.

**Dipl.-Eng. Mouddar KHOUJA**, Secretary General of the Austro-Arab Chamber of Commerce, tuned in the visitors with quotations from Arabic poetry, making references to the art of Arabic calligraphy, to the subsequent in-depth explanations and presentation of the project of **Prof. Dr. Annelies GLANDER**.



**Mr. Ibrahim ELSAYED** provided the technical support as Dr. Glander guided the visitors through the virtual museum enthralling them with fascinating information, both on the exhibits as well on how the idea of the project came into existence. She completed the elaboration by presenting her personal experiences and insights, something that made the Arab-Islamic civilization and the Orient comprehensive, in a very special way.

Messrs. **Bashir MIRZO** and **Patrick FELDNER** provided, with their beautiful and masterful performance of Arabic music, a very positive atmosphere all through this special evening.



The evening provided the visitors not only with unique virtually visual and musical encounters, but also with culinary regale; a rich oriental buffet with selected delicacies from the Lebanese, Syrian and Egyptian regions.

**IFTAHU- the Virtual Islamic Museum** can be viewed around the clock at [www.iftahu.org](http://www.iftahu.org).



Secretary General KHOUJA (1<sup>st</sup> left), Prof. Dr. GLANDER (4<sup>th</sup> left), Mr. Ibrahim ELSAYED (3<sup>rd</sup> right), Mr. Bashir MIRZO (2<sup>nd</sup> right), Mr. Patrick FELDNER (1<sup>st</sup> right) and students of the University Vienna