Russian Church representative takes part in celebrations marking 30th anniversary of the Department of Ecumenical Relations and Development of the Patriarchate of Antioch



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On November 8th, at the invitation of Patriarch John X of Antioch and All the East, Archimandrite Philip (Vasiltsev), representative of the Patriarch of Moscow and All Rus' to the Patriarchal Throne of Antioch, took part in the celebrations marking the 30th anniversary of the foundation of the Department of Ecumenical Relations and Development of the Patriarchate of Antioch. The event took place in the Damascus Opera House.

Among those who attended the celebrations were also Metropolitan Nicolas of Hama; Metropolitan Efraim of Aleppo and Alexandretta; Metropolitan George of Homs; Bishop Moses of Larissa; Bishop

Moussa of Daraya; Bishop Arsanios of Hierapolis; Bishop John of Sergiopolis; Bishop Antonios of Bosra; Bishop Romanos of Seleucia, chief secretary of the Holy Synod of the Patriarchate of Antioch; the clergy and laity of the Orthodox Church of Antioch; Apostolic Nuncio Mario Cardinal Zenari; Mr Oleg Popkov, second secretary of the Embassy of the Russian Federation in Syria; Dr Hassan Nasrallah, director of the Center for Pediatric Prosthetics and Rehabilitation functioning under the auspices of the Russian Orthodox Church's Representation in Damascus; ambassadors and members of diplomatic missions; as well as representatives of other Churches and international and local non-governmental organizations.

During an official ceremony, the guests learned about the work of the Department over the past thirty years. The Patriarchal choir performed several compositions and presented a theatrical show telling about the activities of the Department of Ecumenical Relations and Development, website of the Damascus Representation of the Russian Orthodox Church reports.

Metropolitan Efraim of Aleppo and Alexandretta greeted the guests on behalf of His Beatitude Patriarch John. In his speech, he pointed out an important role of the Church in tackling humanitarian issues and thanked all partners for their support.

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