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The Focus-Abengoa Foundation launches the tenth edition of the Baroque School entitled “East and West. Early Globalisation in Baroque Times”

- Over the course of three days experts in history, culture and art historians will discuss the theme of the Baroque and early globalisation.
- Fernando García Gutiérrez, S.J., of the University of Sophia in Tokyo and the University of Seville will direct the tenth edition of the Focus-Abengoa Foundation’s Baroque School and will give the inaugural lecture.

Seville, 15 November 2013. The Focus-Abengoa Foundation will open the 10th edition of the Baroque School on Monday 18 November, entitled “East and West. Early Globalisation in Baroque Times”. The School will run until Wednesday 20 November and will bring together experts in history and culture and renowned art historians at the Hospital de los Venerables in Seville.

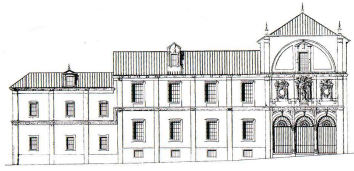
The opening ceremony will be attended by Anabel Morillo León, Director General of the Focus-Abengoa Foundation, and Fernando García Gutiérrez, S.J., who was a lecturer at the University of Sophia in Tokyo and the University of Seville. His extensive knowledge of Japanese history and culture makes him an exceptional choice as director for this new edition and he will also give the inaugural lecture at the School entitled “Japan and the West: Culture and art as a meeting point for globalisation”.

This edition of the School will focus on studying the background of the early globalisation that took place during the Baroque period and the Focus-Abengoa Foundation will bring together renowned experts to share their extensive knowledge with those attending.

The 10th Baroque School about eastern and western culture coincides with the Focus-Abengoa Foundation’s new temporary exhibition entitled, “Nur. Light in Art and Science from the Islamic World”, which is currently on display at the Hospital de los Venerables, the headquarters of the Foundation, until February 2014.

In addition to the students registered on the course, this year the School will once again open its doors to anyone interested in this subject. Entry to all the lectures is therefore free while spaces are available. The Focus-Abengoa Foundation has also awarded 20 grants to registered students as well as reserving a number of places for people over 65 years of age.

Tuesday 19th will begin at 9.30 am with a talk by the historian Juan Gil, a member of the Royal Spanish Academy and a lecturer at the University of Seville, who will speak on the subject of “The Chinese community in the Philippines”. He will be followed by Eloy Martín Corrales from the Universidad Pompeu Fabra, who will give a lecture on “Istanbul, the west of the east”. After a coffee break the day will continue with a visit to the oriental art collection of the Academia de Santa Isabel de Hungría, guided by the director of the School, Fernando García Gutiérrez, a leading national expert on oriental art. On Tuesday afternoon Agustín Udías, a lecturer at Universidad Complutense de



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Madrid, will give a talk entitled, “Mateo Ricci and the Jesuit astronomers in China”. He will be followed by Elena Barlés, a lecturer from the Department of Art History at the University of Zaragoza, who will look at “The image of Japan through Western texts and engravings in the Modern Age”. A round table discussion featuring various speakers from the School will bring the day to an end.

The Baroque School is an important project that is central to the Foundation’s cultural and educational program, converting the Focus-Abengoa Foundation into a forum for discovery and reflection, articulated through internationally renowned lecturers and researchers and which addresses the Foundation’s objective to become a leading international centre for studying the Baroque period.

The Focus-Abengoa Foundation organises two schools every year. One is dedicated to energy and climate change and the other to the Baroque period, focused on the Foundation’s heritage and its cultural and educational activities. The courses take place at the Hospital de los Venerables in Seville, a Baroque monument that is also the Foundation’s headquarters. These schools seek to develop two areas of great importance for our environment in which the Foundation carries out a large part of its activities. These are science and technology, and culture and humanities – with a particular focus on the world of the Baroque – with widespread influence in Spanish, European and Latin American literature and an emphasis on art, politics, literature, theatre and religion, among others.

Both schools combine educational, scientific and cultural issues, in an interrelated way, and reflect the purpose of the Focus-Abengoa Foundation to contribute to satisfying general interest needs based on a multi-disciplinary perspective.

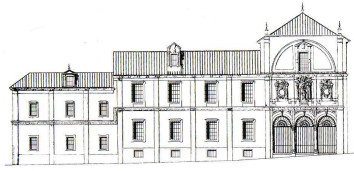
Supplementary information

Wednesday 20 November

The third and final day of the Baroque School 2013 will start at 9.30 am with a talk by the historian Alfredo Morales, lecturer at the University of Seville, entitled “Half of the World: Isfahan, artistic capital of the Safavid dynasty”. This will be followed at 10.30 am by Jan de Hond, curator of Dutch painting at the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam, who will give a lecture on “The most fascinating works ever painted. Willem Schellinks (1627-1678). A Flemish painter inspired by Indian miniatures”. After the two lectures dedicated to oriental art, students and lecturers will visit the “Nur. Light in art and science from the Islamic World” exhibition, guided by Rafael Valencia, an Arabist from the University of Seville.

At 5.00 pm, Diogo Ramada Curto, historian and lecturer at the Universidade Nova de Lisboa, will talk about “Globalisation at the time of the East and West Indies”. The series of lectures will be completed by a talk by Carlos Martínez Shaw, a member of the Royal Academy of History and UNED, who will speak on “Spain and Japan during the Keichō era”.

The tenth edition of the Focus-Abengoa Foundation Baroque School will be brought to an end by José Enrique Ayarra, titular organist of Seville Cathedral and the Foundation,



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who will give an organ concert in the church where the lectures have taken place. The diplomas for the School will be presented at the end.

All of the lectures offered by the Focus-Abengoa Foundation as part of its Baroque School 2013 will be broadcast on the internet via the Foundation's website. Similarly, all of the details and information about the Baroque School and the "Nur. Light in Art and Science from the Islamic World" exhibition can be found on the website www.focus.abengoa.es

Focus-Abengoa Foundation

The Focus-Abengoa Foundation was created in 1982 as a result of the cultural work begun in 1972 by Abengoa with the publication of the works *Temas Sevillanos* (Themes of Seville) and *Iconografía de Sevilla* (Iconography of Seville). A collection of documents, books and engravings on the Kingdom of Seville and by Sevillian authors was created during the same period. This initial cultural work showed Abengoa's directors the importance of the company's involvement in activities that directly benefit society, beyond the firm's core technology work, which led to the creation of the Seville Cultural Fund Foundation. The Hospital de los Venerables, a 17th century monument and the headquarters of the Focus-Abengoa Foundation in Seville, has housed the Diego Velázquez Research Centre, a leading institution for studying and disseminating the Baroque era and the Sevillian period of this universally renowned artist, since the acquisition of Velázquez's *Santa Rufina* by the Foundation in 2007.

Communication Department:

Patricia Malo de Molina Meléndez

Tel: +34 954 93 71 11

E-mail: communication@abengoa.com

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