**Visit of the Italian Ambassador to Manchester, 11 May 2015**

Asquale Terracciano, Italian Ambassador to the UK - accompanied by his wife, other high-profile Italian diplomats and representatives of the Italian community in the UK - visited Manchester on 11 May 2015 and took part in a series of events aimed at putting the institutions in touch with the growing community of Italian expats.

In the morning, the delegation was received at the John Rylands Library by prof. Stephen Milner, Head of Italian Studies of the University of Manchester. The professor has shown the guests the historical building and the exhibition “Merchants of Prints”, including precious prints by Aldus Manutius collected in occasion of the 500th anniversary of the death of the publisher at the core of Italian humanism.

At 12.45, the delegation joined some of the most prominent Italian businessmen and community leaders for lunch at the “San Carlo” Restaurant. The restaurant is a success story of the Italian community in the UK and a large employer of young Italian expats.

In the afternoon, part of the delegation – including the Ambassador - joined students and researchers of the Italian Department for an informal meeting at the Samuel Alexander Building. The rest of the delegation visited the Graphene Institute of the University of Manchester, a world-leading institution in the research into one of the most exciting new findings of Materials Science: graphene.

The guests then moved to Christie’s Bistrot, where they met some of the most prominent Italian academics at the University of Manchester to discuss challenges and opportunities for collaboration between the academic world and the Italian institutions.

Later, the Ambassador, accompanied by Roberto Di Lauro (Senior Scientific Advisor of the Embassy) and Massimiliano Mazzanti (Consul General in London), met the President of the University of Manchester Dame Nancy Rothwell for a private meeting.

At 17.15, the Ambassador and the Consul General joined Annalisa Piras (journalist and film director), Leonardo Simonelli Santi (President of the Chamber of Commerce) and Alberto Bertali (President CGIE e former CEO of Candy/Hoover) at the Samuel Alexander Theater to take part in a conference named “Stay Italian, Stay Abroad – Restare italiani all’estero.” The debate focused on the implications of recent immigration trends from Italy to the UK and on the opportunities for Italian expats to contribute to their country with the means and skills acquired abroad. Dr. Giulia Sirigu moderated the panel discussion, which was followed by a Q&A session. There were around 150 people in the audience.

In the evening, the Ambassador attended the inauguration ceremony of the Chamber of Commerce (Manchester), where he was joined by more than 100 among businessmen, young professionals, academics and representatives of the Italian community. During the same event it was also announced that between September and December a new Italian honorary consulate will be opened in Manchester.

END