

## **Conference on 'Migration to Morocco and the UK: Past, Present and Future: between policy and the everyday life.'**

The Moroccan British Society, The British Council (Morocco) and the University of Cambridge jointly organized an international conference on 'Migration to Morocco and the UK' 29th January 2015, at the Bibliothèque Nationale, Rabat, Morocco.

Morocco is an historical site of transit and migration for many people heading to and from Europe, Africa, America and the Middle East. For a number of reasons, regional and global migration to Morocco has intensified recently. A new Moroccan immigration policy was announced in September 2013.

The UK has for a long time been a destination for migrants from Asia and Africa. Since decolonization, the UK has attempted to develop policies that facilitated adaptation to British society whilst respecting cultural and religious differences. UK migration policies were for a long time based on a definition of integration set by Home Secretary Roy Jenkins as 'not a flattening process of assimilation but as equal opportunity accompanied by cultural diversity in an atmosphere of mutual tolerance'.

The conference seeks to address:

- 1) Changes in UK migration policy: success and failures to inform future Moroccan policy
- 2) Migrant perspectives: Moroccans outside Morocco and non-Moroccans inside Morocco
- 3) Inter-generational and long term migration shifts: from migration to diaspora.

This Moroccan British symposium will explore migratory movements and settling across perspectives of policy-making and the every-day lived realities of migration in relation to rights, work, and cultural practice. The intersection of dominant thinking around migration-integration with contemporary economic and political crises will serve as context. The symposium also seeks to question policy in relation to socio-economic integration and its impact on second and third generation migrant descendants. The conference aims to bring together cross-disciplinary researchers and practitioners from Morocco and UK to reflect on and explore shifts in migration from, to and across Morocco in relation to global crisis and map these changes beyond national borders.