



رمضان مبارك
Ramadhan Mubarak

Yemenia اليمنية

Congratulates Yemeni people and political leadership on the advent of Ramadan, and would like to inform passengers and clients of the new working hours during Ramadan and Al-Fitr Eid holidays as follows:

First:	Second:
Al-Siteen, Hadda, Zubairi, Beer Obaid and Al-Hasaba Offices: A- From Saturday to Wednesday First shift: From 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Second shift: From 9 p.m. to 12 midnight. B- Thursdays: Al-Siteen office: First shift: From 12 noon to 3 p.m. Second shift: From 9 p.m. to 12 midnight. C- Thursdays: Hadda office: First shift: From 12 a.m. to 3 p.m. Second shift: From 9 p.m. to 12 midnight. D- Fridays: Al-Siteen office First shift: From 8:30 p.m. to 12:30 after midnight.	Special services offices (VIP)-Al-Siteen Road A- From Saturday to Wednesday First shift: From 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Second shift: From 9 p.m. to one after midnight. B- Friday: working hours First shift: From 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. Second shift: From 9 p.m. to 12 midnight.
Third	
Eid Al-Fitr Holidays (Al-Siteen Road Office) First shift: From 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Second shift: From 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.	



Yemenia

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المكلا: تلفون: ٣١٤٢٦٩ سينون: تلفون: ٥٢٦٦

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) invites **Yemeni Nationals** to apply for the following position with the **UN Fever Clinic**

Position: Medical Officer

Duration: 6 months

Responsibilities:

- ✦ Provide medical support and direction for management of clients attending the Fever Clinic for assessment including medical assessment requested by nursing staff
- ✦ Provide a consultancy and advisory service for the management of influenza including diagnosis, treatment, contact tracing and investigations
- ✦ Contribute to the epidemiological surveillance of influenza in Yemen
- ✦ Perform medical examination of clients attending the Fever Clinic as appropriate
- ✦ Supervise the administration of antiviral medication for prophylaxis and post exposure
- ✦ Collaborate with the Fever Clinic staff in the overall administration of the Fever Clinic
- ✦ Other duties as directed by UN Physician

Qualification

- ✦ Bachelor degree in general medicine (MD)
- ✦ Minimum 5 years experience in respiratory medicine, general medicine or infectious diseases
- ✦ Sound knowledge in assessment and primary care
- ✦ Knowledge of respiratory medicine.
- ✦ Fluent in English and Arabic
- ✦ Demonstrated computer literacy

Position: Nurse

Duration: 6 months

Responsibilities:

- ✦ Manages and directs the provision of care to patients attending the Fever Clinic
- ✦ Supports other staff at the Fever Clinic and monitors their care of clients attending the Fever Clinic
- ✦ In consultation with the Medical Officer, oversees the provision of case management planning and facilitates appropriate follow up and contact tracing
- ✦ Responsible for the operation of the Fever Clinic in line with the agreed policies and procedures for clinical management and infection control
- ✦ Applies knowledge and skills in the assessment of clients attending the Fever Clinic according to the agreed clinical case definition
- ✦ Oversees the data collection and epidemiological surveillance on influenza associated with the operation of the Fever Clinic
- ✦ Responsible for ensuring, as far as practicable, the provision of a safe working environment in consultation with staff under their supervision
- ✦ Practices within infection control guidelines and monitors use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- ✦ Monitors and ensures availability of supplies and equipment
- ✦ Coordinates the shift activities of the Fever Clinic.
- ✦ Responsible for coordinating the timely management of data management and record keeping as required.
- ✦ Other duties as directed by Medical Officer

Qualification

- ✦ Diploma in nursing
- ✦ Minimum 3 years relevant nursing experience
- ✦ Demonstrated knowledge and understanding of methods for controlling and preventing communicable diseases including current infection control principles and practices
- ✦ Demonstrated effective communication and interpersonal skills
- ✦ Experience in managing a small clinical team environment
- ✦ Demonstrated computer literacy
- ✦ Basic knowledge of English

Interested candidates are requested to submit their applications indicating the title of the post applied for by mail to Human Resources Unit and response will only be made to short listed candidates.

UNDP, P.O.Box 551 Sana'a/E-mail: (hr.ye@undp.org)

The deadline for receiving applications is Sunday, 20 September 2009

UNDP is an equal opportunity organization and qualified female candidates are strongly encouraged to apply.



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A club where children kick-box

By: Nadia Al-Sakkaf

Boys and girls aged four to 13 gathered in the gymnasium, giggling in anticipation. As they showed off their moves, two professional trainers divided them into two groups according to age. The first group of 10 to 13-year-olds easily arranged themselves into a line starting with the shortest and stood to attention. Saleh Ga'afar, main trainer and president of the Yemeni Gymnastics Federation, inspected his athletes. The second group of younger children slowly organized itself at the instructions of trainer Ibrahim Nasr, the youngest scurrying around like little chipmunks with the trainer at their heels. The older children started their warm-up exercises, their movements in sync with Ga'afar's barking. That day's training at the International Center for Fitness and Self Defense had begun.

Serious fun
Khairallah Omar is a 13-year-old boy who lives near the center. The moment it opened, he spotted the sign and ventured inside demanding details. "I want to be a world champion," exclaimed the boy excitedly, untying his shoes to enter the gym. He told his friends about the gym, but not all managed to convince their parents to enroll them. His friend Sa'ad Khaled, 12, responded to the invitation and joined the group of 20 children enrolled at the gym. "I told my father to register me, it costs YR 3,000 [USD 15] per month for three days a week," he said. "Each day, we train for two hours, and my father has decided that it is better than playing in the street, especially in summer when there is no school." Other than the twenty children enjoying gym classes, another slightly older group of 15 boys and girls are into more serious fun, kickboxing. The cost of training is kept at a mini-

during the morning hours. Yemeni culture is not yet open to sports activities for adults, especially women. As the instructor put it, "it takes time." Rana Abdullatif Al-Suraihi, 11, found out about the gymnastic course and soon she enrolled with her brother and two of her cousins. "I love sports," she said. "We don't have many activities to do, and especially for girls it is even more difficult. I know that a few years from now, I will not be allowed to come to the gym and play as I do today." "I wish that there were something similar only for girls," she said. There is no clear chronological history of Yemeni gymnastics, although a turning point in North Yemen's history was when the minister of youth and sports brought a few Chinese gymnastics coaches to work in Yemen in 1986. South Yemen, being a British colony, was quicker at embracing sports in the early 70s. "I believe there would have been no



YT photo by Haifa Al-Saghef

"The center is a place where we spread the spirit of sports among youth, and provide providing an opportunity to identify talents," said Ga'afar, waving his arm around the gym. "One day I or one of my two colleagues, second gymnastics coach Ibrahim or kick-boxing trainer Ali Al-Swadi will produce world champions from right here." The center provides training in gymnastics and aerobics for women in the morning and sessions for children and teenagers and in gymnastics and kickboxing on alternative days three times a week. It is the first time for the trainers to establish such a center in Sana'a, although the trainers have experience in similar projects in both Algeria and Turkey. "We therefore know people's needs in this field," said Ga'afar. "We are gymnastics and kickboxing coaches who came to the center with a high level of expertise."

mal because the purpose behind the center is to encourage the culture of sports and nurture young talents. Although the trainers are well renowned in Yemen and around the world, they don't mind training with young children at very low wages. "I was impressed that my 10-year-old daughter's trainer is a world champion," explained the mother of Nadia Bamoshmoosh who joined the gym for the summer holidays. "You will not find this easily, I guess we are lucky." The women's fitness and gymnastic group has not yet taken off as not many women have registered. Female trainer Somaia Al-Swadi from Algeria trains women to become and stay fit

gymnastics in Yemen if it hadn't been for Mohammed Al-Ahgary Secretary General of Yemen's Olympic Committee," said Ga'afar. **Great aspirations** The trainers hope that they can expand the center to become a club. Ga'afar said he hopes that one day the club will be seen as a champion's factory, identifying talents and nurturing them to become world champions. Next year the plan is to have other branches for the center across the city, prior to expanding to other governorates. The challenge next will be to find qualified and committed coaches, and inform the public about the opportunities the centers offer. "We are even considering having branches in other countries, hence the name the International Center for Fitness, not the Yemeni or national center," added Ga'afar. "And we will bring gymnastics equipment better than anyone can expect." Today the main concern for the center's sustainability is lack of external financial support, as the center relies entirely on membership fees. Notably through a simple monthly



YT photo by Haifa Al-Saghef



YT photo by Haifa Al-Saghef



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newsletter, the Yemeni Gymnastics Federation is changing Yemeni culture in order to educate Yemenis about this sport and integrate it into their daily lives. The problem with most Yemenis' attitude towards sports, explains Ga'afar, is that they think of it in terms of competitions only and not as a regular habit of daily life. "You will not find people running in the early morning," he said. "Even outside the cities, you will find them sitting and chewing qat." The center was a lifebuoy to some parents who wanted their children to enjoy an active healthy life. Abdulaouf Al-Rubasi is the father of Hamza, 9, who joined the center recently. He saw the sign on his way to work one day and decided to seize the opportunity. "Hamza has become less hyperactive at home. I don't allow my children to play in the streets and they have so

much energy at home during the summer. Now, with this center, my son is learning healthy habits and using his energy in a constructive way." Al-Rubasi commented that the hall needs better ventilation especially when the number of children increases, and hoped that more branches are opened so that more people can access this facility. **A word of advice** "If we need more healthy people we need to spread the importance of sport," emphasized Ga'afar. He added that the sports industry in Yemen is underrated and over looked. News on sports in the newspapers, radio or TV talk about material gains whether money or titles and do not talk about the importance of sports and its value to the society. "Open a club, close a hospital," says Ga'afar, explaining that if Yemen had

more gymnastics and sports, people would be healthier and not need hospitals. He encouraged Yemeni youth to let go of the sedentary life style and look for places where they can professionally learn how to take part in sports. As for those who aspire to take part in championships, his advice was two words: hard work. "You must be persistent and work hard because nothing comes easily, but you must also avoid injuries by doing sports the right way and under supervision of a professional trainer," he explained, adding that good nutrition and good sleep are also essential. Parents who see talents in their children should enroll them in professional sports clubs even as early as four years old, so that they can absorb the sport from an early age, said Ga'afar. He however warned that the trainer should be prepared to deal with children at very young ages.

About the trainers



Saleh Ga'afar was the first Yemeni gymnastic professional to participate as a judge in the World Gymnastics Championships. He has been a gymnastics judge in Yemen since 2006, two years after he obtained his diploma in gymnastics coaching from Hungary. Last year he was elected as the president of the Yemeni Gymnastics Federation. Not only has he worked with Yemeni teams, but he has also worked as an instructor in Turkey. In addition to Arabic, he speaks English, French and Turkish and has used his language skills to translate international publications on gymnastics into Arabic in order to benefit the Yemeni sports community. He is the creator and manager of a website on gymnastics, www.gombaznet.com



Ibrahim Nasr has black belt in kickboxing, black belt in taekwondo and a black belt in judo. He was a member of the Yemeni national gymnastics team and he is the kickboxing expert in the Yemeni Boxing and Kickboxing Federation.



Somaia Al-Swadi has been a gymnastics trainer for seven years. She availed her diploma from the Gymnastics Union of Algeria where she is from, and has participated in various aerobics and gymnastics training courses in many clubs in Algeria. In Yemen she has trained women police officers in the special guards and is personal trainers for some of the prominent families in Yemen. Along with gymnastics she teaches various dancing techniques, weight loss and aerobics.

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YT photo by Haifa Al-Saghef

An ICU doctor

By: Sami Ghaleb

The family of the late Dr. Derhem Al-Rashedi did the right thing when they decided to bury him next Friday. The case is now entrusted to the judiciary and has become the focus of many Yemenis both in Yemen and abroad...

held back from defending one of their workers. They had even turned a deaf ear to previous offenses in the hospital. Al-Rashedi's case exposed the flaws of the Yemeni elites and showed that calls for urbanism, rights and change are nothing more than words...

However, killing in Yemen is a matter of point of view. As the superiors of the state say, killing is an ordinary thing and "a lifestyle." Therefore, the government considers claims for rehabilitation and defense as mere provincial bias and partisan gambits.

And because the concept of citizenship is strange in a country that is decomposing into tribalism, the victim was named "Al-Qadasi" (Al-Rashedi is from Qadas, Taiz). This was a preliminary step to distribute his blood among the murderers' tribe and, if necessary, among the brotherly and supporting tribes.

For eight months, the doctor, in his capacity as a martyr, continued to diagnose the diseases of his society and the management of his hospital that slackened from the first moment and

It is important to note that the main suspect has sought refuge with a prominent Islah leader. Despite the fact that this information is mentioned in the interrogation minutes of the captured accomplices, the Ministry of Interior settled for warning against any solidarity events supporting Al-Rashedi's family.

Source: Newsyemen



By: Khaled Fattah

Tourism in the Age of Terrorism: Malaysian ideas to Yemen

The dawning of the Age of Terrorism presents a serious multifaceted problem to the tourism sector in the Middle East. In fact, the repercussions of the hysterical post September 11 would be strongly felt not only in activities directly associated with tourism...

In Yemen, the economic ramifications of terror attacks, domestic political violence and tribal kidnapping have damaged many local communities, shake the fragile tourism industry, and deprived Yemen's central government from badly needed foreign exchange earnings.

With this question in mind, I went to meet the representative of the Malaysian government in Sana'a, Ambassador Abdul Samad Othman. My choice of Malaysia as a teacher for Yemen's tourism sector is obvious...

One of the very interesting ideas I heard from the Malaysian Ambassador regarding the activating of tourist flows to Yemen is the promotion of religious tourism, either as an independent activity or as a part of the pilgrim package to Mecca and Medina.

As one of the experts on international tourism put it: Living with terrorism in the 21st century is a given these days, and while many travelers may appear more cautious, most are continuing with their travel plans.

Ramadan in Sa'ada

By: Marion Patrick T. Lavilla, R.N.

Finally, the long wait is over; Ramadan knocks on every Muslim's door. Normally, the streets would be filled with stalls selling candies, dates, nuts, t-shirts, tokens and so forth.

These are only a few of the things I can remember when Ramadan comes. Although I don't usually go out and spend all night walking with friends during Ramadan...

This year, it is gloomy and depressing. We can't go out because of security reasons, I haven't seen colored lights other than the occasional lamp post emitting a reverie of the old days...

Anyway, a candle could be a romantic symbol against the darkness creeping outside your garden or veranda. You should only be careful to blow it out or put it in a safe place...

Ramadan is all about suffering and finding happiness. In Sa'ada, although people are cramped up in their homes or automobiles, the meaning and value of this holy month is still present in the hearts of these people.

In Yemen, economic status is not thought of much while feasting, and most people are very generous. The government should campaign about unity during this holy month because people think less of themselves while sharing a common interest - fasting and feasting.

The lavish preparations in Sana'a and Aden can be exciting. In Sa'ada, the simplicity and their genuine touch can be both sentimental and moving. Especially during evening duties, Muslim employees would bring homemade food and brag about their mom or aunt's cooking.

I miss going out and chatting with my friend who owns a mataam, or restaurant. He knows how to speak English and I enjoy the evenings talking about politics...

Ramadan won't be the same without these people. My nightly watch outside of the window is my moment to reflect about the things happening to my life in Sa'ada.

What we wish the government to say

By: Naser Taha Mustafa

The speech made by Prime Minister Dr. Ali Mujawar in front of parliament last week came from the depths of his soul. It showed sincerity and a deep perception of the dangers posed by the calls for division...

and southern governorates that tasted the bitterness of division and came to appreciate unity in the long term, even if they suffer from hard conditions at present.

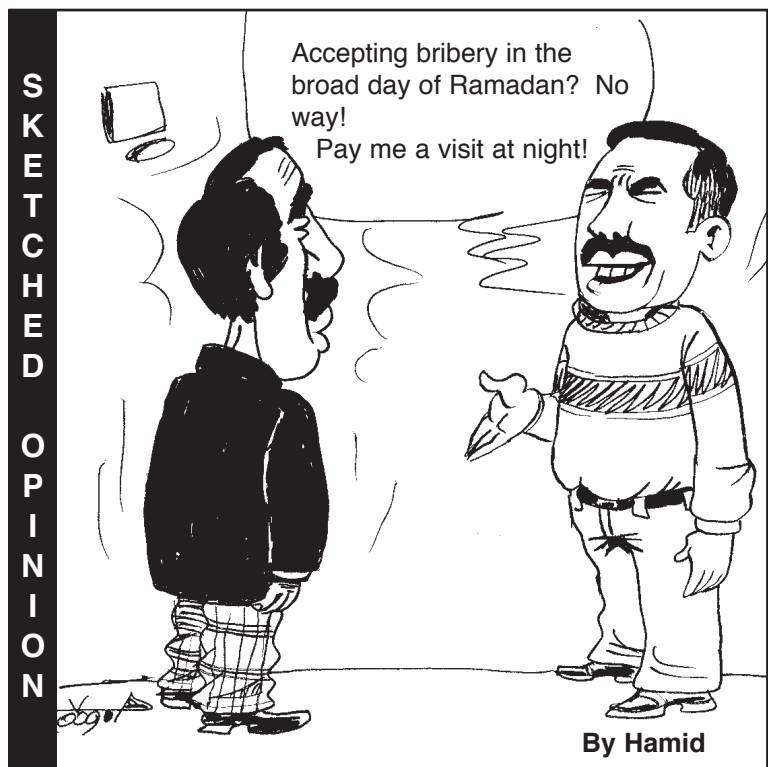
He went up the academic and administrative hierarchy to the top of executive power thanks to his competency and good reputation.

The prime minister was right when he said that those who want to secede from the unified nation in the name of rights and land extortion cases are the same people who sought secession back in 1994...

I believe that it is very crucial to employ transparency when dealing with cases that caused the current situation in the eastern and southern governorates...

I also believe that land extortion cases have been - and still are - more like a mystery for most people. Most are unable to differentiate the truths from the lies...

I wish that Mujawar's government would give this matter the attention it deserves, because, and I can swear to this, instigation among people is far more harmful and dangerous than what is published in newspapers and websites.



By Hamid

SKETCHED OPINION

Safer Exploration and Production Operations Company (SEPOC)



Leadership program graduates to lead the company forward



Trust your colleagues, think win-win, and you are on the path to success, say the new graduates of Yemen's first-ever executive leadership development program.

As part of its drive to boost the talents of its employees, Safer Exploration and Production Operations Company (SEPOC) last year enrolled 45 promising managers in the first-ever executive leadership development program in the country.

The program was led by international management consulting firm Franklin Covey, founded by leadership trainer and author of *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People* Dr. Steven R. Covey, and tailored to meet the specific needs of Yemen's first national oil and gas company.

Key components of the course focused on being proactive, setting long-term goals, learning from bad decisions, communicating effectively, prioritizing, and increasing effectiveness.

"We are building on the most important assets of the company which are you," said SEPOC Executive General Manager Mr Mohammed Al-Haj at the program's graduation last Wednesday. "You are the real assets of the company."

"Nothing can be more important to our future than preparing the right people, with the right skills, at the right time and in the right place," he wrote in the company's August newsletter.

"We are now determined to build the staff and lead the company to success after success," he said. "By you, the company will succeed. By you, it will

Manager, first heard he and fellow managers would go on a week-long retreat in Mukalla as part of the leadership course, he had nightmare visions of the company collapsing in their absence. But it did not.

tance within that plan as the workplace. The Franklin planner, an efficient diary, takes into account the whole person, said Cozzens, health, sport and the family. Although each participant was given this planner, they now mostly use the same system on a computer with

do online technical training," said Mr Cozzens, who explained that employees can now surf the net and download the information they need to perfect and update their skills.

Taking good decisions

The leadership course with its various online exercises will pave the way for the implementation of the company's new enterprise resource planning (ERP) system, something IT Director Mr Ronnie Arnold describes as "the computer system that will run the heart of the company."

"The leadership program has given the management team a set of tools and methods, the ERP gives them a solid set of data to take good business decisions," said Mr Arnold.

"The overall aim of SEPOC's executive leadership development program is to provide SEPOC with a pool of highly-motivated all-rounded leaders to meet the future challenges of the organization's changing environment," said the company in a recent press release. SEPOC is moving forward: "I promise you, we will succeed," said Executive General Manager Mr Al-Haj.



Mr Abd-Allah Amer, Deputy Minister of Oil and Minerals



Mr Mohamed Amer, SEPOC Executive General Manager



Mr Ali Boushah, Senior Consulting Partner at Franklin Covey Middle East



Mr Alastair Arkhosh, Training Specialist at SEPOC and Leadership Program Coordinator

fail. It is up to you to make it succeed." "One of the most enjoyable things in life is to see the development of other human beings," said trainer Mr Ali Boushah, who commuted from the Franklin Covey Middle East offices in Dubai to see his students discuss new ideas and blossom throughout the program.

Mr Boushah particularly praised Deputy Executive General Manager Mr Abdulruhman Al-Akwaa for his continuous presence throughout the program as an equal, his desire to learn and ask questions, and even to be challenged by his colleagues.

Between speeches and the screening of a short inspirational film by leadership guru Dr. Stephen R. Covey, SEPOC's first 33 graduates stepped up onto the podium to receive their diplomas.

"I would like to thank SEPOC for the opportunity to enhance my and my colleagues' skills," said Production and Operations Manager Mr Khaled Amer, who had been with the company for 19 years.

Another graduate, Production Superintendent Mr Mohammad Al-Tholaya, said that the most useful tip he had learnt during the eight-month development program was how to organize his time, something he now applies throughout his life.

Building trust

When Mr Hasan Al-Kohlani, Quality, Health, Safety, Security, and Environment

Instead, he came back feeling that he had learnt to know his colleagues better and invigorated with new ideas. The course was well-constructed and, throughout, he gathered his colleagues and explained to them all he had learnt, he said.

He gave his fellow workers the key words for the concepts he had been introduced to and they looked up the rest on the internet themselves, he said.

It was all in the spirit of transparency and trust. In Yemen if a man is honest and respectful, he will earn your trust, explained Mr Al-Kohlani, but the course shone new light on the concept. Trusting someone, suddenly, was making him competent.

"Trust your colleagues, and they will trust you," added Mr Abdullah Al-Hashedi, training specialist at Safer, as well as graduate and coordinator of the program.

At work, and in the family But the concept of trust also applies to one's private life. As a leap of faith, Mr Al-Hashedi left his house key with his neighbor and landlord when he went away on holiday with his family to Taiz this year, something he had never done before.

"He was very surprised," he said. When the landlord went on holiday later on, he in turn left his key with Mr Al-Hashedi. Trust built up between them, and his landlord now jokes about them being one happy family, he said. "Before it was all work, work, work," he said. "But now family is one of the big rocks in life."

Microsoft Outlook.

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To make sure that each leader-in-training received faithful feedback on his trustworthiness and leadership skills at the beginning and end of the course, he was rated in what they called a "360 degree assessment" by all of his boss, peers, and subordinates.

All assessment was done online, which pushed the company's senior managers to grapple with computers to master them once and for all. They can now lead their subordinates into a new era of training and skill development online, said Cozzens.

When a new program is installed, the old videos previously used for training will be tossed in the bin, and the company can surf into the 21st century on a wave of modern digitalized information sharing, he said.

"It's a paradigm shift for guys in the field to



From left to right: Mr Ali Boushah, Senior Consulting Partner; Mr Mohammed Amer, E.G.M.; Mr Abdulruhman Al-Akwaa, Deputy Minister of Oil and Minerals; Mr Khaled Amer, Deputy Minister of Oil and Minerals; Mr Mohamed Amer, SEPOC Executive General Manager; Mr Ali Boushah, E.G.M.; and Mr Abdulruhman Al-Akwaa.

Name	Position
A. Baki M. Abdullah	Site Manager
Abdullhakeem A. Mahyoub	CPU Team Leader E&D
Abdullah M. Naise	HR & Training Manager
Abdullah Saleh Al Hashedi	Training specialist
Abdulrahman Al-Akwaa	DEGM
Abdulwahid Sana	Production Supervisor
Ahmed Abdulmajed Al-Haj	Drilling Manager
Ahmed Al-Barad	Plant Superintendent
Ali A. M. El-Idraji	Export Operation Manager
Amal Nassar	Deputy H&E Manager
Amr Mohammed Zahran	Treasury Manager
Dr. Abdulla Al-Aslani	SCP Manager
Dr. Ahmed Yama Singa's El-Dan	Yemenization Supervisor
Dr. Mukhtar S. A. Ann	Medical Director
Dr. Yelva Ben Harad Al-MuBeld	Pipeline superintendent
Husain Ali Al-Kohlani	Training Manager
Kamal A. Malik Al-Maqadi	QHSE Manager
Khaled Ahmed Amer	Contract & Vendor Manager
Khaled Hassan H. Jabbar	Production & Operation Manager
Khalid Hussein Al-Nidari	KPU Maintenance Supervisor
Musa A. Nasser	KPU Plant Supervisor
Mohamed A. Al-Tholaya	Deputy Export Operation Manager and P/L Manager
Muhammad Y. Al-Nowari	Production Superintendent
Muhammad A. A. Sukri	Scheduling Manager
Mohsen Al-Jaradi	Marine Manager
Muhammed Al-Dahan	Maintenance Superintendent
Mustafa Al-Rabaw	Administration Manager
Saleh A. Al-Swaidi	KPU Team Leader-E&D
Saif Al-Sharif	Assistant Purchasing Manager
Salem M. Kasit	Exploration & Development Manager
Talal Ali El-Jabaly	Plant Superintendent
Yahya A. Sallam	Finance Manager
	Maintenance Superintendent

Minister of Technical Education and Vocational Training Dr. Ibrahim Omar Hugari to the Yemen Times:

“When a plumber or an electrician earns more than someone who holds a PhD and still not many Yemenis want to learn vocational skills, you know there is a mentality problem.”

The standard rule is that, for every academic, there should be twenty vocational professionals. But in Yemen, we have the opposite, as the number of Yemenis with academic qualifications is at least ten times greater than those with vocational training or technical skills. Nadia Al-Sakkaf interviewed Minister of Technical Education and Vocational Training Dr. Ibrahim Omar Hugari for more information on the situation of technical education in Yemen.

There are more than 200,000 Yemeni youth registered with the civil services who are waiting for government jobs, but each year only 11,000 job opportunities are available. Some have been waiting for more than nine years.

At the same time, there are thousands of Yemenis graduating from secondary schools and heading off to the universities or vocational institutions for further study in order to enhance their chances in the working world. Last year 160,000 students graduated from high school. However, universities can only accommodate 55,000 new students every year, and the various vocational education and community colleges can take on less than 9,000 students. This leaves more than 96,000 school graduates with no working skills and no opportunities for further education.

Even those who enroll in universities are not guaranteed a place in the job market. Unemployment in Yemen exceeds 47 percent of the population of productive age, and is increasing every year.

“There are degree holders, even people with masters and PhD degrees, still waiting for government jobs. A total paradigm shift needs to happen in Yemeni labor and career development

encourage young people to look beyond government jobs.

“With regards to attracting the youth of Yemen to choosing a career in the vocational and technical sector, we are working on three fronts,” Hugari stated.

“First, we are showing them the real life experiences and unemployment records which prove that almost all those with vocational skills are getting good jobs or are generating better income than those with university degrees. The other issue is promoting available jobs in the Gulf market and especially in Saudi Arabia, as we know that there is a demand for skilled labor from Yemen. And finally, we are creating a partnership with the private sector in order to identify their needs in terms of manpower. From there, we arrange for employment from our graduates,” he said.

The ministry has created a website in which the data and contacts of all graduates since 2007 are registered so anyone interested in finding qualified professionals can access the data and contact the graduates. The ministry also organizes regular tours for companies from the private sector to visit the various technical and vocational institutions in order to help businessmen identify their needs directly from the available workforce.



Hugari: The low level of general education and high unemployment rate among its graduates only proves that there is an urgent need to reform the educational sector. But it also proves that vocational education is an attractive alternative, especially since those who enroll in this field are there for the skills and not for degrees or certificates.

first time ever, the ministry has created a sector for girls' education and training with the purpose of increasing women's enrollment in technical and vocational education.

“You would be surprised at the success we achieved in this issue. We started a vocational training center for girls in Nuqum area, which is a very conservative and traditional part of Sana'a. Now we can't catch up with the applications for studying at the center,” Hugari said.

The ministry has five projects to enhance women's integration in this sector in Sana'a, Aden, Taiz and Lahj. This year there were 1,559 girls enrolled in the technical education sector, compared to 10,056 male vocational students which makes girls enrollment 13.4 percent of the total students.

Moreover, the ministry works closely with the local councils and private sectors around the country in order to bridge the gap between technical educational products and market demand. There is a national consultative council headed by the minister himself which includes members from the chambers of commerce, labor unions, business companies and local councils.

The consultative council meets once every three months to identify better means for cooperation and how to better cater to market demand. It also has branches at the governorate level, but these are headed by the local councils instead of government.

“The purpose of the council and its branches is to relate technical education to real life,” said the minister. “You will notice that a school in Sana'a is very much the same as a school in Taiz or Hodeidah but a technical or vocational institute is special and has to be designed according to the local needs.”

“For example, we will establish a vocational training center in Aden focusing on fisheries and ships maintenance, but in Hadramout we will provide education relating to bee hives and making honey. This is why we consult with local councils and businesses before we start on any new project, and this is why we have been quite successful in promoting girl's vocational education so far.”

Before the start of any new project, the ministry carries out a feasibility study in coordination with the consultative council on the national and especially on the local levels. The feedback from the community directs the establishment and syllabus taught, and shows the kind of teachers and students needed to make the center a success.

Quality assurance

One of the main concerns of the ministry, explained Hugari, is ensuring that the education provided through the institutes is of high quality.

“It is a complete cycle including buildings and equipment, teachings materials and curricula and finally the teachers themselves,” he said. “For example, we have to make sure that the

people teaching at the institutes are qualified. If the teachers don't understand the workings of vocational training, how can they produce good graduates?”

“We have a saying that academics are ‘2H,’ standing for head and heart, while vocational professionals are ‘3H’: they work with their head, heart and hand,” he noted.

The ministry controls the quality of syllabi taught, which is the responsibility of the training department inside the ministry.

“We have more than 400 reference materials for the various disciplines, and we keep updating them in order to ensure our students learn skills at international standards,” Hugari said. “Vocational technology advances so quickly, and so instead of having books for the various subjects we have chapters. When we need to update the subject we just change the chapter and not the whole book, which saves us money and is more efficient.”

There are local and international inspectors that visit the various centers on a regular basis to assess the level of education as well as the teachers and students' performance. The issue with vocational education, explains Hugari, is that you can't have any sort of overload in classrooms because it is practical training and not theoretical, like in schools and universities.

“You have to have a certain number of machines and a certain number of students learning to operate these machines,” he said. “It's not like a classroom where you can have 20 or 60 students but the same lecture and the same effort from the teacher regardless of the number.”

This practicality, in his opinion, is a positive point in terms of quality assurance in the vocational education sector. Therefore, there is an almost 100 percent guarantee that those students will find jobs or even start their own businesses.

Some of the students have had offers to work in other countries, especially in the Gulf. “I know that there is demand for Yemeni skilled labor because the job applicants come to the ministry to endorse their certificates,” Hugari confirmed.

This is why there is an even stronger desire to improve the level of education and give the students various skills so that they can compete in international markets.

In lieu of this, the ministry has many programs where it cooperates with donors such as the German, British or Japanese governments. In cooperation with the British Council, a new program called “Skills for Employability” was established this year in which vocational education students learn basic computer and English skills to be able to perform their job better when they graduate.

“Students understand that it is not enough to learn the ‘know-how’ – they also have to know enough English for the terminology and computer skills to efficiently communicate with people in other countries. This is why we intro-

duced these two subjects in the syllabus and we appreciate the support we get from the British Council in this issue,” said Hugari.

The International Labor Organization also supported the ministry through the Small & Micro-Enterprise Promotion Service Agency to introduce the subject ‘Know About Business’ in the syllabi of some of the vocational centers. KAB is an entrepreneurship development training program launched by the International Labor Organization (ILO) for teachers of vocational education and secondary education. The program consists of 120 hours of coursework for young students between the ages of 15 to 18 years old. KAB is currently being taught in three centers in three governorates.

Further expansion

According to the minister, the demand to join the vocational sector is increasing significantly, and currently only one in three applicants can be accommodated in the existing 87 centers and seven community colleges.

There are 70 projects for creating either new vocational establishments or expanding existing ones. Eleven community colleges are currently under construction and 34 new vocational training centers are almost ready for use. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

scholarships of these students. Last year 166 students were sent on scholarships as compared to 187 in 2007.

This year 169 students have been given scholarships to study various vocational education disciplines abroad.

The ministry is working on expanding the number of vocational education establishments as well as increasing the number of specializations. Some girl-specific specializations have been created in order to encourage the community to let girls into this sector. These include multimedia, kindergarten and child day care, interior design, cosmetics and hair dressing.

However, the minister emphasized that despite its importance, technical education is not enough to solve Yemen's employment problem.

“No matter how much we expand, there are only so many students we can take. We need to make sure that the quality of general education is improved so that Yemeni youth become more resourceful in their career development,” Hugari said.

He insisted that students should be taught related skills in their main curriculum in schools. “After twelve years of learning in schools, other than knowing how to read and write, young people graduate with no marketable skills at all. This is a problem we need to rectify urgently,” he said.

Skills he suggested include languages, computers and secretary or office organizational work. Students enrolling in the vocational sector could join after finishing the ninth grade and then study for two years to get a pre-high school vocational education diploma, or for three years to get a secondary education degree in vocational education. The other option is that they join a vocational school after completing high school. Instead of going to university, they either study for two years for vocational education diploma, or study for three years in community colleges.

Hugari commented that for both technical and university education, good basic education is key to the success of students. “If you have a strong basic education, you ensure an efficient educational system at all levels and disciplines,” he said.

The low level of general education and high unemployment rate among its graduates only proves that there is an urgent need to reform the educational sector. But it also proves that vocational education is an attractive alternative, especially since those who enroll in this field are there for the skills and not for degrees or certificates.

“We are proud of our students and



Today the ministry's various institutions offer 90 specializations, some of which are dedicated to women. For the first time ever, the ministry has created a sector for girls' education and training with the purpose of increasing women's enrollment in technical and vocational education.

culture,” said Dr. Ibrahim Omar Hugari, Minister of Technical Education and Vocational Training.

There are 87 vocational institutes and centers and seven community colleges distributed across 19 governorates in Yemen. A total of 24,691 students, mostly men, are enrolled in these educational establishments. In addition, there are around 416 students on government scholarships studying abroad. Every year this sector sees around 8,500 vocational professionals graduate.

The ministry has a plan, according to Hugari, to change the mentality towards technical education and to

“It often happens that a businessman discovers a solution to one of his problems right here in the vocational sector. Many times students sign job contracts even before they graduate,” said Hugari.

Encouraging women

Not only does the ministry work on changing the general mentality towards technical education in Yemen, it also has a specific component regarding women's integration in the vocational training job market.

Today the ministry's various institutions offer 90 specializations, some of which are dedicated to women. For the



In order to prepare qualified teachers for the newly-established center, 416 scholars are currently studying abroad on grants from the Yemeni government and will become teachers in these new establishments.



The demand to join the vocational sector is increasing significantly, but currently only one in three applicants can be accommodated in the existing 87 centers and seven community colleges.

has funded 18 of those centers located in various governorates.

“We realized that the new centers would need new qualified teachers and so we hope that the 416 scholars currently studying abroad will come back and fill this need,” said the minister.

These students are being educated in fourteen countries, mainly in Lebanon, Syria, Algeria, Malaysia, Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, China, Morocco and India. Fewer numbers are sent to European countries such as Germany, Britain and Holland. Both the Ministry of Technical Education and the Vocational Training and Ministry of Higher Education are sponsoring the

see the future of the country in their hands. For the 2007 graduation celebration, we held a competition for the best project proposal and we were impressed at the ideas that our students proposed,” Hugari said.

He is hoping to be able to carry out a similar completion where the best five projects from each governorate compete for an award. So far it's only an idea, but with the required support and resources he is sure the projects will create a buzz. “Yemenis are smart and have great talents. They need a good environment to nurture them and this is what we are trying to do,” Hugari said.

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Damoon Al-Hajrein, town of Aad and poets

By Ismail Al-Ghabeeri

One of the most beautiful villages in all of Yemen, Al-Hajrein is an important archeological village located in Wadi Hadramaut in eastern Yemen. Its name was derived from the word 'Hajran' meaning 'town' in the ancient Yemeni language.

Roughly 100 years before the Islamic calendar began, the town of Al-Hajrein was in its glory as the center of the state of Kinda. Kinda is famous for being the home of the famous 6th century poet Imru' Al-Qais, who was the last king of this tribe.

Al-Hajrein is situated at the corner of one of the curves of the Hadramaut valley between Saqa Al-Kasr and Wadi Dawan. It is divided into adjacent sections on the banks of the curve overlooking a forest of date palms.

It is one of the oldest villages of Wadi Hadramaut, where the ruins of the ancient state of the people of Aad can be observed on the peak of a mountain that looks down on this village.

Al-Hajrein is bordered by Wadi Dawan in the east and Wadi Al-Ghadr in the west. Both valleys slope into the huge Wadi Hadramaut.

Al-Hajrein is known as one of the most heavily fortified regions in Hadramaut. On top of its mountain, one can easily keep watch for the arrival of invaders from every direction.

This town is famous for its old commercial markets, being located on an important ancient travel route that linked Hadramaut with other trade routes

along coastal roads leading to the cities of Shabwa and Tanna.

Al-Hajrein is known for being one of the locations from which the advent of the month of Ramadan can be announced through observation of the crescent moon's appearance in the sky.

The visitor to this town will undoubtedly be attracted by the magnificent style of architecture. Among the ancient buildings that differentiate this city from other areas are the old mosques, of which there are 11.

Al-Hajrein Mosque is the most significant of these mosques. It was built in the center of the city as early as the year 1200, 600 years after the hijra, and was expanded several times in the 16th and 17th centuries.

This particular mosque is not only a place for worship but is also a center for studying Sharia, or Islamic Law, embracing scholars and students alike from different regions.

Other mosques are located in the center of the town, most notably Ba'a Feef Mosque, Al-Qadi Mosque, Al-Sheikh Taher mosque and Omar Mosque.

The city of Al-Hajrein is known for the traces of ancient history left by the people of Aad. On top of Al-Moneisyor Mountain, one can observe traces that left indications of the type of life the Aad people once led in that area.

Fireplaces still remain in this area as well as special stones called 'marahi' that were surely used by those ancient people for grinding grain. In addition to this, special places called 'gwabi' can be seen that were made for storing water. There are also inscriptions

and engravings which have undergone deterioration caused by natural forces, and now they are difficult to recognize.

On the western side of the mountain there remain the ruins of houses of Al-Hajar, the tribe of Wael Ben Hajar Al-Kendi who was a companion of the prophet Mohammed.

In this area there is also the remains of a water stream named Ghail Ahmed which was severely destroyed after Hadramaut was invaded long ago by Ma'an Bin Zaeda.

Al-Hajrein in total encompasses a number of eight main villages which are Ghar Al-Sudan, Saiyla, Khareghar, Al-Ghaza, Al-Gadara, Nahawala, Mekh and Al-Mashahad, in addition to other outlying villages.

The results of a Yemeni-Russian expedition that carried out excavations in this area confirm that Al-Hajrein is an archeological city comprising a lot of traces of ancient civilization. Some remains in caves located there are proof that the Aad people once dwelled this area. The story of these people was mentioned in the Quran, as they used these caves as their shelters and homes.

To get to Al-Hajrein, one must take a mountain pass called She'eb Al-Qazza, which was earlier named as Damoon. The pass embraces different unidentified inscriptions engraved on very big stones



Al-Hajrein is one of the oldest villages of Wadi Hadramaut, where the ruins of the ancient state of the people of Aad can be observed on the peak of a mountain that looks down on this village.

that are difficult to transport. However, concerned authorities have to play their role to protect these inscriptions.

In a place called Al-Sharma situated at the top of a mountain in the west of the city, there is a mine for material resembling gunpowder. This was used for the purpose of stuffing old guns known as Abu Fateel.

The town of Al-Hajrein is known for its craftsmanship and light manufacturing activities. Handicrafts like carpentering, construction, blacksmithing, and sewing are among the most famous. In addition to this, activities related to gold and silver smithing are also found throughout the city.

Other work like beekeeping and tending goats and sheep while working on farms are among the sources of livelihood for today's villagers.

One of the most striking features of the town is its architecture and the style of the construction of houses. It is part of the Hadramaut governorate after all, which is famous for its unique skyscrapers built with mud and stones.

The favorite meal in the city is porridge made out of wheat flour and often mixed with dates. Al-Dugr is also popular, which is made from legumes which used to be cooked long before the use of rice. These days the dish of rice and fish has become one of most famous dishes served in Hadramaut.

Al-Hajrein is well-known for its sources of pure water spread across the city. It is worth mentioning that the town of Al-Hajrein, being located on the route of trade, has been known for its stations supplying water for travelers and visitors.

These water stations were called 'sakkayat,' whereby water was made available for anyone to drink and was meant to be supplied for charity. Such sakkayat are available along caravan routes and in entrances and outlets of the town. The most famous sakkayat in the area are Al-Gabali, Nakheel, Badmoon, Harshaf and Shawoosh.

The city of Al-Hajrein in Hadramaut is also known for its famous poets. Of these lyrical poets, the deceased poet Salem Ba'abood Basaeed was famous for reflecting the happenings of daily life in his poetry. He expressed the conditions of people, hard and happy times alike.

In addition, the poet Mohamed bin Saeed Al-Sayyari came from Al-Hajrein. His poetry is characterized by a richness of content, wise implications and love of nature and its beauties.

Al-Hajrein, as such, has all the best features of a historical town. It has a picturesque collection of various landscapes and a richness of folkloric scenery. Any visitor to Al-Hajrein will perceive the magnificent traces of a unique heritage that has survived over numerous centuries.

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Printed by Yemen Times Est. for Press, Printing & Publication
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