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Children jailed due to Sa'ada war



Human activists say three prisoners are between 5 and 16 years old.



The juveniles are held together with adults prisoners in a small room in Haja Prison.

By: Saddam Al-Ashmouri
For Yemen Times

SA'ADA, Dec. 8 — As official parties denied the presence of some juveniles in Al-Nosairiyah prison in Hajjah, a committee formed of Parliament members (MPs), human rights activists, and

journalists visited the prison and revealed that six juveniles are jailed there.

MP Ahmed Saif Hashid, who is also chairman of the Rights and Freedoms Committee in Parliament, stated, "The committee paid a visit to the prison and found that there are six juveniles imprisoned there, aged between 14 and 15. The inmates were interviewed and photographed, and shown to be living in miserable conditions inside the prison. They live with more than 40 inmates inside a two-room prison," and added, "They have been imprisoned without charges for about a year and a half. They have not been referred to the court, imprisoned for precautionary measures."

The six inmates are now deprived of pursuing their studies. Wa'el Ghalib, 16, one of the inmates and a student in grade 9, said that he missed this academic year due to his imprisonment.

Wa'el also said that one of his

sheikh's followers called him, saying that the security director in Kahlan district wanted him and promising the sheikh to bring Wa'el back within a few hours. Wa'el was investigated for one hour. After being investigated, he was jailed, and has been in prison for the last ten months. "I don't know what I have been charged with. They asked me about my relationship with Al-Zaidiyah School as well as Al-Houthi. I don't know him at all," Wa'el said.

Yasir M. Al-Mozaiqer, another inmate, said that living conditions are terrible, as inmates suffer from a lack of food and water, don't have enough beds and are allowed to use bathrooms for only 35 minutes a day.

Yasir's situation is similar to Wa'el's. They phoned him for investigation and then he was taken to prison. Now it has been ten months since his imprisonment. Nobody has visited him and he has lost contact with his relatives.

Authorities arrested tens of locals, who have been jailed for long periods of time, early this year in some governorates due to the Sa'ada war. Therefore, the prisoners' relatives voiced this issue after prisoners went on a hunger strike for days. The relatives demanded the release of their sons and also urged the media and human rights organizations to maintain solidarity with them.

Human rights activists headed by MP Ahmed Said Hashid paid visits to the inmates last August. They met Hajjah's governor, who promised to release the prisoners. Despite appeals and demands, however, the prisoners have still not been freed.

Hashid considered the imprisonment of the locals without charges an illegal act, breaching the law and constitution as well as international conventions, pointing out that there is no legal justification for the imprisonments.

Continued on page 3

UN calls for urgent food aid to help displaced people in Sadaa

By: Yemen Times Staff

SA'ADA, Dec. 9 — The United Nations World Food Program (WFP) called on donors to provide an urgent \$3.3 million in funds so that over the next four months, it can feed nearly 80,000 Yemenis who have been displaced by intermittent conflict in Sada'a.

WFP Yemen Country Director Mohamed El-Kouhene said improved security in the Sa'adah governorate in recent months has allowed the agency to start assisting many more people across the region. Before then, the violence had confined the operation largely to Sa'ada city.

The agency said in a news release that it estimates it will need to feed 77,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) from now until at least next March, double the number of people it has been helping since the operation began in June.

According to the statement, the food agency will continue to provide assistance to those who cannot meet their daily needs, while the Yemeni Government will keep supporting the



An old man from Sada'a receiving WFP aids

operation by providing security and logistics assistance. The WFP has provided around \$400 million of food assistance to Yemen since 1967, when the country was divided between the North and the South.

Conflict between Yemeni Government forces and followers of the rebel movement of Abdul-Malik al-Houthi has flared intermittently since 2004, but in the latest round of fighting that began in January, the homes and possessions of tens of thousands of people were destroyed, forcing many to flee.

Continued on page 3

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2007, causing the death of nine Yemeni soldiers and injuring another fifteen.

A navy official said that the lava which spewed from Jabal al-Tair reached a height of 10 meters and could be seen with the naked eye from a far distance. The official, who did not want to reveal his name as he wasn't authorized to speak to the media, said that continuous naval patrols were observing international sea routes and preventing any sea vessels from approaching the island.

Geologist experts predicted that the volcano would remain active for long periods with some craters, noting that active volcanoes don't pose the threat of spreading an eruption to other islands.

However, Al-Maqalh confirmed that the part of the Red Sea in question continually experiences seismic activity, as it is in a volcanically active part.

He pointed out that Yemen witnessed the worst earthquake in Dhamar in the same month (December) twenty five years ago. "Every twenty five years Yemen witnesses a serious earthquake, but in different places," he commented.

According to the Global Volcanism Program database for northeast Africa and the Red Sea, the area currently contains 69 Holocene volcanoes and 2 Pleistocene volcanoes with thermal activity, including Jabal Al-Tair, Jabal Zubair, Zukur island, and Hanish island, all located within Yemen's marine borders.

Hunaish has been evacuated, says naval official

By: Amel Al-Ariqi

SANA'A, Dec. 9 — Yemeni naval forces evacuated the Lesser Hunaish Island in precaution for volcanic activities that may take place in the Red Sea.

Taher Al-Maqalh, head of the Navy Forces Operations in Yemen, confirmed the information, adding that the evacuation occurred a month ago to insure the safety of the island's residents. He refused to give the number of the people that were transported to Hodeidah, noting that they do not belong to the military.

Lesser Hunaish is 75 nautical miles from Jabal al-Tair Island, which erupted a second time on December 3 after previously erupting on September 30,

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In brief

International Development
Association approves
grant for Yemen

Dec. 9 — The World Bank office in Yemen has announced that on Dec. 6, the executive directors of the International Development Association approved a \$500.93 million International Reform Development Policy Grant for Yemen.

The policy-based operation's main objective is to support the Yemeni government's reform efforts to accelerate growth and reduce poverty. The grant's two main pillars are supporting non-oil growth by reforming the investment climate and strengthening governance via improved public finance management and civil service reform.

The grant will be disbursed in two equal payments, the first of which will be distributed upon signing the agreement.

ABYAN

Médecins Sans Frontières discusses
Somali refugee situation

Dec. 9 — Abyan Deputy Governor Abdullah Luqman on Friday discussed with a team from Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors without Borders), headed by Sash Mathius, the situation of Somali refugees in the governorate and adjusting such situation in order to contain more refugees and offer them care services.

Luqman affirmed that Yemen is offering all required aid to help the refugees as a part of its religious and humanitarian duty, praising the humanitarian efforts in various fields offered for the Somali refugees by Médecins Sans Frontières.

Mathius reviewed his organization's efforts in Abyan to help the refugees, including a health center and other aid, as well as daily monitoring of coastal areas in order to offer aid upon the arrival of such refugees.

DHAMAR

Gas leak puts civil defense on alert

Dec. 9 — According to an official source, a gas leak at a fuel station in Rosaba in Dhamar governorate halted the movement of traffic between Sana'a and Dhamar early this morning. Local sources said that a vehicle crashed into a pipe to supply gas-operated vehicles, causing a horrible gas leak that spread throughout Rosaba and nearby villages.

Locals expressed fear of possible fires in the more than seven square kilometers; however, Civil Defense was on the alert, warning area residents to be careful and not cause any fires.

HADRAMOUT

Hans Helfritz's exhibition in the
Sayoun Museum

Dec. 9 — On Saturday, Germany handed over to Yemen an exhibit entitled, "Curiosity kept me striving. Hans Helfritz in Yemen, 1931-1935," a photographic and musical-ethnological journey to the Sayoun Antiquities Museum.

Tracing the German explorer's path, the exhibit was displayed in four Yemeni cities — Mukalla, Sayoun, Aden and Sana'a — between April and August of this year.

Comprising more than 3,500 photographs selected from 78,000 Helfritz took in the early 1930s, the photography exhibit is complemented by several wax tins with traditional music samples from that time.

SA'ADA

Attempt to kidnap
South Korean engineer

Dec. 9 — Security authorities in Sa'ada governorate foiled the attempted kidnapping of a foreign electrical engineer, the state-run Al-Motamar.net reported Friday.

The web site quoted local sources as saying that armed men blockaded a South Korean engineer in an effort to kidnap him.

The sources said that security forces prevented the completion of the kidnapping and protected the engineer while pursuing the armed group.

SANA'A

New Sana'a airport to
be completed by 2009

Dec. 9 — Civil Aviation and Meteorology Authority Chairman Hamid Faraj expects phases one and two of the new Sana'a International Airport to be completed by 2009.

Faraj reported that the Yemeni Parliament recently approved a \$160 million loan offered by the Arab Development Fund to fund the project's second phase. He clarified that extending the first phase's completion by a year is due to a delay by the executive company. Phase one had been scheduled to be completed by Dec. 30, 2008.

Tourism forum calls for
preserving archeological sites

By: Ismail Al-Ghabri

SANA'A, Dec. 9 — The consultation event of tourist work leaders concluded its work on Thursday in Sana'a under the theme, "Toward consolidating the role of local authorities in developing tourism." A number of people attended the event and discussed about 16 documents related to improving the tourism industry in Yemen.

During the event, participants emphasized the importance of future initiatives to develop the tourism industry in Yemen.

They also stressed the necessity of activating the role of tourist offices in the governorates to achieve such initiatives via finalizing the Ministry of Tourism's preparations to achieve national tourism goals and disclosing it in a national conference in 2008.

The final statement of the event, organized by the Ministry of Tourism on the 5th and 6th of December, recommended updating the latest statistics by reviewing tourist expenditures.

It further stressed the importance of gathering information from tourist offices across the country and other appropriate official sources, including the private sector, in order to show the real effect of tourism on the national

economy.

The statement called on protecting greenbelts (green areas) in the agricultural valleys and wetlands surrounding governorates and Yemeni historic cities. It also emphasized the necessity of founding public administration for training in tourism industry, laying down guidelines to the effect that the ministry should prepare an annual plan of tourism needs for training and investment, determining the required cost and presenting it to the local council to approve it.

The source also called on local authorities to fully cooperate with the Ministry of Tourism to preserve historic and archeological cities, setting up a bylaw for certain tasks and restructuring the ministry's offices in the governorates.

The consultation forum further recommended activating the role of tourism activity committees in the governorates by finalizing the formation of such committees in the governorates and providing them with funds and technical support via local councils.

It added that the relationship between the Ministry of Tourism and its offices in the governorates should be well organized, advising cleaning public institutions and tourist sites as well as

providing them with all requirements to enhance tourism services in Yemen.

In the conclusion of the event, Nabeel Al-Faqeeh, minister of Tourism, announced that rewards valued at YR10 million will be given by the Ministry of Tourism to encourage public cleaning initiatives and the best tourist sites in Yemen's governorates and districts.

The minister also declared that a committee was formed consisted of private sector, Tourist Promotion Council and Association of Travel and Tourism Agencies. Criteria and conditions of the reward have been stipulated, hinting that the reward is divided into three levels distributed to governorates, districts, and tourist sites.

He further confirmed that the value of the reward may be increased, adding that the private sector or other appropriate party can intervene to increase this value, inferring that the private sector can support initiatives aiming at protecting the environment at rural and urban levels.

The most prominent priorities and initiatives of the Ministry of Tourism in 2008 is that the ministry issued a new tourist law to be well studied and prepared, addressing recent developments in tourism.

NDI trains NGO reps in
tribal community development

NGOs representative receive training on how to develop their tribal communities in the governorates of Marib, Al-Jawf and Shabwa.

SANA'A, Dec. 9 — The National Democratic Institute, or NDI, is training representatives of non-governmental organizations based in Yemen's remote governorates of Marib, Al-Jawf and Shabwa in fundraising and other issues crucial to developing their tribal communities.

These issues are being discussed at two workshops being held Dec. 8-12, also touching on strategic planning, proposal writing, conflict management and conflict analysis.

The first workshop concentrates on strategic planning, fundraising and proposal writing. As many as 24 NGO board members are being trained and given practical skills on developing strategic plans for their NGOs. The event also aims to improve their skills in developing projects, approaching donors, marketing their NGOs, writing project proposals and budgets and applying for funding.

The second workshop, being held Dec. 11 and 12, focuses on conflict management and analysis. The same NGO representatives will participate in this event, during which trainers will brief participants on concepts of conflict analysis, as well as discussing and analyzing both modern and traditional conflict management methodologies.

The two workshops are part of NDI's Conflict Management Program, funded by USAID. The program organizes intensive capacity-building programs and activities for local NGOs in the Yemeni tribal areas of Marib, Al-Jawf and Shabwa. In this context, the program seeks to build the capacities of local NGOs in the three governorates in order to empower them to contribute to addressing conflicts and development problems in their areas.

The strategic planning training is

being done by Abdulhakim Al-Ofairi, program advisor for the Conflict Management Program, while program manager Nadwa Al-Dawsari is in charge of training participants in fundraising and proposal writing.

"I'm very happy to see such a great turnout and participants' level of interaction with the training," Al-Dawsari commented, adding, "It demonstrates the commitment those leaders have to bringing some development to their very deprived and underdeveloped tribal communities and making some changes in those areas."

According to Al-Ofairi, "It's good to work with these local NGOs for many reasons. First, you feel that they are very enthusiastic and eager to learn from others' experiences. Second, they have a solid and deep understanding of their communities' problems and they have ambitions to deliver something to their people."

Investors protest in Aden

ADEN, Dec. 8 — In a massive sit-in held in front of government premises in Aden, disadvantaged investors, whose projects were destroyed in Al-Luhoom area in Dar Sa'd district, marched in the streets in a peaceful demonstration.

Last November, security authorities accompanied by military vehicles and tractors owned by the Military Economic Corporation demolished the projects without consenting to the judiciary or law.

Around 500 persons gathered early

in the morning, demanding that their issue be resolved according to a parliamentary decree which ratified ownership of locals' lands according to their contracts. The protestors also insisted that the government compensate locals whose properties were demolished.

The governmental decree compelled Yemen's Land Authority to count all contracts in the hands of locals who do not have land, as well as to resolve their problems. The authority is also in charge of determining the people who

issued contracts illegally and referring them to state prosecution, as well as and canceling all measures undertaken by the branch of the State's Land Authority in Aden in favor of Yemen Economic Corporation.

Moreover, the decree stipulated that locals should utilize their lands and be compensated for damaged property.

The protestors demanded that their issue be resolved as early as possible, as their buses and equipment are exposed to damage.

Yemeni Parliament
rescinds Hashid's immunity

Hashid pointed out to a mark in his arm, saying it was a result of security attack.

By: Saddam Al-Ashmouri

SANA'A, Dec. 8 — Last week, the Yemeni Parliament agreed to rescind Parliament member (MP) Ahmed Saif Hashid's immunity, claiming that Hashid paid visits to prisons and revealed illegal actions that go against the constitution, Yemeni laws and international conventions.

Previous activities made by Hashid resulted in his arrest in the political security prison, followed by imprisonment under the Immigration and Passports Authority. Hashid's chauffeur was also killed in the street, with his camera and cell phone confiscated. Referring to these incidents, Hashid asked, "What kind of immunity are they talking about?"

Many MPs affiliated with the ruling party (GPC) demanded last week to rescind Hashid's immunity. The parliament agreed to do so.

Hashid considered the revoking of his immunity by Parliament an action targeting him and his human rights

activities.

Jane Novak, an American researcher, interviewed Hashid, addressing issues related to human rights, freedom, prisons, and inmates in Yemen. The interview was downloaded onto many news websites, enraging a lot of people.

One of the opposition newspapers re-published the interview, entitled, "Secession is coming, no way out", according to Hashid. He made his stance clear, stating that he has nothing to do with secession. "The newspaper made up a title while the original text was distributed to my associates," he claimed, adding, "I am with the unification of May 22nd, 1990, maintaining solidarity with retirees, and I am against any injustice, wherever it is."

He went on to say that he has never made a request to rescind any MP's immunity based on differences of opinion. Previously he urged judiciary to rescind the immunity of some MPs, but the issue has not been discussed for two years.

Yemen, Egypt call
Red Sea countries to
specify security strategies

By: Abdul-Kawi Sha'lan

The Yemen Times Taiz Bureau

Taiz, Dec. 8 — Jallal Faqirah, Head of Sana'a University's Political Department, warns against threats to Red Sea security, especially what he calls the Zionist permeation in the Red Sea, as well as Eritrean aspirations which resulted in battles with neighbors Yemen and Ethiopia. Additionally, Eritrea continuously provokes countries, including Sudan. Civil conflicts in Somalia, a foreign military presence in the Red Sea and international intervention in Darfur also threaten Red Sea security, he claims.

In his paper presented to the Yemen-Egypt bilateral relations symposium held in Taiz earlier in the month, Faqirah noted that there are common factors connecting Yemen and Egypt. The countries dominate the south and north of the Red Sea respectively and have similar national concepts for their countries' security. He further declared that Yemen's vision for Red Sea security highlighted countries with substantial borders with the sea, such as Egypt (898 km), Saudi Arabia (1125 km), Sudan (309 km), Yemen (275 km), Jordan (10 km), Djibouti (25 km), and Eritrea (425 km). Yemen is also concerned about protection of its islands and shores.

The Yemeni vision includes ratifying the rights of countries bordering the Red Sea, as well as mutual coordination with those countries and interlinking Yemen's security with Arab security.

He went on to say that unequal capabilities between Red Sea countries stand as a stumbling block to security problems, hinting that there are geopolitical criteria to participate in a security arrangement on the Red Sea, initiated by an understanding between Yemen and Egypt or an understanding between Yemen, Egypt, Sudan and Djibouti with concentration on politi-

cal routes of the Red Sea (Suez Canal, Al-Mandab strait), emphasizing the importance of Saudi, Eritrean and Ethiopian roles in this respect. He also mentioned goals from the Sana'a Assembly Meetings in 2000, 2002 and 2003, held to resolve the conflict as well as to coordinate between the Red Sea countries.

Ahmed Hamroush, chairman of the Egyptian Committee for Solidarity, expressed his pride about being a participant in the symposium, which came out of concerns to strengthen relations between Yemen and Egypt and to shed light on agreements signed by the two countries, setting a better precedent for future relations. He also declared that selecting Taiz for this symposium is very important, as it helped Arabs get rid of British occupation.

Hamroush went on to say that the symposium coincides with the 40th anniversary of Nov. 30, a national day of independence for Yemen which marks the departure of the last British soldier from Yemen.

He further declared that Egypt will celebrate this month the 50th anniversary of the Egyptian Committee for Solidarity, established in August 1957. He also mentioned the stages adopted by the late president Jamal Abdul-Nasser, which started to establish solidarity between peoples.

He hoped that President Ali Abdullah Saleh could participate in the celebration by delivering a speech to be recorded in the committee's "golden book".

Yahya Al-Jamal, a university professor of constitutional law, delivered a speech in which he discussed many issues related to sound government rule in the Arab world, considering the democracy exercised by Arab regimes, including Egypt, a political hallucination. He pointed out that if Arab countries practiced democracy the way it should be, Arabs would have changed for the better years ago, exemplifying that with India.

AFD to support Yemen in energy, food security and agriculture

By: Wojoud Hasan Mujalli
For the Yemen Times

SANA'A, Dec. 9 — A cocktail party was held last Tuesday at the residence of the French ambassador in honor of Jean-Pierre Barbier, Director of the Mediterranean & Middle-East Department, who recently arrived in Sana'a for the opening of the AFD (Agence Française De'veloppement) and to sign an establishment agreement in Yemen.

At the celebration, people from every part of the world shared their own experience about working in Yemen and how to develop the country by any means.

"We organized this party to celebrate the opening of an office to represent the French agency here in Sana'a, as well as the establishment agreement of the AFD here in Yemen," said Christian Flamant, general director of the AFD in Djibouti and Yemen. He added, "This agency is a financial institution in charge of loans and grants we're also the main executing agency of the French development assistance program."

He further mentioned, "The sectors we want to focus on are energy, food security and agriculture, according to the partnership agreement signed in March between the Yemeni and French governments."

Flamant explained the reasons behind the agency's interest in energy: "Energy is now what concerns the agency, for many reasons. First, this is a sector where the needs are enormous; there's a huge shortage of electricity in Yemen. Second, this is a sector where there are not many donors; in fact, as far as I know we're the only available donor in the energy sector among the OECD countries. Germany has a very small technical assistance program, but we're talking about a much larger proj-



View of the party

ect which we approved the first financing of on Nov. 7th on the scale of a 26 million Euro loan (\$40 million)."

Additionally, in 2008 the agency plans to participate in financing a broad electricity project for Yemen's 72 governorates, called SCADA, within the next ten years. The project, which will also be supported by the World Bank, will cost about \$50 million.

"In agriculture, we've already started a small cattle project named 'patza' in Taiz to improve animal health and nutrition and to market animal products such as cheese and meat. We have technical assistance in the field and in such a project we can use NGO's as kind of intermediary between the project and the breeders," Flamant went on

to say.

The agricultural project started before the official opening of the agency's office in 2005. It educates farmers about breeding and better ways to raise animals in order to develop rural incomes.

Dr. Irene Fellmann, a German counselor for the Developmental Cooperation, stated, "These projects are really great and interesting and I'm looking forward to seeing a better future for Yemen regarding energy."

Barbier, referred to the fact that cooperation between Yemen and the AFD started two years ago in the agriculture field, over improving animal breeding. He also pointed out that the agency allocated over 2 million Euros for future project studies and planning.

Gilles Gauthier, the French ambassador, explained that the AFD is an international agency involved in many activities throughout the world, "so we celebrate the establishment of the office of this agency here in Sana'a. So far the agency has accepted funding an electricity project for rural areas. Maybe in the future the agency will be involved in the production of wind and solar power, as well as other projects involving tourism and protecting Yemen's heritage."

Julian Clech, head of cultural activities at the French cultural center in Sana'a, stated, "The center has an indirect effect on the establishment of the agency in Yemen, and I believe that it's a great step toward Yemen's development."

Most Yemenis in favor of converting women's laws

SANA'A, Dec. 9 — A recent social survey revealed that most Yemenis agree with converting laws regarding women's and children rights, said human rights activists.

"We were surprised with the results of the survey, which were positive for males and females; we found that both are ready to accept the new converted laws. Also, we have discovered that neither traditional customs nor cultural obstacles are the main reasons preventing Yemeni women from gaining their rights in Yemen," said Hafedh Al-Bukari, the head of Yemen Polling Center (YPC).

Al-Bukari stressed that Parliament should take these results seriously and provide converted laws with awareness programs to promote human rights.

The government suggested some converted laws to Parliament in many

fields. The suggested laws which Parliament was asked to discuss were civil in nature, related to the following issues of women:

- Both men and women should have a medical test before marriage.
- A woman should be informed before her husband decides to marry a second time.
- Crazy or sick persons should have a recommendation from their legal representative in case of marriage.
- The divorced woman has the right to keep her children and should be provided with shelter from her ex-husband.
- A mother should be her children's guardian after her husband's death.
- The minimum age for marriage should be specified.

- The husband and wife should be prevented from killing the other if one of them is caught in the act of adultery.

- The shares for "blood" money and inheritance should be equal for men and women.

- Divorce decision should include witnesses.

- Children from a Yemeni woman and foreign father should receive Yemeni citizenship.

NGOs and society stress that Parliament should convert women's laws; the government submitted the former suggestions about two months ago. Parliament should convert the laws in a few months.

"For six years we have pushed for these laws with Parliament, but in vain. For example, in 2000 the Women's National Council (WNC) submitted 20

converted laws in favor of women to Parliament, who violated women's rights by rejecting most of them and accepting only five. All members of society and NGOs should press on the parliament to convert and apply all the laws," said Huria Mashhoor, the vice president of WNC.

The study, which was featured recently in a workshop entitled, "Involving Society In Legislation," was carried out by the YPC. The workshop displayed the survey results for public discussion.

The YPC conducted the study to assist Parliament in anticipating the public's reaction to the new converted laws, in order to take people's opinions in consideration, important in Yemeni society, and at the same time to avoid being in jeopardy with such a sensitive issue.

VCUQ launches Sixth Annual Design Competition in Yemen

SANA'A, Dec. 6 — The Virginia Commonwealth University School of the Arts in Qatar (VCUQ) announced the launch of its Sixth Annual Design Competition. The Design Competition, open to all students in their senior year of high school, is being launched in Qatar, UAE, Oman, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt, Syria, Pakistan and for the first time this year in Yemen and Palestine.

High school students across the Middle East have been challenged to come up with the most imaginative idea for their formula for success. This year's competition gives students the opportunity to share their visions of the path to success.

Two entrants will win full four-year

Sheikha Mozah bint Nasser Al Missned Scholarships for Creativity at VCUQ, and the top three high school students from each of the thirteen countries will receive cash prizes of \$1,200 for first place, \$800 for second place and \$600 for third place.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for Yemeni students to get cash prizes and to get one of the two full four-year Sheikha Mozah Scholarships for Creativity. Qatar has made it easy for students in the region to get a world-class education in design" said Valerie Jeremijenko VCUQ Dean of Student Affairs.

VCUQ's Sixth Annual Design Competition is sponsored by Qatar Islamic Bank (QIB) who will provide the cash prizes. Qatar Islamic Bank is

a Qatari Shareholding Company established in 1982 as the first Islamic financial and banking institution in Qatar, with the main objective of providing Islamic banking services and investments in compliance with Sharia principles, and thereby achieving rewarding benefits for its shareholders, depositors, and investors. The bank also aims to contribute to the development of the national economy.

QIB joins DHL as a competition sponsor. For the sixth year running, DHL is providing free shipping to regional students. DHL Country Manager David Wilson commented on DHL's involvement: "DHL is pleased to support this scholarship program, as we have for the past six years."

All competition entries must be

posted by 31 January 2008. For more information students can visit prospective students' scholarship section at <http://www.qatar.vcu.edu/output/page161.asp> or call +974 492 7213, or email

VCUQ offers specialized programs in various design professions. Students have the opportunity of earning a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in communication, fashion or interior design. A team of highly qualified professors provide rigorous curricula that prepare students to assume leadership roles in the professional field of their choice. VCUQ regularly organizes and hosts exhibitions, gallery events, world-class design conferences, and holds an annual fashion show. VCUQ is supported and funded by the Qatar Foundation.

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New efforts underway to stop tragedies of irregular migration in Gulf of Aden

SANA'A, Dec.7 — International Organization for Migration IOM has begun a series of activities in Somalia's Puntland to help reduce the annual loss of lives in the Gulf of Aden as thousands of Ethiopian and Somali migrants and asylum seekers attempt to cross from Somalia's Puntland to Yemen using smuggling networks, and to provide better protection for them along their journey.

According to a press release issued on Friday that It is estimated that more than 1221 people have died so far this year trying to make the journey from the Puntland town of Bossasso to Yemen with UNHCR reporting that 26,913 Ethiopians and Somalis in 274 boats managed to survive the crossing.

IOM staff will provide information to migrants and asylum seekers of the dangers of their journey along the smuggling routes to Bossasso, a major human smuggling hotspot, while advocating for their rights among local authorities, communities and elders in these areas. The core team will be located in Bossasso and will conduct outreach missions to Garowe in Puntland, the main transit point for Somalis coming from Mogadishu, and to Burao in Somaliland, the main transit point from Ethiopia.

The placement of staff along the smuggling routes will also enable IOM to identify the most vulnerable migrants such as unaccompanied minors, victims of trafficking and asylum seekers and to provide them with appropriate assistance before they reach Bossasso. In the case of asylum seekers, IOM will also refer them to UNHCR.

In addition, the deployment will allow IOM staff to gather data on migration trends and information to better profile the irregular migrants who make the journey. This will ultimately facilitate an effective response from various humanitarian actors currently involved on the issue, including UNHCR, UN OCHA and the Danish Refugee Council.

With 40 per cent of those managing to reach Yemen being Ethiopians, IOM and partners will also carry out information campaigns in Ethiopia, particularly in rural communities from which most of the Ethiopian migrants originate and advocate for the rights of migrants in Yemen. Awareness raising efforts in Ethiopia will kick off in Addis Ababa on International Migrants Day on December 18 with a showing of French documentary filmmaker Daniel Grandclement's film, The Martyrs of the Gulf of Aden.

Continued from page1

Children jailed due to Sa'ada war

He further said that he met the minister of the Interior two months before and discussed the inmates' situation with him. The minister answered by saying, "the inmates' situation is an exceptional case."

In turn, Ali Al-Dailami, human rights activist and chairman of the Rights and Freedoms Defense Organization, stated, "There is a misunderstanding of the law, in which the Yemen authorities consider children 12 years of age as juveniles, while Yemeni Law stipulates that children under 15 are juveniles. However, the Child Right Law stipulates that children under the age of 18 are juveniles. The inmates are under the age of 18, so they are juveniles."

"Our organization seeks to demand the release of these inmates or to be referred to the judiciary. In case they are not released, we will cooperate with the inmates' relatives to lodge a lawsuit against those who arrested them illegally", Al-Dailami added.

Ghalib M. Ali, Wa'el's father, said that he can no longer afford to visit his son, as he comes from a remote area. It takes him 6 six hours to reach

the prison due to the lack of available transportation. Ghalib's family now lives in poverty due to the prolonged imprisonment of their son. They know nothing about the charges their son is accused of.

UN calls for urgent food aid to help displaced people in Sadaa

The last report issued by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in August 2007, revealed that most of the displaced people have started to go home. However, even after their return, they will still be dependent on humanitarian aid until they are able to stand on their own feet.

The most urgent needs are for shelter and clean drinking water. "Many homes were completely or partially destroyed during the fighting. In partnership with the Yemeni Red Crescent, the ICRC remains active in the north of the country in order to address the needs of the returnees and those still displaced and unable to return home," said the report.

The aid included tents, tarpaulins, mattresses, blankets, jerry cans and soap.



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Population growth is the Yemeni government's real challenge

There's huge demand for available economic resources, pressuring health services and education, which are unable to keep up with Yemen's remarkably and progressively increasing population.

For this reason, the Yemeni state is attempting to curb population growth as much as it can under a strategy aimed at reducing such growth by at least 3 percent, as well as decreasing the fertility rate for women.

Among a series of conferences to discuss the problem is the Dec. 10-12 Fourth National Conference on Population Policy currently being held in Sana'a. It is organized by the National Population Council's General Secretariat, in cooperation with the United Nations Development Program and the General Program for Media and Population Communication.

Abdullah Al-Asali interviewed Deputy Information Minister Younis Hazza, who also serves as secretary-general of the General Program for Population Media.



Younis Hazza

Hazza notes that previous population conferences grew out of the Yemeni government's concern regarding population issues, especially after the Republic of Yemen was declared and the state unified in 1990.

"Since then, many population problems have heavily burdened Yemen's development process and its national economy. Massive population growth tops such problems and is incompatible with the country's available resources.

"These problems prompted holding such conferences in order to seek solutions, remedies and effective strategies to reduce their impact. Holding such conferences reflects the Yemeni government's realization and emphasis on preparing plans, strategies and studies to address the issue of population growth, which represents a real change affecting the process of sustainable development," he explains.

Hazza believes that holding conferences every five years reflects the true and proper thinking of concerned authorities, which include the National Population Council, to regularly assess the effectiveness of population policies, as well as implement awareness programs related to family planning and reproductive health, among other issues, which were discussed at previous conferences. He adds that such evaluation helps create new methods of managing population plans and policies.

A distinctive conference

According to Hazza, this Fourth National Conference on Population Policy is distinctive because it benefits from the 2004 census results and its demographic indicators. "This conference will play a vital role in implementing the population strategy, moving from the phase of drawing up policies to implementing the application of such programs," he notes.

"In Yemen, individual worth is expected to increase by \$721 in 2008 and \$1,921 in 2035 if fertility is reduced and relative percentages are achieved in other sectors." — Hazza

The official goes on to say that the conference also is important, as it falls within the framework of implementing President Ali Abdullah Saleh's electoral program proposed during last year's presidential election. This conference is just the latest in a series, the first one being in 1991, followed by the second in 1996 and the third in 2002.

"Implementing population policies means a better future for the newer generations, which also means achieving an increased growth rate for individual income and his or her share of the gross national product, thus improving citizens' living standards in general and

reducing unemployment, as well as providing education and health services for everyone," Hazza explains.

He adds, "In Yemen, individual worth is expected to increase by \$721 in 2008 and \$1,921 in 2035 if fertility is reduced and relative percentages are achieved in other sectors."

According to Hazza, the most important purpose of this fourth conference is to determine a clear vision and establish practical mechanisms to implement the goals of Yemen's third Five-Year (2006-2010) Plan for Development and Poverty Reduction.

"Another purpose of the conference is to attain a population growth rate below 2.8 percent, as well as reducing the fertility rate in Yemen to four births per woman by 2015 and 3.3 births by 2035. However, achieving such figures requires mutual efforts by those development partners concerned about population issues," he points out.

Asked whether such goals can be achieved, Hazza replies, "These objectives can be realized if development partners exert their mutual efforts, as well as other efforts made to educate the public about population issues and interact with the community."

He continues, "Yemeni citizens must be taught the importance of achieving these population objectives because they are associated with their economic situation; thus, it's important to intensify awareness campaigns, including family planning and girls' education. However, conducting such campaigns requires support and funding from concerned development partners."

Conference themes

The conference will discuss working papers on five themes, the first of which Hazza says takes a critical view of the current situation in order to fight population problems in Yemen, noting that this involves continuing to update the nation's population policy and adjusting institutional building toward implementing such policy.

The second theme ensures comprehensive coverage of reproductive health services and family planning, as well as aiming to reduce Yemen's increased population growth rate as quickly as possible, minimizing it in the short term and balancing it in the long run.

Hazza explains, "This can be done by providing good reproductive health services, covering remote areas via a moveable clinic system, as well as creating a supply system to ensure reproductive health and family planning services for all areas."

The conference's third theme seeks to balance population growth rates with those for sustainable development by determining connections between population variables and the outcomes of the third Five-Year Plan to ensure sustainable development and poverty reduction, as well as achieving Millennium Development Goals.

"This particular theme focuses on reviewing those chapters in the third Five-Year Plan concerned with population in order to achieve balance between the inputs and outputs in population growth, in addition to reviewing those chapters related to women's empowerment in order to ensure that gender issues are engaged in the planning level, along with allocating budgets that are responsive to gender issue programs," Hazza explains.

He continues, "Additionally, it focuses on actual supplementary sources to show the impact of comprehensive intervention, at least in primary areas such as health, education and education programs."

The fourth theme seeks a clear communication methodology for the sake of changing behavior, achieving the strategy's goals related to changing trends and focusing on remedying obstacles and points of weakness. It also proposes establishing a training center for designing and adhering to socially and culturally acceptable mes-

sages.

"This theme seeks to tackle inexperience and inability in designing and managing communication that leads to changing behavior. It also seeks to develop personal communication with the Yemeni community, particularly personal knowledge of reproductive health and family planning," Hazza notes.

The fifth and final theme involves establishing productive partnerships and scenarios for economic growth without support from development partners.

This theme includes outlining a vivid plan for national partnership to solve population problems at all levels; establishing a national partnership map to determine the selection criteria for civil society organizations, which would be assigned certain tasks and roles; adopting a national partnership map with the private sector involving possible areas of cooperation and suggesting areas of regional and international cooperation, later drafting them within specific projects.

Population media

Hazza notes that his department has conducted numerous activities to educate the Yemeni public about the importance of family planning and reproductive health via the Information Ministry's General Program for Media and Population Communication, as well as media outlets such as satellite television channels, radio broadcasts and newspapers.

He notes, "We succeeded in making all segments of society aware of the population issue. This program involves an effective and modern mechanism applied by its network of

coordinators in various media institutions. These coordinators have good relations with those civil society organizations concerned with population media, women and children's development, family planning and reproductive health."

According to him, the program conducted 2,090 ceremonies in the form of dialogue messages and seminars, as well as television and broadcast flashes airing for 399 hours. "In 2006, newspapers published 219 news articles involving reproductive health and women's issues, including women's engagement in the political arena, girls' education, positive reflections on family, involving women in future development and the risks of early marriage for girls. The program further conducted training courses related to population media and messages," he adds.

Hazza points out that the General Program for Media and Population Communication has a full plan for education and training activities in 2008, "However, this plan will be adjusted according to the outcomes of this fourth conference, which should be applied within the program's framework.

"We'll spare no effort to make this program tops in all population media activities. It will be the active connecting link, reflecting the population policy's goals and contents according to the 2005-2010 media and education strategy in cooperation with the program's partners, who are UNDP, the National Population Council's General Secretariat, the Women's National Committee, the Higher Council for Motherhood and Childhood, the International Program to Fight Child Labor and the SOUL organization, among others," he concludes.

Disabled Yemenis can contribute to society

By: Ismail Al-Ghabri

It takes Afrah a huge deal of effort and three people to assist her if she were to climb the stairs to one floor. Every day, Afrah navigates her way in a wheelchair as she goes to work at GTZ and back. She suffers in getting around the city because Yemen's infrastructure simply is not disability-friendly.

The Handicapped Persons Care and Rehabilitation Fund in Yemen recently organized a ceremony celebrating National Handicapped Day in Sana'a.

The celebration came amid escalating demands by the Yemeni disabled, who lack many of their needs. Some handicapped citizens complain about and suffer the lack of a proper job environment and an inability to gain rightful employment. However, when jobs are available, such individuals can't hold high positions, despite their qualifications and capacities.

Qaid, a translator at Radio Sana'a English service, graduated at the top of his class, but due to Yemeni society looking down on him because of his disability, he couldn't find a job for six years. Now, after proving himself, he works two jobs, one at the radio and the second as a foreign correspondent at Tadhamun Bank.

The United Nations estimates that 10 percent of the global population is disabled and 20-25 percent of the population in developing countries, which would mean that more than four million Yemenis have disabilities.

The handicapped make up a large portion of Yemen's community, as per U.N. estimates, which say that one percent of any population is physically and/or mentally disabled; thus, according to this percentage, Yemen has approximately two million disabled.

Abdullah Al-Hamdani, executive director of the Handicapped Persons Fund, says that establishing such a fund for the handicapped is a turning point in Yemen, noting that the organization plays a vital role in taking care of and rehabilitating disabled citizens.

It further assists the handicapped segment of Yemeni society by offering health services, as well as training staff for and funding care and rehabilitation centers for the handicapped nationwide. As a result of such efforts, the situation of the disabled in Yemen has improved in many areas.

Al-Hamdani went on to note that his organization assisted 110,000 disabled in 2006, at an estimated cost of YR 2 billion.

Othman M. Al-Sulwi, chairman of

the National Union of Yemeni Handicapped Associations, explains, "It was decided that Dec. 9 would be National Handicapped Day every year from now on. Such a celebration seeks to support such individuals, as well as assess those measures taken regarding disabled issues."

Yemen has taken a number of actions and provisions to study the problems of the disabled and remedy them. Such actions include establishing a national fund to meet the needs of the handicapped; forming a supreme national committee to look after them, ratifying the Handicapped Care and Rehabilitation Law and employing 5 percent of qualified handicapped individuals in government institutions.

Reasons for disabilities in Yemen

Some Yemenis are disabled due to accidents; repeat pregnancies, particularly in rural areas; random use of medicines during pregnancy; mistakes during the obstetrical process at some hospitals, often causing cerebral palsy, and lack of awareness and education for mothers concerning the risks of such diseases, in addition to lack of the six vaccines against disease during delivery, among others.

Consequences

Alongside its reasons and negative reflections, disability affects the economy, especially when 10 percent of a population is disabled. If not confronted, the situation may worsen.

Mahmoud Shahir, a researcher interested in disabled issues, says disabled and handicapped people are entitled to rehabilitation and care, as well as employment in institutions where they may work and contribute to their society.

Employing such individuals shouldn't be a matter of sympathy, charity or excessive tenderness; rather, such potential employers should strive to pay attention to and care for them, as well as remove those obstacles preventing them from interacting normally with their community.

Shahir further noted that scientific and social progress won't be positive until it is utilized to help and serve mankind and make life better. He also emphasized the importance of providing everything necessary to care for the needy in general and the disabled in particular.

Disabled people are humans and citizens entitled to their rights. If they receive proper care and attention, they can work and contribute to their nation.

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- ▶ Fluent in English

Training Coordinator

Your responsibilities:

- ▶ Set training strategies and programs in accord with Company's requirements for Yemenization and Career Development and with coordination with Departments' Managers
- ▶ Coordinate activities performed by all employees in the Employee Training & Development Section and ensure they are completed efficiently, accurately, and in a timely manner
- ▶ Provide periodic status reports to the HR Manager
- ▶ Manage the planning, development and conducting of assessment procedures in order to identify and evaluate individual or group training requirements for the company's employees and the development of training plans based on the requirements
- ▶ Oversee the development and design of training programs, formulation of training outlines and determining of instructional methods, utilizing knowledge of specified training needs and effectiveness of methods such as individual training, group instruction, lectures, demonstrations, conferences, meetings, and workshops in order to provide timely and accurate training to all the company's employees
- ▶ Oversee the development of employee communication material regarding the general policies and procedures of the performance appraisal process and their dissemination to all employees in the company's
- ▶ Creation of the annual appraisal calendar and set discipline to ensure that all appraisals are executed within the specified timeframe
- ▶ Set norms for the handling of problems related to appraisals, such as employee requests for re-evaluation, and ensure that these issues are handled in the correct way
- ▶ Create strategies for the development of the career development and the employee career path plans in coordination with department managers ensuring that they are in accordance with the succession planning framework set forth by Company
- ▶ Oversee the definition and maintenance of job families and job categories and ensure that they conform to the HR policies of the company's
- ▶ Oversee the definition & coordination of career ladders frameworks within the company's, management to develop career

Your profile:

- ▶ Bachelor Degree in Business Administration and preferably a Masters in Business Administration (Personnel/HR Management) or equivalent
- ▶ 10+ years experience in training and development in oil and gas sector
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- ▶ Monitor all plans so that there is constant follow up
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- ▶ Ensure all mitigation measures identified in the Audits & EIA are implemented

Your profile:

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- ▶ Review and input on all HSEQ project documents, prepare input for weekly report
- ▶ Act as project HSEQ focal point, develop and monitor HSEQ Plans and Programs
- ▶ Coordinate all Project audits and present the findings to the OMV Yemen Mgt
- ▶ Coordinate all project HSEQ issues, reviewing them and present summary for action
- ▶ Monitor & Implement HSEQ Business plan for OMV Yemen Projects Department
- ▶ Review all Project related incidents/accidents action items and completion of reports
- ▶ Work closely with all contractors and provide HSEQ support and guidance
- ▶ Planning strategies to disseminate HSEQ objectives to projects participants contractors
- ▶ Support and provide guidance to the Project Mgt Team on all aspects of HSEQ
- ▶ Plan and implement the training requirements for the Project Group as per OMV Yemen HSEQ training program

Your profile:

- ▶ Engineering/Technical degree with Mechanical/Chemical specialism
- ▶ At least five year experience in Oil and Gas Field Development Project environment
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- ▶ Fluent in Arabic and English language



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TENDER WITH POSTQUALIFICATION NOTICE

Republic of Yemen
Ministry of Water & Environment
Local Water & Sanitation Corporation, Aden
Aden Sewerage Project, Contract 3A

The Local Water & Sanitation Corporation (LWSC) of Aden Governorate, Republic of Yemen, requests bids with post-qualification data for the Aden Sewerage Project Contract 3A from interested internationally experienced contractors. All firms, whether submitting individually or as the leader in a joint venture must have experience with projects of similar type and magnitude. Such experience should have been gained by firms over the past 5 years and include substantial work in Middle Eastern Countries.

The site of the work is in the City of Aden, Republic of Yemen particularly the districts of Al Nasser, Al Arish, Al Mansura, and Khormaksar. The Expected scope of works includes, without being limited to the following:

- Completion of the construction of two main pumping station in the Industrial area and in Al Mansura area (peak flow between 180 and 540 l/s, 20 to 28 m head), including electrical/mechanical equipments and construction of odor control systems.
- Completion of the construction of one pumping station at Al Salam area, (peak flow 10 l/s) including land fill and electrical/mechanical equipment and HDPE force main.
- Construction of two pumping stations in the Al Arish and Al Nasser area and one pumping station (optional) Magdala area (peak flow between 9 and 78 l/s) including HDPE force mains and electrical/ mechanical equipment.
- Replacement of about 30m DN 700 VC main sewer with manholes at Al Mansura main pumping station.
- Construction of the gravity sewerage network for the Al Arish/Al Nasser area (about 4.5 km DN 200 to 400 and 100 manholes), plus completion of about 6.8 km pipe work and 171 manholes.
- **Optional:** Construction of about 16 km lateral sewers uPVC DN 150 for the Al Arish and Al Nasser area including about 530 prefabricated concrete inspection pits.
- **Optional:** Construction of sewerage network for the Magdala (about 3.6 km DN 200 to 400 and 110 manholes plus 6 km lateral sewers including about 210 prefabricated concrete inspection pits) and Al Salam area (about 950 m DN 200 and 25 manholes plus 1.5 km lateral sewers including about 55 prefabricated concrete inspection pits).
- Construction of about 3000 m² pavement and about 300 meter street kerb stones for 20 existing minor pumping stations.
- Construction and equipment of reinforced concrete screen chambers at 4 existing minor pumping stations.

The anticipated construction period is from 1st QTR 2008 through the 2nd QTR 2009.

The Project will be funded jointly by the Federal Republic of Germany, through Kreditanstalt fuer Wiederaufbau (KfW) and by the Republic of Yemen.

Tendering/Qualification, and Contract Award will follow the latest version of KfW „Guidelines for Procurement of Supply and Work Contracts under Financial Cooperation with Developing Countries“ (please refer to homepage of KfW development bank www.kfw.de) and is open for construction firms from all around the world.

Companies with suitable experience in the construction of sewerage systems including sewage pumping stations, who wish to take part in the tender must submit bids and qualification information on themselves and their suppliers up to 23rd February 2008. Tender documents may be obtained from 13 December 2007 onwards for a non refundable fee of US\$ 200 by applying in writing or in person (with authorization letter) to:

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Khormaksar, House No. 58
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Email: gitecaden@y.net.ye

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إعلان لتقديم العطاءات والتأهيل اللاحق

الجمهورية اليمنية
وزارة المياه والبيئة
المؤسسة المحلية للمياه والصرف الصحي لمحافظة عدن
مشروع مجاري عدن عقد 3A

تدعو المؤسسة المحلية للمياه والصرف الصحي لمحافظة عدن المقاولين المهتمين، من ذوي الخبرة الدولية، لتقديم عطاءاتهم وبيانات تأهيلهم لمشروع مجاري عدن -عقد 3A.

ويجب على الشركات المتقدمة، سواء بشكل مستقل أو كطرف رئيسي في ائتلاف شركات ، أن تتمتع بخبرة كافية في مشاريع مشابهة لحجم وطبيعة العمل خلال فترة الخمس سنوات الماضية في إحدى دول الشرق الأوسط .

سيكون موقع أعمال المشروع في مدينة عدن، الجمهورية اليمنية وتحديدًا في مناطق النصر، العريش، المنصورة، خور مكسر . وسيشتمل نطاق العمل المقترح ، مع عدم حصره ، على مايلي:

- استكمال الأعمال الإنشائية لمحطتي الضخ الرئيسية في كل من المنصورة والمنطقة الصناعية (بتدفق أقصى ١٨٠ - ٥٤٠ لتر/ث ضد ارتفاع ٢٠-٢٨ م) ويشمل ذلك التجهيزات الكهربائية والميكانيكية وأنظمة التحكم بالروائح .

- استكمال الأعمال الإنشائية لمحطة الضخ في منطقة السلام (بتدفق أقصى ١٠ لتر/ث) ويشمل ذلك ردم التربة والتجهيزات الكهربائية والميكانيكية وكذا خطوط الضخ من HDPE .

- إنشاء عدد (٢) محطة ضخ في النصوروالعريش ، بالإضافة إلى محطة ضخ واحدة (اختياري) في منطقة المجدلة (بتدفق أقصى ٩ - ٧٨ لتر/ث) ويشمل ذلك خطوط الضخ من HDPE مع جميع تجهيزاتها الكهربائية والميكانيكية .

- استبدال حوالي ٣٠٠ م من الأنابيب الفخارية (قطر ٧٠٠ ملم) مع غرف التفتيش التابعة لها في محطة الضخ الرئيسية بالمنصورة .

- إنشاء شبكة الصرف الصحي بالانسياب الطبيعي في منطقتي العريش والنصر (حوالي ٤.٥ كم بأقطار ٢٠٠ - ٤٠٠ ملم ، و ١٠٠ غرفة تفتيش) ، بالإضافة الى استكمال حوالي ٦.٨ كم من أعمال الأنابيب و ١٧١ غرفة تفتيش .

- (اختياري) إنشاء حوالي ١٦ كم من خطوط المجاري الجانبية من uPVC قطر ١٥٠ ملم لمناطق العريش والنصر متضمنة حوالي ٥٣٠ غرفة تفتيش خرسانية راشحة مسبقة الصب .

- (اختياري) إنشاء شبكة الصرف الصحي لمنطقة المجدلة (حوالي ٣.٦ كم بأقطار ٢٠٠ - ٤٠٠ ملم و ١١٠ غرفة تفتيش بالإضافة إلى ٦ كم من الخطوط الجانبية ، متضمنة حوالي ٢١٠ غرفة تفتيش خرسانية راشحة مسبقة الصب) ، ومنطقة السلام (حوالي ٩٥٠ م بقطر ٢٠٠ ملم و ٢٥ غرفة تفتيش بالإضافة إلى ١.٥ كم من الخطوط الجانبية ، متضمنة حوالي ٥٥ غرفة تفتيش خرسانية راشحة مسبقة الصب) .

- إنشاء وتجهيز غرف الحماية من الخرسانة المسلحة لعدد (٤) محطات ضخ صغيرة قائمة. الفترة المقترحة لتنفيذ الأعمال مابين الفصل

الأول لعام ٢٠٠٨ م والفصل الثاني لعام ٢٠٠٩ م .

- سيتم تمويل المشروع بشكل مشترك بين كل من جمهورية ألمانيا الاتحادية، ممثلة بالبنك الألماني لإعادة الأعمار، والجمهورية اليمنية .

كما ستتم عمليات التقييم، تقديم العطاءات وإرساء العقد وفقاً للإصدار الأحدث من الخطوط الإرشادية للبنك الألماني لإعادة الأعمار لتمويل عقود التوريد والعمل ضمن التعاون المالي مع الدول النامية (يرجى مراجعة موقع البنك على شبكة الانترنت www.kfw.de) ، وسيكون المشروع متاحاً للشركات الإنشائية من كل أنحاء العالم .

إن الشركات الراغبة في المشاركة والتي تتمتع بخبرة مناسبة في أعمال تشييد شبكات ومحطات ضخ الصرف الصحي، مدعوة لتقديم عطاءاتها وكذا بيانات تأهيلها بالإضافة إلى بيانات تأهيل مورديها بحلول ٢٣ فبراير ٢٠٠٨ م . يمكن الحصول على وثائق العطاء ابتداء من تاريخ ١٣ ديسمبر ٢٠٠٧ م مقابل رسم لا يرد مقداره ٢٠٠ دولار أمريكي فقط، بالطلب كتابياً أو بالحضور شخصياً (مع رسالة تفويض) إلى:

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Tel: + 49 211 440 8-0
Fax: + 49 211 440 8-204
Email: water@gitec-consult.de

A photograph of a young man with a shaved head, smiling broadly. He is wearing a white towel draped over his left shoulder. He is standing in a room with a dark wooden door behind him and a light-colored wall to the right. A white towel is hanging on the left side of the frame.

A large crowd of pilgrims, mostly men, are gathered at night in front of the Kaaba in Mecca. They are wearing white ihram clothing. The Kaaba is illuminated, and the surrounding architecture of the Grand Mosque is visible in the background.

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Words of Wisdom



The fall-out from technology advances, notably globalization, is clearly ahead of us. We need to grapple with this and the sooner we assess the issues and decide on what we need to do, the better prepared we will be. A main component of globalization is liberalization.

Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf,
(1951 - 1999)
Founder of Yemen Times

OUR
OPINIONOne in 6 jailed
journalists are
held without charge

In a new analysis, the Committee to Protect Journalists has found that worldwide one in six journalists are being held without publically disclosed charge. The analysis rated 24 countries and found that bloggers, online editors, and Web-based reporters constitute about 39 percent of journalists jailed worldwide. Print journalists make up the largest professional category, accounting for about half of those in jail.

CPIJ's annual worldwide census of imprisoned journalists found 127 behind bars on December 1, a decrease of seven from the 2006 tally. The drop is due in large part to the release this year of 15 Ethiopian journalists who were either acquitted or pardoned of antistate charges stemming from a broad government crackdown on the press.

The problem with this report is that it only narrates the case of 24 countries where CPIJ could obtain information. Yemen for example is not on the list. However, it is a good indicator of what is happening in reality around the world.

Over half of the journalists are in prison for simply not complying with the state's policies. Their crimes range from jeopardizing state secrets, to acting against national interests. We have a journalist here in Yemen who could very well face a death penalty for "hurting the military's moral", that is, if the later had any moral to begin with.

However, the proportion of journalists held without any charge at all increased for the third consecutive year. Most of these journalists who are in jail without charge are there under the pretext of security, which has become the best excuse to get rid of people you don't like after 9/11. Houthism, is the term for it in Yemen. If you don't like someone, just "inform" the authorities that so and so is displaying some "Houthi" sentiment, or has a relative among the Houthi group... etc. Instantly, you would clear him out of the way, and without an actual record that he exists in prison.

Yemen Times has been following the case of over 48 detainees in Hajja, who are there under this pretext. None of them have files, or have actually been charged. They are just "suspects", and have been there a little less than a year now, two of which were under 18 when imprisoned, and one was only 15 years old.

Guantanamo Bay Prison is another excellent example of how sheer fear can make security people whose job is to protect security, the first ones who violate it. Yet, apparently it is China, according to the CPIJ's analysis that has won the leading position worldwide for the ninth consecutive year by having imprisoned without charge, the largest group of journalists.

This is a very difficult time for people who support freedom of expression. Not only for the traditional reasons such as dictatorship regimes, or influential gangsters. It is all the more scary when the news that one more journalist is dead or imprisoned, becomes regular second page news, and receives less attention than a celebrity getting a divorce.

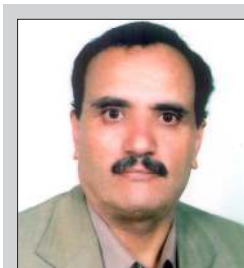
The Editorial Board

Role of investment in fostering tourism

No doubt that boosting tourism in Yemen entails investment in infrastructure, particularly after the notable improvement of road networks connecting most of the areas together. Many of these areas are rich with tourist attractions, thanks to their fascinating nature, unique climate, unparallel environmental components, plus their natural landscapes, fortresses and civilized heritage.

Up until now, most of Yemen's nice sites haven't yet been opened for tourism and investment in this field. Raima governorate that is experiencing rapid progress toward comprehensive development and prosperity after many road networks were built and different sectoral offices constructed has much of the unexplored ancient sites.

The relevant government agencies were recommended to include in their tourist promotion plans in this young governorate an adequate number of tourist infrastructure projects in order to complement other unfinished and under-implementation projects in the areas of road networks, electricity, water and other services, and then to promote tourism. In event this is done, the governorate will be capable to attract large numbers of tourists and meet their needs for lodging and food



By: Ismail Al-Ghabri
yemenigoal@yahoo.com

services. The governorate seems to need comprehensive mapping for its ancient sites and traditional crafts if it was not surveyed in the past. Then the relevant authorities are required to designate the attractive locations for tourist investment and encourage the governorate locals to exercise investment in this area (tourism), which is known to be economically lucrative and help locals improve their incomes. Also, the tourist sector plays an integral role in creating more job opportunities for laborers.

Like Raima governorate, there are many areas nationwide that are still lacking good road networks to facilitate movement of tourists between them. Also, such areas have no well-furnished hotels to accommodate foreign visitors, as they only contained huts, which their owners call them tourist rest houses notably along the Sana'a-Marib and Marib-Shabwa highways.

The eastern governorates of Marib and Shabwa have been famous for thousands of years for their unique tourist attractions, but they currently lack the good tourist infrastructure. Through this piece of writing, I don't criticize the government agencies concerned with such a vital economic sec-

tor because they can not perform all the required actions for fostering tourism alone. But, I address this article to businessmen and investors at first and then the local council representatives, who are expected to play an important role in planning and designating the geographical locations, which they think will be good for investors and businessmen.

On their part, the Ministry of Tourism and General Investment Authority should provide local and foreign investors with all the facilities to initiate businesses in the field of tourism. These agencies are also needed to promote tourism industry in coordination with the relevant parties in and outside Yemen.

The government and its regional offices in different provinces are urged to pay closer attention to the improvement of accommodation facilities in the remote areas that are rich with tourist attractions in order to meet the needs of tourists visiting these areas. We admit that the European tourists, for instance, leave their homelands and come to Yemen to explore what is unique and new to them, and therefore are not concerned about luxurious lodgings. What they need is only mode accommodation facilities in order for them to have rest while touring remote areas famous for their ancient and historic sites.

Ismail Al-Ghabri is a Yemeni journalist, working in Yemen Times for almost 14 years.

Women's quota in parliament: A legal right

By: Dr. Rakhana Ismail

Data of the Arab social and cultural reality demonstrate that there is a tangible recession with respect to the Arab woman political participation in the parliamentary life. This reality exists despite of the efforts exerted by the Arab women and the civil society organizations active in the area of human rights that give this question a priority in their programs in accordance with all the international conventions and pledges endorsed and signed by all the Arab countries. Also the correct reading of the Quranic tests in this regard, away from the fatwas and legal opinions deeply indulged in backwardness, grant the Muslim and Arab women these human rights.

The issue of the Arab woman in general and the Yemeni woman in particular regarding her political participation in elections emerges as one of the most important issues within the democratic system whose signs have begun to spread in the Arab region by the mid of the nineties of the last century, its seeds are manifested in the emergence of a new reality in the political mobility in some Arab countries such as political pluralism and the opinion and other opinion.

In this respect, emergence of many religious political trends came as one of the important features of this political action that in turn reflected itself on all walks of political, economic, social and cultural life in our Arab reality. This reflection came to be apparent in the recession of the issue encountered by the Arab woman unlike her effective participation during the sixties and seventies as well as the eighties of the last century. That can be attributed to policies pursued by the Arab national regimes 'totalitarian' which contributed much to giving the Arab woman her rights in accordance with reality and circumstances of those stages most of the Arab countries experienced.

Indicators show that the proportion of the woman participation is retreating with the passage of time and maybe that is ascribed to the negative traditional awareness which still haunts many of social segments including political parties and even

those parties that are still bragging much on the woman rights and the necessity of her political participation. The monotony of partisan life and ossification of the political process led to non-development of the political work mechanisms that would push the woman and the society towards activating the political process and women's involvement in it.

Some political parties and organizations as well as the bodies interested in the woman's political participation had in the past held large-scale dialogues and discussions on role of parties in supporting women's candidacy for parliamentary membership and local councils with the hope of increasing her participation in the political life. That would not be attained but through comprehensive appraisal and revising of the democratic experience and review of the elections system, as well as reshuffling the government in a manner guaranteeing actual interaction of democracy and decrease of strictness of centralization and giving governorates broader powers in managing their affairs.

The electoral round of 1997 revealed a retreat in woman nomination to 19 candidates compared to 41 candidates in 1993, and in the parliamentary elections of 1997 only two women won but one in 2003 parliamentary elections. The case is not that different when it comes to the local council elections. The results of the local elections of 2001 indicate that women won 27 seats (0.4%), opposed to 7032 seats for men (99.6%).

Woman's involvement in politics with the aim of improving her social status and active role in development manifests political freedom and the legal rights granted to women according to Islamic Sharia and other legislations. The actual rather than nominal assumption of decision-making post would give her the opportunity to safeguard her other legitimate rights contained in the constitution. It will also guarantee her actual practice of all the legal rights, as well as the capacity to govern and control. The woman's competence in actual political participation would enable her contribute to making decisions in all fields through participating in legislation and drawing up general policies

The General People's Congress has

taken the initiative by fixing a 15 percent quota of seats in its higher bodies; the general committee and the permanent committee and made arduous efforts to fix this percentage during the parliamentary and local elections in coordination with other parties. But at the critical moment, the parties usually ignore these agreements and promises and look for the narrow interests, forgetting about woman's issues and her political empowerment.

The president has surprised us by his new initiative that includes many points, among them the allocation of 15 percent proportion in parliament for women. The question is how could this proportion be guaranteed? Is it going to be part of contest between her and the man or according to the rules of quota which give more secure opportunity for women to approach the legislative authority, specially in a male-dominated society where men are occupying all the senior and high-ranking posts in the government?

I therefore propose to study the woman quota project set up by the Woman National Committee in cooperation with all parties related to the woman activity and her empowerment, and then apply it in the upcoming parliamentary elections.

Source: Almotamar.net.

SILVER LINING

Due to preparing to defend his doctoral thesis, Mohammed Al-Qadhi offers his apologies for not writing his regular column in this issue.

Mr. President: The people don't eat dialogues

By: Jamal Al-Awadhi

Having observed the sincere efforts so far exerted by President Ali Abdullah Saleh in an attempt to gratify all the political parties and reach a just agreement for everyone amid paralysis infecting the ruling party's activities during the current stand-off, this made me confirm that without President Saleh, the General People Congress will not enjoy such popularity and respect among people. The party turned to be sinking deep in the factional conflicts between groups and lobbies, plus being extremely engaged in serving the interests of its members who care for their personal interests at the expense of such a great party.

The repeated calls by Mr. President for dialogues with parties are hardly made by any other Arab leaders, and therefore this results in encouraging the political parties to be more arrogant and show negative reactions to the leader's calls.

According to numerous Yemeni and Arab analysts interested in Yemen's standoff, the developments and events spreading throughout the southern governorates are symptomatic of the deteriorating economic situations, plus the rampant administrative and financial corruption. As the turmoil grows sharper becoming more hearable, many opposition parties rush to exploit the situation in a way serving their own interests and making early preparations for the parliamentary elections, scheduled to take place in April 2009.

As far as I am concerned, it is a failed equation, and as a result of which, all Yemeni people will eventually lose without an exception. Through the apparent political landscape, I have become convinced that any political dialogues for the time being will be of no feasibility. Any dialogues during such a standoff are impossible to reach a positive result, particularly as the various parties exploit demands made by protestors and employ different means for recruiting new members and exercising propaganda.

Regarding the nicknames such as Janoubi, Shamali, Dehbashi and Jabali that came to existence in

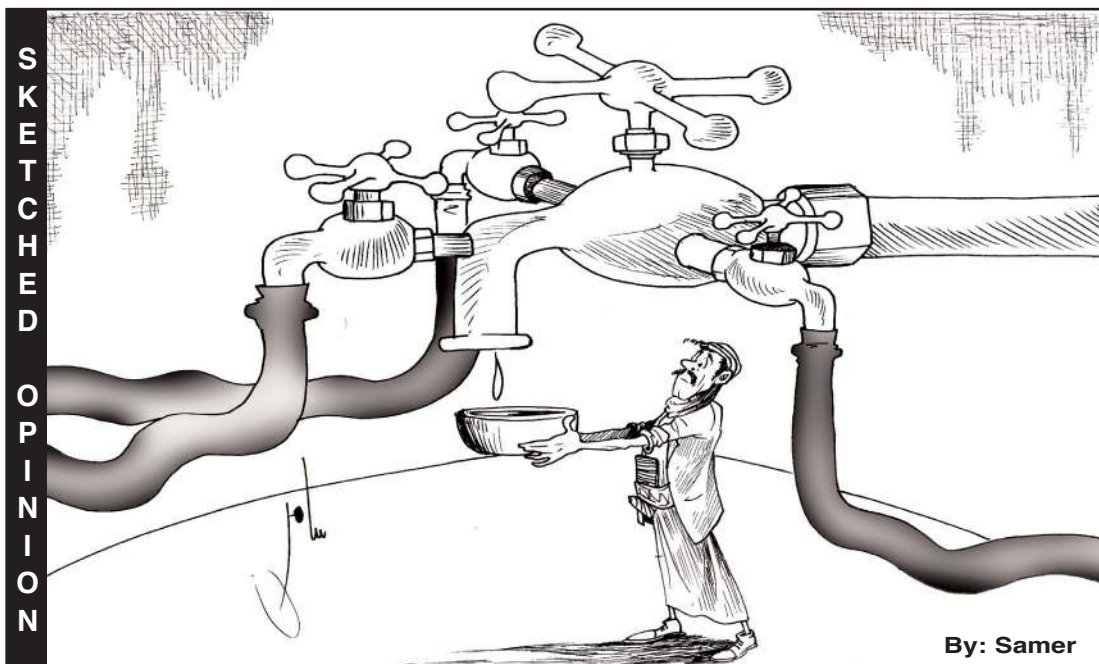
many areas, I add many more traditional and ancient nicknames, which had been once used by people in the south prior to the unity, to the list. For instance, during the reign of Salem Rabe'e Ali and Ali Nasser Mohammed, names were given to their rules such as 'Nomadic rule' and 'Abyan people' because the majority of people, who were occupying sensitive posts in the government, turned to serve as high-ranking government agents in the areas where they were born and raised.

After 1986 War, the situation proceeded in favor of the winning team and the management of people's affairs was given to military leaders from Al-Dhale', Hadramout and Yafe'. The situation created a strong feeling of victory when someone tells other people from Al-Dhale', but on the other hand, it created a sense of inferiority complex when citizens let other people know that they are from other areas the inhabitants of which were defeated in the war, or the areas that have neither power nor influence in the government. Basically, Al-Dhale' was affiliated with the Mutwakili Kingdom (Imamate) in North Yemen, but it was integrated into the south by the British occupiers in 1936 considering it a vital point for the smuggling of weapons to citizens to resist the occupation.

The primary concern of all Yemeni people, which everyone sees as an explosive redline, is the uniformity of the economic crisis, skyrocketing prices and citizens' very low income. The ordinary citizens do not care about dialogues or political harmony as they are highly concerned about providing food to their families and improving their poor living standards. The ordinary citizens, enduring constant sufferings, are the ones who will go to the polling stations for voting.

Citizens are impossible to utilize dialogues to feed their children, and dialogues will only benefit the dialoguers. Mr. President! We will be more grateful if you draw your attention toward reforming the economic crisis, improving the poor living standards of the majority of citizens and enhancing the principle of security, stability and rule of law.

Source: Nabanews.net



By: Samer

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Yemen Press Review



Al-Sahwa Weekly, Mouthpiece of the Islah Party
Thursday, December 6

Top Stories

- Islah Shoura Council in Taiz lashes out at authority for failing to resolve persisting problems in the governorate
- Dhale' local council withdraw confidence from education and healthcare managers
- 7 thousand Yemen children have been caught in Saudi Arabia until last April
- Three soldiers sentenced to death, others face imprisonment penalties for murdering tribal sheikh
- Tens of Dhamar teachers arrested while staging a sit-in
- Supreme National Anti-Corruption Authority organizes symposium on mechanisms for fighting corruption
- Former JMP spokesman: We will no longer tolerate government's poor policies that are responsible for poverty, starvation and diseases

Former Joint Meeting Parties Spokesman and member of the Islah Party's Higher Committee Mohammed Qahtan reaffirmed that the country is in an urgent need for a comprehensive reform program, the weekly paper reported. "The government is leading the nation to an unprecedented catastrophe while people are recommended to get rid of the failed regime that makes nothing for its people except for poverty, starvation and epidemics proliferation, the weekly quoted Qahtan as saying.

Reacting to defamatory statements

by a General People Congress's official source, Qahtan said, "As we are reaching the climatic point of sharp differences with the corrupt officials, we can deny that they are human beings. We don't say that they are barking dogs or rattling serpents. We don't accuse them of treason and backbiting. But, we need them to reform the deteriorating human situation. We give them a piece of advice with our highest consideration and respect for their humanity."

Qahtan wondered why the government advises the opposition leaders to refine their language and speeches, however, in fact its officials and ruling party leaders badmouth opposition leaders and defame them in event they face criticism over their poor policies that are responsible for nationwide poverty, corruption and citizens' constant sufferings. "We will continue to criticize these corrupt officials and the way they exercise corruption at the expense of the nation until they quit such irresponsible behavior," he commented.



26 September Weekly, Organ of the Yemeni Army
Thursday, December 6

Top Stories

- 13 political parties need dialogue to focus on presidential system and local governance
- Government distributes 38 fishing boats to Aden's societies
- Cabinet nominates three persons for seats at Supreme Tender Committee
- Ministry of Culture organizes external cultural weeks in Saudi

- Arabia, Ethiopia and Spain
- Discussions between Yemeni and Saudi border guards reach fruitful results
- Draft constitutional amendments will be ready after Eid, says GPC leader

Assistant Secretary General of the General People's Congress (GPC) Sultan Al-Barakani confirmed Wednesday that the committee entrusted with drafting the constitutional amendments would finish its work in the next days, saying "the draft will be ready in its final form after the Eid Al-Adha vacation," the army's organ reported. Al-Barakani added there is some ambiguity regarding the presidential system as it has come as a general proposal within the project. He said, "The presidential system that will be adopted aims to activate a full separation between the authorities. The president of the republic will be head of the government while the legislative authority will undertake the responsibility of legislations, taking into consideration that the government, in case of adopting the absolute presidential system, will have the pure executive task and will have no relationship with legislation."

At a GPC leaderships' meeting, Al-Barakani said "The parliament and the shoura council would undertake the responsibility of legislations, mainly the parliament. All the members of Parliament will have the right to present draft laws proposals while the so-called People's Council will be in charge of approving agreements and pacts. He pointed out it is important for the amendments to include details on the transfer of power from the president of the republic to his successor, and that is not stipulated in the present

constitution.

Regarding the approval of candidates for the presidency Al-Barakani mentioned that the draft would define amendments will define the nature and method of candidate approval and its percentage, and whether to will be made by the parliament or the local councils. He added the draft amendments will be submitted to the GPC bodies for any suggestions and remarks before being finally approved.

The Assistant Secretary General reviewed what concerns the subject of the local rule saying "The local rule has become the ideal style for offering services to the citizens in most countries of the world and Yemen is not an exception," but he stressed that the subject of the local rule would be related to financial and administrative decentralization and as for the political decentralization he said it is absolutely unthinkable because Yemen is a united country and has a central authority that would undertake managing all that is related to the state.



Al-Wasat Comprehensive Political Weekly
Wednesday, December 5

Top Stories

- Security authorities release top terrorist for the second consecutive time
- Yemen is the poorest among Arab states, says report
- Somali citizens flee devastating wars to be swallowed by sea
- Al-Houthi accuses government of feeding conflicts, calls it for serious

dialogue

The independent weekly reported in its lead story that leader of the Sa'ada rebellion Abdulmalik Al-Houthi accused the authorities of fomenting the sedition after clashes between his followers and the army have grown sharper for the second consecutive week. The most recent armed confrontations in the restive province are described by different media to be fiercest, since the fourth war ended last July thanks to efforts expended by a Qatari mediation committee.

According to the weekly, the conflicting parties resorted to setting up ambushes against each other. They prefer ambushes to being engaged in face-to-face confrontations, particularly after the government troops intensified their attacks on the districts of Haidan, Safra'a and Sehar, considering them the strongholds of rebels.



Al-Wahdawi Weekly, Mouthpiece of the Nasserite Unionist Popular Organization (UPO)
Tuesday, December 4

Top stories

- Tair Mountain volcano goes active once again while geologists expect threats to increase
- Mukalla security authorities arrest editor of Muharrer weekly
- Army fighter jet crashes down in Harf Sefyan district of Amran
- Ruling party forces students and servants to evict their schools and worksites and go out for backing its functions in Taiz

The globalization of ethics

By: Hans Küng

Many Europeans doubt that Asia can catch up with Europe in terms of regional integration. But Asia not only has the type of stable common ethical foundations that were so important to European integration; it also has a well developed set of moral principles, some of which were an established part of Asian culture long before similar principles were adopted in Europe. Indeed, these Asian principles can serve as a part of an emerging common global ethic.

Of course, Asia does not yet have a cohesive core culture comparable to that of Europe, which is founded on the Judeo-Christian tradition and the Enlightenment.

But Europeans ought not to be too arrogant, because, in recent years, that common European culture has itself proven to be fragile, particularly in light of the Bush administration's divide-and-rule strategy pitting "Old Europe" against "New Europe." And, just as the inhuman terror attacks of September 11, 2001 severely damaged Islam's credibility in many people's eyes, the invasion of Iraq, which was based on lies, has damaged both Christianity and the Western community of values.

Although Asia seems to lack Europe's cultural core, there are core ethical constants that have long governed Asian societies and indicate common ethical foundations. Indeed, in some respect, Asia has more experience with intercultural relations than Europe. As early as the third century B.C., Buddhism spread peacefully from India to Sri Lanka and to large parts of Southeast Asia. In the first century C.E., it continued its advance, spreading along the Silk Road to Central Asia and China, and

finally made its way to Korea and Japan centuries later.

Ethnically homogeneous Japan is an example of how three different religions – Shinto, Confucianism, and Buddhism – can coexist peacefully and, in many cases, intermingle. Even Islam – which mostly spread in the wake of military conquests in the Middle East, India, and North Africa – expanded rather peacefully into Southeast Asia in the footsteps of merchants, scholars and mystics.

Moreover, there was a historically important and ethically oriented humanism in China as early as the fifth century B.C. The concept of "ren," which corresponds to our "humanum" is a central term in the Chinese tradition.

Likewise, Confucius was the first to formulate the Golden Rule of Reciprocity: "Never impose on others what you would not choose for yourself." Through the spread of Chinese characters, the concept of ren and the Golden Rule spread throughout the vast Chinese-influenced area that reaches from Central Asia to Taiwan and from Korea to Singapore.

This Golden Rule, however, also appears in the Indian tradition. In Jainism, it is stated as: "A man should wander about treating all creatures as he himself would be treated." In Buddhism: "A state that is not pleasant or delightful to me must also be so to him; and a state that is not pleasing or delightful to me, how could I inflict that upon another?" In Hinduism: "One should not behave towards others in a way which is disagreeable to oneself. This is the essence of morality."

This "Golden Rule" can also, of course, be found in the Abrahamic religions. Rabbi Hillel (60 B.C.) said: "What is hurtful to yourself do not do to your fellow man." Jesus worded it positively: "So in everything, do to

others what you would have them do to you." Islam, too, has a similar concept: "None of you believes until he wishes for his brother what he wishes for himself."

Moreover, such commonalities go beyond the principle of humanity and the Golden Rule of Reciprocity. Four concrete ethical rules were laid down in the Buddhist canon by Patanjali, the founder of Yoga, in the Chinese tradition and, of course, in the three prophetic religions: "Do not kill," "do not steal," "do not bear false witness," and "do not abuse sexuality."

These trans-cultural ethical rules form structural elements of a common human ethic, whatever we call it, and make almost irrelevant the idea of a deep antagonism between "Asian" and "Western" values. If Asia focuses on its trans-cultural ethical core, an entirely new spirit of unity can be developed that uses soft power instead of military force and does not know enemies, but only partners and competitors. In this way, Asia could catch up with the West in terms of its cultural integration while contributing to the establishment of a genuinely peaceful new world order.

This project differs from the West's human rights movement, which is based on natural law thinking. The point is rather to integrate values, standards, and attitudes of ethical-religious traditions that, while appearing in each culture in a specific form, are common to all, and that can be supported by non-religious people as well.

Hans Küng is President of the Foundation for a Global Ethic (Stiftung Weltethos) and Professor Emeritus of Ecumenical Theology at the University of Tübingen.

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Hans-Werner Sinn

When United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon recently visited Antarctica, he was impressed by the melting ice he saw there. Then he was in Brazil, where he was impressed by the country's use of bio-fuel to power a quarter of its automotive traffic. Oil pressed from rapeseed can be used as diesel fuel, and maize or sugar beets can yield ethanol to replace gasoline.

The UN and many countries officially share the view that bio-fuel is one option in fighting climate change. The United States generously subsidizes production of ethanol from maize, with output there currently growing 12% annually and almost 10% worldwide. EU countries subsidized bio-fuels production with €3.7 billion in 2006, and intend to cover 8% of their motor fuels from biological sources by 2015 and 20% by 2020. The Kyoto Protocol allows countries to meet their target reductions of CO2 emissions by substituting bio-fuels for fossil fuels.

But is it really a wise and ethically acceptable strategy to burn food rather than eat it? If we allow food to be used to produce bio-fuels, food prices will be linked to the oil price, as the head of the German farmers association happily announced. Indeed, food prices are currently increasing in Europe, because more and more farmland is being used for bio-fuels instead of for food production.

This is not sustainable. The so-called tortilla crisis, which led to protests in Mexico City in January, foreshadows what we can expect. The price of maize, half of which is imported from the US, more than doubled in a year, primarily because of production of bio-ethanol. Mexico

tried to solve the problem by imposing a state-administered price ceiling for maize tortillas, combined with duty-free maize imports.

The problem is that advocates of reducing the greenhouse effect by promoting bio-fuels production have not made clear where the land will come from. In principle, there are only three ways to procure it: by withdrawing it from food or fodder production, from the production of natural materials – particularly wood – or from nature.

The perversity of the first alternative is obvious: there is no surplus food production in the world. Whoever wishes to grow bio-fuels on land that was previously used for food production must recognize that this would increase food prices, harming the poorest of the poor.

Similarly, to cultivate bio-fuels on land that would otherwise be used to produce sustainable construction materials would drive up the prices of these materials and encourage their substitution by non-sustainable materials like concrete and steel. This may be unobjectionable on ethical and social-policy grounds, but it certainly would not help the environment.

Wood stores carbon, owing to photosynthesis. The larger the stocks of wood on earth, in the form of living trees or wooden construction material in buildings, the less CO2 there is in the atmosphere and the cooler the earth remains. So, taking land for the production of bio-fuels from forests means speeding up global warming, because bio-fuel crops store much less carbon than trees.

To be sure, in addition to the negative storage effect, there might be a positive effect on the world climate insofar as bio-fuels may replace fossil fuels for combustion processes. But this assumes that the oil sheikhs will extract less oil

because there is more bio-fuel. If they don't, the positive effect will vanish. World market prices of fossil fuels will simply be lower than they otherwise would be such that total consumption of fossil and bio-fuels rises by the extra production of bio-fuel.

The remaining alternative is to use land that has not previously been used commercially. But such land is usually wooded. The substitution of forests by maize, rape, and other oilseed cultivation reduces the stock of biomass and likewise leads to an increase in the concentration of CO2 in the atmosphere. Brazil has cleared huge areas of its jungle in order to produce the bio-ethanol that impressed the Secretary General. By doing so, the country has done a great disservice to the cause of fighting climate change.

Indeed, every year, the world loses forest area the size of Ireland. The effect on the atmosphere is equivalent to 18% of annual CO2 emissions, more than from the world's entire transport sector. Deforestation must be reversed, not accelerated.

It makes no sense to use land in whatever form to produce bio fuels. Only producing bio-fuels without the use of additional land is justifiable in terms of environmental and social policy. This would mean using agricultural and other waste, which would otherwise rot and produce nearly equal amounts of CO2 and methane, an even more dangerous greenhouse gas.

That option should be supported. But official encouragement of production of bio-fuels on land that would have been used for other purposes must stop.

Hans-Werner Sinn is Professor of Economics and Finance, University of Munich, and President of the Ifo Institute.

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Farmers unaware of Yemen's water shortage, experts say

In an effort to reduce the nation's water shortage, Yemen will apply new water awareness strategies that include logos and a mascot to enlighten its citizens, especially farmers. **Hamed Thabet** reports.

The role of logos and mascots is to teach people proper water usage, as GTZ Awareness Coordinator Marcos Abbs explains, "The goal of using logos and the mascot is to impart water awareness to everyone everywhere. We chose blue for the logo and the mascot is a drop of water dressed as a Yemeni man."

According to engineer Salem Bashuaib, chairman of the National Water Resource Authority, "The awareness campaign has a very important role, but it won't be successful unless citizens are acquainted with water's benefits and how to manage it properly."

Jochen Renger, head of GTZ's Water Sector Program, notes, "In Yemen, strategies and programs in this area aren't on paper; rather, they are activities that must be done in real life. The issue is how to use the best method to make this strategy succeed. Moreover, preparations regarding water awareness should include responsibilities and the necessary finances to provide sufficient resources."

Yemeni agriculture remains undeveloped and needs improvement for the better; for example, most Yemeni farmers continue using old methods of irrigation, which is wrong. However, Mohammed Al-Hamdi, Yemen's deputy minister of water and environment, remarks, "I hope this water awareness program's materials and strategies will be clear and easy for Yemeni farmers to understand," adding, "Since religion is the primary source of power in Yemen, if we use that, efficiency will be higher and more fruitful."

Because Yemen's water supply relies on groundwater, the nation suffers grave water shortages. For example, only 125 cubic meters are available annually per capita and groundwater is being heavily overexploited and polluted. In some regions, extraction exceeds



GTZ and NWRA distributed logos and mascot to spread awareness on the right way to use water.

replenishment by 400 percent.

This endangers not only the drinking water supply for rural and urban areas, but also the livelihoods of small-scale agricultural farmers. It's estimated that more than 90 percent of Yemen's water resources are used for irrigation.

Additionally, approximately 53 percent of the nation's urban population has no access to centralized water systems, while approximately 75 percent are without centralized sanitation services.

UNDP Communications Officer Dana Issa, comments that, "Focusing on communication and the awareness strategy is very useful to creating a corporate identity for [the National Water Resource Authority] in order for it to achieve its goals."

On the local level, GTZ supports water utilities in the fields of management, operations, customer dialogue

and public awareness until they are able to perform at a high standard.

Additionally, advisory committees to water utilities representing local interests such as those for women and the poor have been established and given support. Such advisory committees play a pivotal role, especially in setting proper water tariffs and improving services to customers.

Public information centers also have been established to promote hygiene education, conduct water conservation campaigns and train field workers in customer dialogue.

Renger explains further, "Realizing the importance of water awareness and citizen's rights to use water, we decided to redouble our efforts, for example, instituting new strategies, new plans and better studies, while converting the old method of irrigation, which is very wasteful, into drip irrigation."

He continues, "The process of awareness will take time for it to take hold, requiring evaluation and follow-up from time to time in order to know whether we're doing good or not. Nevertheless, GTZ and UNDP will unite their efforts and work together so that the awareness program is done in the right way."

Water is in extremely short supply in Yemen. Every year, the nation uses nearly one and a half times the amount of water that can be replaced naturally and it has one of the fastest shrinking groundwater levels in the world.

Additionally, existing water resources, often fossilized water, are being exploited in a completely uncontrolled manner. Approximately 90 percent of water withdrawn is used for agriculture, half of it for qat, the cultivation of which is edging out coffee, wheat and millet production, thus obliging Yemen to import approximately 75 percent of its basic foodstuffs.

Many Yemenis have no knowledge of the water problems their nation is experiencing, as Bashuaib notes, "Undoubtedly, many people don't know about the water problem. Rather, they think the problems result from government negligence toward this sector, as well as technical problems. However, once citizens are cognizant of the problem, it will be solved."

Moreover, he continues, "Water awareness is the main factor in having the best development, especially in Yemen. Although we face many challenges in this field, we are making progress by gaining support from various organizations, many government foundations and whoever seeks a better future for Yemen."

Renger observes, "There also should be a national water awareness program specifically focusing on the cultural sector because each area has a different way of thinking and a different style."

As one of the world's most water-poor countries, Yemen rarely receives rainfall and is practically devoid of rivers. Only 150 cubic meters of water is available from renewable sources per capita, placing the nation well below the water poverty line, which is 1,000 cubic meters of available water per capita.

The country's rapidly expanding population and increased agricultural irrigation have pushed demand steadily upward until it now is tapping fossilized groundwater reserves, which can't be renewed naturally. In some regions where groundwater levels have fallen, chances are that the water supply system to the capital and its surrounding areas will collapse completely within the next 20 years.

UNDP Country Director Dr. Selvaumaran Ramchandran says, "Yemen depends on groundwater due to not having any rivers or other sources for water. UNDP has instituted many plans to solve the country's water problems in a short time."

The Yemeni government's national water strategy has laid the foundations for improved donor coordination of its groundwater supply, drawing up an action plan for the water sector in conjunction with donors in that sector, which will lay out concrete goals and set a timeframe for activities.

Bashuaib adds, "We'll work hard to improve development in this field,



A lot of farmers follow traditional ways to irrigate their fields.

including building large tanks for such operations and of course, qualifying staff to take responsibility in this field in the future. It's very a good sign that Yemen has realized its water problems and begun dealing with them."

The majority of Yemen's water basins experience significant depletion due to dramatic increases in water demand as the nation's population continues growing, in addition to expanding agricultural and industrial projects, as well as large numbers of wells drilled indiscriminately. All of this has led to a sharp decline in underground water reserves, coupled with such waters' varying degrees of salinity, according to studies and regular well surveys.

According to World Bank reports, Yemen's problem is more critical due to its water resources being distributed

unevenly and the fact that 90 percent of its population has less than 90 cubic meters of water annually for domestic use, which is 10 percent below the worldwide norm. Reports estimate that only 44 percent of the Yemeni population has access to main water supplies and only 12 percent to safe sanitation.

In general, all surface water resources – which comprise 60 percent of Yemen's renewable resources – already are being exploited beyond the level of renewal. Such rapid development has brought with it major problems.

For example, groundwater is being mined at such a rate that parts of the rural economy could dry up. Those Yemeni areas under greatest pressure are the central highlands, the western escarpment and the coastal plains.

My trip to Lahj

Two weeks ago, I had the opportunity to visit Lahj governorate as part of an ophthalmological camp at Ibn Khaldoun Hospital.

During that week, I witnessed the poor, mostly women and the illiterate, coming to the hospital for eye surgeries. However, they hadn't even the most basic eye health education to know when to go to the hospital or even an eye clinic when they have a complaint about their eyes.

Rather, they simply wait until they can't see or have a major problem and then visit the eye doctor or sometimes a local healer before that, thus worsening their condition and coming to us at a late stage when we can't offer them much help.

The problem actually involves both patients and doctors, as rural areas need more health education programs to get the message to their residents to save their precious eyesight before it's too late for them, as well as for us to treat them.

Some symptoms indicating a need to visit the eye doctor to check eye health include:

Headaches

This is the most common complaint, caused by any number of factors involving the eyes or other health factors, such as the normal stresses of life. If experiencing regular headaches, go to the eye doctor for a checkup.

Impaired vision

The main reason people visit the eye doctor is for loss of vision, either due to refractive error, which requires glasses to correct, or possibly cataract (clouding of the eye's lens), the main cause of gradually decreased vision in the elderly, especially in Yemen, in which case an operation is necessary to correct vision.

Red eyes

This results from either eye exhaustion due to lifestyle or problems such as dry eyes or inflammation, which should be treated by an eye doctor, not as some do by visiting the nearest pharmacy and purchasing medication without consulting an eye doctor. In many cases, this worsens the condition, so ensure eye safety by visiting the eye doctor, just to be on the safe side.

Conjunctivitis

Also called pinkeye, this common eye disease is due to poor hygiene and involves mucopurulent ("sleep") or



By: Dr. Nader T. Al-Sakkaf

watery eye discharge, mostly in the morning. An inflammation of the conjunctiva (the outermost layer of the eye and the inner surface of the eyelids), it is transmitted either by handling contaminated material or, again via the hands, in crowded places where people are in close contact, such as schools, particularly kindergartens, and factories. In this case, see an eye doctor, who can diagnose it and prescribe proper treatment.

Eye pain

When describing their discomfort, some patients confuse headaches and eye pain, which may be a sign of some type of discomfort or may indicate some other eye disease, so if experiencing regular eye pain, it may be time to visit the eye doctor for a checkup.

Increased intraocular pressure

This symptom is for those who've been diagnosed with glaucoma. Such patients must be more organized in their eye exams, taking a small notebook to write all of the data from the visit to the eye doctor if no record is given by the doctor, especially if their visit is to a public hospital. The data needed to follow up glaucoma patients is visual acuity, intraocular pressure and visual field on certain bases. Such patients also shouldn't forget to return to the eye doctor whenever he or she determines it necessary.

If we can increase public health awareness in Yemen, we can overcome many health problems that may cost patients their precious eyesight. As eye doctors, we need to get our message to those in urban and rural areas equally to help them understand when to visit the eye doctor before it's too late. This way, we can save our nation a lot of money by treating such problems early before they become complicated.

Nader T. Al-Sakkaf is an ophthalmological resident at Aden's Al-Jumhuriya Teaching Hospital.



عيد الاضحى المبارك 2007 بفندق موفتيك صنعاء!!!

بمناسبة حلول عيد الاضحى المبارك يقدم لكم فندق موفتيك صنعاء عرضاً مميزاً بأسعار خاصة تقضاء عطلة العيد مع العائلة انظم ابنا و الفاضل اوفاناً مسعاً مع الاطفال في حديقة المسبح الخارجي!! روعة المكان تمنحك فرصة قضاء العطلة مع العائلة و دون ان تحتاج الى الذهاب بعيداً مع ضمان جودة الخدمة و مسعة الإقامة

الإسعار الخاصة بعرض العيد:

99 دولار أمريكي فقط سعر الغرفة الفاخرة الفردية أو المزدوجة تليدة الواحدة بشرط إقامة تليتين على الأقل وتضمن الأتي:

- ❖ وجبة افطار مجانية.
- ❖ استخدام مجاني لتتادي الصحي والرياضي.
- ❖ سنة فواكه في الغرفة.
- ❖ عصائر الكرشب عند الوصول.
- ❖ الضريبة الحكومية وضريبة الخدمات مدفوعة.
- ❖ 50 دولار أمريكي في حانة طاب سبرين اضافيين للأطفال.

هذا العرض صالح من 19 الى 24 ديسمبر 2007 وهو خاص فقط بالمواطنين اليمنيين والاجانب المقيمين باليمن.

نحن بانتظاركم نقضي معاً اسبوع الاوقات و كن عام و انتم بالث خير!!!

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Yemen Times Readers' Opinion Questionnaire

Dear Reader

The Yemen Times editorial management would like to take a few minutes of your time to complete this questionnaire. It is important for us to know what you think about our paper, and how you think we might improve our performance. Either send your reply by post or submit it to Yemen Times offices in Sana'a, Taiz or Aden. Replies will be entered into a surprise draw. Thank you.

*Nadia al-Sakkaf
Publisher and Editor in Chief*

PERSONAL INFORMATION:

Name: Nationality:
 Age group: ☐ <15 ☐ 15-19 ☐ 20-29 ☐ 30-45 ☐ >45
 Gender: (☐ Male ☐ Female) Marital status: (☐ married ☐ single) No. of children
 Occupation
 Level of education: ☐ high school ☐ diploma ☐ university ☐ postgraduate
 Contact information and email:

1. How often do you read the Yemen Times?

- ☐ Every issue ☐ Once a week
☐ Occasionally ☐ Whenever it comes to my hands

2. How do you get the Yemen Times?

- ☐ From bookshop in (street or area name)
☐ From friends ☐ It is provided in my workplace
☐ Subscription ☐ Online

3. What do you like most about Yemen Times?

- ☐ Availability ☐ Design and layout
☐ Ads and vacancies ☐ News coverage
☐ Language ☐ Features article
☐ Quality of paper and size ☐ World news
☐ Other.....

4. What do you dislike most about Yemen Times?

- ☐ Availability ☐ Design and layout
☐ Ads and vacancies ☐ News coverage
☐ Language ☐ Features article
☐ Quality of paper and size ☐ World news
☐ Other.....

5. Which section/s do you enjoy reading?

- ☐ Front page ☐ Local news ☐ World News
☐ Polls ☐ Opinion ☐ Op-ed
☐ Business ☐ Culture ☐ Community
☐ Health and environment ☐ Press review
☐ Youth ☐ Letters to the editor
☐ Editorial ☐ Back page

6. Which section/s do you dislike reading?

- ☐ Front page ☐ Local news ☐ World News
☐ Polls ☐ Opinion ☐ Op-ed
☐ Business ☐ Culture ☐ Community
☐ Health and environment ☐ Press review
☐ Youth ☐ Letters to the editor
☐ Editorial ☐ Back page

7. Have you ever written to / for Yemen Times?

- ☐ Yes, more than once
☐ Yes, once
☐ Never

8. If you have, was the feedback satisfactory?

- ☐ Yes, definitely ☐ Yes, to an extent
☐ Not at all ☐ No feedback

9. Would you like to visit the Yemen Times and see its operation?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

10. Do you know any of the Yemen Times staff?

- ☐ Yes, I know (please give name/s)

☐ No

11. How can the Yemen Times improve?

.....

12. What topics, features would you like the Yemen Times to cover in the future?

.....

الشركة اليمنية للغاز الطبيعي المسال Yemen LNG Company



Job Vacancies

The Yemen LNG project involves the construction and operation of a gas pipeline, a harbour and a liquefied natural gas processing plant at Balhaf on the Gulf of Aden which will export 6.7 million tons of LNG per annum. The project offices are based in Sana'a and the project has an anticipated lifespan of over 20 years. Yemen LNG Company is now recruiting the temporary and permanent staff who will construct and manage the project.

All candidates applying for these posts must be Yemeni nationals

Job Title: Sales & Production Accounting Supervisor – Reference No. 151
Reports to: Head of Operations Accounting
Work Location: Sana'a

Duties & Responsibilities:

- Implement and maintain a sales invoicing system
- Develop and review different reconciliations for Sales and Royalties accounts
- Prepare and despatch sales invoices on time in accordance with the Sales & Purchase Agreements
- Follow up with Yemen LNG customers to ensure that invoices are settled on time
- Prepare calculations of royalties payable to relevant authorities in accordance with all related agreements
- Ensure timely and accurate accounting for all sales / production and royalties-related transactions
- Develop staff through internal and external training courses, coaching and mentoring
- Establish and maintain effective working relationships with the Commercial & Shipping department

Qualifications Required:

- Accounting / Finance degree or equivalent professional qualification
- Minimum of 6 years' sales and royalty accounting experience preferably within the Oil and Gas industry, ideally with some international experience
- Fluent in written and spoken English and Arabic
- Excellent experience of MS office applications
- Autonomous with a good level of analytical skills and able to work well on own initiative

Job Title: General Accountant – Reference No. 152
Reports to: Head of Operations Accounting
Work Location: Sana'a

Duties & Responsibilities:

- Assist in processing different types of journal entries
- Assist in analysing and preparing different reconciliations of General Ledger control accounts
- Assist in preparing and reviewing monthly accruals and monthly closure
- Process various transactions in the Fixed Assets module of the UNISUP system
- Maintain and regularly update the Fixed Assets Register (FAR)
- Prepare and produce different types of monthly, annual and ad-hoc reconciliations in the Fixed Assets area and all the required Fixed Assets reports
- Settle and transfer costs of assets from WIP to completed assets accounts regularly
- Assist with any other accounting tasks assigned by the supervisor

Qualifications Required:

- Accounting / Finance degree or equivalent professional qualification
- Minimum of 5 years' experience in Accounting within the Oil and Gas industry, preferably in general ledger and fixed assets areas
- Fluent in written and spoken English and Arabic
- Excellent experience of MS office applications
- Good level of analytical skills and high level of accuracy
- Autonomous with a good level of analytical skills and able to work well under pressure

Job Title: Cost Control Supervisor – Reference No. 153
Reports to: Head of Financial Reporting
Work Location: Sana'a

Duties & Responsibilities:

- Supervise the cost control team's activities and manage its analysis of reports
- Monitor expenditures against the authorised budget and communicate to the management any budget overruns or any significant variances between the budget and actual costs
- Act as focal point for queries on budget preparation and expenditure coding
- Assist in the preparation of monthly accruals by collecting and compiling data from controllers and forwarding to the Operations accounts team for input
- Produce schedules and ad-hoc corporate cost reports as required under the supervision of Head of Financial Reporting

Qualifications Required:

- Accounting / Finance degree or equivalent professional qualification
- Minimum 5 years' experience in accounting and finance positions, preferably within the Oil and Gas industry
- Fluent in written and spoken English and Arabic
- Well developed supervisory skills and experience
- High level of analytical and presentational skills
- Excellent knowledge and experience of computerized accounting systems
- Self-motivated and capable of meeting established deadlines

Job Title: Construction Project Manager – Reference No. 154
Reports to: Logistics, Procurement & New Works Manager
Work Location: Sana'a
Type of Contract: Fixed-term Contract ending on 30/6/2010

As the focal point and project coordinator, the job holder will be responsible for the safe, timely and efficient construction and completion of Yemen LNG Company's New Office Project, within budget and in accordance with all applicable Yemeni and international standards.

Duties & Responsibilities:

- Review the construction Call For Tender package and participate in the recommendation to award the contract for the Construction phase
- Prepare and finalise the scope of work and contract supervision for the selected Design / Engineering contractor
- Manage the application and receipt process for the necessary permits and authorizations
- Supervise the contractors during the design / engineering phases (Mobilization, Surveys, Pre-design and Design) and coordinate the associated construction activities
- Monitor and follow-up daily construction supervision activities, organising and leading weekly meeting with the selected contractors
- Ensure the timely and accurate provision and review of contractors' reports and inform / present to the Yemen LNG Management team, recommending and taking action as necessary.
- Issue monthly progress, cost and status reports, highlighting and acting promptly to resolve any areas of concern.

Qualifications Required:

- Engineering Degree education (Civil, Electrical and / or Mechanical)
- 7-10 years' experience with building construction projects at supervisory or managerial level
- Excellent interpersonal, presentational and reporting skills, including strong construction site supervisory abilities
- Fluent in written and spoken English and Arabic
- Computer literate in Design/engineering software, Microsoft products etc.
- Well organized, assertive and able to work autonomously and effectively

APPLICATION PROCESS

- Visit Yemen LNG's website at (WWW.YEMENLNG.COM).
- Go to Careers, then to Vacancies to enter our Web Application System.
- Register your personal and professional data in order to log in and apply, mentioning the title and the reference number of the position you are applying for.

- Do not make duplicate applications by fax, etc.
- Yemen LNG Company will contact the selected candidates for interview and further assessment.
- Applicants who are not contacted have not been successful but can still apply for future positions.

Closing Date: 31 December 2007

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الشركة اليمنية للغاز الطبيعي المسال Yemen LNG Company



Job Vacancies

The Yemen LNG project involves the construction and operation of a gas pipeline, a harbour and a liquefied natural gas processing plant at Balhaf on the Gulf of Aden which will export 6.7 million tons of LNG per annum. The project offices are based in Sana'a and the project has an anticipated lifespan of over 20 years. Yemen LNG Company is now recruiting the temporary and permanent staff who will construct and manage the project.

All candidates applying for these posts must be Yemeni nationals

Job Title: Company Management System Administrator – Ref No. 156
Reports to: Head of Quality
Work Location: Sana'a

Duties & Responsibilities:

The job holder will support the development and implementation of the Company Management System. The role is based in Company's Head Offices in Sana'a. The principal responsibilities of the role will be to:-

- Verify that the Company Management System delivery technology (software and infrastructure) is available and functioning correctly.
- Support and facilitate set up of a flowchart database.
- Ensure the related systems are correctly populated in terms of process / procedure definition and hyperlinks.
- Assist end users in using and updating management system documentation, and promote the System as the basis of the Company's working philosophy.
- Create flowcharts in both the flowchart database and also using Visio software.
- Create records and allocate identification numbers to all documents in the Electronic Data Management System creating links for these to the flowchart database.
- Create business overviews allowing navigation from the Intranet to either the EDMS or flowchart database as appropriate.
- Support and provide training in the access to and use of the CMS.
- Assist in CMS development planning, tracking and reporting progress.
- Develop knowledge of process improvement activity and participate in the auditing of processes to develop knowledge/auditor skills.
- Coordinate any external assistance required from software supplier.

Qualifications required:

- Information systems background with the capability to set up and support software, including maintaining URL references.
- Excellent knowledge of MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Visio, and Intranet related software, with the ability to develop templates in Word.
- Good interpersonal skills and the ability to interact effectively with others.
- Excellent written and spoken Arabic and good knowledge of written and spoken English.
- Some knowledge of management systems/business processes with a willingness to become intimately familiar with them.

Job Title: Process Development Engineer – Ref No. 157
Reports to: Head of Quality
Work Location: Sana'a
Duration: Fixed Term Contract for 18 Months

Duties & Responsibilities:

The job holder will facilitate the development of the Company Management System for the operations phase of Balhaf operations. The incumbent can expect to be based in Sana'a for the duration of the Contract. The principal responsibilities of the role will be to:-

- Support the Development and Implementation of the Company Management System (CMS) assisting process owners with the production of CMS documents.
- Obtain process definition from the process owner and involved parties.
- Create CMS documents including text documents / procedures, Visio flowcharts, swim lane flowcharts etc. through the related database and business overviews to provide a visual representation of each main process and the related sub-processes.
- Develop training materials in PowerPoint for end-users.
- Implement training on CMS processes and sub-processes.
- Benchmark processes against similar systems identifying gaps, and inefficient processes or excessive bureaucracy.
- Promote the value of the CMS to all company staff.
- Develop the CMS support team's knowledge of CMS-related activity enabling transition at the end of the 18 month Contract period to process improvement activity.

Qualifications required:

- Ideally a Chartered Engineer, but as a minimum, qualified to University degree level in an appropriate discipline.
- Minimum of 10 years of management systems development, procedure writing and flowchart development.
- Experience of developing processes related to the oil and gas industry.
- Excellent interpersonal skills.
- Good knowledge of MS computer programs (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, e mail) and familiarity with flow charting databases.
- Fluent in written and spoken English. Fluency in Arabic advantageous but not essential.

APPLICATION PROCESS

- Visit Yemen LNG's website at (WWW.YEMENLNG.COM).
- Go to Careers, then to Vacancies to enter our Web Application System.
- Register your personal and professional data in order to log in and apply.

- Do not make duplicate applications by fax, etc.
- Yemen LNG Company will contact the selected candidates for interview and further assessment.
- Applicants who are not contacted have not been successful but can still apply for future positions.

Closing Date: 31 December 2007

WWW.YEMENLNG.COM

Yemeni athletes break record in sports competitions

By: Yemen Times Staff

Yemeni sports associations clinched as many as 120 various medals in the Arab Championships which Sana'a hosted over the past few months, including 39 gold, 42 silver and 40 bronze medals. The associations were involved in different individual and team competitions.

General Manager of Sporting Activities at the Ministry of Youth and Sports Khalid Saleh, who is also chairman of the national delegation at the current round of the Asian games, stated that Yemen's sports associations broke a record this year in the accumulation of medals and titles. He pointed out that there are some associations that run effective sports programs, thereby helping them achieve success in various international events.

According to scores released by the General Administration of Sporting Activities at the Ministry of Youth and Sports, of which a copy was obtained by Yemen News Agency – Saba, Yemen's national volleyball team won a gold medal and stood first in the Ninth Arab Championship, organized in the Syrian capital Damascus. This is the first achievement for a Yemeni team in a team competition.

Also, Yemeni table tennis athletes obtained two golds, five silvers and one bronze in the 11th Arab Championship that took place in Sana'a last August, while bodybuilding competitors won five silvers and two bronzes at the Fifth Arab Championship in Sana'a. Additionally, wrestlers who participated in the Arab wrestling competitions in Lebanon clinched five silvers and five bronzes.

The official statistics revealed that Yemen's track & field runners secured one gold and one silver at the Under 17 Arab Championship in Damascus,

while Yemen's chess players attained one gold and ranked first in the under 17 competitions, and also won two silvers at the Arab teams' events that took place in Sudan and the United Arab Emirates.

The stats also indicated that Yemen's judo team took the 'lion's share' at the Sana'a competitions, winning three golds, seven silvers and one bronze. The under 17 male judo athletes broke a record by earning 14 golds and one silver, while under 17 female judo athletes won seven golds and one bronze at the Sana'a competitions.

The stats went on to say that the Yemeni men's kung fu team reaped 4 golds and 13 silvers at the Arab competitions organized in Cairo, whereas the field tennis athletes, who participated in the Sixth Arab Championship in Tunisia got only one bronze.

Handicapped athletes

Yemeni handicapped handball teammates were awarded one silver and three bronzes in the China-organized competitions. The handicapped tennis athletes secured two golds, three silvers and three bronzes, while the handicapped weightlifters got nine bronzes and three silvers.

Rakhama Youth Track & Field Club, based in Dhamar, participated in the Arab competitions for clubs in Jordan, securing one gold, two silvers and three bronzes. This is the greatest achievement in the club's history at an international event.

Yemeni athletes who participated in the most recent round of Arab games in Cairo won a total of 17 medals; however, Yemen ranked last in the list of Arab teams, as that was the first international participation for athletes who came from throughout the nation.

Based on these results, Yemeni athletes proved to have put their best foot forward in the various Arab and international sporting events.

By: Ismail Al-Ghabri

Ibrahim Al-Hadhrani is considered a symbol of Yemeni poetry, both standard and traditional (popular). Since the early half of the 20th century, he has offered moving touches in Yemeni modern poetry. He's also one of the pioneers in Yemen's national struggle, confronting Imamate rule and ensuring victory for revolution and liberty.

Yemen's cultural community lost its poet Al-Hadhrani, who died Nov. 24 at age 90. He spent most of his years traveling the world of creativity and literature production, enriching Yemeni cultural creativity. He also participated in national struggle and sufferance, even being captured for the sake of the Yemeni revolution.

Born in 1917 in Dhamar governorate's Abu Yabis area, Al-Hadhrani spent most of his life within the spheres of poetry, education and the judiciary. Composing emotional poems addressing human and social concerns, he's one of Yemen's poets and strugglers, which include Mohammed Mahmoud Al-Zubairi, Abdullah Al-Baradoni and Abdulaziz Al-Maqaleh, among others. Despite the fame of most of his emotional sung poems, Al-Hadhrani's best poetry was about issues of nationalism.

Raised by his father Ahmed Mohammed Al-Hadhrani, also a poet, as well as a scholar, Al-Hadhrani studied at Dhamar city's Al-Shamsiyah School where he flourished in literature and various sciences. Before working in the judiciary, he worked in education in Dhamar, Sana'a and Taiz.

Al-Hadhrani began his poetic career in the late 1930s as a satirist before moving to Taiz, where he practiced praise and eulogy, as well as satire. He remained an activist in the nationalism movement until the failed 1948 revolution, when he was handcuffed and dragged between Dhamar and Hajjah cities before being jailed for four years.

A celebrity in Yemen's cultural and



Ibrahim Al-Hadhrani

poetic field, Al-Hadhrani's death brings sorrow and pain, as such celebrities have become rare in Yemen. They are symbols of Yemeni culture and its struggle, lofting national principles in their poetry, which took a strong stance against injustice and tyranny. They love their home and hate despotism.

The famed poet's death represents a grave calamity for both Yemeni culture and Arab culture in general.

His poetry

Al-Hadhrani's poetry portrays the experience of pioneer poets who attempted to leave traditional poetic patterns in the back of Yemeni cultural memory, announcing their affiliation with transformation and change. Al-Hadhrani proclaimed this attitude of affiliation to national poetry, as well as liberation from slavery during this dark era.

As one of Yemen's modern and con-

temporary poets, Al-Hadhrani also was famed for being affiliated with renovation and change in Yemen, which strengthened the revolution's stance against such change and transformation in the poetic pattern.


Al-Hadhrani was very humble and modest in promulgating his poetry. It was enough for him to see his friends read his poems in Yemeni newspapers during the years of struggle. His poems addressed revolution and rebellion against the Imam's despotism rule, as in the following lines:

I was tortured for the sake of my country,
Drinking torture over and over again.
Today, I struggle for my country,
Sacrificing life contently.

This is a clear indication of Al-Hadhrani's artistic spirit, whose poems are included in a collection authored by Hilal Naji and entitled, "Yemen's Contemporary Poets." This book remained a reference and a source for those writing about Al-Hadhrani as a poet until 1990, when Al-Hadhrani's friend Ahmed Al-Shami gathered some of the poet's scattered poems into a volume entitled, "Al-Kutoof Al-Dawani of Al-Hadhrani's Poetry."

Al-Hadhrani broke the monotony of traditional poetry by bringing in enlightenment and using that as leverage to rebel and revolt during the Imam's reign. His talent had unique sparks, both illuminating his poetry and exalting Al-Hadhrani to the highest position among poets during Yemeni modern poetry's period of restoration.

Al-Hadhrani was appointed a deputy in the Ministry of Information when the 1962 revolution broke out. He later participated in most of the Arab cultural conferences, including 1988's Al-Marbad conference in Iraq. He also visited Europe and the United States before working as a cultural consultant at the Yemeni Embassy in Kuwait.



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Two million people, only two libraries

With a population of two million, the capital city's only two public libraries are insufficient for education and gaining knowledge. **Hamed Thabet** reports.

Early on the morning of Dec. 5, researcher Amani Abdullah patiently waited with others for the library reference number of the book she wanted. However, only one individual knows the location of every book and that's librarian Abdullah Al-Sharafi, who just marked 20 years of working at the Yemen Center for Study and Research.

Because he's the only one who knows their locations, Al-Sharafi is responsible for fetching the books. It took Abdullah about half an hour to reach Al-Sharafi and request her book. She complains, "Every time I come to the library, I have the same problem, which is requesting only one title and having to wait a long time until I get it."

The library contains a small hall with a capacity for about 10 individuals who may use it for reading, while the rest must read standing up or wait for a vacant seat.

The same problem exists at Beit Al-Thaqafah's library, where most of the time, patrons fight with each other to find their title's reference number, as well as fighting with librarian Mahmoud Al-Khameri, who has worked there 16 years, because there's no quick delivery of books.

Al-Khameri's response to the problem? "Well, there's no computer system here, which would allow patrons to search for their books themselves. Because I'm alone here, I can't respond to all of the requests at the same time; hence, they must wait and then they lose their tempers."

When librarians classify books without a computerized system, many errors occur because everything is done the old way, which is writing by hand the book title, who borrowed it, etc., and then having to search through such handwritten record books, which is awkward and time-consuming.

Due to such an archaic system, one anonymous individual points out that, "If any book is lost, librarians usually should take responsibility and pay for it, but because there's no strict rule to control this, officials don't say a word and nothing is done about it."

Books and quality

At both libraries, books are in extremely poor condition due to lack of funding to maintain them. Additionally, there aren't enough bookshelves for all of the books and the ones available are small; thus, books are disorganized and piled on top of each other.

The number of titles at the Yemen Research Center exceeds 51,000, of which 99 percent are indexed, while approximately 50,000 to 60,000 titles are on hand at Beit Al-Thaqafah. The types of books available at both libraries include those regarding literature, sociology (including politics, education and culture), medicine and the sciences.

Hamdan Dammaj, vice president at

the Yemen Research Center, explains, "Our library's budget granted by the Finance Ministry is YR 180 million, of which YR 100 million goes for salaries, while the remaining YR 80 million is for purchasing and maintaining books. However, this year, we spent only YR 300,000 to buy books."

He adds, "Of course, such low support reflects itself in the quality of the books and the center itself."

At Beit Al-Thaqafah, Al-Khameri notes, "Books are purchased annually, spending between YR 7-8 million provided by the Finance Ministry. Besides purchasing them, some books are donated by researchers and writers. On the whole, the funds provided aren't enough. We've asked for an increased amount, but we receive no response from the responsible authorities."

He adds, "Providing books for researchers and readers is the most important thing on our agenda, but unfortunately, no one seems to care. Books are offered at many exhibitions, but only relatively few are purchased."

Many books, especially at Beit Al-Thaqafah, remain in storage, as Al-Khameri confirms, "Believe it or not, many books are in storage and have yet to see the light of day because there's simply not enough space to display them. We've requested officials construct another building or even add extra bookshelves, but we've received no response."

He continues, "Only once was it decided to add an upper floor to our building, but unfortunately, we couldn't do so due to the library's foundations. Since then, no one has raised the subject again, nor offered any other suggestion or proposal."

Dammaj notes that because his center is the authority for foreign researchers, it plans to provide books in English and other languages, but as of now, there are none. However, there's a large possibility that donors will support the library with both books and money.

According to Dammaj, "We're in touch with donors and other organizations regarding establishing an agreement with them for to benefit the library."

Additionally, he says there are plans to extend the center's library to accommodate more patrons, as well as modernize it with a computer system and linking it with other web sites, the benefit of which would be that patrons could enter the web site and request any book they would want to read or order. "Surely, such technology at our library would be the first in Yemen," he notes.

Researcher Iman Al-Hathri comments, "Things are sometimes difficult at the library when there's a crowd. Because I usually go to the library to do my research, such crowding doesn't allow me to concentrate on my reading. The main problem I encounter is that the place isn't big enough and there are no vacant chairs."



There aren't enough places for more books and many books remain in the storage and haven't been presented to readers. PHOTO BY HAMED THABET

Nearly everyone comes to the library to do research for his or her university studies. Rarely do students use the library to learn or gain more knowledge. Additionally, such students never return to the library once they graduate.

According to Al-Sharafi, Sana'a libraries are particularly crowded at certain times of the year. "Between January and March and then again from April to July is when students visit the library a lot because those months are before university exams and when students do their research. However, the rest of the year, the library is vacant."

With no special section for children's books at either library, Al-Sharafi explains, "We had a section especially for children's books, but because no children ever visited the library and due to lack of space, we had to forfeit that section to shelve other books."

Al-Khameri believes untrained staff is the main problem of Sana'a libraries, commenting, "Trained staff knowledgeable about both the library and their duties is very important and the most needed thing in our libraries because a perfect library needs perfect librarians."

Visitors and numerous problems

Al-Khameri says Beit Al-Thaqafah has between 400 and 500 visitors daily, which is 12,000 per month and 144,000 annually. He notes that while every year witnesses an increase, 2004 had the highest attendance.

Additionally, he points out that Yemeni girls visit the library more than boys, with girls comprising the vast majority – 70 percent – of the 90 percent of library visitors who are students. So far in 2007, he says 1,915 books have been borrowed by those without library cards, while an indeterminate number have been borrowed by those with cards.

Qat and smoking aren't allowed in libraries, as Yemen Research Center librarian assistant Hashem Al-Dammaj explains, "Only on one condition is a qat chewer allowed to enter the library. If he arrives with qat already in his mouth, that's fine, but if he sits, opens his bag of qat and starts chewing, he'll be asked to leave immediately."

diately."

Due to lack of security measures and equipment, especially given that there's such overcrowding at the two libraries in Sana'a, many books are stolen, at which Al-Khameri declares, "Whoever is caught stealing will be sent to criminal investigation."

Upon entering the library at Beit Al-Thaqafah, visitors will notice a special book security machine, which the British Embassy in Sana'a donated six months ago to protect the books of Alan Dorsey, an English collector of books about Yemen in English on practically every subject.

Many library patrons used to borrow books and then not return them. For this reason, before borrowing any book, visitors must put down a deposit. Also, in order to borrow a book, patrons must have a library card. The lowest deposit at Beit Al-Thaqafah is YR 1,500. If an individual returns the book in bad condition, he or she will pay for it.

This practice has been done at Beit Al-Thaqafah since 1997. "Because many people used to borrow books and not return them, we had to implement this policy to make people feel that they have something valuable that must be returned. Since 1997, approximately 1,500 books haven't been returned to the library. People borrowed them and never came back," Al-Khameri points out.

At the Yemen Research Center, one difficulty is that there's no photocopier, which forces patrons to take the books outside of the library. According to researcher Abdullah, "Whenever I want to copy a book, I have to present my library card and pay the book deposit because there's no photocopier in the library, so I must go outside for that. I wish the library authorities would bring a photocopier for the library and make it easy for us because most patrons are in hurry."

She adds, "Books with only one copy can't be taken out or borrowed so that they aren't damaged. In this case, we must summarize the entire book."

Al-Sharafi expresses, "Only 20 percent of books have only one copy, while 80 percent have more than one and some have more than five copies. However, never is a book with only one copy permitted to be taken outside the library or borrowed because we don't want to risk it being damaged or not returned. Additionally, the way books are photocopied destroys them from time to time."

Why Yemenis aren't interested in libraries

The main problem lies within the families themselves, which must teach their children to read from a tender age.

The nation's economic situation also plays a big role in not allowing citizens to get to libraries, as Yemenis can think only about how to provide for their families and themselves in order to live.

Dammaj proposes, "The Yemeni government, especially the Education Ministry, should fulfill its role in teaching schoolchildren about the importance of books and reading. Each and every Yemeni school should have a library so teachers can guide children to learn how to read and increase their knowledge, but unfortunately, we don't see this being done at all in Yemen."

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Faces & Traces is a cultural series of concise biographies of local or international famous and obscure personalities in fields such as literature, arts, culture and religion in which these individuals contribute affirmatively. It is a short journey in contemporary history, attempting to tackle numerous effective characters in human civilization.

Omar Abdullah Al-Jawi, a man of democracy, unity and equality

Prepared by: Eyad N. Al-Samman

Omar Abdullah Al-Jawi was a Yemeni author, journalist and politician.



Born in Lahj governorate's Al-Waht village in 1938, he studied at his village's kuttab before attending elementary school in Lahj city. He then went to Cairo to study at a preparatory school, from which he graduated. However, due to his political activities, Al-Jawi and some other students were expelled from Egypt.

He returned to Taiz city in 1958, working as a journalist and publishing articles in Al-Taliya'a newspaper until 1959, when he received a scholarship to study journalism at Russia's Moscow University. Graduating in late 1966 with a master's degree in journalism, Al-Jawi was appointed editor-in-chief of Al-Thawrah daily newspaper in Sana'a in 1967.

During the 70-day siege of Sana'a in 1967, along with other nationals, Al-Jawi strove to end the situation via armed struggle, finally defeating the siege and those involved in it, after which he participated in creating the Laborers and Farmers Party in 1969.

Throughout 1970, he activated the campaign to establish a union for Yemeni authors and writers. Gathering for the first time in Aden on Oct. 29, 1970, approximately 17 authors and writers from all across the republic attended the meeting.

Al-Jawi began studying for a doctorate in 1971, but unable to complete his studies, he returned to Aden where he was appointed general manager of Aden's Radio and Television Corporation. Additionally, he began publishing "Al-Hikmah Al-Yamaniya" (Yemeni Wisdom) magazine as the mouthpiece of the Yemeni Authors and Writers Union.

At its second conference in Sana'a in November 1980, Al-Jawi was elected secretary-general of the union, occupying that position until the fourth conference. Additionally, he established the Yemeni Council for Professional and Intellectual Authorities in November 1989 and was its president.

In January 1990, Al-Jawi founded the Yemeni Unitary Congregation Party and was elected the party's secretary-general. He began issuing Al-Tajammua'a (The Congregation) newspaper as the new party's mouthpiece, also serving as its editor-in-chief.

Following Yemen's unification in May 1990, Al-Jawi was nominated counselor to the president's office via presidential decree in December 1990. Having participated in drafting the 1993 Document of Pledge and Agreement, which resulted from the National Dialogue Committee, Al-Jawi was one of the officials to sign the document in Amman, Jordan in February 1994.

During Yemen's May 1994 Civil War, Al-Jawi responsibly, courageously

ly and strongly rejected the declaration of secession by secessionists while he was in Aden, declaring his own clear attitude and that of his party, which wholeheartedly refused such secession.

Despite their number, Al-Jawi's relatively few written works are diverse, including critical, political, journalistic and poetic studies. His 1972 book, "Al-Zubairi, the Poet of Nationalism," combines political writing with ideological literature. In it, Al-Jawi traces the political steps of Al-Zubairi's poetry without worrying about the art in such poems.

Another of his books, "The Siege of Sana'a," (1975) represents a journalistic live report from the battlefield during the 70-day siege of Sana'a from November 1967 to February 1968. The book is a documentary record of events accompanying that period and explanations concerning the role of public resistance in quelling the siege, as well as discussing other critical events Yemen experienced during that time.

"Syndicate Journalism in Aden" (1957-1967) was published in 1976 by Aden's October 14 Press Corporation. In this book, Al-Jawi discusses the purpose of journals published in Aden regarding clarifying the region's future following independence promised for Yemenis in South Yemen by the British crown in 1968.

He also touches on politics and political bodies in Aden and their official newspapers, which expressed their opinions during that time. Further, he explains that syndicate journalism in Aden played a significant role in developing syndication and national awareness for laborers, in addition to developing the journalism profession.

Another of Al-Jawi's books is, "The Editorial of Al-Hikmah," published in 1985.

Al-Jawi has one lone poetic divan entitled, "The Silence of Fingers," published in 2003 by the Yemeni Authors and Writers Union. The divan includes poems chosen by Al-Jawi himself, who recorded some of them on cassette. Additionally, the poet handwritten some of the divan's texts himself.

Al-Jawi published some of his poems in local newspapers and magazines under the pseudonym, "Thu Nuwas," due to his personal belief that he wasn't a poet; rather, his writings simply were thoughts he composed in poetic style.

Additionally, Al-Jawi translated into Arabic the Russian book, "The Policy of British Colonization in South Yemen."

An award called the Omar Al-Jawi Cultural Award is dedicated in the field of critique and cultural studies and supported by the Yemeni Authors and Writers Union.

Al-Jawi died Dec. 23, 1997 at age 59, departing this life after immortalizing his name as a symbol of liberal revolution and patriotic unity in Yemen. Believing in democracy, unity, freedom of speech, equality and human rights, he devoted most of his life, as well as his journalistic and literary works, to affirming these principals and values.



Rarely do people use the library to learn and gain more knowledge. Almost all people visit the library in order to do researches. PHOTO BY HAMED THABET

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Ethiopians mark Nations and Nationalities Day in Sana'a

By: Yemen Times Staff

The Ethiopian Embassy in Sana'a held a colourful Dec. 6 celebration marking its 17th Nations and Nationalities Day. The event brought together diplomats, leaders from the Ethiopian community in Yemen and officials from the Ethiopian Embassy in Sana'a.

As part of the celebration, Ethiopian groups performed song and dance shows illustrating the various cultures of the different regions in Ethiopia.

Ethiopian Ambassador in Sana'a Tawfiq Abdullah noted that the day, celebrated Dec. 9, coincided with that nation's adoption of its new constitution,

which is based on federalism and equal rights for all nations and nationalities, adding that, "Nations and Nationalities Day is the basis of the Ethiopian Constitution."

The ambassador further pointed out that Ethiopia is comprised of more than 80 nations and nationalities, each with a different culture, language and social norms.

"We have diversity of nations and nationalities based on equal rights and terms as the foundation of unity," Abdullah said, adding that Ethiopia was founded on the qualities of nations and nationalities.

Development achievements

At the event, the Ethiopian ambassador



Ethiopian Ambassador in Sana'a Tawfiq Abdullah. PHOTO BY MOHAMMED AL-JABRI

stated that his country's development is booming. "Ethiopia is experiencing numerous development achievements in economic, cultural, political and social aspects. We have nine regions with their own councils, administration and court system," he noted.

According to him, his nation's economic growth has been constant and steady, at a minimum of 11 percent over the past two years.

"The developments and achievements are numerous and Ethiopia is on the right track. For example, 52 percent of the population is receiving access to clean water and in some places, education covers more than 90 percent and exceeds 80 percent in other areas," he stated.

Bilateral relations

The ambassador praised Yemen's relations with Ethiopia, saying such relations between the two countries date back to ancient times. "Since the 2001 Sana'a Forum was established, relations between Yemen and Ethiopia are at their highest peak economically, politically and socially. The relationship is beyond expression," he enthused, adding that both countries are enjoying very warm relations.

According to him, in the past, Ethiopia had a significant Yemeni community scattered throughout the country. "It was a large, strong and very successful community," he noted.

Ethiopia is one of the oldest nations in the world and Africa's second-most populous nation. It has yielded some of the oldest traces of humanity making it an important area in the history of human evolution.

Historically a relatively isolated mountain empire, Ethiopia has more recently become a crossroads of global international cooperation. It became a member of the League of Nations in 1923, signed the Declaration of United Nations in 1942, was one of the fifty-one original members of the United Nations (UN), and founded the UN headquarters in Africa. Ethiopia also hosts the headquarters of the African Union (formerly the Organisation of African Unity), of which it was the principal founder. There are more than 60 Ethiopian embassies around the world.

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Ethiopian groups performed song and dance shows illustrating the various cultures of the different regions in Ethiopia. PHOTO BY MOHAMMED AL-JABRI

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