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Akhdam in Dar Salam: "Fire burned our huts, but nobody cares"

By: Amel Al-Ariqi

SANA'A, April 19 — Twenty Akhdam families still are living without a roof over their heads after a fire broke out last week in the community's slum located in a desert-like area in Dar Salam in southeastern Sana'a city.

The families, who are living in very poor conditions with ashes nearby, are awaiting aid that hasn't arrived yet.

"Our children are sick with diarrhea and scabies. We're suffering in the heat all day and the cold at night. Please help us and our children!" pleaded Ahmed Al-Takrouty, leader of the zone where the fire broke out and whose hut also was burned down.

The fire destroyed some 25 huts in the slum, which is inhabited by more than 200 Akhdam families. The name "Akhdam" is synonymous with Yemen's servant class, who often prefer to be called "the Marginalized," a term used to describe Yemeni citizens of allegedly African descent.

Despite the fact that the shantytown is located behind a police station, near markets and new construction, these Marginalized are completely isolated and prevented from mixing with others, as well as legally forbidden to build their own houses.

In this current situation, they're nei-



Twenty families have been displaced by the fire.

ther allowed to remove the remains of their burned huts nor to rebuild or create new ones. "We can't remove the [burned] remains until a government committee pays a field visit to determine whether or not to give us aid," Al-Takrouty noted, "If we remove the remains before they come, they won't give us anything."

He said that there have been no official visits to the slum since the incident, although he noted that the nearby police station sent officers ostensibly to prevent the media from photographing or videoing the fire's destruction.

Najiba, a mother of four, recounted, "We saw smoke at 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 12 and then we recognized that it was a fire." She and her family now have crammed themselves in with other three families in a hut built of cartons and old clothes.

"Only women and children were available at the

time [of the fire] because the men were at work away from the slum, so we couldn't protect our property. Instead, we just fled our huts, crying and asking for help," Najiba recalled. Many male members of the Marginalized work as street cleaners during the day.

The owners of wood shops located near the slum called in water container vehicles to extinguish the fire, whose origin remains unknown. Firefighting vehicles arrived half an hour later to help finish the job.

Most of the slum's huts are constructed haphazardly of low concrete blocks, vehicle tires and are full of cheap wooden and plastic furniture. Mountains of trash are visible in any corner of the slum, which smells pungently of smoke.

While the fire caused no injuries or deaths, it did leave many individuals — particularly women and children — homeless, thereby exposing them to rough conditions such as sand and dust storms, which hit the area frequently.

"We were lucky that the whole slum didn't catch on fire," Al-Takrouty observed, adding, "This is from Allah."

However, Ali Abdullah Ghalib, executive manager of the national program for Marginalized peoples, has another theory. "Government officials and landowners have resorted to raiding and burning Akhdam slums in an effort to



There are over 3 million marginalized living in Yemen today.

force Marginalized communities to flee and not return," he said, adding that those residents who resist moving from the site of a fire or who insist on rebuilding their dwellings on the same site are intimidated by police because they have no legal protection for their housing or land tenure.

The Marginalized hold no titles to their residential spaces nor have any right to own property; consequently, they are evicted from their meager dwellings and their homes face raids and destruction. They can be evicted at any time without notice.

Ghalib harshly criticized the Yemeni government, as well as non-governmental organizations — including United Nations organizations — which "pay no attention to this category [of society], which is considered the poorest group in Yemen."

"Although I've sent letters to the concerned governmental authorities and NGOs like the Red Cross, nobody has responded and people still are living out in the open," he noted.

The fire in Dar Salam isn't the first of its kind, according to Ghalib, who confirmed that such incidents are common in Marginalized settlements, particularly in urban areas like Sana'a, Taiz, Hodeidah and Ibb.

Only in the aftermath of such catas-

trophes do their residents have access to assistance, which usually comes in the form of tents and some household items, but they receive no public utilities or services, according to Ghalib.

While there are no official statistics to account for the actual number of Marginalized peoples in Yemen, Ghalib estimates the group to be around 3.1 million. Residing in nearly every Yemeni governorate, their social status is that of social outcasts, with a severely poor economic situation and living in constant isolation from the rest of Yemeni society.

"These people are working hard to clean our streets and beautify our cities, but they are forced to live among the waste," Ghalib noted.



A member of marginalized community walks among the ashes.

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In brief

Sa'ada'

MP, his son and companion killed in Saada

A General People's Congress (GPC) Member of Parliament for Saada governorate Sheikh Saleh Bin Saleh Hidi Daghshan was killed in Sa'ada along with his son and a companion in addition to the wounding of six others, three of whom seriously wounded.

Saada security Chief Mohammed Hamoud al-Qaham said gunmen ambushed Friday MP Daghshan and his bodyguards in Al-Kkiyam area, 25 km to the south-east of Saada city while he was on his way to Saada from Al Ammar area where they showered him and his companions with gunfire, killing him, his son and one of his companions in addition to wounding six others who were rushed to a hospital in Saada for treatment.

Al-Qaham told 26september.net site that a security campaign was launched to the site of the incident in search for killers of Daghshan and his son and companion to arrest and send them to court and added that investigation started for discovering complications of the incident

Sana'a

New talks with WTO to be held in Geneva next June

Preparations are underway to hold a fresh round of talks between Yemen and the World Trade organization WTO in Geneva next June, director of the Coordination and Communication Office with the WTO Hamoud al-Najar has said.

The talks will deal with all topics related to Yemen's accession into the organization that will include the mechanisms organizing the flow of goods and services as well as reviewing Yemen's legislative system.

Al-Najar signaled that Yemen has made progress in the areas of law amendments and drawing up new laws that will pave the way for its entry into the WTO. He said that according to the government's plans Yemen will accede into the organization by 2009.

Yemen also made progress in talks with China, the US and the European Union during which Yemen signed agreements with each, al-Najar said.

He expected that Yemen will sign a deal with the European Union over the coming months particularly after the two sides had signed an agreement on the flow of goods.

He appreciated the US and European support and technical assistance to help Yemen join the World Trade Organization, saying they had contributed to qualify Yemeni negotiators with the organization.

On the other hand, al-Najar said Yemen has adopted a draft law to protect the national products in an attempt to avoid being affected after it joins the WTO.

Hadramout

Hadramout University students attend cultural week in Oman

Students delegation from Hadramout University for Sciences and Technology on Saturday left for the Sultanate of Oman to participate in the cultural week held by sciences colleges in the city of Salala on 20-25 of this month. The delegation would get acquainted with experiment of colleges and exchange of expertise.

In a statement to almotamar.net the Director of Training at the General Administration for students activities at Hadramout University Fahim Abdullah al-Affari said the university students would take part in scientific experiments that won prizes of the scientific exhibition and were praised by President Ali Abdullah Saleh during his visit to the exhibition in the last University Student week.

Int. & Gulf companies to invest in Hadramout and Mahrah

Chairman of Industry and Chamber of Commerce in Hadramout Omer Ba-Jarash revealed that 4 international companies presented their applications to develop and manage Mukalla port, build new port in Dhabah area in al-Shaher and to establish a joint company with Arab Sea Ports Authority.

Ba-Jarash affirmed that a Saudi group voiced its willingness to establish a company and invest the free trade zone in al-Wadiyah outlet. He added that another Saudi group also voiced its readiness to invest in Socotra Archipelago through establishing a joint company between the citizens and the government and the private sector. Ba-Jarash also revealed that two UEA investment companies and three Saudi companies show their interest to establish tourist hotels and luxury towns on the coast line of Hadramout and Mahrah provinces.

World Food Program says another six percent of Yemenis are living in extreme poverty

Poverty increase fueled by rising food prices.. "the new face of hunger"

By: Sarah Wolff

SANA'A, April 20 — More than six percent of Yemenis have dropped below the poverty line due to rising staple food prices, joining the 40 percent of Yemenis already living on less than \$2 per day, Yemen's country director for the World Food Program, or WFP, said at a press conference Saturday.

Additionally, there are few viable methods available to the average Yemeni family to help cope with the recent increased risk of starvation.

"Coping mechanisms are limited to skipping essential needs, so it either affects the food basket or health and education," said Mohamed El-Kouhene, Yemen's WFP country director, adding, "If we don't do something now, Millennium Development Goals will be set back 70 years."

In order to feed their families, those



Food instability is now a fact of life for six present Yemenies.

Yemenis living below the poverty line will have to either skip meals, decrease their intake of fruits, vegetables and

meat, or discontinue medical visits and schooling for their children, he noted.

The state of the nation's food instab-

ility, which has increased due to price hikes, has become more precarious as the \$28 million gap between the WFP's budget and Yemen's need continues to grow.

Although the Yemeni government has been attempting reforms in water management and increasing agricultural output, these efforts aren't enough to stave off hunger for the majority of the population, as both rural and urban residents are affected.

World Bank President Robert Zoellick urged developed nations to contribute the promised \$500 million in emergency donations to the WFP in a press statement made on April 9. "This isn't just a question of short-term needs, as important as they are," Zoellick stated to the Associated Press. "This is about ensuring that future generations don't pay a price too."

Between June 2007 and March 2008, the price of basic cereals has increased

55 percent worldwide, according to El-Kouhene.

A major factor contributing to the global rise in grain prices are energy and oil prices, which affect everything from food production to processing to transportation.

With oil prices reaching new heights, El-Kouhene expects food prices to increase as well, climbing for several months before stabilizing.

While there have been reports of field workers bribing beneficiaries or stealing food, El-Kouhene says the WFP has a strong monitoring system, noting that when commodities disappeared from one WFP warehouse last year, they were restituted quickly.

Other problems, such as water shortage and using arable land for qat production, are under government review, but the 46 percent of Yemenis living in dire poverty don't have the luxury of waiting for solutions.

Yemen's draught caused by climate change

By: Hamed Thabet

SANA'A, April 20 — "The climate changes during the last few years and especially this year is a real concern for Yemen, particularly if the frequency of precipitation events diminish, putting rainfall and agriculture in peril and lead to a catastrophic drought," said Anwar Abdulaziz, head of the Climate Change Unit in the General Authority of Environment Preservation.

"Every year the rain season starts at the beginning of March, and now Yemen is in the end of April and there is still no rain. This means that Yemen is truly affected by the climate changes," said Abdulaziz.

Though his agency has yet to complete studies on exact drought percentage increase, he is sure that this year and the next year will be difficult for Yemen because of the lack of rain.

According to the National Council for the Climate, there has been an increase in average temperatures in Sana'a over the last 20 years, though they do not have the exact percentage due to a lack of research. The expectation is that cities like Sana'a and Ibb will face cloudless skies and will cause more temperature rises, adds Abdulaziz.

For his part, the Director of the General Authority for Environment Preservation, Mahmoud Shudaiwa, pointed out that water and agriculture are the sectors that will be most affected by climate change in Yemen.

From 1999 to 2001, the General Authority of Environment Preservation prepared a program in order to study the climate changes in some of the areas in Yemen. The study used this information to recreate the environment dating back 25 years and to predict the future of the environment for the next 30 years.

"The main problem was that we did not have a study for all Yemen, we just took some areas and sectors as examples like a study on water change in Abyan delta, in the agriculture sector on potato and wheat production in Mareh, Sayoun, Ibb and Dhamar," said Abdulaziz. "Also, we focused on 10 kilometers of the coastal environment in the Red Sea next to Al-Hodeidah."

Some simple solutions have been suggested after the study, as for example; partition and breakers for waves. The rise in the level of sea water will cause coastal flooding in many places: Al-Hodidah will be in danger of sinking, like, some roads near the sea, some buildings, schools, and part of the port.

The Minister of Water and Environment, Abdul Rahman Fadhl Al-Eryani, confirmed in a statement that Yemen has prepared a national program for adaptation to climate change and

received advice and consultations from the international experts so that the national program will be consistent with similar climate change programs throughout the world.

"This meeting came at a time when several scientific reports and studies confirmed that climate change has become a reality that involves taking a serious stand by the incumbent bodies to put an end to this problem that threatens life," said Al-Eryani. He further stressed the importance of following the United Nations' convention on climate change so that it can offer the required support, especially given that Yemen will likely suffer financially from these changes that directly impact agriculture and water.

The late rainfall is already hurting the agricultural production that Yemeni farmers depend on to make their livelihood. Yemen is one of the least-developed and poorest countries in the Arab world.

There must be some cooperation with

all sectors that are responsible in the study of climate change, such as the General Authority of Environment Preservation, the Ministry of Water and the Ministry of Agriculture, according to Abdulaziz.

Although the staff working in this sector is qualified according to his or her specialization, the main problem is that, "We do not have enough funds to continue our job as all the support comes to us from non-governmental organizations," said Abdulaziz.

"Variable rainfall patterns, water scarcity, decreasing water quality, and worsening air quality are likely to compromise the supply of fresh water and affect public health and more likely lead to challenging life conditions. Globally, water scarcity already affects four out of every 10 people. A lack of water and poor water quality can compromise hygiene and health. This increases the risk of diarrhea, which kills approximately 1.8 million people every year," according to the latest WHO report.

Prime Minister welcomes Japanese investments in Yemen

By: Mahmoud Al-Samiee
For the Yemen Times

SANA'A, April 13 — Prime Minister Ali Mujawar welcomed Japanese investors, companies, and funding institutions to invest in Yemen and help promote Yemeni-Japanese economic partnership. During the opening ceremony of a two-day joint Yemeni-Japanese workshop on investment and trade, Mujawar said that "despite old trade relations between Yemen and Japan, we see that cooperation in the investment field is still far under the level we all seek for." Mujawar added that holding the workshop is an important step in setting up joint investments, as it revealed the importance of expanding fruitful cooperation between the two countries, and an indication of investors' willingness to invest in Yemen.

Mujawar also pointed out the economic and financial reforms Yemen has seen, as well as the country's law enforcement, judiciary independence, record in protecting public funds and strengthened transparency and accountability. He emphasized that providing Japanese companies and corporations with facilities, guarantees, exemptions and security services is ensured by Yemeni investment law.

For his part, Minister of Industry and Trade Yahya Al-Mutawakel reviewed the economic situation in Yemen, as well as the trade and industry policies, including Yemen's plan to expand its non-oil exports, support exports capabilities to foreign markets, and accelerate Yemen's accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO). He also affirmed that the industrial sector is one of the most important promising economic sectors because of its contributions in serving economic and social developments.

Head of Yemeni General Investments Authority (GIA) Salah Al-Attar reviewed a number of measures taken by the government to improve the

investment environment, saying that the president's electoral program and government's plans have focused on conditioning the investment environment and enabling the private sector to play a leading role in sustainable economic and social development.

The Japanese ambassador to Yemen, Masakazu Toshikage, stated that the workshop is a chance to acquaint Japanese investors with Yemen's efforts in developing the investment environment and increasing the number of investment opportunities in different fields. He confirmed the continuous support given by the Japanese government to Yemen to face its economic challenges and boost economic growth, adding that the Japanese embassy is working on improving trade and investment relations between Yemen and Japan. The ambassador also called on Japanese businessmen to explore investment opportunities in Yemen, as there are many investment opportunities in the country and a strategic location that provides opportunities in trade and industry in this part of the world.

The two-day workshop, organized by the GIA and Japanese embassy in Yemen, aimed at introducing the investment environment in Yemen to Japanese investors and presenting promising opportunities in fields of oil, gas, tourism, electricity, fisheries and others. Over 30 Japanese companies and 100 Yemeni organizations were represented.

During the second day, the participants discussed investment opportunities in oil, gas, minerals, electricity, tourism and fisheries. Executive director of Yemeni Company for Gas Anwar Hassan presented a report on oil, gas and minerals investments. He said that the country is producing 320,000 barrels a day, while all oil companies working in Yemen are conducting explorations in 29 percent of the exploration area, while 49 percent of the area has yet to be explored. He also talked about gas production and reserves in Yemen,

saying the country's gas reserves stand at 16.7 trillion cubic feet. "In Yemen, we have two areas rich in gas, the Shabwa-Marib and the Hadramout basins, while the country has 30 gas basins, only two of which have been explored," he said.

Concerning mining in Yemen, he said that Yemen is rich in minerals like gold, copper, zinc, metal phosphate and others, which present good opportunities to invest in mining. Then he moved on to discuss the question "Why Invest in Yemen?" discussing the factors encouraging investment in the country, such as political stability, geographical location, good climate, environment variety and cheap labor. Hamoud Al-Najar, a WTO coordination officer in the Ministry of Industry and Trade, talked about Yemeni trade policy and reforms made to improve the trade sector and international trade. He said that balance of payments between the two countries was negative due to an imbalance in exports and imports between the two countries. He reviewed the trade exchange between Yemen and Japan, noting that Yemen's exports to Japan are 1.1 percent of its total exports, while Yemen imports between two and four percent of Japan's total exports. Al-Najar also discussed Yemen's foreign trade policy, saying that Yemen is seeking to join the Gulf Cooperation Council and WTO, and there is a trade plan between Yemen and Sana'a Congregation States (Yemen, Sudan and Ethiopia). He pointed to several treaties and negotiations between Yemen, European and south Asian countries. He also said Yemeni trade law has been regulated and that 28 items have been amended, a matter enabling foreign investors to conduct importing and exporting processes from Yemen directly.

Ending the workshop activities in Sana'a, Yemeni and Japanese businessmen formed negotiation groups to discuss setting up possible joint venture projects.

Five engineers and two children are released after nine months of captivity

By: Almidgad Mojalli

SANA'A, April 20 — Members of the Bani Dhabyan tribe peacefully released seven hostages, two of which were teenage boys, last Wednesday after mediation with the tribe's sheikhs after nine months. The seven people had been kidnapped and held for ransom over a land dispute. "The mediation consisted of the sheikhs of Bani Dhabyan [securing] the release of the two children and the five engineers peacefully after the government announced to release them by force," said Ali Saleh Al-Komim, the father of Abdullah, one of the two child captives. "The sheikhs gave the kidnapers cars valued at YR 45 million and committed to oblige the kidnapers' opponents to repay their claimed money," he added.

The lead kidnapper, Abd-Rabu Alttam, stated during the past months that he wanted YR 70 million for his share of land located on Taiz Street in Sana'a and YR 150 million as interest.

Alttam told the Yemen Times that his partner Ali Al-Sha'arami and he released the seven hostages after they received YR 85 million, which was only a part of the money they spent during the past one year and a half. "The mediation consisted of the sheikhs of our tribe and the police chief in the district who came and gave me YR 40 million and gave my partner Ali Al-Sha'arami YR 45 million, and this sum is part of the money that we spent in following up our share of the land's value," said Alttam. He added that the Minister of Interior paid YR 10 million, while the sheikhs paid the rest of the sum.

The two teenage hostages involved in the case, Abdul Allah Ali Saleh al-

Komin,15, and Mohammad Yahya Naser al-Komim,17, were kidnapped in Sana'a in June 2007. According to security statements, the teenagers were isolated in a remote district of Bani Dhabyan since that time. Alttam's involvement in a land dispute led him to kidnap the boys because they shared the same surname (Al-Komim) as one of the protagonists in the dispute.

On January 8, 2008 after the case had stagnated for six months, Alttam took more hostages. Five engineers who were surveying a road project in Bani Dhabyan were kidnapped by Alttam. These five men, according to Ismail Al-Moayed, their manager at Yemen Rock Office, had no relation to Alttam's dispute. The Minister of Interior, Rashad Al-Alimi, announced last month in a parliamentary session that his ministry has failed to secure the release of two teens and five engineers kidnapped and held in Bani Dhabyan in Sana'a governorate's Khawlan district, located 50 kilometers east of Sana'a, for nine months. The hostages endured terrible conditions in regards to food, accommodations and health care.

According to Rafeeq Radman, one of the kidnapped engineers, he and his fellow hostages suffered from disease and malnutrition, but had no access to the necessary medicines or even to basic ablutions like a bathroom, a toilet, or running water, he said. "We all live together in one room and have eaten only two kinds of food, ased [similar to porridge], and beans, since we were kidnapped three months ago." Three food-strikes on consecutive days brought no reward and, as Radman added, "one of my colleagues is suffering from stomach sores and needs medicine."

WHAT IT MEANS...

Media development in Yemen

By: Dr. Mohammed Mo'ammad Abdul-Wahab
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The number of newspapers, magazines and web sites – be they organs of political parties, NGOs or even individuals – increases daily, thereby adding to the already existing state-run television and radio channels and newspapers. Further, it appears that the ubiquitous politically-oriented web site is a prominent feature on today's media scene.

Such diversity calls for a variety of opinions and enriches the creative and diverse environment. This vigorous media activity undoubtedly is a step forward, notwithstanding its minus and foibles.

The most important result of such media activism is for their audiences to accept the other's opinion and stop categorizing this 'otherness' as treacherous and condemnable.

The media's influence is represented in the transformation of feelings and tendencies and controlling emotions and impulses in a remarkable manner. The media profession requires the press to be able to deal with various media outlets in such a way as to achieve the desired transformation in the target audience.

Generally speaking, applied media studies have shown that audiences are never passive and that they respond to a particular media message's target in light of the tendencies, values, principles and standards in which they believe.

Therefore, it's crucial that the press be equipped with knowledge to be able to identify the type of media message addressed to the audience so that the message effects the desired change and forms the required picture.

Communication occurs between a sender,

whether an individual, a group or any entity, seeking to deliver a specific media message and a target receiver, be it an individual, a group or an audience.

The message is an essential component of this process, along with the channel or communication medium, which transfers the message – provided the channel is appropriate and suits the nature of the target audience.

Required development

At this stage of its development, the Yemeni media requires several steps. First, 1990's Press and Publications Law No. 25 drafted by the two partners of the Yemeni 22 May Unity remains as is, not having been developed to accommodate the changes occurring during the past 17 years; thus, it desperately requires proper amending.

Secondly, the media policy manifested in the principles upon which media outlets work must be developed based on the Yemeni Constitution, in addition to national goals and economic trends. They must be adapted to the current situation.

Third, all of us must advocate for privatized television channels and radio stations. Many citizens still fear this and are apprehensive about its possible dangers.

Fourth, the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate must be supported, as in past months, it has displayed its relentless professional advocacy for the rights of the press and journalists, thanks to its reliable leadership.

All journalists and national press should propel this syndicate forward without any form of selectivity, favoritism or self-seeking interests because this country is for everyone.

Finally, we can't ignore training, which is essential. Media staff must acquaint themselves with cutting-edge media techniques and tech-

nologies and monitor pertinent developments worldwide.

They should be enabled to attend both local and international symposiums, group discussions and conferences in order to exchange experiences with fellow journalists and press and further hone their skills.

A different world

Media policies and regulations represent national issues that must be reconsidered for development and involve all interested parties in their drafting and preparation. We must reach some type of consensus regarding them and then apply them practically.

Irrespective of present circumstances, Yemen's media sector must be developed, improved and purified of its blemishes quickly.

Everyone must understand that the contemporary period in which we live is quite different from the world a few years ago. For example, the communication and media revolution has led to incredible leaps in communication technologies – so much so that we no longer can close our borders and erect barriers between people and information.

Today, people can surf audio and video channels, web sites, browse newspapers and get news from various uncensored sources; thus, to continue resisting privatized television and radio is irrational.

The media outlets we yearn for should be devoid of past complexes and a double understanding of freedom. Likewise, they should be free of extremism and fanaticism, emphasize nationalism over localism and freely and openly discuss public issues.

The media is the driver and the voice of social activity, transcending humankind beyond its instincts toward the sought-after paramount goals of civilization.

What it means is an analytical feature of Yemen Times, in which Yemeni topics are discussed and analyzed by Yemeni and international experts. Contributions and comments are welcomed, they could be sent to yteditor@gmail.com.

Their News

Youth activists brainstorm at AIDS workshop

Approximately 115 youth activists and peer educators from across the country met for three days in Sana'a to share ideas and experiences at a national workshop seeking to combat HIV and AIDS by breaking the silence and supporting community-based action to create awareness and life skills-based education.

The workshop was organized by UNICEF, the World Bank, the United Nations Population Fund, GTZ, the Higher Council for Motherhood and Childhood and the Ministries of Public Health and Population, Education, Youth and Sports, Social Affairs and Labor and the National Population Council.

Participants from Sana'a, Aden,

Taiz, Hodeidah, Hadramout and Mahwit discussed putting together education manuals for supervisors, teachers and families, in addition to publishing a cartoon strip, all aiming to raise awareness about HIV.

Additionally, a technical committee from among the various ministries involved in the workshop has developed a national framework on HIV prevention, reproductive health and healthy lifestyles.

According to Bothainah Al-Eryani from UNICEF, the workshop participants varied in age, with some coming from different ministries and being older, while others from schools and other groups were much younger. She noted that the youngest participant was 10 years old. A 10-minute documentary film also was shown at the event in an effort to share the field experiences

of the peer educators and youth activists.

Workshop on urban water sector reform involves consolidating decentralization

Minister of Water and Environment Abdul-Rahman Al-Eryani stressed the importance of service institutions in Yemen, including the water and sanitation sector, being autonomous by consolidating decentralization and enhancing the local authority's role in the governorates. His statement came during a national workshop organized last Tuesday by the Ministry of Water and Environment in cooperation with the technical secretariat for water supply and sanitation sector in the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ). The workshop sought to discuss the findings from a consultancy study prepared by Management and Consulting Services on consolidating decentralization in the urban water supply and sanitation sector.

Several autonomous local corporations and utilities within the water sector from various governorates attended the workshop, in addition to representatives from the Ministries of Water and Environment, Planning and International Cooperation, and Finance.

Al-Eryani noted that the water supply and sanitation sector has witnessed numerous changes throughout the past 10 years due to a decentralization

process that began in the sector in 1997. As a result, new mechanisms are needed to cope with these changes.

He further added that making service utilities autonomous doesn't necessarily mean they won't be subjected to government accountability, particularly the Ministry of Water and Environment, adding that these utilities should be protected from political interference and local centralization in order to offer citizens better service.

The consultancy study presented at the workshop emphasized the transformation of autonomous utilities and local corporations into public companies. It also discussed the relationship between local corporations and water utilities within the same governorate, as well as the relationship between the Ministry of Water and Environment, local corporations and local authorities in the governorates. Mohammed Ibrahim Al-Hamdi, undersecretary at the Ministry of Water and Environment, said local corporations for the water and sanitation sector suffer from misconceptions by local authorities, noting that the water sector should follow an agenda of service and that the governorate's local council should possess the assets.

"Current water corporations follow the local authority's agenda, which in turn follows the government's political agenda; however, this is wrong because the water sector is a service corporation that shouldn't be dominated by any political agenda," Al-Hamdi pointed out.

MTN awards its first YR 2 million project winner



SANA'A, April 20 — Last Thursday at Fun City, MTN awarded its first YR 2 million project winner, Bandar Abdul-Da'em Sharaf, in its "Achieve your dreams – Take initiative with us" campaign. The campaign seeks to involve the private sector in supporting small development projects in an effort to consolidate sustainable development within Yemeni society.



is based on creativity and innovation, which is embodied clearly in the major innovative offers MTN presents from time to time. He also noted that the campaign is the first of its type in Yemen and aims to serve subscribers directly by funding a YR 2 million project. He added that the company supports and encourages sports, cultural, educational and health

activities. Sharaf expressed his happiness at MTN-Yemen's willingness to fund and begin his project, stating that the award will expand his future horizons. Further, he called on other firms to adopt and support development projects and follow MTN-Yemen's example in contributing effectively to developing Yemeni society.

MTN general marketing manager Walid Akkawi congratulated Sharaf on his first project. During his speech, Akkawi briefly explained the conditions of the firm's campaign, which automatically qualifies any subscriber to be selected to win funding for his or her project.

Akkawi said MTN-Yemen's strategy

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- To investigate procedures for registering trademarks and brand names in Yemen
- To liaise with international organisations and agencies to obtain the most favourable position for the organisation
- To present recommendations for contract negotiations with local agencies
- To present recommendations on transfer of assets and contracted personnel
- To present recommendations on schedule and documentation of establishment.
- To draft administrative and logistical policies and procedures, and make recommendations on operational matters.

The ideal candidate will have a legal qualification and proven professional experience dealing with Yemeni law governing associations, companies, commercial and organisational development in Yemen. They will be familiar with the regulations and requirements of international donors and aid agencies, as well as legal procedures and documentation. They must have good professional standing in Yemen, and be able to speak and write good English and Arabic.

The work will start 3rd May 2008. The whole task should not take more than 2 months.

Interested applicants should send an email to mcsmsadm@y.net.ye and request more information.

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Legal Officer (position based in Sana'a)

Job Duties:

- Handle the local legal workload of TEPY to ensure the provision of high quality / high value legal advice is given to all departments
- Provide detailed advice and guidance to TEPY's management in all legal issues
- Obtain, when necessary, external local legal advice and monitor the cost thereof

Job Qualifications:

- Bachelor degree in law
- Minimum experience of at least 3 years in local law, gained in private or industry practice
- Ability to handle large workload, good communication and interpersonal skills

Site HSE Officer (position based in Site)

Job Duties:

- Ensure the application of Total Yemen & Total HSE Policy (directives, rules, specifications, procedures)
- Assist the RSES in all HSE related matters such as providing advice on rules, procedures, reference documents, adapted equipment and best practices
- Ensure that all safety materials (including emergency ones) are identified, registered and that preventive maintenance is performed as per either manufacturer instructions or specific Site instruction

Job Qualifications:

- Bachelor degree in an engineering field preferably in Petroleum or Chemical engineering
- Minimum of 3 years experience in oil and gas operations (knowledge of HSE risks, materials and process-related risks)

Waste Management Controller (position based in Site)

Job Duties:

- Organize collection and reception of wastes and ensure proper segregation as per Company's rules
- Supervise all activities at Waste storage locations
- Ensure that all waste management equipment such as crushers and incinerators are identified, registered and that preventive maintenance is performed as per manufacturer's instructions or Site specific instructions

Job Qualifications:

- Technical degree preferably in Environmental sciences
- Minimum of 2 years experience in the field of waste management in the oil and gas industry
- Able to train and to pass on information and guidelines to Contractors etc

Head of General Services (position based in Sana'a)

Job Duties:

- Supervise maintenance contractors for maintenance work in all company's buildings and rented houses
- Supervise the process of providing suitable houses to all TEPY expatriates, which includes finding, negotiating and leasing, preparing and maintaining the houses
- Ensure that all offices' facilities are in order, (electricity, plumbing, water network)

Job Qualifications:

- Technical degree or significant experience on technical and maintenance fields
- Minimum of 5 years of experience in logistics and maintenance operations within a company of 100-200 employees
- Good negotiation and planning skills as well as good knowledge of local contractors

Recruitment & Development Officer (position based in Sana'a)

Job Duties:

- Assist in all the HR development and training activities
- Contribute to the overall process of recruitment that includes, but not limited to advertising, screening, short listing, testing, interviewing and selecting
- Complete all the necessary recruitment logistical actions as well as prepare all the required reports

Job Qualifications:

- Bachelor degree in administration or human resources
- Minimum of 2 years in human resources preferably in recruitment and development
- Good organization, interpersonal and teamwork skills

Site Security Liaison Officer (position based in Site)

Job Duties:

- Coordinate the site security activities with the Yemeni forces in charge of the site protection
- Control all guard posts on a daily basis
- Organize and supervise convoys and escorts as required

Job Qualifications:

- Minimum of 3 years of experience in security related positions
- Ability to implement and enforce security regulations
- Good background in staff and assets protection

Civil Works Supervisor (position based in Site)

Job Duties:

- Supervise the works undertaken by Contractors on site regarding rig platform construction, road access construction and repair, civil works modification and ensure quality and on-time delivery
- Review the daily work permits and ensure that they are issued as necessary
- Check materials availability beforehand and issue material requisitions for daily works

Job Qualifications:

- Bachelor degree in Civil Engineering
- Minimum experience of 4 years in the oil and gas industry
- Good knowledge of construction and inspection in mechanical and piping fields

Site Carpool Supervisor (position based in Site)

Job Duties:

- Supervise the site carpool activities and ensure that it is run well and smoothly
- Organize the general maintenance of vehicle fleet (routine, periodical, repair, accidents etc.)
- Follow up on work performance, whether it is done in conformity with agreed specifications or not

Job Qualifications:

- Good knowledge and understanding of vehicles running and maintenance
- Good organization and interpersonal skills, knowledge of PC software
- Good communication and reporting skills

Site Security Officer (position based in Site)

Job Duties:

- Conduct security assessments before any meetings or any social activities
- In liaison with the Site Security Advisor, develops strong relationships with the local community in relation to security issues
- Ensure the compliance of the security procedures of the site

Job Qualifications:

- Minimum of 5 years of experience in security related positions
- Ability to implement and enforce security regulations
- Good background in staff and assets protection

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Al-Jawf, a neglected governorate of angry citizens

By: Mahmoud Assamiee

Trouble is brewing in Al-Jawf governorate. The region, located in northeastern Yemen with an estimated area of 39,496 square kilometers and nearly half a million residents, lacks basic services such as water and electrical networks, sanitation and paved roads. Likewise, it has no public hospitals or health centers.

Although the region is known for its antiques and was home to the ancient Ma'een civilization that flourished between 4,000 and 1,000 B.C., it's also notorious for its plethora of both under-educated and armed residents.

The society in Al-Jawf is still tribal and citizens carry their arms – mainly Kalashnikovs – along the roads, in the markets and even in government facilities at all times.

A new approach to demands

Al-Jawf residents don't hide their anger regarding the Yemeni government's negligence toward them, demanding it provide them services and projects in the fields of electricity, water, education and paved roads.

Two weeks ago, five journalists representing the Yemen Times, the Yemen Post, Al-Ahali, Al-Nass and Al-Sahwa

newspapers went to Al-Jawf to cover the launch of a health center donated by the Japanese government in Al-Hazm district.

After the journalists left the Japanese officials with Al-Jawf's governor and the Yemeni Minister of Telecommunications, a group of armed men stopped the journalists' vehicle on the road back to Sana'a, demanding to know if the group was comprised of government officials. The journalists said no.

However, the armed tribesmen didn't believe them, having seen them traveling with the government vehicle cavalcade. "You're from the government!" they said, "We need projects because our governorate lacks government services. We won't let you out of the governorate without a commitment to carry out projects here!"

One journalist remained in the vehicle while his press colleagues spoke with the armed tribesmen, but when the situation escalated, he implored them to acquiesce, fearing a clash involving gunfire.

"Are you from the government?" one of armed men asked him. "We need an electrical project," another said, adding, "You won't be able to go without pledging us a project."

Reiterating that the group wasn't from the government, the armed men left after the group again swore that they weren't affiliated with the government.

Tackling the arms problem is just one hurdle

Ali Khamis, a dignitary and an educated resident of Al-Jawf, talked about the situation in his tribal governorate. "Health services are very bad. For example, if someone has a sick relative, he or she must take that individual to Sana'a due to our lack of hospitals. Likewise, if a woman experiences difficulty in childbirth, her relatives are forced to take her to Sana'a for help. In such cases, some women die while on the road to Sana'a."

Asked why local residents don't utilize the governorate's vast agricultural area and dig wells to expand its agricultural capability, Khamis replied, "No one dares to dig a well for fear of tribal clashes wherein everyone claims ownership of the land."

Regarding the widespread phenomenon of carrying arms, Khamis attributes the phenomenon to the lifestyle of tribal peoples. "Residents always carry their arms in order to protect themselves against clashes resulting from the numerous problems between them," he explained.

Abdulahman Al-Marwani, head of Dar Al-Salam Organization for solving revenge issues, attributes such revenge killing to several factors such as absence of law, poor economic conditions, tribal

issues, the spread of violence, absence of national force and tribal sheikhs who spread problems among the people.

"Wars sometimes erupt between tribes over land and water problems due to their desire to turn to their sheikhs to solve their problems. For their part, sheikhs are working to maximize these problems for their [own] special interests," Al-Marwani said.

He notes that Dar Al-Salam has settled more than 300 disputes in Al-Jawf and other tribal governorates, explaining that the organization solves such problems by gathering the tribes and coexisting with them by eating and drinking with them, as well as using moderate religious figures to enlighten local residents about the dangers of violence.

Rich in antiquities...and problems

Only 143 kilometers from the capital of Sana'a, with flat agricultural plains yielding fruits, vegetables and grains, Al-Jawf governorate is one of Yemen's richest areas for antiquities and historical sites.

During previous times, it was known as "Jawf of the Ma'eenis" within the Ma'een kingdom, which dominated an area extending from the Arabian Sea to the port of Gaza in the Mediterranean.

The governorate contains the ancient cities of Ma'een, Baraqesh, Kharbat Hamdan, Al-Beidha, Al-Sawda' and the



The governorate contains the ancient cities of Ma'een, Baraqesh, Kharbat Hamdan, Al-Beidha, Al-Sawda' and the temples of Antar, Nasayeb and Jabal Allouth. The cave of ancient Yemeni King Asa'ad Al-Kamel is among its other historical sites.

temples of Antar, Nasayeb and Jabal Allouth. The cave of ancient Yemeni King Asa'ad Al-Kamel is among its other historical sites.

Although the Yemeni government depends upon the local residents to protect these historical sites, allocating them salaries for this service, the sites still are subjected to damage and looting.

As one antiquities expert who requested anonymity claims, "Locals are looting the antiquities. With foreign help, they are conducting night digging of ancient sites to find antiquities and then sell them abroad."

Abdullah Askar, who is responsible for the Orphan Care Department at

the Charitable Society for Social Welfare, an association managed by the Islah Party, criticized his fellow citizens for their backwardness and arms-bearing, attributing the governorate's poor services to government negligence and area residents' lifestyle. "Government services are absent in Al-Jawf due to its people's backwardness," he explained. "There aren't enough public hospitals and the only public one here closed due to government negligence and problems among citizens over the hospital's land."

"You could say that the government is turning a blind eye to what's happening here," Askar concluded.

Korean assistance in Yemen is small, but significant

By: Joseph Park For the Yemen Times

While Korean non-governmental organizations are relatively new to Yemen, Korean aid isn't. As cooperation between the two nations continues, Koreans and their organizations are establishing roots here.

Since 1991, the Korean government has given Yemen more than \$32.4 million. Over the years, it has helped with large infrastructure projects, including a communications network modernization project between 1998 and 1999, in addition to assisting with drought relief.

According to the Korean Council for Overseas Cooperation, approximately 57 Korean NGOs are working around the world, seven of which are in the Middle East and two currently in Yemen, spending approximately \$200,000 annually.

Good Neighbors offers financial support to various organizations, while Global Care, the other Korean NGO in Yemen, focuses on health and the social welfare of Yemenis. Some of their projects include providing Korean professionals for Yemeni institutions such as the Center for the Disabled in Taiz and the National Cancer Center, as well as community health development in the poorer areas of Sana'a, such as Bani Hushaish, and clinical training of doctors and nurses.

The Yemeni government has commended these two NGOs' activities for



The Korean NGO in Yemen, focuses on health and the social welfare of Yemenis.

providing efficient medical care, even wanting Global Care to serve as an example to attract more Korean NGOs to Yemen in the near future.

Global Care country director Dr. John Park states that while he's satisfied with his NGO's outcomes, he also desires to see strong, standardized administrative support from the Yemeni government.

"Although the Yemeni government is working hard to cooperate with international NGOs here in Yemen, speaking as an NGO worker, its administrative support seems somewhat insufficient," Park noted.

Ahmed Hussein Jawi, the Ministry of Planning's general director for cooperation with NGOs, stressed the impor-

tant role that Korean NGOs are taking on in Yemeni society. Considering the fact that, compared to many other countries, Korea's aid to Yemen began slowly and is relatively small, he pointed out that it is increasing and covers numerous sectors of society.

"The Koreans are helping to improve Yemen's infrastructure and there's still room for more to come and help," Jawi said, ensuring the Yemeni government's full support for Korean NGOs wanting to work in Yemen.

One of the biggest obstacles for NGOs in Yemen is the precarious security situation, but members of the government have said that this shouldn't discourage NGOs – Korean or otherwise – from coming to Yemen.

One area urgently needing international aid is Al-Mahrah governorate located near the border of Oman. Due to its remoteness, it seems to open wide its doors for many NGOs to come and work and for international aid to flow into it.

However, the surrounding circumstances for NGOs in Yemen don't always seem promising. "Although Yemeni government officials do cooperate with international NGOs, some of the procedures to establish or work with an NGO are time-consuming," commented Weshik Jeong, country director for Good Neighbors.

Although there are few Korean NGOs in Yemen, this can be viewed as a challenge for Koreans to expand their assistance to Yemen.

As Park pointed out, "Koreans also once experienced extreme poverty following the Korean War, but their economy grew significantly due to international aid, so now is the time for Korea to take up the responsibility to share this privilege with the Yemeni people."

Erratum


In an interview with the general director of the Yemeni Executive Mine Action Center published on Thursday, April 4 in issue no. 1143 and entitled "Landmines exist in nearly every governorate," the names of the center's financial donors accidentally were omitted. The Yemen Times apologizes for this and so republishes the question and answer regarding the center's operating budget and its funding sources.

Who supports and funds the Mine Action Center?

With an annual budget of \$6.5 million, our center works under the National Mine Action Committee in cooperation with UNDP. The cost of mine operations in Yemen varies annually, with the Yemeni government providing 50 percent of our budget in remuneration for national staff (salaries, field allowances and other benefits, such as health care and social security).

We've received additional contributions via bilateral channels or the UNDP from the governments of Belgium, Canada and CIDA (the Canadian International Development Agency), Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom, but even this support sometimes isn't enough.

Technical difficulties also are a major problem because Yemen has vast deserts and sandy areas, which makes our work more difficult.



SUPPORTING REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH, POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT IN YEMEN

The UNFPA Country Office in Yemen, Sana'a, is looking to fill the post of Post Title: -National Programme Officer, RH Policy (NOB)

Duties and Responsibilities:

Under the overall supervision of the Country Office Representative or Deputy Representative and direct supervision of the Assistant Representative RH, the NPO substantively contributes to the effective management of UNFPA activities in the area of reproductive health and family planning. He/She analyzes and assesses relevant political, social, and economic trends and provides substantive inputs to programme/projects formulation management, and evaluation, joint programming initiatives and national development frameworks.

I. Technical Advice:

- 1) In collaboration with Government counterparts, UNFPA/CST technical advisors, NGOs and other partners contributes substantively to the formulation and design of the country programme and its component projects in advocacy cases in line with Government priorities and according to UNFPA programme policies and procedures. Ensures quality of programme/project design incorporating lessons learned, newly developed policies and best practices and establishing appropriate execution and monitoring mechanisms and systems;
- 2) Analyzes and interprets the political, social and economic environment relevant to reproductive health and identifies opportunities for UNFPA assistance and intervention. Keeps abreast of new policy developments and strategies analyzing policy papers, strategy documents, national plans and development frameworks and prepares briefs and inputs for policy dialogue, technical assistance coordination and development frameworks;
- 3) Analyzes and reports on programme and project progress in terms of achieving results, using existing monitoring and evaluation tools and introducing new mechanisms and systems; identifies constraints and resource deficiencies and recommends corrective action. Monitors project expenditures and disbursements to ensure delivery is in line with project budgets and to realize targeted delivery levels;
- 4) Expedites and coordinates project implementation establishing collaborative relationships with executing agencies, experts, government counterparts and other UN agencies facilitating timely and efficient delivery of project inputs and addressing training needs of project personnel;
- 5) Helps create and document knowledge about current and emerging population development and RH and gender issues, by analyzing programmes, projects, strategies approaches and ongoing experience for lessons learned, best practices, and shares with management for use in knowledge sharing and planning future strategies;
- 6) Assists advocacy and resource mobilization efforts of the Country Office by preparing relevant documentation, i.e. project summaries, conference papers, speeches, donors profiles and participating in donor meetings and public information events;
- 7) Leads the preparation and conduct of the events serving as an advocacy tools for promoting ICPD and MDG Agencies
- 8) Do other duties as assigned by the supervisor.

Qualifications and Experience Required

- The ability for advocacy and advancing a policy oriented agenda.
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- Integrity, commitment, and respect for diversity.
- Skills to manage relationships communicate and develop people.
- An ability for analytical and strategic thinking and results orientation.
- willingness to travel.

Other Requirements:

Successful candidates must have a master's degree in public health and/or other health related or social science field. We expect professional experience of 3 to 5 years, preferably in programme/project management in the public or private sector. Language requirements are: fluency in English and Arabic. Candidates are expected to be proficient in current office software applications.

Please send your application with a covering letter to: UNFPA, P.O. Box 7272, Sana'a.
 Deadline for application: 5 May 2008
 Please note that only candidates who fulfil the above requirements will be considered and notified.
 UNFPA is offering equal opportunities however qualified females are strongly encouraged to apply



There are few Korean NGOs in Yemen, this can be viewed as a challenge for Koreans to expand their assistance to Yemen.

Announcement

Ministry of Industry & Trade, the General Department of Agencies and Foreign Companies Branches announces for the General Managers of working Foreign Companies Branches in Yemen, which are not registered or have not renewed their licences to present to the General Department of Agencies and Foreign Companies Branches for registration or renewal of their licences within 60 days from the date of this announcement in accordance to law No. (23) 1997.



Vacancy Advertisement

In its efforts to strengthen its public information services worldwide, the World Bank Office in Sana'a has an immediate vacancy for a **Public Information Assistant**.

The applicant is expected to meet the following requirements:

- Bachelor degree in Information or Library, Communications, or a related field and some relevant work experience in the delivery of information and dissemination activities.
- Knowledge and understanding of information management and library processes, procedures and best practices, including the relevant technology and familiarity with communications approaches, tools, and methodologies for planning, executing, and monitoring communications and information strategies to the public – e.g., campaign management, social marketing, opinion research, outreach tactics, message targeting, etc.
- Excellent oral and written communications capabilities; strong organizational, research/analytical and presentation skills. Spoken and written fluency in English and Arabic.
- Strong computer skills; proven ability to use standard and customized technology packages, e.g., Internet, Word, Lotus Notes, PowerPoint, Excel and basic knowledge of Web Editing.
- Knowledge of social, political and development issues in Yemen.
- Personal and professional integrity, self motivation and proven ability to work under minimum supervision and as part of a team.
- Ability to carry out multiple tasks within tight deadlines and work under pressure.

The incumbent will perform the following duties:

- Implement a dissemination outreach program within Yemen to ensure a broad understanding of the organization's activities and to facilitate public access to the organization's documents, publications and knowledge.
- Acquire, maintain, control and disseminate the physical and virtual collection of the organization's documents and publications.
Maintain current knowledge of all operations in Yemen and ensure that all relevant documentation is available in a timely manner.
- Routinely advise the organization's staff on proper disclosure procedures; provide expert advice to external audiences on the implementation of the policy and contribute to the country's media monitoring services. Provide input and content for the Public Information Center's web site and ensure its information is up-to-date.
- Under appropriate guidance, and as needed, implement partnerships with libraries, public institutions and organizations to extend and diffuse access to the organization's information and knowledge in various areas of Yemen. Liaise with information professionals from development agencies to build and sustain partnerships in information outreach activities.
- Draft, edit, produce, and distribute routine outreach materials such as brochures, email bulletins, press releases, etc.

For full consideration, please send your CV and a letter of application before May 2, 2008 attn: Office Administrator via e-mail: WBYemen@worldbank.org or apply on-line: <http://www.worldbank.org/jobs> and choose vacancy # 080835

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Solid Waste Management Project SWMP/GTZ Yemen

Introduction

The solid waste management project in partnership with the Ministry of Local Administration (MoLA) is working on decentralizing waste management and providing the necessary technical assistance required in this field which include (Designing cleaning concepts, designing waste disposal concepts, capacity building in SWM, design of SWM legislations and by laws, etc.). The project is working on two main levels, the national level with MoLA and the local level with Governorate's cleaning funds and districts. The project is currently seeking to hire a second SWM national expert under training. The potential candidates are not necessarily required to have a SWM background but are required to have a technical and or engineering background. Candidates with field work experience are welcomed to apply as well as new young engineers.

Job Title: Solid Waste Management Specialist

Duration: until 31. December. 2008 with possibility of renewing.

Work place: Mainly at the project office at MoLA in Sana'a and in the field in several Governorates when required.

Qualifications & Requirements:

- Bachelor of engineering in any of the fields of (Civil, Mechanical, Environmental, Chemical, Geological).
- Candidates with out engineering background should have field work experience. Such candidates are site supervisors and or former employees with international agencies.
- Ability to work in the field and deal with the cleaning departments personnel.
- Ability to be a team player, learn SWM activities and follow the instructions of the team leader.
- Arabic + English and computer skills are a must.
- To be Yemeni national and preferably under 35 years of age.

Job description:

- Travel to governorates at any time when needed.
- Work in the field with the cleaning department supervisors which include field supervision of city cleaning and supervision of waste landfill operations.
- Prepare field reports and collect data from cleaning departments.
- Assist the first national expert in his work and duties of SWM related issues.
- Perform all other work related to the activities of the project.

All CVs should be submitted in English to the SWMP office by fax or e-mail or to the following address by person:

Ministry of Local Administration
Yemeni - German Solid Waste Management project
Al- Qiyadah St. Al Sumairy building second floor (Before Al Shalal Restaurant)

Attention Mr. Abdullatif Almohaya

Tel: 01/251701

Fax: 01/251704

E-mail: mohayalatif911@yahoo.com

Notes :

- Only Yemeni Nationals has the right to apply.
- Deadline : 30/4/2008
- Include all contacts in the CV.

Drug dealing in Lebanon: At home with a drug baron

For years, Hizbollah has been trading Lebanese-produced heroin and cocaine for Israeli military secrets. Alfred Hackensberger reports from Lebanon's Beqaa Valley, a hub of the drugs trade

"It's quiet out there ... as usual," says Mohammed on his return from his patrol. He puts down his AK47 on the couch beside his two-year-old son, who immediately starts playing with it. Unperturbed, his wife smiles and serves

tea. In this part of the country, weapons are as much a part of the household inventory as a fridge or a television. Visitors or relations leave their weapons at the door as if they were wet umbrellas.

Mohammed is one of some 20 drug lords in the Beqaa Valley, which is approximately 150 km long and reaches right to the Syrian border. He lives with his family in a five-storey house in an isolated village. Only the top storey of the house has been completed; the rest is just a shell.

Up on the roof terrace there is a

machine-gun post; huge searchlights are positioned at each corner. Sentries are on duty around the clock. They carry assault rifles with grenade launchers and are in permanent radio contact with each other. In between slurps of hot tea, Mohammed says that even though the police or military rarely venture into the area, it pays to be on your guard.

He goes on to say that they generally only come to the valley to clear a few marijuana or opium fields for the press, just to show that the Lebanese government is addressing the drugs problem. He grins broadly.

Drugs dominate everyday life

The Beqaa Valley, a plateau that lies 1,000 metres above sea level, is an extra-territorial zone. The authorities have virtually no control here. Once off the main road, there are only tracks and no signposts to guide the traveller. Soldiers sit motionless in their posts and don't even bother to turn their heads to look at passing cars.

Those who don't know their way around could easily drive for hours without encountering a house or a human. It's

a remote region, the back of beyond. The only settlements are small hamlets with two or three houses where the man of the house generally greets visitors by asking them how much heroin, cocaine, or crack they want loaded into the boots of their cars.

Everyday life here is dominated by the industrial production of and trade in drugs. It is not only the young who take drugs around here; housewives, mothers, and grandfathers are free to snort cocaine and smoke heroin or crack if they so choose.

Passing on Israeli secrets

The 33 kg of heroin that were confiscated on the Lebanese-Israeli border on 25 March originated in the Beqaa Valley. It was the largest haul of its kind in the area. In February, the Israeli authorities bust another drug-smuggling ring involving an Israeli sergeant, Louai Balut.

Balut stands accused of telling Hizbollah by telephone where Israeli troops were stationed along the Lebanese border. This is certainly not the first time a story like this has come to light. Since 2000, a total of 24 military officers,

police officers, and civilians have been imprisoned for their role in the drugs trade between Lebanon and Israel.

Drug lord Mohammed hasn't got much to say on this topic. "The drugs produced here are sent all over the world, to Israel too, of course," he says coolly. "But that has nothing to do with us." He grins slyly as if to add "say no more".

A side-effect of the 1982 invasion

During the Lebanese civil war (1975-1990), Lebanon was one of the world's largest producers of heroin and hash.

At the end of the armed conflict, the new government cracked down on the cultivation of the plants needed for these drugs. To get around the problem, the Lebanese drugs mafia began importing the necessary raw materials from other countries. Morphine base was imported from Afghanistan or the Golden Triangle in South-East Asia and coca base from South America. These products were then processed into heroin, cocaine, and crack in the laboratories of the Beqaa Valley.

Israeli soldiers who came to Lebanon following the 1982 invasion and stayed there as an occupying force for the next

18 years soon discovered the lucrative potential of hard drugs. Thanks to their contacts in the South Lebanese Army (SAL), the militia with whom the Israelis worked closely, drugs were quick, cheap, and easy to come by.

Occupational hazard

The business contacts forged during this period remain intact to this day. Lebanese families whose members used to work for Israeli authorities are still running the trade in drugs to Israel. The Biros and the Naharas are two such clans. Ramzi Nahara was a police informer in the 1980s before changing sides and working for Hizbollah. He was mysteriously killed in a car bomb attack in Lebanon in 2002.

Mohammed Biro received the Israeli Defence Minister, Moshe Arens, into his home in the 1980s. Following his fall from grace, Biro died in an Israeli prison in 2003. The threat of an untimely death is an occupational hazard in this business.

Elhanan Tannenbaum, an Israeli businessman who was kidnapped by Hizbollah and used as a barter chip in a prisoner exchange in 2004, also tried to make his fortune in heroin. Kais Obeid, an Arab with an Israeli passport, asked Tannenbaum to meet him in Abu Dhabi. Once there, Tannenbaum was kidnapped by Hizbollah and brought to Lebanon.

Obeid, who disappeared from Israel in 2000, is said to be running a huge network that specialises in the smuggling of drugs into Israel from an unknown location in Lebanon.

The indirect war

Kais Obeid works closely with Hizbollah, which controls much of the Beqaa Valley. Officially the Party of God is opposed to all kinds of drugs. That being said, Hizbollah does not want to risk a confrontation with any of the valley's powerful clans as the only way to subdue them would be to use armed force.

And anyway, Hizbollah takes the line that the drugs are being used for a good cause, namely to buy Israeli military secrets. The organisation considers the drugs trade to be part of an "indirect war" against Israel, one that certainly came in handy during the 34-day war in the summer of 2006.

Alfred Hackensberger
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Minimum Requirements:

- Majored in petroleum machine or related discipline
- 3 years of experience in the oil and gas industry
- Very good knowledge of drilling equipment or Caterpillar engine or Volvo generator including the maintenance system and methods.
- Ability to work in multicultural environment and good communication

Application Criteria:

- All candidates can speak both Arabic and English fluently, must be healthy and can do the field-work.
- The candidate with abundant experience in same position should have the priority.
- Please send your CV in English with your qualification only by e-mail to the following address: yemen@zpebint.com
- Applications must be submitted no later than May 15, 2008.




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Yemen-Ethiopia Revive Ancient Trade



The first Yemen-Ethiopia Trade Exhibition is held in Sana'a between 14th-19th April 2008.

Abduraheem Ali Saleh Saber, the organizer of the Trade Fair and Bazaar, expressed that the trade show has objectives of promoting investment and trade, enhancing cultural and economic ties between the countries and creating market access to Ethiopian products in Yemen and vice versa.

The deputy Mayor of Sana'a City H.E Mr. Ameen Joman opened the Trade Fair in the presence of dignitary ambassadors, diplomats, busi-

ness communities and others. In his opening statement H.E Mr. Ameen Joman recalled the already existing deep-rooted, longstanding, historical ties and trade relations between the two countries. This primal trade of the two countries should be further deepened to benefit the two peoples, he added. Ethiopian ambassador to Yemen Dr. Tawfik Abdullahi, on his part, stated the presence of great potential in trade and other economic sectors between the two countries, yet not effectively utilized. He reiterated the history of socio-economic, cultural and political relations of Yemen and Ethiopia. Dr. Tawfik advised all

businessmen to use the opportunities to promote trade and investment between the two communities. He said that the Ethiopian Embassy in Sana'a will facilitate such visits and trade exhibitions.

Many business organizations, from Ethiopia and Yemen, participated in the Trade Fair and Bazaar organized by Abduraheem Saber General Business



To: Ambassador Jazem Abdulkhalq Al-Aghbari,
Yemeni Ambassador in Ethiopia and Ambassador Dr.
Tawfik Abdullahi Ahmed, Ethiopian Ambassador in
Yemen

We would like to appreciate your thoughtful support in realizing the Trade Fair and Bazaar meaningfully, which has endless impact for both Yemen and Ethiopia. Hopefully, such program is believed to have continuity in coordinated manner with intensive involvement of all responsible parts who appreciate the objectives of the programme.

With best regards,
ABDURAHM ALI SABER
GENERAL MANGER



Words of Wisdom



The problem is the helplessness people feel. Most people feel they have lost control, and even a sense of direction. They drift along with the current. They feel uncomfortable with the flow as they believe there is no one in charge.

This is because the Yemeni individual is used to an autocratic system in which things are predetermined and people are given exact roles to play.

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

An advice to teachers:

You have rights, but are required to improve performance

By: Abdullah Al-Bahri

Matters sometimes get confused when talking about the rights deserved by and duties required from a Yemeni teacher. Such confusion grew with the appearance of many Yemeni teachers on the T.V. screens, complaining of their being underpaid, as well as raising other petitions.

Those teachers joined several protests in different provinces, claiming the government to increase their salaries and improve their living standards. But what happened after their demands were met? We found that some irresponsible individuals are still instigating teachers to escalate their

protests through exploiting the available democratic atmosphere and the wider scope allowed for self-expression. Many teachers behaved in an expected manner, not understanding why some irresponsible individuals encourage them to escalate their protests and strikes.

Yemeni teachers would rather understand that the primary goal of those, instigating them to go on strikes and protests, is to hinder progress of the educational process. In my opinion, those irresponsible individuals - having nothing to do with the real rights claimed by teachers, exploit the currently notable poor performance in the educational facilities to achieve personal interests. They are not really concerned about

improving teachers' performance and developing the educational process.

As students' parents, we are not against teachers claiming their rights or raising a list of demands to be met by the government as much as we are concerned about teachers' performance in schools, which we see as not matching the list of demands raised by them.

Yemeni teachers are advised to improve their seemingly poor performance and behave responsibly before complaining about being underpaid or unsatisfied with their living standards.

Those teachers, who never hesitate to join any demonstrations, sit-ins or protests over allegedly unmet demands, surely know that there are numerous flaws and neg-

atives associated with their performance at schools, and therefore admit that such negatives affect performance of our children.

Most of the school year's days are wastefully spent in such irresponsible practices that require male and female teachers to stop teaching and take to streets to protest against the government. As far as I am concerned, the poor education quality countrywide is - in one way or another - directly related with such irresponsible actions. Even worse, hours spent by teachers in classrooms come below the minimum working hours stipulated by the relevant laws and legislations.

We have to bear in mind that good education quality is key to comprehensive development in all

the political, economic and social areas. And, any educational issues that remain unsolved are responsible for vulnerable and slow development in the various areas.

Concerned about their children's future, parents need to press the government, represented by the Ministry of Education, and education officials in the different provinces to step up joint efforts with the aim of reviewing and assessing teachers' performance at schools, and identifying at which rate our children are progressing. Having done so, it will be easier for them to suggest workable solutions and remedies to any persistent education-related issues.

Source: Al-Thawra State-run Daily.

OUR OPINION

Rising above grudges

Criticizing is easy. In fact it comes off as the talent everyone seems to possess, yet constructive criticism is a different thing all together. Constructive criticism includes conveying a healthy message about the issue or person criticized along with ideas for improvement. It also includes space and tolerance to accommodate more than one opinion. It allows space for democracy and freedom of opinion for the common good.

All this, is yet to be understood by both Yemeni people and government including media, activists and politician or political observers.

It seems that any issue of argument as displayed in media and public gatherings has turned from a national issue to personal concerns. The lashing by the government newspapers against the opposition for example or even vice versa gives a feeling that there is personal enmity between the two conflicting parties not that it is an issue concerning the common good. Many times it could reach personal insult and direct abuse which is behavior not acceptable at all and not the least professional.

If we want to be heard, appreciated and understood we must learn to tolerate the differences in a constructive manner. Otherwise credibility of the opinion voices and even the person voicing it will be in stake.

This is particularly important for media tools to understand whether government or non-government. They represent the intellectual voices of the society and they should play a role model. If we are not careful what we portray then not only the local but also the international community will not take us seriously, let away the person or issue being criticized.

Before preaching about democracy and tolerance we should practice it ourselves, because as we lose ourselves to our personal grudges a nation gets lost in the mess.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf

When a committee breeds another committee

By: Yahya Al-Haddi

During its most recent meeting, the National Defense Council (NDC) decided to form a presidential committee, chaired by Vice President Abdurabbo Mansour Hadi, to be in charge of suggesting workable solutions to pressing issues and taking the kind of measures and procedures that maintain nationwide security. The committee was made up with the good determination to resolve issues one by one in a way complying with the public interest.

Such nicely floating words concealed the real goal of forming the presidential committee, which

is calming the escalating protests in different parts of South Yemen and cracking down on protests, contrarily to the NDC's decision that meant to examine and investigate unrest in the different parts of Yemen. Any identified reasons needn't creativity or harder efforts to discover them. Regretfully, solutions suggested by the authority seem to be far away from the real problems and have nothing to do with the status quo.

Dear readership, If want to verify how serious the government is to deal with a particular issue, you need only to make sure whether a special committee was formed to be in charge of handling such an issue. In case this committee appears on the website or on front pages of

official newspapers, you have to directly bear in mind, without inquiring about further details, that 'the cycle bin' will be the final resting place for the issue in question.

Last year, a republican decree was issued to form a committee, of which the name as written in two lines: "The National Committee for Addressing the Negative Social Phenomenon and Protecting the National Unity". According to the republican decree, the committee's tasks were topped by addressing the notable consequences, which the 1994 Civil War left behind. The committee was not formed as a result of care about the national interest, or in response to citizens' concerns. But thanks to pressure

practiced by enraged retirees and those dismissed from government jobs in the southern governorates without a clear reason, the government was obliged to form this committee.

If the government was credible and honest since the very beginning, had good intents to carry out pre-planned activities and gave a real role to that committee, most of the notable consequences related with the 1994 Civil War and the currently experienced dire situation would be avoided.

On the contrary, the government behaved in an irresponsible manner, and ignored and underestimated citizens' sufferings and pains until all the reconciliation efforts reached an impasse, and

consequently failed to deal with the growing negative phenomena nationwide.

We fear that the current dire situation may continue worsening, mainly as the government seems to be neither serious nor concerned about what is happening. This government never thinks about reviewing or modifying any of its vulnerable mechanisms suggested for addressing certain issues.

Nothing can help us get rid of the current dire situation except for forming a new supreme committee in order to oversee how the previously formed committees operate, and then reorganize and reprioritize their activities and duties.

Source: Al-Masdar.net

If I am Mr. President

By: Moneer Al-Mawri

Undoubtedly, President Ali Abdullah faced great threats and challenges during his 30 years in service, but numerous factors helped the leader overcome such threats and obstacles. These factors include his shrewdness, weakness and fragility of his opponents and the external

relative satisfaction with his performance.

The situation changed after thirty years now, as Mr. President's shrewdness has changed into arrogance, his opponents become stronger, and the foreign players turned to actually fear that the current performance of the regime may take the country into comprehensive collapse, shake international stability and create a new haven for terrorism.

If I am President Saleh, I will not quit power amid such circumstances because doing so will be interpreted or judged by others as "escapism". But, I will not accept my name being highlighted in the books of history such as Sayyad Berri, thereby labeling me as the man who divided Yemen instead of naming me as its "Uniter". In order to protect my reputation, maintain my history glorious and perform my duties and responsibilities, I will do the following:

First, I will resign my post in the General People Congress (GPC) (which is the ruling party in Yemen) and retain my post as President of the Republic and Higher Commander of the Armed Forces. Second, I will call for early parliamentary elections, which is due to be preceded by forming a neutral Supreme Commission for Elections and Referendum (SCER) to be accepted by the opposition. I will work more credibly, be neutral in the elections, and will not allow any exploitation of public funds or official media in favor of any political party or candidate.

Third, after the election is over, I will authorize the winning party or the group of parties that won the majority of seats to form a new cabinet. I will not intervene in selecting the prime minister or the cabinet ministers because I want the winners in the election to be in charge of such tasks. In case the winners succeed in this task, this means we rescued our country together. But, if they fail, I will be no longer responsible for their failure.

Fourth, I will ask the selected prime minister to allocate a specific

budget for the Presidential Palace, which must not be exceeded. I will stop distributing gifts to loyal officials because when I give a gift to somebody, I will lose ten people. By such a decision, I will win support and loyalty of all Yemeni people. I will stop buying new cars, which I then distribute to loyal statesmen because such cars waste the Presidential Palace's budget and harm my reputation in the eyes of people.

Fifth, I will cease distributing plots of land to influential individuals because I once remembered that I am not Muawya Bin Abu Sufyan or Harun Al-Rashid, but a constitutional president in the 21st Century. I have to understand well that there are certain institutions in charge of overseeing resources and fairly distributing them in a way serving all the Yemeni people, not certain individuals.

Sixth, I will allow the government to freely deal with all what concerns the Yemeni people and affects their livings, while Parliament has to question the government over its mistakes, if any, and put corrupt officials on trial. I will not stop overseeing the armed forces because they constitute the only guarantee for my survival and personal safety, as I still fear that some opportunists may plan to prosecute me over my mistakes of the past.

Seventh, I will request the tribal sheikhs countrywide to exempt me from the gifts I used to give them in the past, while they are entitled to nominate themselves in the local councils and Parliament if they want to practice legal powers. They will be held accountable for any

mistakes they may commit without my personal intervention in their cases.

Eighth, I will ask the government to freely prosecute any officials or powerful individuals attempting to abuse investors, even if they are my relatives. Foreign investors fled the country as a result of the wrong practices by influential persons, thereby depriving idle youth of getting jobs in such productive projects.

Ninth, I will allow the new government to freely design a new constitution, based on a public referendum, to be applied upon completion of my reign. I will never attempt to contravene the constitution by running for president once again. I will leave the door open for all the Yemeni people to compete for the highest political post in the country and enhance the peaceful transfer of power. I will congratulate the winner in the election to succeed me.

Tenth, I will be the first Yemeni president to hand over the Presidential Palace to his successor at a huge ceremony. I will leave this palace peacefully, return to my modest house and read the following day's newspapers. I can walk in the various streets of Sana'a and Aden peacefully with a few bodyguards including Aziz Melfi and my brother's son Tareq (both are currently the top bodyguards of President Saleh). I will then start writing my diaries revealing the invisible facts related with Yemen's history via the help of my friend Abdu Bawreji (Currently the top journalist of President Saleh).

Source: Marebpress.net.



SKEETCHED OPINION

By Samer

Yemen Press Review



Al-Istheraki.net, affiliated with Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP) Thursday, April 17

Top Stories

- Human Rights Observatory interviews political detainees, shows concern about their health
- JMP and independent caucuses in Parliament reject local authority law amendments
- Authorities arrest seven young citizens for participating in funeral services
- Gubernatorial election is impossible to achieve real decentralization in Yemen, JMP says

In a statement released Monday, JMP Higher Council said that centralization will remain unchanged and all powers will continue to be practiced at the central level even after electing governors on April 27, the website reported. It quoted opposition leaders as saying that as governors work according to directions from President of the Republic and the executive authority, it is impossible for Yemen to have real decentralization.

The council declared its strong rejection of what it described as 'an official attempt to take the nation into an unannounced state of curfew since the Cabinet and its party directly transferred Local Authority Law amendments, suggested by National Defense Council (NDC), to Parliament for approval without even consulting other political parties that are the real partners in any electoral process in Yemen. It added that the opposition coalition's council accused the

authority of attempting to replace constitutional institutions, concerned with elections and democracy, by NDC.

According to Al-Ishteraki.net, YSP Legal Sector Secretary Mohammed Al-Mikhlati unveiled during a news conference on Monday the government project-related violations, saying that such a project contravenes the constitutional article concerned with free and direct elections. He wondered how the Ministry of Local Administration is mandated to oversee the gubernatorial election, scheduled for April 27, while it is part of a ruling party-dominated Cabinet.

The opposition parties advised that the government should resolve the nation's pressing problems and improve citizen's living standards instead of moving toward governor elections. They lashed out at the government for being unable to identify which issues must be given top priority and immediate intervention.



Al-Methaq.net, affiliated with General People Congress (Ruling Party) Wednesday, April 16

Top Stories

- President Saleh orders government to put a stop to land plundering
- Prime Minister urges donors to extend more support for education
- Ruling party plans to form Supreme Commission for Elections and Referendum alone as JMP hinders dialogue
- Academics: Gubernatorial election is a unique step in the Arab world,

proves credibility of President Saleh's platform

Academics, politicians and educated people from Taiz governorate unanimously agreed that Parliament's approval of Local Authority Law amendment to elect governors by local councilors in governorates and districts proves credibility of President Ali Abdullah's platform, as well as the promises he made to people ahead of 2006 presidential election that gave Saleh another 7-year term, the website reported. It quoted those academics and politicians as saying that such a project is a distinctive step in the Arab region because it is aimed at enhancing democracy and increasing popular participation.

According to the ruling party-affiliated news website, Taiz academics politicians and educated elite hold the view that the decision to elect governors and mayor of the capital city is a very important step on the way to applying local governance with broad powers in Yemen. They indicated that local governance with broad powers will enable governorates' citizens elect the most eligible candidates to manage their affairs, address their issues and meet their needs.

According to the website, Yemen News Agency, Saba, reported that Parliament approved on Tuesday amendment of an article of the Local Authority Law by putting a condition that applicants for governor posts should be registered in the voter register of the governorates, where they will nominate themselves. It added that the majority of Parliament members voted for amending the relevant article.

Sources in Parliament said that the government side asked to re-discuss

the approved article, adding that the Parliamentary local authority committee recommended that the age of the candidate should be 40 years instead of 35 years. Last week, President Ali Abdullah Saleh called Parliament to approve the amendments, determining April 27 as the date for conducting gubernatorial elections.



26 September.net, affiliated with the Yemeni Army Thursday, April 17

Top Stories

- GPC leader: governor election is a courageous democratic decision, JMP irresponsible actions don't concern GPC
- Yemen Coast Guards hold Pakistani ship loaded with ten tons of Hashish
- Yemeni baby born with his hear on the right side
- Parliament approves local authority law amendments

Yemeni parliament approved on Wednesday with majority amendments of some articles of the local authority law concerning election of governors, the website reported, adding that MPs ceased amending the phrase that the government asked on Tuesday to be debated again on Wednesday. The phrase stipulates the candidate to the post of governor should be registered in the voter register of the governorate where he will run for president.

According to the website, Parliament voted with majority on the text as presented by the government, stipulating that the candidate must be

resident in the governorate or his work place is there or it is the place of residency of his family. Minister of Local Administration Abdulqader Hillal and Minister of Legal Affairs Rashad Al Rasas have attended the session.

MPs amended one of the conditions required from the candidate for the governor post so that to be read as "he must have an experience no less than ten years after his university degree." Parliament cancelled the condition for adopting nomination under recommendation of any political party or organization in the name of the party's leader or its secretary general and approved to retain the remaining text of the phrase as it is.



Al-Wahdawi.net, affiliated with Nasserite Unionist Popular Organization (NUPO) Wednesday, April 16

Top Stories

- Two soldiers killed, another four injured in Marib blast
- Police station chief held accountable for terrorist attack on girl school
- Jibla blast kills two people, injures others
- Yemeni Journalist Syndicate denounces closure of Al-Wasat Weekly
- JMP Higher Council describes Local Authority Law amendments as "decorative and meaningless"

Higher Council of the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) strongly opposed what it called a government attempt to take the country into a state of unannounced

curfew, accusing the ruling party of planning to replace constitutional institutions by the National Defense Council, the website reported in one of its top stories. The opposition coalition demanded that the authority must stop practicing illegal procedures that contravene Constitution of the Republic of Yemen and effective laws.

According to Al-Wahdaw.net, the opposition parties released a joint statement following a press conference on Monday, in which they expressed their strong rejection of the potential gubernatorial elections as approved by the ruling party's majority in Parliament. The statement labeled amending the Local Authority Law as an official attempt meant to mislead Yemeni people.

The website went on to say that the opposition coalition demanded that the government should be serious in addressing worsening national issues in the southern governorates and removing the 1994 war-related consequences that remained unchecked until the moment. It also called for reforming the system of governance in order to cope with the growing demands of time, eradicating all the forms of corruption and oppression, enhancing transfer of power and sharing decision-making among the various political forces.

JMP Higher Council lashed out at the government's indifference and inability to improve citizens' poor living standards and control soaring prices of basic foodstuffs and other consumables that helped raise people's concerns and worsen their misery. "The government failed to fulfill the promises it made to people ahead of 2006 elections when it pledged to fight all the forms of corruption and improve people's living standards," the council went on to say.

Leaders and managers

By: Joseph S. Nye

For the first time in decades, a United States senator will become the next American president as all three of the remaining candidates – Hillary Clinton, Barack Obama, and John McCain – are members of the Senate. While legislators have many leadership skills, their management ability is usually unproven. Senators manage a roughly 100-member staff, and a campaign staff of several hundreds. But can they manage an executive branch employing millions?

Contemporary management theory tends to distinguish between leadership and management, and places greater emphasis on leaders. Managers are described as those who merely embrace processes and seek stability, while leaders tolerate risk and create change. Organizations need both, but leaders are more important. As one expert puts it, a guiding coalition with good managers but poor leaders will not succeed. Good leaders construct teams that combine these functions, making sure to hire

subordinates who can compensate for the leader's managerial deficiencies.

More recently, there has been renewed interest in leaders as managers. After all, vision without implementation is ineffective. Leaders need enough managerial skill to assure that systems are in place to provide the information required for good decisions as well as effective implementation. An effective leader manages and shapes the context of decisions by creating and maintaining well-designed systems.

Organizational skill is the ability to manage the structures, information flows, and reward systems of an institution or group. Leaders directly manage those who report to them, and they manage indirectly by establishing and maintaining systems for their institutions. This includes the encouragement of leadership at lower levels in their organizations.

Good leaders must manage their inner circle of advisers to ensure an accurate flow of information and influence. They must avoid the "emperor's trap" of hearing only about the beauty of their new clothes.

Ironically, George W. Bush, the first president with an MBA, was weaker on this dimension than his father, who knew how to manage an able group of advisers. Stephen Hadley, Bush's second National Security Adviser is quoted as saying about Bush's first term, "I give us a 'B-' for policy development and a 'D-' for policy execution."

Experts argue that well designed systems are like stage directions in a play. They encourage actors to make correct entrances and exits without being told. But stage directions are not enough. People always try to bend systems to their own purposes, and good leaders play a critical role in maintaining their systems' integrity. If top leaders do not monitor their systems to ensure that they are producing full and accurate information flows, the systems are likely to become distorted by the most powerful subordinates. For example, President George H. W. Bush's National Security Adviser, Brent Scowcroft, made sure that powerful cabinet secretaries had full access to the president.

Under Bush the younger, many of the same strong personalities were involved, but the formal National Security Council system became distorted, producing a truncated flow of information. Secretary of State Colin Powell's chief of staff described the situation as furtive and camouflaged by the inefficiency of the formal decision-making process. Or, in the words of Army General Wayne Downing, who worked in the White House, "over the years, the interagency system has become so lethargic and dysfunctional that it inhibits the ability to apply the vast power of the US government on problems. You see this inability to synchronize in our operations in Iraq and in Afghanistan, across our foreign policy, and in our response to Katrina."

The organizational skills required for leaders as managers should not be confused with the efficiency or tidiness of a well-run organization. Nor should it be restricted to hierarchical bureaucratic organizations. Leaders of social movements also need to manage the inward and outward flows of information. In this broad sense, organization and management refer to leaders' ability to ensure an accurate inflow and outflow of information for making and implementing decisions. Effectiveness is more important than efficiency.

Franklin Roosevelt, for instance, ran an inefficient organization with overlapping jurisdictions and responsibilities. It was costly in many ways, but it assured him of multiple, competing flows of information. Roosevelt never thought that staffs had a monopoly on judgment or information, and has been described as seeking advice from anybody he could: cabinet members, congressmen, newspaper columnists, interest groups, citizens, and friends.

Dwight Eisenhower ran an efficiently organized presidency that some at the time believed lacked leadership, but historians later discovered his hidden hand behind most important decisions. Ronald Reagan practiced extreme delegation, which worked when he had an able team in place, but turned into a

disaster when Donald Regan, John Poindexter, and Oliver North took over. While Reagan excelled in vision, communication, and emotional intelligence, he lacked the skills of leadership as management. Successful leaders combine these skills so that unfiltered bad news can reach them and be acted upon promptly.

Looking at the three senators running for president, John McCain has military experience, but as an aviator rather than a commander. Hillary Clinton has experience living close to decision-making in the White House, but not as the decision-maker. Barack Obama has experience living overseas and working as a community organizer in Chicago, but not in the executive branch. As elected legislators, all have demonstrated the "soft power" skills of attracting others to vote for them, but as for whether they will also be manager-leaders, the jury is still out.

Joseph S. Nye is a professor at Harvard and author most recently of The Powers to Lead. Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2008.

The globalization of science

By: Bruce Alberts

Science provides an invaluable source of guidance to individuals and governments. This is true, in part, because scientists can often predict the future consequences of current actions.

For example, we know that someone who smokes two packs of cigarettes a day is likely to have a serious problem with cancer some 40 years later. And science predicts that, unless we severely constrain consumption of oil and coal around the world, the climate will continue to warm, increasing ocean volume and melting huge amounts of ice in the Arctic and Antarctic – thereby causing disastrous rises in sea level.

These are but two examples of thousands of instances in which it makes good sense for decision-makers to take into account what science can predict about the future. And yet, what

science knows is far too often overlooked when high-stakes decisions are made.

This is not to say that scientists should dominate the government decision-making process. It is the business of politicians, not scientists, to consider the relative costs and benefits of the options before them, weighing them as they see fit in reaching their conclusions. But many such judgments will be poor ones without effective scientific input.

For example, the United States government is well-served by an organization called the National Academies, based on three honorary organizations composed of the nation's most distinguished scientists, engineers, and health professionals (the National Academy of Sciences, National Academy of Engineering, and Institute of Medicine, respectively). This independent, non-governmental organization produces more than 200

reports a year, most in response to specific requests from the US government.

These requests range from questions about the health hazards of trace amounts of arsenic in drinking water, to questions about how best to support various forms of scientific research. Through a rigorous review process, the Academies insist that each report be limited to what science can say about the subject based on evidence and logic, without preempting the decisions that need to be made by others.

Thus, for example, the report on drinking water predicted the frequency of bladder cancers that would eventually occur in a population exposed to levels of five, 10, or 20 parts per billion of arsenic. But it did not say what maximum arsenic concentration the government should legislate.

The full text of some 3,000 reports by the Academies are available online (at www.nap.edu), and each can be

downloaded for free in any of 146 countries. The dangers of arsenic are the same across the globe, and in this case a US-based report can help all nations.

However, there are other important science-based issues that require study by internationally-based organizations in order to be widely accepted. To meet this need, the InterAcademy Council (IAC) in Amsterdam was founded in 2000 by a worldwide organization of science academies called the InterAcademy Panel (IAP). The IAC is governed by a Board that includes a rotating group of 15 Academy presidents from around the world, representing nations at a range of economic development levels, and its reports present a truly international perspective backed by the world's best scientists and engineers.

The IAC provides advice on subjects requested by the United Nations and other international organizations, all of

which is freely available at www.interacademycouncil.net. The first IAC report was entitled *Inventing a Better Future: A Strategy for Building Worldwide Capacities in Science and Technology*. It argued convincingly for the importance of supporting science and technology institutions in every nation that focus on harnessing the increasing store of international scientific and technical knowledge to meet that nation's needs.

Inventing a Better Future also provided detailed guidance to governments and international organizations on how to build institutional capacities for science and technology in both developing and industrialized countries. The IAC's most recent effort, entitled *Lighting the Way: Toward a Sustainable Energy Future*, presents an ambitious science-based agenda for meeting the world's enormously challenging energy requirements.

An important audience for each IAC report are the 100 academies of science that belong to the IAP. Each has a special responsibility for disseminating a report's recommendations throughout its own country, which can considerably enhance the academy's effectiveness in influencing national policies. The combination of the IAP and the IAC is an important new experiment for providing international scientific advice – an experiment that has only just begun to demonstrate its potential effectiveness for spreading the benefits of science and technology to all humanity.

Bruce Alberts is Professor of Biochemistry and Biophysics, University of California, San Francisco, Co-Chair of the InterAcademy Council, Amsterdam, and Editor-in-Chief of Science magazine. Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2008.

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Sedentary lifestyle of Somali refugees in Yemen

By: Yemen Times Staff

Abdullah Hussein, 37, has not changed his lifestyle since he came to Yemen in 2001. He goes to sleep at 10 pm and continues for 12 hours. "I have nothing to do, nowhere to go. This is my life: from hand to mouth and from street to bed," he says.

Hussein says he can't find any job and his wife works as a housemaid and provides everything for the family.

"Since I came to Yemen, my life can be described as free time. I sit on platforms chatting with friends for hours. At home, I sit for several hours talking with my wife and friends," he adds.

According to him, this life is similar to that of prisoners. When asked about any sports he plays, Hussein replies: "The sport I play is sitting on different platforms and streets. Instead of practicing any kind of combat games, I fight with the despair that kills every hope in me."

Hussein is one out of thousands of Somali refugees residing Yemen. Most of them live an extremely sedentary lifestyle.

A sedentary lifestyle is characterized by sitting or remaining inactive for most of the day, with little or no exercise. It also leads to the shrinking and weakening of the muscles, and the immune system becomes weak as a result of being physically inactive.

The World Health Organization (WHO) says more than two million deaths each year are attributed to sedentary lifestyle. The organization says that sedentary lifestyle is one of the 10 leading causes of death and disability global-



Leaders of Somali community in Yemen say Somalis lead a sedentary lifestyle due to the unavailability of jobs.

ly, adding that between 60 and 85 percent of adults worldwide are simply not active enough to maintain good health.

Sedentary lifestyles increase all causes of mortality, double the risk of cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, and obesity. Inactive lifestyles substantially increase the risks of colon cancer, high blood pressure, osteoporosis, depression and anxiety.

Preliminary data from a WHO study on risk factors suggest that inactivity, or sedentary lifestyle, is one of the 10 global leading causes of death and disability.

Yemeni authorities estimate there are over 700,000 Somalis in Yemen. Sadat

Mohammed, an authority in the Somali community in Sana'a, describes their situation as miserable.

Leaders of the Somali community in Yemen say Somalis lead a sedentary lifestyle due to the unavailability of jobs. Mohammed says most Somalis spend their time sitting. "They are expiring physically day after day," he notes.

"As a result, their lives are on the verge of exploding, and it will create more dangerous consequences for the Yemeni government," Mohammed warns.

According to him, these refugees are not given the chance to do something useful and that there are no income-generat-

ing projects that would provide job opportunities for them. He adds that Somalis here are not provided any human capacity building, and so their lives lay idle.

"Thus they are left alone living in precarious situations, both physically and psychologically. This kind of life affects their behavior, too. Some young people become anti-social, creating many problems in Yemen, such as raping, killing and become disloyal to their community," he says.

According to him, some resort to committing suicide due to endless idleness and the depression that comes with it. "Between 2005 and 2008, we knew of five cases of suicide in Sana'a city."

Sana'a city lacks recreational facilities, and if any, they are too costly for most Somalis to afford.

A community center for the Somalis in Sana'a was recently closed due to lack of funds. Although it was simple, the center helped visitors practice and play games, like basketball and billiards.

Now the Somali community is seeking to set up an association that would provide solutions for the Somali refugees' sedentary lives. Funding remains the largest obstacle that hinders its establishment, according to Mohammed, who called on the Yemeni government to help them.

Activity fights aging

A recent study by researchers at King's College London, in the United Kingdom, has found that people who exercise in their free time appear to be biologically younger than their more sedentary counterparts.

Published in late January 2008, the

study's researchers looked for evidence of ageing at a molecular level in the population. The study recruited 2,401 volunteers from the UK aged 18-81 years. All completed questionnaires detailing their levels of physical activity during leisure time in the last 12 months, in addition to a wide range of health and lifestyle issues.

"A sedentary lifestyle increases the propensity to ageing-related disease and premature death. Inactivity may diminish life expectancy not only by predisposing to ageing-related diseases but also because it may influence the ageing process itself," according to the study's authors. "This conclusion provides a powerful message that could be used by clinicians to promote the potential anti-ageing effect of regular exercise," it said.

Physical activity has already been shown to have a major impact on health. Frequent exercisers display reduced cardiovascular risk and are at lower risk for type 2 diabetes, mellitus, cancer, hypertension, obesity and osteoporosis. However, despite the known benefits of physical activity, inactivity continues to be a major public health problem, increasing the propensity to age-related diseases and death.

Any amount of physical activity will make you feel better. The minimum amount of physical activity required for the prevention of disease is about 30 min-

4U

How much physical activity do I need in order to improve and maintain my health?

utes of moderate activity, every day. For those who count calories, this translates into about 150 calories per day.

The formula is simple: at least half an hour of moderate physical activity over the course of each day.

There are some simple steps to get in these 30 minutes of activity. For example: Getting off the bus two stops early on the way to work.

Go for a 20 minute walk and then get off one stop early on the way home. Clean your house for 20 minutes and then add 10 minutes of walking.

Play a 30 minute basketball game with your siblings, friends or children.

If you're new to physical activity, you can start with a few minutes of activity per day and gradually increase your pace, working your way up to 30 minutes. Remember that 30 minutes is the minimum recommendation. The more time you spend moving, the more gain you will get for your health. The most important thing is to move!

Media must educate society about population problems, say experts

By: Talal Al-Khawlani
For the Yemen Times

International and local organizations warn that Yemen's high fertility and birth rates will cause more social welfare problems - both immediately and in the future - as the nation's population is expected to triple to 60 million by 2050. These additional numbers mean that Yemen will need to find more water and other resources, better housing, schooling and thousands more jobs.

To keep the pressure on officials as well as educate Yemenis about the dangers of overpopulation, the media not only must cover the issue, but also become a type of social advocate, according to sources like Dr. Nasser Al-Absi of the United Nations Population Fund, known as the UNFPA.

Al-Absi explains that his organization is attempting to spread public awareness of population control using two main channels. "We have the mass media, which is communicating to the public [via] television and newspapers, and the

other method is through ministries, such as the Health Ministry and the National Population Council."

However, he points out that the media alone cannot be responsible for handling reproductive education, noting that, "The Education Ministry should take a role in educating both male and female students and at universities. Non-governmental organizations and even mosque preachers also should spread population awareness among citizens."

He continued, "We should educate people about the importance of family planning and contraception and using modern methods to help achieve smaller family size."

Although Al-Absi strongly encourages media outlets to promote reproductive and population awareness, he feels that the media's role isn't enough to fill the gap in public understanding.

National Population Council consultant Abdulmalik Al-Tohami says, "There's a balance that occurs when there's balanced population growth and this happens through the media educating people."

He adds, "Yemen's population is growing and the consequences will be huge, affecting development as well as all other aspects."

Due to overpopulation, within the next 25 years, Yemen will become impoverished in all aspects of life. For instance, there will be a higher prevalence of disease, while the availability of medical services will decrease at the same time.

"We all should support a media program that will cause the public to respond to family planning; otherwise, residents of Yemen will suffer from the resulting population problems," Al-Tohami warns.

"I believe the media's role is to convince [Yemenis] to use alternative methods to reduce the average number of children [per household]," he says, adding that, "People still are ignorant about the damage to women who deliver babies annually." According to UNFPA and National Population Council figures, Yemen's maternal mortality rate is 365 per 100,000 births, while infant mortality is 78 per 1,000 live births.

"We cover the population growth problem every four months," notes

Yemen Post Editor-in-Chief Hakim Al-Masmari. He says the newspaper seeks to show the Yemeni public the problems of rapid population growth, comparing Yemen to other world nations.

Specifically, Al-Masmari believes the media should focus on the potential problems of rapid population growth in rural areas, rather than in the cities. Additionally, he cited previous strategies to reduce the number of early marriages in Yemen; however, he points out that this plan hasn't worked properly.

Although the Yemen Post attempts to provide information on these issues, Al-Masmari believes there should be other venues for learning about reproductive health; for example, "Schools should take a role in tackling these problems caused by rapid population growth."

Yemen's population increases 3.1 percent annually, thereby adding to the stresses of overpopulation. To lessen its population burden, Yemen must take advantage of every possible resource, whether through outreach via the media or a ministry-led public awareness overhaul.

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The PADZEY project is a project resulting from the cooperation between French Government (French Development Agency - AFD) and Yemeni Government.

The project aims to support rural development in animal production areas in order to alleviate poverty in pilot rural areas of Yemen (Taiz and Wadi Mawr- Tihama).

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Title: Livestock advisor

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- Good in English.

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Only short listed candidates will be contacted for an interview.

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The PADZEY project invites qualified candidates to apply for the following position:

Title: Monitoring and Evaluation Officer

Duty station: Sana'a

Required qualifications:

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- Trained and skilled in Monitoring, Evaluation and informatics.
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- Minimum 5 years experience in such position.
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Photo Record of the Handover and Takeover of the Aden Container Terminal and its transfer to the port Corporation as from 1st April, 2008.



The contract with the company that had been operating the ACT, OPM, ended on 31st March 2008. A technical team from the Yemen Gulf of Aden ports Corporation, Aden port, under the supervision of engineer Mohamed Abdulla Mubarak bin Aifan, the executive chairman, was responsible for the handover and takeover procedures .



These went smoothly and the process was completed without affecting ship and terminal operations at the ACT. In meantime , the control tower at the harbour entrance was able to record the arrival and departure of mainline and feeder container vessels during the first days of the takeover by the authority of the management and operation of the terminal and the transfer of its assets, equipment etc . to the Corporation.



The level of activity at the port indicates to the growth of ship and commercial activity in the port of Aden as it continues to establish a greater among regional and international ports. It is currently preparing for the Join Venture partnership with Dubai ports World, which is noted for its strong reputation, experience and economic capability .



The understanding and cooperation on the part of International shipping lines and their agents in Aden has made an important contribution to the smooth takeover of container operations at the ACT by the Corporation .



((pictures taken are of the vessels at the terminal on Wednesday 2nd April , 2008 and Sunday 6th April, 2008 .))

Camera and comment by : Ahdul Ghani Saif Mohamed



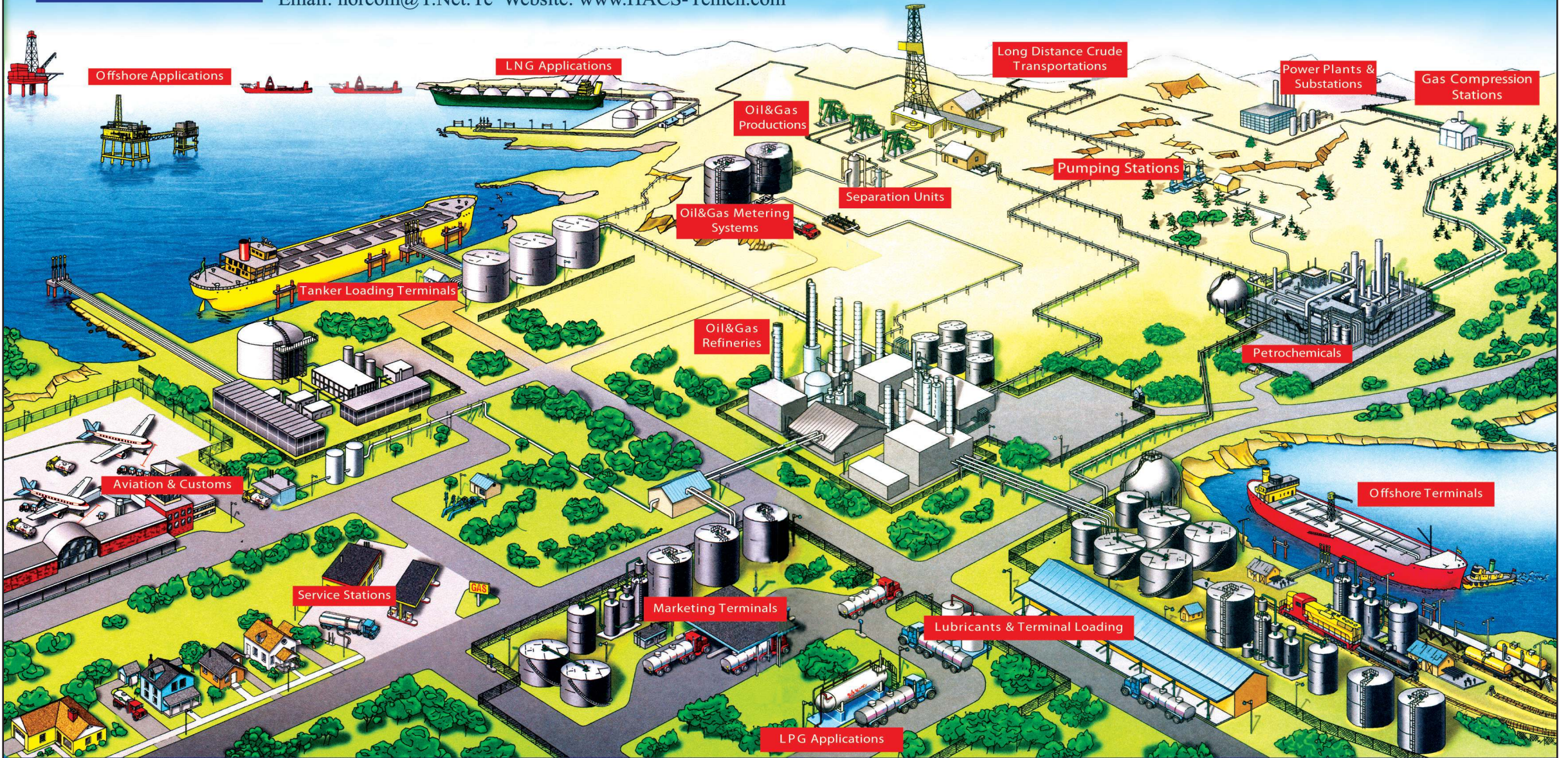


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The Yemeni community in Ethiopia: A history of integration

By: Mahmoud Assamie

Yemeni-Ethiopian relations date back to ancient times. References such as wall inscriptions confirm that the kingdom of Saba extended throughout Yemen to Ethiopia, known at that time as the kingdom of Axum, which later ruled Ethiopia (also called Abyssinia) and the southern Arabian Peninsula.

The Axumite kingdom's rule continued until Himyarite King Saif Bin Dhi Yazan drove the Axumites out of southern Arabia. However, despite this upheaval, some relations remained between the two kingdoms.

Because of the two civilizations' integration over the years, intermarriage resulted in Yemeni and Ethiopian mixed blood.

Yemen and Ethiopia enjoyed extensive trade relations during medieval times. Yemeni merchants exported incense, luban (natural frankincense), gemstones and animal skins to Ethiopia, while Ethiopians exported clothing, farm equipment, weapons, spices and cattle to Yemen. Trade relations between Yemen and the African Horn at that time were stronger than those between Yemen and other Gulf countries.

In times of crisis, Yemen provided a safe haven for Ethiopian refugees and Ethiopia in turn accepted Yemeni immigrants during times of political upheaval.

Dr. Hussein Fouly, an Ethiopian researcher specializing in Yemeni-Ethiopian relations, noted at a lecture this past February in Sana'a that there is a rich but under-explored history between



Coffee trees can be seen in both countries; Yemen and Ethiopia

the two countries.

Because he had a difficult time obtaining information about Yemeni-Ethiopian relations, Fouly did his own research based on a few fragments of information and much personal effort.

He explained that Yemenis and Ethiopians intermixed for two main reasons: first, because of Yemenis' ability to integrate and second, because of the Ethiopian civilization's welcoming attitude toward foreigners in their land throughout the 20th century.

Yemenis became the largest Arab community in Ethiopia, boasting the most speakers of Ethiopian languages such as Amharic. Yemenis rooted themselves in the country during the 1920s by becoming shopkeepers, sweet sellers, launderers and butchers. Additionally, the Yemeni community founded Arab schools that graduated scholars like

Sheikh Abdullah Taher, who later was appointed governor of Jijiga and eventually led a military coup in eastern Ethiopia in the 1930s.

Fouly also mentioned those Yemenis who had a role in spreading Islam in Ethiopia, like Abdulrahman Ba-Wazir, who financed building Addis Ababa's oldest mosque, Al-Noor Mosque.

During Italy's 1936 invasion of Ethiopia, the Italians brought in numerous Yemenis to work as builders. Yemenis became rich through trade during this time. One of them, Sheikh Hussein Al-Amoudi, was the first to bring the qat trade to Ethiopia.

Yemeni people's departure from Ethiopia is attributable to two specific incidents, the first of which occurred in 1969 when a bomb was discovered on an Ethiopian plane, which had been placed there by Ethiopian liberation forces in

Syria. Arab communities were blamed for the bomb, which led to a wave of anti-Arab sentiment.

The second incident was the 1974 Ethiopian revolution, which implemented a program of nationalization that seized private assets and companies, turning them into state-owned enterprises. Because of this, Yemenis were forced to exit the country, leaving their possessions to the Ethiopian regime.

Despite this, Yemeni immigrants who have returned from Ethiopia still have positive memories of the nation where they were treated as citizens.

Sana'a University history professor Abdullah Fadhl says the Yemeni community was forced out of Ethiopia in the 1970s for political reasons because they were spreading Islam among the Ethiopians against the wishes of the new regime.

However, these Yemeni-Ethiopian mixed peoples who returned to Yemen face discrimination, either because of their Arabic or their skin color, and locals of both countries treat them as outsiders. For example, Yemenis call them Ahbush, the plural of the Arabic word Habashi or Ethiopian, while they are called Arabco, or Arabs, in Ethiopia.

These mixed Yemeni-Ethiopian sometimes are denied identity cards because of their darker skin and imperfect Arabic, a matter that causes them many problems.

Because Yemen's history is intertwined with that of Ethiopia's, these so-called Yemeni-Ethiopian 'newcomers' actually aren't new at all; rather, they share our lineage and they deserve to be recognized as such.

Yemen post and Postal Saving Corporation issue new stamps

By: Ismail Al-Ghabri

Yemen post and the Postal Saving Corporation Displayed the new postage stamps and postcards

for 2008. Many were chosen to reflect historical Yemeni heritage, including mosques, castles and citadels.

Other stamps represent marine life flowers and rare, useful and distinguished endemic insects in Yemen, as well as one representing national human rights day.

In a statement made by Faiz Saif Abdh the Director General of Postal Affairs, he mentioned that the new issues are among the distinguished and the best groups which have been chosen after deep study and extensive

research, with emphasis on design, attraction and ancient and historical heritage, Yemeni civilization and the attractive natural environment of Yemen. These new issues contain 39 postal stamps and 7 postcards.

The subject of these stamps are as follows:

- 1- historical mosques of Yemen : 6 stamps and one card
- 2- Yemen onyx : 8 stamps and one card
- 3- citadels and castle of Yemen : 5 stamps and one card
- 4- marine life in Yemen : 6 stamps and one card
- 5- flowers in Yemen : 6 stamps and one card
- 6- national day of human rights : 2 stamps and one card



7- rare and useful endemic insects of Yemen

Abdudh added that these issues have become available all over post offices in Yemen.

He went on to say, "We have provided local and international stamp collectors with their needs of these

issues. Moreover, we have sent free stamps and cards of these issues to interested organizations and international guidance concerned with recording and the international and local magazine newspapers and mass communication to give information about them."

CULTURAL SERIES FACES & TRACES

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.

Bint Al-Shati'a, Aishah Abdul-Rahman (A Brilliant Female Scholar in the Islamic and Arab World)

Prepared by: Eyad N. Al-Samman

Abdul-Rahman, Aishah Muhammad, also known widely as Bint Al-Shati'a, Egyptian scholar, intellectual, journalist, and professor of literature. Bint Al-Shati'a was born in November 1913 in Damietta (Arabic Dumyat), city in northern Egypt, in the Nile River delta. Bint Al-Shati'a started her study in the Kuttab by memorizing the Holy Qur'an and books of tradition and poetry at the age of 5. She was able to convince her father, who was a scholar of Al-Azhar, with the help of her grandfather to let her join the school. At last, she got her elementary study and then joined the Teachers' School in Tanta, city in northeastern Egypt, despite her father's opposition. After her graduation in 1929, she moved to Cairo and worked as a clerk in the girls' faculty in Giza, a southwestern suburb of Cairo. She also continued her study and got the baccalaureate in 1931 and later she enroll in the King Fuad I University (now Cairo University) and graduated with a bachelor of arts degree in Arabic in 1939. She pursued her higher education in Cairo University and obtained her master and doctorate of arts degrees in 1941 and in 1950 respectively.

Due to her strong interests in the Islamic studies, Bint Al-Shati'a continued her study in literary, Qur'anic and Islamic studies for the coming 20 years after the graduation. Starting in 1939, she worked in many posts including: a lecturer in Arabic department in Cairo University, an Arabic supervisor in the Egyptian Ministry of Education in 1943, and a lecturer and then a professor assistant in Ain Shams University in Cairo in 1951. She was appointed president of the Arabic and Islamic Studies Department in the same university in 1962. Bint Al-Shati'a also held other positions including: a delegated professor for supervising theses of master and doctorate degrees in Al-Azhar University (1968), and a visiting professor in the Cairo University's branch in Khartoum, Sudan, (1968). In 1970, she became a professor of the Holy Qur'an's Explanation and Higher Education Affairs in Faculty of Law in Fès, Morocco, at Al-Qarawiyyin University. She worked also as a visiting professor in Beirut's University (1972), Emirates' University (1981), and Faculty of Education in Riyadh (1983). Bint Al-Shati'a had eminent Islamic and literary contributions which made her a prominent historian and an experienced researcher. She is considered a renowned Islamic scholar and a unique pioneer of the Women's Islamic Liberation Movement in the Arab world.

In the early 1930s, she contributed her articles in local Egyptian newspapers such as "Al-Nahdha Al-Nisa'iyah" (The Feminine Renaissance) and "Al-Ahram" (The Pyramids) under the pen name "Bint Al-Shati'a" (Daughter of the Riverbank) referring to her life as a child playing in the Nile's bank in her birthplace. She had also to use this epithet because of traditions in that time which did not allow girls' names to be shown overtly in public life and she continued using it for the rest of her life. She wrote articles about different social, literary, and intellectual causes. Her lifelong articles published in "Al-Ahram" tackled the Egyptian peasant and countryside, the role of a woman in advancing her family and society, and other issues about social reforms. Her article, entitled "The Problem of the Peasant" (1935), dealt with the social disadvantages of Egyptian peasants and later in 1936 she wrote a relevant book entitled "The Egyptian Countryside".

She also wrote several fictional works including the two Egyptian true-life novels: "Lady of the Manor" (1944), "The Reversion of Pharaoh" (1949), the biographical collection entitled "Views of their lives" (1953), and the short-story collection entitled "The Riverbank's Secret" (1958). In her novel entitled "Ala Al-Jisr: Rihla Bayn Al-Hayah Wa Al-Mawt" (On the Bridge: A Journey Between Life and Death, 1968), Bint Al-Shati'a told literary part of her autobiography up to the point of her husband's death in the early 1966. Bint Al-Shati'a authored also more than 60 theses in which 40 of them became well-known books tackling literary, historical, jurisprudent, and Islamic issues. Among these books: "The Rhetorical Explanation of the Holy Qur'an" (1962), "New Values for the Old and Contemporary Arabic Literature" (1969), "With the Islam's Prophet (pbuh)" (1970), "Isra'iliyah in the ideational Invasion" (1975), and "The Miracles' Land" (1977). One of her most famous biographical works entitled "Tarajim Sayidat Bayt Al-Nubooah" (Biographies of the Prophet's Honorable Women (pbuh)) which tackled literary and in detail different aspects of those honorable women's lives and their relations with the prophet Muhammad (pbuh). The book, which she started writing it in the mid-1960s, consisted of 5 separated volumes: "The Prophet's Mother", "The Prophet's Honorable Wives", "The Prophet's Honorable Daughters", "Zainab Bint Khuzaimah; the Heroine of Karbala", and "Sukaina Bint Al-Husayn". Her book entitled "A Perusal in the Documents of Bahaism" (1986) contained many documents about the religious faith known as Bahai and its relation with the international Zionism. Bint Al-Shati'a also received many awards and decorations among them the Decoration of Intellectual Qualification (Morocco, 1961), the Literature's Award of Kuwait (1988), the Order of Merit for Islam's Scientists (Egypt, 1989), and King Faisal's Award for Literature and Islamic Studies (Saudi Arabia, 1994). Bint Al-Shati'a passed away on December 1, 1998, of a heart attack at the age of 85. She occupies for several decades a high-ranking position among numerous renowned Islamic scholars and scientists in the Islamic and Arab world. She was also a brilliant figure who adopted the Islamic conception of liberating Muslim women drawn from the two main Islamic law's resources.



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Socotra in the velvet season

By: Nastia Popova
For the Yemen Times

From the first to the eleventh of January I took a trip to Socotra, situated in the Indian Ocean. The month January is called "a velvet season" in Socotra. It was an unforgettable week! The weather was smiling for us during all our time there.

In spite of the fact that Socotra is part of Yemen, people can see some distinctions.

The first difference is the people. People in Sana'a and people in Socotra are very different. In spite of having lived in Sana'a for only three years, I could see differences in characters, manners and the appearance of citizens.

The second, of course, is the climate. It is more humid on the island than in Sana'a. And the temperature doesn't drop when day changes into night. Also, the ocean is present everywhere on the island; you can feel a spirit of the ocean, the ocean's air.

Comparing these two distinctions, I can't say that Sana'a is better than Socotra or vice versa. These are two different worlds.

But I want to tell about my brightest impressions which I "received" on that week in Socotra.

At first I can say that the tour guides are very good. For short seven days there people are shown the most interesting and beautiful places.

The first sight was the North-East of the island. It is the place where the ocean shows its majesty in front of you, to your left and your right. Maybe it is difficult to imagine, but when you have seen it you can't forget it!

The next sight was the town Qalansiya. There is such a beautiful view... no adjectives can describe it. It is next to a huge beach with the cleanest sand and water like crystal. Drivers let know us that a few meters away there was a sloth and asked us to be very attentive and careful. But Russian people don't have fears and obstacles and a sloth was the first thing that every person from our group came to see. Everybody took a photo of that beautiful creature.

The next place where we were taken was a canyon. I saw a canyon with my own eyes for the first time!

And the most beautiful place in the island was an oasis. The way there was very extreme! But that oasis is a place that everybody who came to Socotra must see. A river was leaking among rocks. Around the oasis there were many kinds of palms.

Everywhere on the island you can see endemic trees, for example, a blood dragon's tree, and a battle tree.

Nowadays Socotra is developing. The citizens are very proud of their native land. Many organizations all over the world are struggling to save the flora and fauna of the island. Now there is developing ecotourism - a special kind of tourism that doesn't harm the environment.

I would like to come to Socotra maybe in 30 years. And I hope that citizens of the island, citizens of all Yemen in assistance with international ecological organizations will save the nature of the island in its primordial and unique beauty. I would like it to be so.

Now, when my friends in Russia will be thinking about where to have a rest, I shall advise them to fly to Socotra. Such a pleasant and admiration they can't have after famous world resorts!



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