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Inside:  **5** Korean ambassador Kwak speaks to Yemen Times  **15** Is this the worst place on earth to be a woman?  **16** Amran governorate is trying to improve its water supply and sanitation system

Authority uses force in unprecedented manner

Fifth Sa'ada war kills hundreds, destroys lives

By: Mohammed Bin Sallam

SA'ADA, May 25 — A fifth war between the Yemeni army and Houthis has broken out in numerous Sa'ada districts, Amran governorate's Harf Sifyan district and Sana'a governorate's Bani Hushaish district, leaving hundreds on both sides killed or injured, tribal sources said Sunday, adding that the war is the fiercest ever since fighting between the two sides first erupted in June 2004.

In Sa'ada's Matra district, believed to be the main stronghold of Houthi loyalists, local sources reveal that government troops have been attacking the area for two weeks, using helicopters, tanks, Katyusha rockets and other heavy weaponry.

The same sources add that the government's troops are facing fierce resistance by Houthis, thereby hindering them in achieving any notable progress on the ground.

Additionally, there are ongoing bloody confrontations between republican guards and Houthis in Dhahian city, located 8 kilometers east of Sa'ada city, but neither side scored victory.

As a result, government forces were obliged to dispatch more republican guard troops. Backed by helicopters, the newly dispatched troops are fighting fiercely with Houthis in several areas of Haidan district.

This latest war has left hundreds on both sides dead and other hundreds injured in a relatively short time period while the Yemeni government imposes an information blackout on battle-grounds after cutting off all wired and wireless communication means, local sources note.

They express concern about the governorate's worsening human situation amid shortages in diesel and gasoline supplies and soaring propane gas prices due to the blocking of nearly all roads leading to Sa'ada governorate.

In Amran's Harf Sifyan district, renewed clashes between army personnel and Houthi loyalists in the area led to blocking the Sana'a-Sa'ada Highway following government troops' advancement toward the areas of Heera and Emashia. Houthis then resorted to launching surprise attacks and guerrilla warfare tactics.

The clashes resulted in food short-



Islamic Relief has been an active member of the Emergency Response Co-ordination Group, made up of local and international organizations with the aim of helping those affected by the on going conflict.

ages, the closure of markets and the suspension of traffic on the Sana'a-Sa'ada Highway.

The Sa'ada-based Yemeni Socialist

Party called on the nation's political parties, civil community organizations and religious scholars to intervene in halting the massive devastation and

killing in Sa'ada governorate.

In a statement Friday, the group maintained that the Yemeni government launched military strikes on Dhahian

and nearby areas with helicopters, rockets and tanks without warning citizens to evacuate their homes. "This is an unprecedented crime," the statement noted.

According to the statement, neither women, children, nor the elderly thought they would be targeted by the latest military strikes, being completely unaware that government troops were preparing to destroy their homes and displace them.

The YSP in Sa'ada affirms that such killing and destruction won't help solve the problems or stop the fighting. "Catastrophes, tragedies, devastation, fragmentation and collapse are the only results of ongoing fighting. Only serious dialogue will help tackle this crisis," the statement went on to say.

The group further warned the authority against continuing its lockdown of the war-ravaged governorate, pointing out that imposing an information blackout and preventing humanitarian groups from approaching affected citizens won't cover up the crimes the army thus far has committed against citizens there.

Continued on page 2

Yemeni prisoners at Gitmo become clinically insane, says HOOD

By: Amel Al-Ariqi

SANA'A, May 25 — Former Guantanamo Bay detainee Sami Al-Hajj revealed that certain Yemeni inmates at the United States military prison in Cuba, also known as "Gitmo," have gone clinically insane because of "hallucinogenic pills" they were forced to take by guards.

Ahmed Arman confirmed that many Yemeni inmates develop negative psychological conditions inside the American detention camp in Cuba, though he could not confirm

"I have been told that Yemeni doctor Ayman Badhrabi (who is still in custody) became insane. He is not the only case; Fuwaz Nouman, who recently came back to Yemen, also suffers from serious psychological problems," said Arman, an activist and lawyer with the human rights organization known as HOOD, the National Organization for Defending Rights and Freedom.

Marc Falkoff, an American lawyer who represents a number of Yemeni detainees at Gitmo, said that it is impossible to determine definitively whether someone suffers from a psychological ailment without an examination by a medical professional. However the US military prison does not allow outside doctors to visit or treat prisoners.

"We lawyers have repeatedly sought permission from the military and from the judges overseeing our cases to allow us to bring a psychologist or psychiatrist with us to Guantanamo," said Falkoff.



Being isolated from the rest of the world, many Gitmo's detainees develop negative psychological conditions.

"In every instance, our requests have been denied."

The prison at Guantanamo Bay has witnessed four suicides along with dozens of attempts. According to Falkoff, the US military has reported that at least 10 percent of the prisoners at Guantanamo suffer from serious psychological problems." Falkoff said that he thinks the high number of prisoners suffering from mental illness is due to the extreme isolation that they are kept in. "To the extent that the military has made a diagnosis of any of our clients, we are forbidden by Defense Department censors from revealing the maladies in public," added Falkoff.

Al-Hajj told HOOD that 85 Yemeni detainees have been waiting to be repatriated to Yemen for almost a year, after a writ of their release by the American administration. "Fifteen of them were supposed to arrive in Sana'a airport in March last year," said Al-Hajj.

Al-Hajj also said that a Yemeni security delegation visited Guantanamo Bay asking the Yemeni detainees to stop their hunger strike.

HOOD is helping Al-Hajj to visit to Yemen in order to speak about his and the others' experience. "We will invite Al-Hajj to Sana'a to learn more about the Yemeni Gitmo detainees," said Arman.

Al-Hajj worked as cameraman for Al-Jazeera channel before he was arrested on the border between Pakistan and Afghanistan in 2001 for suspected links to Al-Qaeda. He was detained in the Guantanamo Bay facility for seven years without clear charges and was set free just this month, on Thursday, May 1.

Continued on page 2

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In Brief

SANA'A
WHO prepares AIDS patients manual

National Program for Combating Sexually Transmitted Diseases in collaboration with World Health Organization (WHO) organized on Sunday a workshop for development of the manual of complete welfare for AIDS patients.

In the opening of the workshop, director of the program Abdul-Hamed al-Swahaibi affirmed that manual of complete welfare AIDS patients will contribute to developing health services for AIDS patients.

Oil ministry to launch new website
Ministry of Oil and Minerals is preparing to launch a new internet website on the 18th occasion of Yemen Unity.

"The new website www.mom.gov.ye will contain documents on latest developments in oil-and-gas sector, said Hizam Jamom, the consultant of Oil and Minerals Ministry. "It will also transparently provide visitors with a database and statistics related to oil production and discovery activities, oil and other minerals sales and investments opportunities in field of oil and minerals in Yemen and conditions of investment."

Yemen to take part in Arab-Chinese Forum

A high-rank delegation of Foreign Affairs ministry would represent Yemen in the economic conference of Arab-Chinese forum to be held in Bahrain's capital, Manama, next Tuesday.

The two-day forum would be attended by the Secretary-General of the Arab League Amr Mousa, twenty one Arab Foreign ministers, Chinese foreign minister and a huge number of Chinese investors.

The forum will also witness organizing the biggest Chinese exhibition in the region in addition to a Chinese festival, in which about 100 dancers and performers will take part in.

ADEN**Aden local council GS held talks with UN, EC officials**

General Secretary of Aden Local Council Abdul-Karim Shaef met on Thursday with UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Antonio Guterres.

The meeting discussed a number of issues related to refugees affairs in Yemen, particularly Somali refugees in Kharaz camp in Lahj governorate and means of providing various cares for them.

Shaef welcomed the commissioner and his accompanying delegation, reviewing with him refugees situation and support and care provided for them by the UNHCR.

On his side, the commissioner confirmed continuation to support UNHCR programs for Refugees in Yemen, indicating the shortage of assistance level as proved by international community for UNHCR in these regard.

He called the international community to consider refugees' issues as a humanitarian issue concerning the whole world.

The commissioner paid a visit to Kharaz camp for refugees in which he got acquainted with various issues related to refugees.

DHAMAR**2nd phase of excavation in Masnaat Mariya launched**

Second season of archaeological excavation in Masnaat Mariya in Ans district of Dhamar governorate launched on Monday by the American archeological mission headed by professor Krista Lewis said on Sunday.

The work of excavation will last for 45 days, she said.

The mission includes five experts from American University of Arkansas and other five Yemeni experts from General Organization of antiquities and Museums office in the governorate.

Director of General Organization for Antiquities and Museums Ali al-Sanabani said that the mission would draw a detailed plan to cover several historical selected sites in the region.

Al-Sanabani added that the archeological survey done by the mission during first season focused on 21 sites in the same region.

Masnaat Mariya is pre-Islamic Himyarite archaeological site is one of the largest in the Yemen. In the local language the name means the fortress of Maria. A name such as this has obvious affinities to early Christianity. It is important as a large escarpment site partly of late pre-Islamic date.

President promises new governors more autonomy

SANA'A, May 23 — President Ali Abdullah Saleh directed the Cabinet to set up a complete strategy for local officials, granting them more funds and greater authority over regional issues.

The president held a joint meeting with the Cabinet and newly-elected governors after the recent governmental reshuffling, expressing hope that the government could work with local authorities as one team and shoulder the country's issues without disputes over authority.

"This is the first meeting that includes the Cabinet and heads of the administrative units (governors)," he said. "On this occasion we hail the unprecedented daring steps in the region represented by electing Sana'a's mayor and the provinces' governors."

He said that electing governors would limit centralization and give the governorates more authority over their own regions. The president said this process would also enhance the application of constitutional amendments.

President Saleh called on ministers and governors to perform their duties according to the law and constitution by directing the government, namely the prime minister and his deputies, to give greater autonomy and authority to new governors. He directed the Ministry of Finance to discuss fund allocations to local authorities and pro-

vide these funds instantly, besides directing the government to set up a new national budget for the coming year.

"Let local authorities carry on their shoulders the responsibility of security, stability, development and services in the governorates," said the president. However, he warned the new officials to abide by the law and the governmental system. President Saleh told the governors, "Your duty is managing, developing and security, so do not interfere in affairs of judicial authority. You have wider authority in local governance...you have work on combating corruption and corrupt persons in all of the country's offices."

Various international observer organizations have reproached Yemen's government for its widespread corruption problem, which discourages aid and investment in the country. Many companies are wary that money meant for development will end up in authorities' pockets.

"I am sure that if you work honestly, peace and stability will be realized in the governorates," concluded the president. "The more we enhance security and stability in the governorate, the more the security and stability will make the construction easier on constructing many strategic, developmental and service projects."

Three weeks and he is still in prison
Tortured teenager's case still unsolved

By: Saddam Al-Ashmori
For The Yemen Times

SANA'A, May 24 — Although prosecution ordered investigating the alleged beating of a 13-year-old boy jailed at a Sana'a police station three weeks ago, the case still hasn't been resolved due to the illness of the investigator.

Security personnel seized Muneef Yahya Obad Al-Khawlani on May 3 while he was at his neighborhood market, subsequently jailing him at Al-Qalfan Police Station allegedly for stealing a car battery and some electric tools from homes.

In an exclusive interview from behind bars, Al-Khawlani said police tied his mouth tightly in their car before taking him to Al-Qalfan Police Station, where the station head and his escorts beat the youth's back and the bottom of his feet with wires to force a confession from him.

General Prosecution ordered the investigation of his case after The Yemen Times published the story in its issue No. 1153, wherein he maintained that security personnel had abused him.

"However, the boy still is behind bars due to sickness of the prosecu-



13-year-old Muneef was falsely accused of theft

tion, who was supposed to question the police officers," his lawyer Abdulrahman Barman said.

"Muneef now has been transferred to Alia'a Prison," Barman noted.

"We've collected evidence, including witnesses inside the jail, who confirm Muneef's claims of forced confession," Barman said, adding that because Al-Khawlani's arrest wasn't based on any evidence, security personnel resorted to using force to obtain a confession.

The youth's father, Yahya Obad Al-Khawlani, who appealed to President Ali Abdullah Saleh to intervene in releasing his son, said Muneef was arrested because of "personal issues" between himself and the head of the police station.

Under Yemeni law, individuals under age 15 aren't subject to arrest and shouldn't be imprisoned with adults. The law considers arresting children and jailing them at police stations a major crime, punishable for up to five years.

Yemen's Crimes and Punishment Law stipulates that, "Any employee who tortures others while performing his job, uses his power or threatens any individual under accusation shall be imprisoned for a period of not more than 10 years."

For the first time in the Arabian Peninsula,**First dinosaur tracks discovered in Yemen**

By: Hamed Thabet

SANA'A, May 25 — Scientists recently announced the discovery of the first dinosaur tracks on the Arabian Peninsula, the first discovery of its kind in the region. The fossilized footprints were discovered in the bedrock in Yemen near a village called Madar, about 50 kilometers north of the capital Sana'a, said scientists, who added that the footprints date back 150 million years.

According to Anne Schulp of the Maastricht Museum of Natural History in the Netherlands, "It's the first time we've found dinosaur tracks in the Arabian Peninsula, so it really is a first." Schulp came to Yemen to help in the investigation.

Schulp added that though no dinosaur tracks had been found in the area previously, a few dinosaur fossils were discovered, including isolated bones from the Sultanate of Oman, which have been studied, and possible fragments of a long-necked dinosaur from Yemen.

According to Mohammed Al-Wosabi of Sana'a University, the rocks in which the dinosaur tracks are preserved are likely from the late Jurassic Period, some 150 million years ago.

The first set of tracks are from a small herd of four-legged sauropods — long-necked, herbivorous dinosaurs that lived in the Jurassic and Cretaceous periods — who were trav-



These dinosaur footprints were left in a coastal mudflat in Yemen 150 million years ago.

eling as a group of about a dozen members of different sizes but at the same speed.

The other set of tracks was made by a single, two-legged ornithopod with a distinctive footprint of three huge toes. Judging from the size of the prints and the length of its stride, the specimen was between six and seven meters long

from head to tail, Schulp explained.

According to scientists, ornithopods walked on their hind legs and ate plant material with a beak-like mouth that was able to shred and grind leaves before they were swallowed. "One of the discerning features of the ornithopods is that they have footprints with rather blunt endings to their toes,

unlike the three-toed footprints of birds, which have claws on the end. Each footprint in these tracks was about 55 centimeters wide," Schulp said.

Though ornithopods and sauropods overlapped in time, it's a bit unusual to find evidence of such a large ornithopod in the late Jurassic Period, the researchers noted.

Background

The discovery first came to light when a Yemeni journalist spotted the ornithopod tracks in 2003. The subsequent study, which is published in the on-line Public Library of Science (PLOS) journal, identified the second set of tracks made by the sauropod herd after excavating the immediate vicinity of the ornithopod footprints.

Schulp said that the tracks went unnoticed for so long because the footprints were covered in rubble and debris and were probably too big to be identified by an untrained eye. "It isn't a surprise that they were overlooked," she commented.

The research was carried out with the help of Nancy Stevens of Ohio University and Mohammed Al-Wosabi. The tracks are being protected by the Yemen Geological Survey and will be put on display for visiting tourists.

The find is an excellent example of dinosaur herding behavior, the researchers report. The site preserved footprints of 11 small and large

sauropods traveling together at the same speed, Al-Wosabi said.

The sauropod tracks suggest that the dinosaurs may have been part of a family, indicating an aspect of herd behavior that cannot always be gleaned from conventional studies of fossilized bones, added Al-Wosabi.

"The smaller ones took small steps but more quickly than the larger ones to keep up with them. So they all moved at the same speed, but the small guys worked hard to keep up with the big ones," Schulp said.

"It's rare to see such a prominent example of a dinosaur herd," Schulp added. "This is interesting social behavior for reptiles."

"The international collaboration [on the tracks] provides an exciting new window into evolutionary history from a critically under-sampled region," said Stevens, an assistant professor in Ohio University's College of Osteopathic Medicine. "These tracks help us to assemble a more detailed picture of what was happening on the southern landmasses. It's exciting to see new paleontological data coming out of Yemen — and I think there is a lot more to discover." The Yemen Geological Survey has implemented protective measures to preserve the tracks and to improve their accessibility to tourists, the researchers reported.

Partial funding for the research was provided by the Yemen Geological Survey and Ohio University.

Continued from page 1**Fifth Sa'ada war kills hundreds, destroys lives****Symposium in solidarity with Sa'ada citizens**

The Arab Sisters Forum held a symposium Saturday entitled, "Together Against the Sa'ada War," during which participants decided to stage a sit-in next Sunday, June 1, in front of the Presidential Palace, which is due to be followed by other sit-ins at Parliament and the Council of Ministers in an effort to pressure these governmental bodies to intervene in ending the fighting in Sa'ada.

Symposium participants released a statement demanding the authority identify its reasons for breaching the Doha-brokered ceasefire agreement both conflicting sides signed this past February 1.

Their statement holds the authority accountable for a potential human catastrophe in Sa'ada amid the ongoing clashes and obstacles created for relief

agencies, thereby hindering them from reaching affected residents.

The statement appealed to both sides to use logic and reason, as well as cease their armed operations in the restive governorate.

Participants further urged all popular and tribal forces to avoid any voluntary or coercive involvement in the fighting, but rather pledge to step up their efforts to end the Sa'ada confrontations and release those detained in various security and military jails for alleged Houthi connections.

Blocked relief

Relief groups working in Sa'ada are unable to meet growing demands for aid and basic necessities from affected residents and displaced families.

Iman Al-Muanqar, spokesperson for the International Committee of the Red Cross, reported that an armed group from Amran governorate blocked the Sana'a-Sa'ada Highway last week, creating an obstacle for a relief caravan

comprised of five trucks her committee was sending to Sa'ada.

"The armed tribesmen seized control of the trucks while negotiations were being conducted via tribal mediators to release the vehicles," she recounted, "We're arranging relief projects to be undertaken by the ICRC, but what we need is a safe road to help us reach affected residents

Yemeni prisoners at Gitmo become clinically insane, says HOOD

In 2005, some American media outlets criticized the torture tactics used inside the camp, which opened in January 2002 to detain fighters captured in Afghanistan and terrorism suspects captured overseas. The well-known American television news program, *60 Minutes*, previously revealed secret emails from FBI agents at Guantanamo telling FBI headquarters that prisoners were being tortured. The emails,

according to *60 minutes*, said that U.S. military intelligence personnel used cruel treatment and bizarre sexual tactics on the prisoners

Some prisoners "are chained hand and foot in a fetal position" for up to 24 hours at a time and prisoners had "urinated or defecated on themselves," according to these classified FBI emails.

Another FBI document said an interrogator grabbed a detainee's thumbs and "bent them backwards" and "grabbed his genitals." One FBI agent reported that he saw a detainee had been "gagged with duct tape that covered much of his head." The interrogator explained that the prisoner had been "chanting the Qur'an and would not stop."

"Besides the miserable conditions that all Gitmo inmates suffer, Yemeni inmates are more frustrated as they see cellmates of other nationalities leave the camp, while they (Yemenis) lost the hope to leave soon," said Arman.

Yemeni detainees constitute almost half of Guantanamo detainees. Several international and national attempts were made to repatriate the Yemeni detainees, but there has been little movement on this issue. "The U.S. government said that it would return many Yemenis if the Yemeni government gave the U.S. government official assurances that guaranteed that the returned detainees wouldn't be tortured and also would join rehabilitation programs," said a HOOD press release. The HOOD statement said that the American government held the detainees under the pretext of having no official written assurance of this agreement, which the inmates' American lawyers say is not necessary.

Yet the Yemeni government said that they have presented all the official written documents that the U.S. requested. "The conflicted official responses from both Yemen and the U.S. made the lawyers uncomfortable," noted HOOD.

Their News

British Scholarships for Yemeni students



The London School of Economics and Political Science, the world's leading dedicated social science institution, has a generous package of scholarships available for students from Yemen. These include:

- the PJD Wiles scholarships worth £10,000 plus tuition fees
- the LSE PhD scholarships worth £13,000 plus tuition fees
- the Al-Maktoum scholarships are available for four programmes in the Department of Management

For further information about this opportunity please visit our website at <http://www.britishcouncil.org/me-yemen.htm>

New Zealand Defence Delegation visits the Emirates Center for Strategic Studies and Research

The Emirates Center for Strategic Studies and Research (ECSSR) received on Thursday 22nd of May 2008, The New Zealand Chief of Defence Force Lieutenant General Jeremiah Mateparae accompanied by Mr. Brigadier Neville Reilly, Defence Attache at the New Zealand Embassy to the UAE, Squadron Leader Ron Logan, Military Assistant to Chief of Defence Force and Warrant Officer John Barclay, Defence Force Warrant Officer.

In their visit to the ECSSR, a brief presentation about the different departments of the Center was given. The delegation was also briefed about the different activities that contribute to enriching research in different fields including politics, economy and strategic. Following this, the delegation visited the U.A.E Federation Library, which is the largest specialized library in the Emirates, with a collection of 200,000 titles and 1,000 journals and periodicals. They also visited the Media Department where they were

briefed on its daily functions, which comprise daily monitoring of local and global events and issuing Akhbar Al-Sa'ah (News of the Hour).

Al-Qubati gets honorary members of University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey

Yasin Al-Qubati, a professor at Taiz University Medical College, and Vice President, Pan Arab League of Dermatologic Societies has been awarded an Honorary Membership of The Newark Chapter: University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, New Jersey Medical School / New Jersey Dental School



For his devotion to the Promotion of Research in Science. He was awarded this membership certificate in May this year especially after the launch of his book "Restoring Dignity: The Yemeni experience of ending the isolation and ostracism of Leprosy patients" was released and welcomed in the medical world. Al-Qubati is also President, Tenth Congress, Pan Arab League of Dermatologists, and is one of the well known Yemeni activists promoting better health care.

World Nomads Travel Writing Scholarship

Travel Writing Scholarship 2008
Go on assignment to Kosgoda, Sri Lanka and unearth your own travel story!

World Nomads will send one exceptional student to participate on an i-to-i volunteer project <http://www.i-to-i.com/volunteer-projects/voluntary-work-in-sri-lanka.html> in the tsunami devastated region of Sri Lanka. Staying in the small coastal village of Kosgoda, 70kms south of Colombo, you will live amongst the local people, working on various neighbourhood projects to help rebuild their community.

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Once you have returned home, you'll write, edit and create a feature article based on your experience in Sri Lanka which will be reviewed and considered for publication by the Sydney Morning Herald, Australia's pre-eminent newspaper, both printed and on-line - giving you the chance to have your story read by thousands of travellers world wide!

The Scholarship also includes airfares from your nearest international airport, i-to-i program costs, travel vaccinations, visa costs and per diems.

What you'll be doing

We'll fly you in from your country of residence to Sri Lanka. You'll need to be available between July 6th and July 19th 2008.

Prior to leaving, you will be mentored by journalist Keith Austin to guide you in how to approach your story.

In Sri Lanka, you will live amongst the local people of Kosgoda, volunteering to help restore their community whilst interviewing people and seeking out your story.

You will need to keep a daily diary about your time on the trip and upload this to a World Nomads travel journal, including pictures you've taken.

On your return you will receive further mentoring from Keith Austin to assist in editing together your feature story. You will then submit your story to the Sydney Morning Herald for possible publication, and on the World Nomads websites within one month of your return.

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Complete an entry form which includes contact and educational institution details and a 300 words (or less) essay on why you should be chosen. Copy and paste the 'An unforgettable adventure' travel story into the entry form.

The recipient of the Scholarship, along with the best entries will be published on the World Nomads website on June 1, 2008.

Applications close midnight (Australian Eastern Standard time), May 25, 2008.

For more information and the application forms visit <http://journals.worldnomads.com/scholarships/post/15629.aspx>

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The application deadline is Friday 30 May 2008 for those students com-

mencing their studies in September 2008.

The scholarship application must contain an essay of 500-800 words, typewritten (or reasons for not doing so given) - a piece of original work signed by the applicant. Essays may be checked for plagiarism. More information about the scholarship please find http://www.bris.ac.uk/international/recruit/scholarships/scholarship_guidelines.html#masters

Students will be notified in late September or early October if they have been successful and there will be a ceremony held later in the academic year to celebrate the awards.

Email applications must be sent to: int-schols@bristol.ac.uk

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- تحميل معلوماتك بعد تلفونها
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- Bachelor's degree in English with a specialization in Translation
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All applicants for these positions must have excellent IT skills including extensive experience of Microsoft Office systems. Fluency in written and spoken Arabic and English are essential. Please send your application only to www.careers.total.com no later than 18th June 2008. Faxed or handed-in applications are not accepted.



Our Energy is Your Energy

Korean ambassador Kwak to Yemen Times:

“We have to move beyond just exchange and get into real interactions with each other.”

Won-ho Kwak is the first ambassador from the Republic of Korea [South Korea] to Yemen since 1998, when the mission officially closed its doors in Sana'a. He had been working in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs since 1979 and has been posted to locales such as Bangladesh, the Holy See, Poland and Mongolia besides working in various posts in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade in Korea.

By: Nadia Al-Sakkaf

Yemen Times: What are the main challenges of restarting a diplomatic mission in Yemen after a disconnect of 10 years? What probed the re-establishing of the embassy in December 2007?

Kwak: Ten years ago as you may know the world had suffered from economic crises and so we had to close down 20 percent of our missions abroad including Yemen, which means that the ties between Yemen and Korea were disconnected, even though not fully. It took about two to three years of an adjustment period to recover from the economic crises, and then in 2001 to 2002 we were focusing on our own country.

In 2005 we started to rethink of establishing our embassy in Yemen and at the same time, [President] Saleh visited Korea. It provided a great momentum to upgrade the relations to a higher level, so we decided that as the country has recovered it could be time to re-establish our official connections with Yemen. Saleh was the first president to ever visit Korea since the establishment of the diplomatic relations back in 1985. At that time, we had diplomatic relations with North Yemen and when the unity took place we established relations with the republic of Yemen including the south.

We left physically from Sana'a, but our embassy in Saudi Arabia was taking care of some of the relevant issues in Yemen. So we were partially pres-

years of over 33 million US dollars.

The Korean National Cooperation has invested in the oil sector, we have an investment in Marib in Block 4, and we hope to expand the production up to 1,000 barrels per day. We are also exploring in other areas in east and the south of Yemen.

YT: What do you and the Korean government hope to achieve by re-instating your embassy in Sana'a?

Kwak: My main objective now is to revive the relations between Yemen and Korea face to face. I believe that states are like people and so we have to reconnect and move from stage to stage. We have to work closer to reality. The relations are not just give and take; it means an interaction and not just an exchange. I want to develop the relations between Yemen and Korea in cultural, economic, political and all other aspects but I want to reintroduce Korea at the people's level and everything can come from there. Any kind of understanding must come after we know each other in the cultural and people's level.

My personal ambition is that we help Yemen's investment and economic development especially the development of human resources. In the 1950s, Korea was shattered; there was nothing. We were told by foreign journalists that there was no hope

But we built our country from scratch because we invested in people. We capitalized in human resources and this is why we achieved what we have achieved today. Now we feel that we have a duty to convey this to the rest of



Korean ambassador Won-ho Kwak

very likely to raise its support for Yemen to US \$100 million. This is not finalized, but we are very positive and this will probably be confirmed in July.

YT: What are the main fields of interest does Republic of Korea have in Yemen?

Kwak: The volume of trade exchange between Yemen and South Korea in 2007 increased to YR 34.3 million. Yemen's exports to South Korea in the same year stood at YR 19.4 million. The main exports from Yemen to Korea are crude oil, nonferrous metal, minerals (copper) and coffee.

Other imports include transport machines (including automobile), electronic products, petrochemical products and industrial machines. Currently we will be handing over two gas tanks to Yemen to use in transporting its gas through the sea around the world.

We also are very interested in investing in human resources in Yemen. By this I mean education, poverty reduction... etc. Through training, technical assistance, what we want to do is to encourage Yemenis to develop their skills and cultivate human capital. We offer scholarships in higher education through providing masters degrees in various fields in five prominent universities in Korea. We have not given a PhD degree but we can start it if there is need. I encourage Yemenis to investigate them and make use of them. There are shorter opportunities under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs through the International Cooperation Agency. We have courses in Satellite navigation systems, health and medical care, information and communication policies, economic development strategies and trade promotion. Currently we have three Yemenis doing their master degrees in international development, international trade and international management. We can always expand and include more disciplines and I encourage Yemenis to apply.

YT: How do you hope to foster Yemeni-Korean interpersonal relations?

Kwak: One of the things I hope to accomplish during my stay in Yemen is to create a Korean-Yemeni Friendship Association. I hope that Dr. Al-Kibsi as well as businessmen and diplomats can establish this association together. We have a small community here - no more than 120 people, and about 70 are in Sana'a and most of them are workers. So we want to create a more inclusive relationship. We have to move beyond just exchange and get into real interactions with each other. Not just functional categories but true relations between people.

The Republic of Korea also supports the Project for the Institute of Advanced Technology Training. Can you please explain this Institute? This project aims at establishing the

Then we have advanced courses to train the trainers, and this will target skilled Yemenis whom we hope will become the future trainers. They will be sent to Korea to upgrade their teaching skills and capabilities to cope with [new] technologies; it will take three to six months of training.

YT: What about Yemen's business environment and security issues? Is this a concern for you as a diplomat?

Kwak: According to the "Doing Business Indicator" by the World Bank Group, Yemen has fallen from 107 in 2007 to 113 in 2008. This is because of security issues, especially because of the recent attacks targeting foreign interests. So if you want foreign investment then you have to provide a secure environment to attract such investment.

At the GCC and traditional donors meeting held in Sana'a last February, there was a concern about the deteriorating security and stability of the country.

I know that the Yemeni government is doing its best but it should be more sensitive to such issues. They know their country better and are the ones who should be able to stabilize it because security attacks are hindering the progress of current projects or stopping new ones from coming into the country.

Also tourism is affected and although many Koreans would love to come to Yemen, they are afraid. We know that Yemen is the Queen of Sheba's home but security issues stops Korean from visiting this country. Whenever an incident takes place, I get calls asking me if I am all right. I tell them that I am fine and it is not as big as it sounds. If you stay three or more

months in Yemen, you start to get to know your way around and use your own judgement. But they hear the news and read on the Internet and so the lack of security does not help.

However, I am still positive about the business opportunities available in Yemen and I believe that there are developments in this sector and that it is improving. We are also expanding our work and projects in Yemen, and if we did not believe in Yemen's future we would not do this.

YT: What are the Korean non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working in Yemen?

Kwak: We have three Korean NGOs working in Yemen, and seven Koreans members of international NGOs working in Yemen.

They are mostly working in the health and poverty reduction sectors. They work in rural areas and places where they are needed such as in Sa'ada, Mukalla, Aden, Taiz and other places around the republic. Currently we have some aid workers in Sa'ada from the World Services under fierce fighting but they don't want to leave because they feel they are needed there.

YT: What is your impression of Yemeni people?

Kwak: So far my impression is that Yemen is great and Yemeni people are kind, generous, sincere, and hospitable. I meet a lot of people on my way and when I walk sometimes they shout out "Hello Sadeeq [friend]" and it makes me very happy.

I had three options before coming here and I volunteered to come to Yemen because I wanted to and because of what I had heard about this country and Yemeni people.



Kwak With Yemen Times Editor Nadia Al-Sakkaf

ent, and last year we took the actual step in doing this. I came to Yemen in December 2007, being the first Korean ambassador to Yemen since 1998.

YT: Do you see this as a result of Saleh's visit to Republic of Korea in April 2005? What were the main outcomes of that visit?

Kwak: Saleh had come to request help from my government in the areas of economic cooperation. We talked about political relations as well as investment in oil and gas and other aspects, and to increase our aid to Yemen. Korea was a country that gave aid and soft loans to Yemen even during the time of disconnect. Before that, between 1991 and 1996 Korea had given Yemen in terms of soft loans with low interest of 1 to 2 percent and a grace period of 20 to 30

the world and help countries like Yemen develop and overcome their challenges.

YT: What do you want from the international community and the Yemeni government?

Kwak: As one of the donors to this country we would like to meet with the other donors from time to time to discuss developments and the exchange.

With the Yemeni government, [we would like] to talk together with the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation. There is the policy dialogue between the Yemeni government and Korean experts in July to discuss the level of aid. South Korea has pledged over US \$51 million to the Yemeni government at the donor conference held in 2006 in London. It is



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Politics Aside, U.S.-Syrian Trade Grows

Surprising as it may sound, trade volume between the United States and Syria is more than double than that between Iran and Syria. In fact sales between the two are increasing, despite the introduction of The Syria Accountability Act.

By: The Media Line/ Yaniv Berman

Eating Rice Krispies for breakfast, drinking a Coca Cola, then driving your Chevy to work may sound commonplace to you if you live in the United States – after all, these are regular all-American products.

You might be surprised, however, to hear that upon waking up in Damascus one can easily do exactly the same things.

Since the inception of the U.S. State Sponsors of Terrorism list in 1979, Syria has had a place of honor in it. The Syria Accountability Act (SAA) of 2004 and the recent U.S. allegations regarding a secret Syrian nuclear reactor, have certainly not improved diplomatic relations between the U.S. and Syria.

On the other hand, Syria and Iran are increasingly improving their relations in all fields, much to the dismay of the United States.

Having said all that, a brief glance at the 2007 trade figures between Syria and the U.S. on the one hand, and Syria and Iran on the other, reveals an unexpected reality: while the volume of U.S.-Syrian trade stood at \$472 million last year, Syria's trade with Iran hardly reached the \$200 million bar.

The Syria Accountability Act

In May 2004 U.S. President George W. Bush signed an Executive Order implementing sanctions on Syria. The first paragraph in the SAA reads:

"With the implementation of these sanctions, the President has demonstrated U.S. resolve to address the Syrian government's support for terrorist groups, its continued military presence in Lebanon, its pursuit of weapons of mass destruction, and its actions to undermine U.S. and international efforts with respect to the stabilization and reconstruction of Iraq."

In essence, most products – with the exception of mainly food and medicine – are prohibited for export to Syria. Also, any product that contains more than 10 percent U.S.-origin content, regardless of where it is made, is not allowed to be exported to Syria. The SAA also froze, within the jurisdiction of the U.S., assets which belonged to a number of Syrian individuals and government entities.

In April 2006 and again in May 2008, Bush extended the SAA.

"I took these actions to deal with the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy and economy of the United States constitut-

ed by the actions of the government of Syria," explained Bush in his executive order of May 2008.

Despite the sanctions, in 2007 trade between the U.S. and Syria marked an annual increase of 7.7%, mostly as a result of the rise in cereal exports to Syria (from \$146m. in 2006 to \$256m. the following year).

'Sanctions Are a Thing of the Past'

Dr. Rateb Shallah, chairman of the Damascus Chamber of Commerce, does not find these figures surprising. The sanctions, he says, focused mainly on hi-tech products, which had never been an essential part of the bilateral trade.

"The SAA did not include the usual, ordinary trade that we had between Syria and the United States. Syria never really imported high technology products, which were the main concern of the U.S., simply because we were not in the market for this; whatever we needed was obtainable from other sources," Shallah told The Media Line.

Shallah is highly skeptical of the success that sanctions could have today.

"Nowadays – with globalization – sanctions are not really a thing of the present. Governments are no longer looking at sanctions as a tool or a mechanism for affecting policies. This is why I can count quite a few American companies that trade with Syria. General Motors, for example, is doing very well and their sales are exceptionally high in Syria," says Shallah.

The mention of General Motors in this respect serves as a good example for how American companies found loopholes in the SAA.

General Motors' cars that are sold in Syria are manufactured in the company's factories in South Korea. Another major U.S. company, Coca Cola, uses a bottling factory in Syria itself, while Cargill, an American sugar company, has also invested in a large factory, which is about to open soon in Syria.

And so, American companies have circumvented the SAA sanctions simply by not manufacturing their products inside the United States. Their sales in Syria are not included in the official bilateral trade figures, which are therefore much higher than the ones mentioned above.

"Syria now has more business opportunities to offer, and as such there is no way to ban or stop American businesspeople from participating in this process," Shallah explains.

Syrian businesspeople with whom The Media Line spoke say both sides are eager to maintain good relations

with one another.

"There are no difficulties. U.S. businesspeople are treated like any other investors," says Samir Sultan, a commercial law expert from Aleppo, Syria.

Jihad Al-Yazigi, editor-in-chief of the Paris-based Syria Report, has been monitoring and analyzing business trends between the two nations. According to Al-Yazigi, there is a feeling that political developments and bilateral trade are "disconnected."

"The fact that trade is largely comprised of agricultural food, makes it not very responsive to political difficulties," Al-Yazigi told The Media Line.

But not all are happy with this paradoxical situation.

"The increasing trade with Syria runs counter to U.S. government policy and clear Congressional intent to impose ever-increasing sanctions upon the regime, as a result of its support for terrorism," Dr. Rand H. Fishbein, a former professional staff member at the U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee, told The Media Line.

Fishbein does not yield when presented with a common claim, according to which trading food and medicine with Syria constitutes humanitarian support to the Syrian people rather than to the regime.

"Money is fungible, and to the extent that the U.S. or the world community provide food commodities to Syria, that relieves the Syrian government of the burden of having to provide those goods at a reasonable cost to its own people.

"For an economy which is already quite stretched, these benefits are significant," Fishbein explains.

Fishbein further suggests that food should be included in the list of prohibited items, so that the U.S. would stop "effectively subsidize the Syrian regime with the sale of food products."

Continuing to provide benefits to Syria, says Fishbein, means there is no disincentive for the Syrian regime's behavior.

'Bilateral Trade Expected to Grow'

The SAA has nevertheless restrained U.S.-Syrian trade and prevented it from increasing even more.

"Had the relationship between Syria and the U.S. been subject to a better atmosphere of bilateral cooperation, the volume of trade would not have doubled but would have tripled or quadrupled," says Shallah of the Damascus Chamber of Commerce.

According to Shallah, the U.S. government's sanctions policy has not unduly affected the local business community's relations with its American counterparts.

Shallah has therefore no doubt that with the growth of the national economic program in Syria the volume of trade with the U.S. will increase in the near future.

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) invites **Yemeni Nationals** to apply for the following positions with its project **Decentralization and Local Development Support Programme (DLDSP)**

1-Post Title: Local Communication Officer

Duration: 7 months initially (renewable)

Responsibilities:

- Within the framework of the DLDSP objectives, develop and implement a communications and information strategy and carry out communications activities to promote and share information about DLDSP;
- Produce and regularly update a DLDSP folder, brochures, newsletters, website, and other public relations materials in cooperation with other team members, edit and layout reports, assist with planning, publicizing, and carrying out special events;
- Supervise translation, printing and dissemination of publications;
- Advise to management on timely publications, articles and sharing of knowledge and success stories;
- Travel to pilot districts and governorate for information gathering and preparation and conduction of events;
- Update donor data base and market DLDSP outputs to interested donors.
- Organize central and governorate level donor meetings to market projects from pilot districts' development plans

Qualification:

- Bachelors degree in Journalism, political sciences or related field
- 3 – 5 years of experience in communication/public relations is required. Experience in the usage of computers, office software package (MS Word, Excel, etc);
- Good knowledge of the local government system in Yemen and of professional desktop publishing software will be an asset;
- Excellent communication skills.
- Fluency in oral and written English and Arabic

2-Post Title: Mobile Team Participatory System and Gender Adviser (PSGA)

Duration: 6 months initially (renewable)

Responsibilities:

- Develop a work plan for the contract period for approval by the DLDSP Field Operations Manager and ensure it responds to the field operations of the whole Mobile Team and meets the requirements of DLDSP and report monthly to the DLDSP Field Operations Manager on progress against the work plan
- Refine (in close coordination with communities and council members) programs for the strengthening of such mechanisms and facilitate their testing and adoption if found effective and practical
- Organize and hold awareness building events to enhance the understanding by communities of their roles and responsibilities under a decentralized system of governance with special focus on women, coordinate the field testing of Notions of Sectors to be developed by UNICEF
- Train and work closely with council members in selected pilot districts to increase their effectiveness in communicating with their constituents and to effectively articulate their needs and to convey them in local council meetings and planning sessions
- Provide support to selected communities on the development of community or private sector initiatives for service delivery and economic activities in full coordination with the local authority and through the full inclusion of their representatives in the local councils

Qualification:

- A university degree in an appropriate discipline in the social sciences such as communication, political sciences, public administration, business administration, community health, or other related discipline.
- The post holder shall have 3 – 5 years experience in the field of local development/community development, data collection, gender-mainstreaming with specific experience and a solid track record in community mobilization and community needs assessment.
- The applicant to this post must be fluent in Arabic and proficient in English and ready to spend a large percentage of his/her time in the field and between districts in various governorates.

3- Post Title: Mobile Team Programme Assistant (MTPA)

Duration: 6 months initially (renewable)

Responsibilities:

- Provide clear communications and friendly outlook between the DLDSP Mobile team, District Facilitation Teams DFTs, and Ministry of Local Administrations (MOLA)
- Following up and assisting the Administration Assistant (AA) composing letters and other documents as well as document communications related to Mobile team work and activities with MoLA's sectors and departments, other Ministries, Governorates, and the DFTs.
- Following up and assist the (AA) preparing service and direct payment requests from DLDSP Mobile team to UNDP.
- Provide an overall documentation service to DLDSP mobile team. This will include: photocopying, filing, distributing and recording documents in hard and soft copies and photographing documentation.
- Establish a retrievable filing system of all reports and documents from the DLDSP districts, DFT reports, and the public expenditure management training materials
- Arrange with (AA) for the purchase and storage of regular Mobile Team supplies for office and training needs.
- Perform other tasks as directed by DLDSP Field Operation Manager.

Qualification:

- A university degree in an appropriate discipline such as business administration, accounting or related fields.
- She/he will have at least 3 years of relevant experience and be able to use computer and MS Office software.
- Familiarity with UNDP administrative procedures will be a strong advantage.
- Fluency in Arabic and English is essential.

4-Post Title: Translator

Duration: 7 months initially (renewable)

Responsibilities:

- Translate MS Word documents – large and small including Terms of Reference, project documents, legal documents, study and other reports, DLDSP newsletters, brochures, and other information material
- Translation of Power Point presentations with the required formatting and any other official documentation required
- Preparation of correspondence in English
- Occasionally simultaneous translation in program-related meetings and events.

Qualification:

- A university degree in English language or any other relevant degree.
- At least 3 years of experience in translation; previous experience with an international organization.
- Good knowledge of the local government system in Yemen will be an asset;
- Excellent translation and communication skills in Arabic and English.
- secretariat skills ; computer literacy

5-Post Title: Mobile Team Public Expenditure Management/Planning Adviser

Duration: 6 months initially (renewable)

Responsibilities:

- Contribute in the development and improvement of all DLDSP manuals on public expenditure management and in particular with planning and budgeting procedures.
- Develop a work plan for approval by the DLDSP Field Operations Manager and ensure it responds to the field operations of the whole Mobile Team and meets the requirements of the DLDSP.
- Contribute to the facilitation of training of trainers as well as direct training in districts in all DLDSP produced manuals for district local authorities.
- Produce quarterly reports that describe the experience in the field and report against the annual work plan. These reports should point to specific substantive issues with the goal of informing policy and the strategy for the implementation of decentralization reforms.
- Facilitate the formulation and ratification of a formal agreement with the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation on its role and responsibilities in the decentralization process.
- Maintain access to sector strategies and development targets devised by sector line ministries to ensure their incorporation at the local level and their integration into local planning.
- Continuously update her/his knowledge on participatory planning, local governance, local development and poverty alleviation through independent research to ensure that his input is well informed and regularly updated and is connected directly to new developments in the field in Yemen and beyond.

Qualification:

- A university degree in an appropriate discipline in the social sciences such as urban planning, geography, public administration, business administration, or other related discipline.
- The post holder should have at least 3 years of professional experience with local development planning.
- Proven experience with innovative participatory planning approaches and modern planning techniques and in community mobilization and community needs assessment would be of significant value.
- The applicant to this post must be fluent in Arabic and proficient in English and ready to spend a large percentage of his/her time in the field and between districts in various governorates.

Interested candidates are requested to visit our website at: <http://www.undp.org/ye/undp-vacancies.htm> for detailed terms of reference of the positions and may submit their applications indicating the title of the post applied for by mail to Human Resources Unit and response will only be made to short listed candidates.

UNDP, P.O.Box 551 Sana'a/Fax: 448892/E-mail: hr.ye@undp.org

The deadline for receiving applications is Saturday, 31 May 2008

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

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) invites **Yemeni Nationals** to apply for the following position in the **Joint Initiative on the Response to HIV/AIDS in the Arab Region, OPEC International Development Fund (HARPAS/ OFID)**

Post Title: Project Management Officer

Duration: 11 months

Responsibilities:

- Facilitating/supporting the implementation of the HIV UNDP programme on Country level
- Coordinating UNDP HIV activities with all relevant partners and ensuring its synergy with the regional programme overall work plan.
- Making sure that the OPEC (OFID), implementation and reporting requirements are met
- Ensure the identification of stakeholders participating in different events and facilitate the communications with them
- Share in the process of identifying the appropriate consultants, resources people, and facilitators for different activities under the supervision of the Regional coordinator and the Senior Programme Advisor
- Ensure that the necessary power points presentations and training material for all activities are in place and logistic support provided
- Ensure the provision and attainment of deliverables, such as declarations, work plans, proposals, etc. for each of the activities, and that they are appropriately disseminated
- Supervising and ensuring smooth finance and administrative procedure for the HIV relevant activities
- Manage all Workshop related organization ensuring a smooth operational procedure in response to the advisors and consultants requirements including (when appropriate)

Qualification:

- A University degree in a relevant discipline
- Have at least three years of national and/or international experience, particularly related to HIV/AIDS.
- Fluency in English and Arabic required, French is an asset
- Substantive experience as a specialist or activist in the area of HIV/AIDS.
- Fully proficient computer skills and use of relevant software and other applications, e.g. word processing, spreadsheets, Internet, etc.

Interested candidates are requested to visit our website at: <http://www.undp.org/ye/undp-vacancies.htm> for detailed terms of reference of the positions and may submit their applications indicating the title of the post applied for by mail to Human Resources Unit and response will only be made to short listed candidates.

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



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) invites **Yemeni Nationals** to apply for the following positions with its project **Public Financial Management**.

1-Post Title: 2 National Technical Associates.

Duration: one year- renewable based on performance and project duration.

Duty Station: The National Technical Associates will be located in the PFM project offices at the Ministry of Finance.

Responsibilities:

- Assist in conducting studies on the current PFM business processes in the GOY in order to diagnose gaps that need improvement.
- Work with international consultants on several components of the PFM reforms such as commitment control systems, Cash Planning, Budgeting, and Accounting.
- Work with the PFM Expert in providing technical support to the Technical Committees in the Ministry of Finance.
- Assist in providing training to the Public Finance staff on the key areas of reform.
- Assist in preparation of reports as requested by PFM Expert
- Assist in other tasks related to the project technical and administrative tasks as assigned by supervisor.
- Translate technical materials when requested.

Qualification:

- Hold a university degree in accounting, finance, business administration or economics from a recognized university
- Have at least three years experience in public financial management, covering budget preparation, execution, controls and financial accountability, procurement and capacity building
- Possession of any of the internationally recognized professional accountancy qualification will be an asset.
- Proficiency in MS office applications, and any computerized accounting manual
- Fluency in both English and Arabic languages
- Experience of working with Government is an asset

2-Post Title: Translator.

Duration: one year- renewable based on performance and project duration.

Duty Station: The Translator will be located in the PFM project offices at the Ministry of Finance.

Responsibilities:

- Undertake simultaneous interpretations during meetings and workshops
- Translate written documents, such as reports, budgets, laws etc.
- Accompany consultants to meetings in the Ministries
- Assist in preparation of reports as requested by PFM Expert
- Assist in other tasks related to project administration as assigned by supervisor

Qualification:

- Hold a bachelors degree in English language or any other relevant degree from a recognized university with at least 3 years experience of translation of Public Financial Management related work.
- Proficiency in MS office applications is mandatory
- Fluency in both English and Arabic languages
- Experience of working with Government is an asset

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VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) invites **Yemeni Nationals** to apply for the following position with **Strengthening the Capacity of the Media and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in Transparency Advocacy project**

Post Title: National Project Manager

Duration: one year

Duty Station: Sana'a

Responsibilities:

- Provide leadership and strategic thinking to ensure proper implementation of project activities
- Overall management and planning of the implementation of the project's activities and report progress to the Project Board.
- Recruit consultants to carry out training activities
- Manage and administer the day-to-day operations to ensure the effective implementation of the activities of the above mentioned project
- Initiate coordination with relevant ministries, national organizations, private sector companies and civil society initiatives where necessary
- Undertake all necessary financial arrangements, processes, request for authorizations, payments and ensure financial accountability
- Ensure that the Project Board convenes on a quarterly basis
- Act as Secretary of the Project Board.
- Prepare the work plan, quarterly, progress, annual reports and Terminal Report.
- Supervise all staff assignment and consulting agreements.
- Undertake any other related tasks at the request of the UNDP Programme Officer

Qualification:

- At least 5 years significant working experience working with CSOs, international organizations or national administration.
- A Master degree, preferably in Social Sciences, Public Administration, or other areas relevant to the assignment.
- At least 5 years of significant experience in project management gained with international organizations or in the public or private sectors.
- Proficiency in English and Arabic.
- Excellent communication skills.
- Resourcefulness and strong networking skills.

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Job Duties:

- Coordinates the daily monitoring, scheduling, work activities and performance of operational related Engineering Activity within area of responsibility in the Masila block development area. Reports on daily operational activity during morning meetings and at scheduled meetings between CPF and the Calgary Asset team.
- Assist with identifying production optimization opportunities as associated with job function and ensures these opportunities are brought to the attention of all parties required. Follows up until resolution and agreement are obtained to pursue any opportunity. Assists with maintaining PEAK updates of all opportunities identified. Completes PEAK notice and summary when job completed.
- Oversees the direction, priorities and preparations of all programs in the area of responsibility. Reviews all scopes, and develops workover programs that are mechanically correct. Ensures proper sizing of all equipment for workovers (ESP sizing, etc.).
- Assists and mentors other National Production Engineers within assigned area of work on detailed workover programs.
- Prepares and assists other National Production Engineers within assigned area of work on equipment need and specifications. Provides and assists others with detailed equipment specifications, requisitions, and ensures all ordered equipment meets the requirements equipment is to be used for. Assists in monitoring equipment inventory to optimize equipment inventory levels.
- Assists in the preparation of the weekly report, and updates Supervisor of all operational activities.
- Provides guidance to others in the Production Engineering group when required and assists others with proper communications skills and best efforts.
- Ensures all necessary data collection is performed and distributed as required to CPF and Calgary. Ensures distribution of all data is correct in form and content. Ensures that data reporting and distribution is completed in the proper time frame and that well data files are updated with latest data and programs.
- Works closely with Calgary Asset Teams (under direction of the Staff Engineer) to ensure that communication is maintained
- Prepares cost estimates and justifications for operational expenditures as part of all programs. Assist in monitoring costs to ensure yearly budgets are adhered to and notes any variances to his supervisor.
- Works under the skills and knowledge goals as identified by his Individual Development Program (IDP).
- If required to drive shall know and understand CNPY "Safe Driving Practice".
- Required to report any unsafe acts and conditions (vehicle, driving or workplace).
- Know and understand the Responsible Care Ethics. Will follow the Responsible Care standards as applicable to their role within the Organization.

Minimum Requirements:

- University education and degree, preferably with a degree in Petroleum Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, or related discipline.
- Minimum of 7 years of related experience in well operations and production
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Mr. Beyong Goo Choi
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tions to

H. E. Mr. Ameer Salem Al-Aidarous
Upon his appointment as Minister of Oil and
Minerals

We wish him success in his new duties for
Serving Yemen and all Yemenis.

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بيونج جو تشوي

المدير العام

للشركة الكورية الوطنية للنفط

بأحر التهانى القلبية والتبريكات إلى

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نتمنى من الله العلي القدير أن يوفقكم في مهام عملكم

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و

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المدير التنفيذي

لشركة كنيديان تكسن بتروليم يمن، قطاع المسيلة "١٤"

وشركة كنيديان تكسن بتروليم شرق الحجر المحدودة، قطاع "٥١"

والإدارة العليا وجميع موظفي القطاعين

بأحر التهاني القلبية والتبريكات إلى

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نتمنى من الله العلي القدير أن يوفقكم في مهام عملكم الجديد لما فيه خدمة الوطن

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President and General Manager

&

Mr. Ali Mohammed Sohaiki,
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Words of Wisdom



Gentlemen, Yemen does not need more money! It needs a system. Yemen needs accountable officials, and it needs people with some decency in the way they work. If the IMP, World Bank and other organizations pump loans into Yemen, where will it go? More importantly, how will it be paid?

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

OUR
OPINIONThe apathy of
Yemeni journalists

The image of Yemeni media globally is that journalists are struggling for freedom of expression willing to die for the cause, while the evil Yemeni government especially the Ministry of Information and the political security apparatus are chocking the life and spirit out of the free journalists. There are reportedly many violations against freedom of press, and so many local reports come every year to document such violations.

For example, the Center for Training and Protection of Journalists' Freedoms based in Sana'a issued its annual report this month stating that there had been 220 registered incidents against journalists in 2007, while the first third of 2008 witnessed 52 violations. These range from harassment, verbal and physical abuse and court cases. Year 2007 was termed by the report as the worst year for freedom of press in Yemen.

However, that is only half of the story.

The other half which not many people talk or want to talk about is regarding the number of false news items published by Yemeni media, or the number of drastic mistakes in figures and inaccuracies published and broadcasted. Or the extortion incidents Yemeni journalists are committing against business owners, government officials and even diplomats so as to get money.

Worse of all, no one talks about how the Yemeni journalists' community is suffering from apathy regarding causes they claim to defend. They even don't show support to their own issues such as violations against the press. In the protest called on by the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate last week in support of Al-Wasat Newspaper, which was prevented from being printed, of the hundreds of Sana'a based journalists only 12 showed up. And I am sure some of them were at the syndicate by chance just to follow their journalists ID cards or some other business.

But this was not reported because we do not want the government to think that we are divided and that we don't care if Al-Wasat ever publishes again or Al-Khaiwani receives a death sentence.

This is partly because many of the people working in media today are there because they could not do anything else. There is a common saying in Yemen that journalism is the profession of those who don't have a job. So they are just considering journalism as a job like any other job and they simply want to keep it by staying out of trouble, so that they get a salary at the end of the month. This applies heavily to official media including TV and radio.

The other reason is that a large part of Yemeni journalists are frustrated and bored. They are underpaid, under trained and not respected. So they don't appreciate their profession and the "will to defend the truth and change the world", has long gone with the first paycheck. Now there is even a worse trend which is: Yemeni journalists write about events and issues only if that particular organization pays them to do so. They are simply sold. For example, for international organisations including the high level ones such as the UN agencies, the World Bank, or even events carried out by embassies, there is a budget line called media transport allowance. This is apparently the money they give journalists in order to get them on board and give the event or the issue publicity. Apparently it is to help the journalists get "transportation" to the venue of the event. Keep in mind that they pay at least 2000 Yemeni riyals per day, while it could cost 40 riyals on average to get physically to that venue. Maybe transportation here includes spiritual preparation for journalists, or maybe they are hiring expensive cars, but nevertheless, it works. And this is why if someone has an event but does not include "transportation allowance" none will even show up, let alone write about it. Of course there are exceptions, but they are only what they are: exceptions.

So before you jump into conclusions about the situation of Yemeni media, maybe it would be fairer to all parts to take a look at the other side of the story and then see how and who in Yemeni media equation should be supported.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf

Democracy in the
face of backwardness

By: Mohammed Ahmad Abdulghani

Certainly, the triangle of poverty, illiteracy and illness is the ground, which the nightmare of backwardness depends on to establish its concepts and deep-root its bases, and consequently build its oppressive and totalitarian projects. All such projects are built at the expense of Yemen's future and the right of Yemeni citizens to lead a free and luxurious life.

It is widely known that severe poverty, poor living standards, deteriorating education and poor healthcare are the result of rampant corruption and irresponsible corrupt officials, who exhaust all the available material and spiritual capacities in the nation. These officials behave this way in order to maintain control of power, loot the country's resources and distribute them to irresponsible officials claiming to be loyal with the government.

According to consecutive international reports on the economic and political conditions in our homeland, corruption has broken a record in embezzling public funds and property. Corruption is observed

to have been controlling demeanor of the government until the extent that the phenomenon left no distinction between the system of governance and corrupt officials.

No chance that corruption can be deflected from the government under the case of full integration and indifference on the part of citizens who turned to associate any talk about the standing government with corruption. They also believe that any talk about the government has to do with corruption.

The relevant studies attribute the growing phenomenon to the evasive ruling elite that are never committed to building the modern state and enhancing the principles and concepts of democracy. Yemeni people are living under a fragile system of governance that has only weak components and structure.

The ruling elite only care about strengthening their positions at the expense of building a strong state and a strong community. Such a fact necessarily led to weakening the state and society as well.

Having realized that their political legitimacy is expiring, the ruling elite turned to boost role of the tribe in order to protect them from potential public wrath. And, the government

stopped updating the tribal situation and halted developing the social constituents under an allegedly logical frame aimed at enhancing concepts of the modern state and contributing to the establishment of its constitutional institutions.

As a result, Yemen's system of governance is based on an unbalanced equation between the tribe and state. The government attempts to improve its image in the eye of people via raising deceptive slogans, exploiting official media outlets to deceive people, practicing news blackout and instigating public opinion against protests criticizing illegal practices by its authorities.

Under such an unbalanced equation that destroyed all the instruments, rules and systems of modernity, Yemeni citizens found themselves living under the cover of a formal state that manages the nation's issues according to contradictory policies. They realized that their government attempts to dedicate the principle of contradiction as a reality for depicting the current relation between people and the state, on the one hand, and among people as groups and individuals, on the other.

Source: Al-Ahali Weekly.

No clear reason why JMP
boycotted governor election

By: Mohammed Hussein Al-Aidarous

Until recently, some of the political opposition forces have been viewing governor election as one of the demands, which is so difficult for the authority to meet. In the concept of such opposition forces, power can exist only at the central level and the nation can not be managed except under a totalitarian regime.

The Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) believe that an ultimate decision should not be given to people who are still immature to manage their affairs, in total contrast to belief of Yemen's political leadership that made governor election part of its presidential platform, announced ahead of 2006 presidential election that gave President Saleh another seven-year mandate.

Undoubtedly, seeing the Yemeni people as immature and ineligible to take any decision while political, religious and cultural guardianship should be imposed on them is one of the vital matters that interpret Yemeni people's sufferings in the past under a tyrannous regime.

Under the past political systems, Yemeni people were denied even their basic human rights. They were not allowed to own houses, states or even modest workshops to provide them with livelihood.

At that time, the poor Yemeni citizens suffered growing poverty while other nations in the world were developing and building the future of their generations. Yemeni political system of the past (Imamate) is responsible for oppressing people these days by some opportunists under the pretext of pursuing the holy legislation.

Modernity has not guaranteed a specific end to this kind of political culture, thereby allowing it to extend to the contemporary time. We find that some of opposition forces still believe that they are guardians of 22 million people, as well as legitimate representatives for each Yemeni citizen. They also believe that they must control all the nation's natural resources and then distribute them to

certain individuals according to their assessment grid.

Why does the Yemeni opposition think this way? It does so because of seeing all Yemeni citizens as immature and ineligible to manage their resources or funds. The opposition parties also label Yemeni people as backward, ignorant and unable to manage their affairs because they lack faith, adherence to principles and honesty.

Opposition not concerned about citizens' issues:

At this point, the gap of awareness and sensation between the opposition parties and Yemeni people got expanded, but the ultimate decision was granted via ballot boxes to the people who proved to the opposition forces that it is them who are backward, and therefore lack the required awareness and understanding of national issues.

It is now that Yemeni people understood that the opposition parties have nothing to do with their current sufferings as a result of a tyrannous regime that ruled Yemen in the past. It is now that Yemeni people realized practices of the opposition parties violate the basic human rights.

If partisan plurality, initiated and enhanced by Yemeni political leadership, represents a turning point toward liberation from the totalitarian culture and backward guardianship, the most recent gubernatorial election, which succeeded thanks to strong will and determination of Yemeni people, stands for a post-liberation period. It is the period of possessing the political decision and practicing broad and multiple powers that are key to fostering comprehensive development and strengthening the national determination, as well as ensuring this determination against any irresponsible intervention.

The national determination will be stronger as we move toward the election of district directors in the near future.

Anyway, there are forces that view such a unique transformation as a strong strike on their central practices within their political parties and organizations. The way these forces criticize the notable democratic

transformation in Yemen and describe it as 'a wrong and futile procedure' is attributed to their outdated beliefs and fanaticism that undergo erosion with the passage of time.

The Yemeni opposition suffers from notable shortage and incapacity in dealing with good matters, while on the other hand, mind of the wise political leadership remained unchanged for several decades for the sake of helping all Yemeni citizens practice their democratic, political, social and economic rights.

In think that the opposition parties should review the way they think and modify their outdated concepts in order to cope with demands of the time, particularly as the opposition seems to be far away from the real political life in Yemen and the real situations of Yemeni people. Notably, there is a wide gap between the opposition and the local community as the former operates in line with its narrow interests at the expense of trying to do something for the latter or addressing its pressing issues.

Source: Al-Thawra State-run Daily

SILVER LINING

The virtue guards
are coming!

Gracious are the Yemeni people. They will soon have guards to promote virtue and curb vice. A group of clerics led by Sheikh Abdulmajid Al-Zindani, rector of the Islamic Al-Iman University, recently spoke to President Ali Abdullah Saleh about setting up a national committee for promotion of virtue and prevention of vice. This information was announced recently by Hamud Hashim Al-Tharhi, a leading figure in the Islah party.



By: Dr. Mohammed
Al-Qadhi

Al-Zindani and his fellows alleged that vice and debauchery has dominated the country. According to Al-Tharhi, the committee will involve the Ministers of Culture, Tourism and Information among others.

It has the same orientation as the anti-vice organization operating in Saudi Arabia for decades. While the Saudis are now trying to curb the activities of this organization as a part of their fight against terrorism and religious fanaticism, Yemen is just starting to allow it.

This is the latest invention of Al-Zindani following his allegations of his successful invention of a cure for HIV/AIDS. This man who has been once a cleric in the presidential council representing the Islah party in the then-coalition government is mad for publicity and seeing himself on camera. Following his ousting from the position as head of the Islah party's Shura Council, he has been frantically trying to keep himself on camera in his effort to remain a public figure. He has been leading protests against the Israeli attacks on Palestinians and protests against the Danish cartoons.

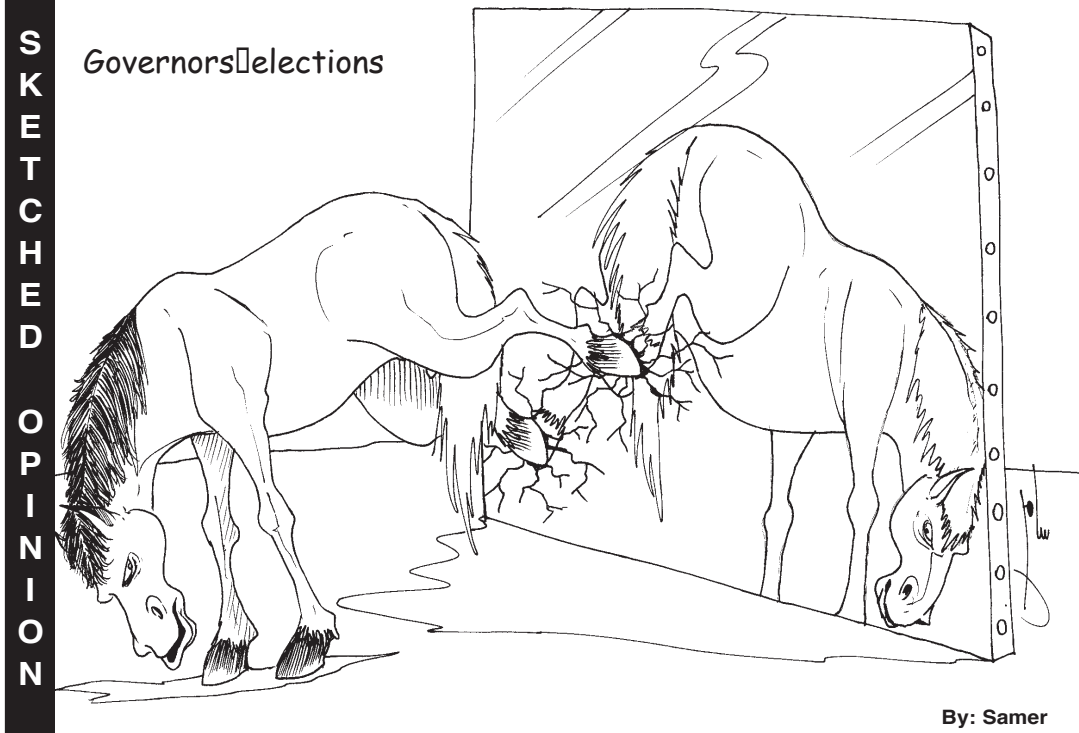
However, he and his religious cohorts have kept mysteriously mute and have never deigned to criticize any of the government's wrongdoings. They have never spoken out about corruption, which is the biggest challenge for development in the country, about price hikes, which have starved thousands more Yemenis, the diesel shortage or any other major ailments that affect the daily lives of citizens.

These are not their concerns as religious people. Their major concern is to have a corps of "religious police" to harass people in the streets, in their work and in every other aspect of their life. As the media reported, after the news of the "virtue guards" meeting became public, Al-Zindani's people in Aden kicked off their campaign by harassing the students of Aden University. In fact, it seems they have been operating in Hodeidah governorate for a year now where sturdy youngsters are reported to have caused a lot of trouble with people in the streets and hotels, sending them to jails under the pretext of "protecting the ethical manners" of society. They succeeded last year in closing down some hotels on charges of debauchery.

I have been surprised by the silence of civil society organizations towards this serious issue. It is only journalists who have been critiquing and highlighting the consequences of such practices, which violate human rights and subject people and their personal lives to the persecutions of extremist groups who consider themselves the representatives of God on earth. This reminds us of the horrifying experience that the Afghan people went through under Taliban movement's rule where everything was considered evil.

Mr. President, your people are extremely frustrated and fed up. They need food and protection and rule of law rather your okay for fanatical groups to act on behalf of the state institutions. This is against the law. Virtue can be promoted when you curb corruption and poverty which is the main vice we are all plagued with.

Dr. Mohammed Al-Qadhi (mhalqadhi@hotmail.com) is a Yemeni journalist and columnist.



By: Samer

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Yemen Press Review



Al-Eshteraki.net, affiliated with Yemeni Socialist Party
Friday, May 23

Top Stories

- Aleshteraki reveals 68 names of political detainees on national unity 18th Anniversary
- Aden University students: 7th of July authority celebrates unity 18th Anniversary, wages new war on citizens of south Yemen
- YSP: authority committed scandalous frauds in governor votes

The website quoted Qassim Al-Dharhani, Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP) Second Secretary of Dhalea as saying that gubernatorial election in the governorate was rigged and illegitimate, adding that the authority had no choice but to exercise fraud in the electoral process after it failed to convince JMP local councilors to participate in the vote despite deals offered to them. The authority should have respected the collective decision taken by the majority of local councilors, but not to resort to rigging the vote in a scandalous manner.

The website went on to say that Dhalea-based JMP Office held Yesterday a broad meeting that involved senior JMP leaders, local council secretary generals and local councilors. During the meeting, the participants discussed governor election, conducted the day before yesterday.

The conveners called on all the local councilors and secretary generals to disclose those who were impersonated in an intended fraud practiced by the

authority on the Election Day with the purpose of electing a governor for Dhalea. They vowed to continue their sit-in and suspend businesses until all the facts are uncovered.

The meeting participants stressed the necessity of forming a committee to be in charge of following up such an issue, which they consider as 'an opportunity for JMP to disclose all the scandals committed by the authority'.

They claimed the local authority and supervisory committee to disclose names and photos of 27 people who impersonated JMP local councilors. Otherwise, they will file a suit to the court to try the supervisory committee. The meeting was attended by many social dignitaries from Dhalea governorate, who demanded that the relevant agencies must investigate the fraud committed by the authority in Dhalea.



Al-motamar.net, affiliated with General People's Congress (ruling party)
Friday, May 23

Top Stories

- Massive security campaign to fight huge influx of illegal immigrants into Yemen's territories
- Yemen has reached commendable achievements through its unity-related experience, says Secretary General of Gulf Cooperation Council
- GPC surprised by tenseness and disturbance among JMP leaders

According to the website, a General People's Congress (GPC) source on

Monday expressed his curiosity about the state of tense and disturbance among Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) leaders, which is the direct result of some JMP members' participation in gubernatorial elections, especially in Aden, Hadramout, Taiz, Lahj, Al-Dhalie, Abyan, Sana'a, and Shabwa, conducted on May 17.

The website further quoted the source as saying, "It is regrettable that these leaders live in high ivory towers and isolated from their bases and grassroots that have chosen to take the side of the homeland and democracy and exercised their democratic right. Those were of high degree of awareness and sense of responsibility and did not submit to those disturbed calls by some leaderships of the JMP that called for boycotting the elections."

The source praised the initiative taken by JMP local councilors, who never paid attention to directions given by the opposition bloc's leadership and participated in the first Yemeni governor election, saying such an initiative reflects the high spirit of patriotism of those members and their realization of the importance of this step in the course of democracy in Yemen.

The website continued that GPC gubernatorial candidate in Dhalea governorate Ali Qassim Talib won in the elections held Sunday during which JMP local councilors in the governorate participated in the elections. Chairman of the Dhalea-based Supervisory Committee Ali Saleh Abdullah affirmed to almotamar.net that the GPC candidate won the votes of 97 votes out of 107 members, who took part in the election, among them 28 members from the JMP.



26September.net, affiliated with Yemeni Army
Thursday, May 22

Top Stories

- Yemeni Embassy in Riyadh celebrates 18th Anniversary of National Unity
- French government supports information network in Yemen's Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research
- First dinosaur tracks on Arabian discovered in Yemen

Scientists have discovered that the first dinosaur tracks on the Arabian Peninsula, which include footprints of the sauropod herd and ornithopod were existing in Yemen. The website reported. Discovered along a Mesozoic coastal mudflat, these dino footprints were found by Anne Schulp of the Maastricht Museum of Natural History in the Netherlands, along with Ohio University paleontologist Nancy Stevens and Mohammed Al-Wosabi of Sana'a University in Yemen.

"No dinosaur trackways had been found in this area previously. It's really a blank spot on the map," said Schulp. According to researchers, the finding also is an excellent example of dinosaur herding behavior. The site preserved footprints of 11 small and large sauropods - long-necked, herbivorous dinosaurs that lived in the Jurassic and Cretaceous periods - traveling together at the same speed.

"It's rare to see such a big example of a dinosaur herd, said Schulp."This is

interesting social behavior for reptiles," he added. One of the dino footprints was spotted by a Yemeni journalist in 2003, about 50 kilometers north of the capital of Sana'a in the village of Madar.

According to the website, Stevens, Al-Wosabi and Schulp identified it as the footprint of an ornithopod, a large common plant-eater sometimes referred to as the "cow of the Mesozoic," that walked on its hind legs. Only a few dinosaur fossils have been reported so far from the Arabian Peninsula, including isolated bones from the Sultanate of Oman, which Schulp has studied, and possible fragments of a long-necked dinosaur from Yemen.



Al-Sahwa.net, affiliated with the Islah Party
Thursday, May 22

Top Stories

- Opinion prisoner to President Saleh: What happens to me is indecent retaliation
- Yemeni Journalists Syndicate condemns staff member's seizure at Doha Airport, demands that Qatar must apologize
- Coddling terrorists in Yemen

One of the website's writers said in a critical article that seven years after Qaeda terrorists Jamal al-Badawi and Fahd Al-Quso confessed their crucial involvement in the bombing of the USS Cole, and three years after they were convicted in a Yemeni court — where a judge imposed a death sentence on Badawi — they, along with many other Qaeda terrorists, are free. On Oct. 12,

2000, when I flew to Yemen to lead the FBI's Cole investigation, I had no idea how uncooperative the Yemeni government would initially be. Nor could I have imagined how disconnected from reality the U.S. ambassador to Yemen then, Barbara K. Bodine, would prove.

I have hesitated in the past to share my view of the conflict between Bodine and the FBI's counterterrorism leader, John O'Neill. I feel compelled, however, to respond to Bodine's recent comments, which slander the efforts of many dedicated counterterrorism agents and divert attention from the significant terrorist problem within Yemen, our "ally" in the "war on terror."

A recent Post report on Yemen allowing Qaeda operatives to go free offered insight into the challenges the FBI faced. Bodine was quoted in the article not urging the Yemeni government to rearrest the terrorists but, instead, denigrating the agents who investigated the attack. She faulted the FBI as being slow to trust Yemeni authorities and said agents were "dealing with a bureaucracy and a culture they didn't understand. . . . We had one group working on a New York minute, and another on a 4,000-year-old history."

In fact, our team included several Arab American agents who understood the culture and the region. Even so, such comments were irrelevant. The FBI left Yemen with the terrorists in jail. It is true that while tracking the terrorists we worked "on a New York minute." We owed that much to the sailors murdered on the Cole and to all innocent people who remained targets as long as the terrorists were free.

The writer was an FBI supervisory special agent from 1997 to May 2005.

Invitation for Bids
Republic of Yemen
Ministry of Public Health and Population
Health Reform Support Project - Cr.3652

SUPPLY, and INSTALLATION OF PROCUREMENT MODULE INVENTORY
MODULE SOFTWARE and PERSONNEL SOFTWARE

This invitation for bids follows the general procurement notice for this project that appeared in United Nations Development Business (UNDP) issue no.(607) on 16th May 2003, Al_Thawra Newspaper issue no. (13944) on 28th May 2003, and Yemen Times issue no. (641) on 12th June 2003. The Republic of Yemen has received a credit from the National Development Association (IDA) towards the cost of its Health Reform Support Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this credit to payments under the contract for procurement and supply, and Installation of Inventory and Personnel Software.

The Credit Administration Unit (CAU) now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for procurement, supply, customize, implement, and install of procurement and Inventory, and Personnel Software Bid No (93) as follows:

Description	Amount of Bid Security Required US\$
Lot No. 1 Procurement module and Inventory module Software	800
Lot No. 2 Personnel software	1200

The bidders may bid one or more Lots, and should quote separate prices using the forms provided for one or more Lots. This bid evaluation will be conducted per Lots.

Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding procedures specified in the World Bank's Guidelines: Procurement under IDA Credits, and is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the guidelines.

Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Credit Administration Unit (CAU) and inspect the bidding documents at the below from **9:00 am to 2:00 pm** during official working days.

A complete set of bidding documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written applications to the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of **USD \$ 50.00** for local bidders, the method of payment will be in cash or certified check and documents will be submitted by hand

Bids must be delivered to the address below by **11:00 a.m. on 23th June 2008** bids must be accompanied by a bid security as indicated above. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of bidder's representative who choose to attend at the address below at **11:00 a.m. on 23th June 2008**

The attention of perspective Bidders is drawn to (i) the fact that they will be required to certify in their bids that all software is either covered by a valid license or was produced by the Bidder and (ii) that violations are considered fraud, which is, among other remedies, punishable by potential blacklisting from participation in future World Bank-financed procurement.

Credit Administration Unit - Health Reform Support Project (HRSP)
Ministry Of Public Health & Population
P.O Box 1330 - Al-Hasabah - 4th floor
Tel: + 967 (1) 252224 - fax: +967(1) 251622
E-mail: hrsp@y.net.ye

JOB VACANCY – Finance Executive, Yemen

A multi-national FMCG Company operating in Yemen is seeking to hire a highly qualified candidate for the vacancy of Finance Executive based in Yemen.

Qualifications & Competencies:

- B.A. in Finance or Financial Accounting from a reputable University
- A higher Education degree is a plus
- CPA, CMA and CFA are a plus
- A minimum of 5 years of experience in a supervisory/managerial role in a multi-national organization – preferably a FMCG
- Excellent communication skills in both Arabic and English
- Excellent knowledge of the Yemeni Income Tax, Social Security Laws & Regulations and Finance Governance
- Excellent leadership and interpersonal skills
- Agility and ability to travel for business purposes inside and outside Yemen.

If you possess the above and interested please forward your resume' to the below e-mail address no later than 2nd of June 2008. Only qualified candidates will be contacted.

Email address : financeyemen@googlemail.com



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**Yemen International Telecommunications Co. (TeleYemen)
Job Opportunity**

Yemen International Telecommunications Co. (TeleYemen), would like to call qualified candidates to apply for the following vacant post within its main office in Sana'a.

● **Operation Implementation Officer**

Main Duties and key Responsibilities:

- Assist in the planning for requirements to manage the international network.
- Contribute to network monitoring, analysis and recommendation for change. Coordinate and insure timely establishment of capacities and services liaising with internal counterparts and external providers.
- Produce and maintain Network Operation records.
- Carry out any other task related to the section scope.

Required Qualifications, Experience, Knowledge and Skill

- University degree in relevant field.
- Good written and oral communication in English and Arabic.
- Strong computer skills – proficiency in MS Word, Excel and Access.
- Minimum of 4 years experience in Telecom or related field.
- Ability to research, analyze, evaluate and synthesize information.

Interested candidates may submit their application with detailed Curriculum Vitae to the following e-mail, no later than 15.6.2008.

Please note that only candidates who fulfill above requirements will be considered.

jobs@teleyemen.com.ye

www.teleyemen.com.ye



**Yemen International Telecommunications Co. (TeleYemen)
Job Opportunity**

Yemen International Telecommunications Co. (TeleYemen), would like to call qualified candidates to apply for the following vacant post within its main office in Sana'a.

● **Purchasing Controller**

Main Duties and key Responsibilities:

- Participate in projects tendering preparation and evaluation.
- Produce purchasing analytical reports.
- Obtain and analyze quotations/offers.
- Control (in conjunction with departmental heads) the OPEX, CAPEX and Budgets for items relating to supplies and services delivery.
- Prepare, organize and forward purchase orders.
- Carry out inventories for bulk purchase items (spare parts, promotional items etc) to ensure proper consumption recording.
- Ensure exempted items are clearly defined during the purchasing order issuance.
- Liaise with Clearance agencies for overseas orders and Clearance.
- Receive, organize requisition orders.
- Rest duties are contained in the Job Descriptions.

Required Qualifications, Experience, Knowledge and Skill

- A recognized University degree.
- Three year experience in Electronics and communication equipments.
- Good experience in using windows and Internet search.
- Very good knowledge in both English and Arabic.
- Valid driving license.

Interested candidates may submit their application with detailed Curriculum Vitae ONLY to the following e-mail, no later than 15.6.2008.

Only qualified candidates who fulfill the above requirements will be considered.

jobs@teleyemen.com.ye

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**Yemen International Telecommunications Co. (TeleYemen)
Re-announcement for Job Opportunity**

Yemen International Telecommunications Co. (TeleYemen), would like to re-announce the following vacant post within its main office in Sana'a.

● **1) Manager Human Resources**

Main Duties and Responsibilities:

- Aim to achieve a homogeneous work force in Sana'a area and all TeleYemen Regional offices.
- Control and interpret the application of the Labour Law, Social Insurance Regulations and TeleYemen By-Laws, Rules & Regulations.
- Control the relevant returns to local Administrations, Ministries, Companies and answer queries arising there from.
- Manage and control the activities and internal administration.
- Control and administer all routine matters concerning staff in TeleYemen.
- Deal with follow up all cases filed in the courts with the coordination of the company solicitor.
- Control and manage Training Department.
- Collect data for sake of comparison with that of TeleYemen such as Job descriptions, salaries, medication and other fringe benefits.
- Rest duties are contained in the Job Descriptions.

Required Qualifications, Experience, Knowledge and Skill

- Master Degree in Business Administration, with minimum of 10 years experience in the field of HR, Personnel and Administration.
- Must be able to develop and form procedures.
- Proficiency with Microsoft office tools.
- Good understanding of telecommunications.
- Fluent English and Arabic written and oral communication skills is required, a third language (French) is a strong plus.
- Interested candidates may submit their application with detailed Curriculum Vitae ONLY to the following email address no later than 15.6.2008 :-
- Only qualified candidates who fulfill the above requirements will be considered.

jobs@teleyemen.com.ye

www.teleyemen.com.ye



**Yemen International Telecommunications Co. (TeleYemen)
Job Opportunity**

Yemen International Telecommunications Co. (TeleYemen), would like to call qualified candidates to apply for the following vacant post within its main office in Sana'a.

● **Enhanced Services Coordinator**

Main Duties and key Responsibilities:

- Responsible of developing new services for the corporate customers.
- Providing full support in the development of these services (advertising, promotions ..).
- Analyzing market intelligence relating to consumers, the market and competitors.
- Analyzing statistical information, propose new idea and recommend solutions.
- Assist in developing marketing and communication budget.
- Contributing to the formulation and implementation of the annual marketing plan.
- Consistently reviewing, evaluating and discussing alternative recommendations in order to maximize profit of the corporate services.
- Design promotional campaigns for Corporate Products and Services and monitor their impact on the income of TeleYemen Corporate customers business.
- Develop new ideas, plans or programs that helps to enhance the company's image.
- Monitor the trends of all Corporate Customers products or services within a specified market segments and consequently recommend appropriate responses to the opportunities and threats.
- To analyze products/services position, recommend formulate new pricing policies and discounts that should be implemented by the sales.
- To liaise with market information to facilitate the appropriate research and intelligence for the development.
- Liaise with marketing to identify and select appropriate promotional and advertising offers/campaigns for the corporate services.
- To be responsible of products launching including products related training for the Corporate Customers.
- To perform any other duties commensurate with the job that may be assigned.

Required Qualifications, Experience, Knowledge and Skill

- University degree and minimum of 3 years experience in business services.
- Computer literate & proficient with MS office applications.
- Should be able to communicate in both oral and written Arabic & English.
- Strong team player with people management skills.
- Strong knowledge of existing and emerging telecoms technologies.
- Ability to work autonomously and as a team member.
- Valid driving license.

Interested candidates may submit their application with detailed Curriculum Vitae to the following e-mail no later than 15.6.2008.

Please note that only candidates who fulfill above requirements will be considered.

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www.toyotayemen.com

Is this the worst place on earth to be a woman? (Part 1/2)

In Yemen, women belong to men. Most are illiterate. They are arrested in the street. They die in childbirth. In this special report, Rachel Cooke meets the brave few who are campaigning for midwives and against early marriage.



YT Photo by Amira Al-Sharif

10 Riyals to know how much you weigh, a little girl doing her homework while working in the streets. Despite poverty and need to contribute to the family's earning this little girl is adamant to educate herself.

By: Rachel Cooke

It is early morning in Al-Hudaydah, a small city in the northwest of Yemen, and Aminah, my translator, is going about the awkward business of eating breakfast. We have come to a restaurant, our hotel dining room being somewhat unappetizing in appearance, and this means, for starters, that we've been put in a special room, segregated, away from the eyes of male diners.

In fact, it's more of a corridor, a place at the back of the restaurant, where oil cans are stored, and great piles of vegetables kept in the cool. There are no windows - the only light is provided by the door through which we entered - and not much space: our table takes up all of that. It is dark and dank, and it makes me feel as though we are being punished rather than entertained. Aminah, I can tell, is in two minds about her veil. Should she raise it, so she can eat? Or should she leave it down, in case of passing males, and push her bread, beans and spring onions awkwardly behind it? Sometimes, I have noticed, waiters count as males, and sometimes they don't; they become conveniently invisible. This place, though, is wide open to the street, so waiters are the least of her worries. Eventually, she decides: the veil goes up, and she eats. Only now she is sitting at an odd angle, so that her face is carefully cast in shadow, like that of a spy or a fugitive.

When I first met Aminah, four days ago, I was dismayed. In Yemen, few women go about unveiled. In fact, almost none. Even so, for some reason I was expecting her to be different: the fact that she spoke English, and had a job, encouraged me to believe that when I talked to her, I would be allowed to see her face, and thus to tell what she was thinking. So when I saw her, sitting in our hotel lobby, another inverted ghost, with only her brown eyes and her hennaed fingers revealed to the world, my heart sank.

In Yemen, there is so much that is hard to understand; if she is my only

means of grasping what people were feeling and saying - not even able to frown at me, or to smile - how would I ever make sense of anything? I don't feel like this any more, though. I like Aminah a lot; she has an expressive way of talking, and an openness that takes you by surprise. But I'm also used to her now. I can pick her out in a crowd of women at 10 paces even though, to all intents and purposes, everyone looks exactly the same. I know when she is cross - frequently - and when she is content. The way she looks makes me feel oddly safe, too. In her company, it is as though she has anointed me - an unveiled woman in Birkenstock sandals - with her discretion. She can take me places, literally and metaphorically. Aminah is my very own code-breaker.

In any case, her veil is a red herring. Simply by travelling with us, alone and far from her home in a southern province, Aminah is doing something exceptional (she has already been asked - by a man, a supposedly liberal man who should know better - what her father thinks of this trip). In the Arab world, as in the wider Muslim world, the words 'women' and 'rights' rarely go together, and even then only in the mouths of the earnest young people who work for NGOs.

In Yemen, however, the situation is more serious even than it is among its neighbours. In terms of freedom, it is probably Saudi Arabian women who have the hardest time of all. But even there, females have access to education and healthcare. In Yemen - sorry to make this sound like some terrible competition - an absence of citizenship rights for women horribly combines with crushing poverty to create a society in which women are not only the property of men, unable to leave the house without the permission of a male relative and vulnerable to arbitrary arrest on the street even once they have it, but are also likely to be illiterate, to be married before they reach puberty, and to die in childbirth. 'Our family law is the worst in the Middle East for women,' says Suha Bashren, a Yemeni

who works as a campaign officer for Oxfam. 'It is medieval.' Does the fact that the law permits Yemeni women to drive - something that is illegal in Saudi Arabia - make up for any of this? You'll forgive Suha for thinking that it does not.

Yemen is one of the least developed countries in the world, with a Human Development Index of 149 (out of 177 countries), and a poverty level of over 40 per cent. Only 35.9 per cent of the population has access to safe drinking water. For women, though, life is especially tough. A woman has only a one-in-three chance of being able to read and write (some 71 per cent of Yemeni women are illiterate, as opposed to 31 per cent of men; in most other Middle Eastern countries, the average female illiteracy rate stands at 35 per cent). If a Yemeni woman has a baby, she has only a one-in-five chance of being attended by a midwife, and she has a one-in-39 chance of dying in pregnancy or childbirth over her lifetime. As for rights, she has none - or very few. The law does not state what age a woman must be before she marries, which means that many females find themselves with a husband when they are as young as 12, something that has a serious impact on maternal mortality rates, and which can also result in other serious health problems, such as incontinence.

Male power is total, and not only in politics (one woman MP out of 301 members, 35 women represented in local councils out of 6,000). A woman cannot, for instance, marry without the permission of a male relative; if she has no father, she must ask her brother, or a cousin and so on until, if she has no male relatives at all, she must turn to a judge. Women are regularly the victims of arbitrary arrests, picked up for 'immoral acts' such as adultery, smoking or eating in a restaurant with a 'boyfriend'. It is not only the police who can make such arrests; power is invested in all kinds of men from the minister of the interior to local neighbourhood chiefs, even coastguards.

'Any uniform will do,' says Suha. The country's prisons are full of women who should not be there - their 'crimes' are so vague, even they are uncertain as to what they have done wrong - and many of whom have never faced a trial. Compared to all this, the way that women are expected to dress is unimportant, a cosmetic trifle. But they are highly covered up, and while this may be voluntary - this is a deeply religious society - to an outsider, even one who has travelled widely in the Middle East, it is bewitching and unnerving in equal measure. In Hadramout, a rural province in the south, I see women working in the fields whose every body part is covered in black fabric: even their hands, even their eyes. So, your vision adjusts. You stop expecting to see women's faces. You look at your own in the mirror of a hotel bathroom, and feel vaguely amazed.

It is not easy to travel in Yemen. Tribal conflicts in the north, and the growing influence of Al-Qaeda, mean that it is a dangerous place, especially for westerners. Kidnappings are a problem. In January, two Belgian workers were shot dead. The week I visit, there is a grenade attack against the US embassy in Sana'a. Luckily, the bald facts that you read on the foreign-office website still cannot compete with the magical stories you find in old guidebooks: the tales of talking hoopoes (the Queen of Sheba, who was probably from what we now call

Yemen, is reputed to have been brought to King Solomon's attention by a talking hoopoe); of ancient skyscrapers that look as if they are built of gingerbread, but are in fact made of mud; of the curling daggers that every Yemeni man wears strapped across his belly. I am travelling with Yemenis, all of whom work for Oxfam on its projects here; work that I've come to see. So, I do not feel it too precarious. But it is exhausting. This is not only because Yemen is so vast, and Oxfam's work is spread across it. It is also because these issues - childbirth, early

marriage, 'immoral acts' - are so sensitive. The concept of haram (shame) is so embedded in the culture that people do not always say what they mean, even - or perhaps especially - when asked a direct question. You need a translator not only of Arabic, but of the subtle language of avoidance and denial.

Some names have been changed. For more information on Oxfam's work go to www.oxfam.org.uk guardian.co.uk © Guardian News and Media Limited 2008.



Al-Jawdah Latest Jobs

Consulting Training Recruiting

Consultancy Services (PART TIME JOB)

Al Jawdah is a leading company serving in the fields of consultation and upgrading quality management systems through a well-experienced team of consultants. Our company provides technical and engineering consultancy, review, recruitment and inspection to qualify industrial and non-industrial companies to meet the requirements or the quality standards (ISO) through upgrading their quality management systems (QMS).

Our Client in the Recruiting Department is a largest private commercial bank in the Gulf Area and it is going to open in Yemen soon. We (Al Jawdah) signed with this bank an exclusive recruiting agreement and we are currently looking for an experienced Recruitment Consultant. He must have more than 15 years experiences back ground in the field of Human Resources in banks. Excellent command of spoken and written English. Yemeni Nationality. Age between 40- 55 years.



Main Responsibilities includes:

- Review the man power requirements.
- Review all applicants and select employees to fill vacant positions.
- He must be able to quickly judge a person's suitability for the job.
- He must prepare required forms and tests for different vacancies in the bank.
- He is responsible to interview all candidates and prepare the evaluation reports.

Interested and qualified individuals should send their cvs to
Al Jawdah Company Ltd.
Recruitment Department
Email: aljawdah.rec@yemen.net.ye
Fax: 445232

For further information call 449178 Mobile: 733236786

The deadline for receiving cvs is 31 May, 2008.
Only short - listed candidates shall be contacted.

DIA is a French international development NGO working in Yemen, Morocco, Cape Verde and Comoros. Its main objectives are the promotion of social justice and the improvement of living conditions for the most marginalized people. DIA has been active in Yemen since 1999 mainly in Taiz Governorate in two geographical areas (rural areas along the Red Sea coast by implementing Watsan projects and Taiz city for the social integration of the marginalized people). This project is currently funded by European Commission.

DIA is looking for:

An AWARENESS TRAINING MANAGER

The Awareness Training Manager will be under the supervision of the Project Manager. He / her will be in charge of the organization and the management of the training and awareness activities as follow

- Hygiene awareness
- Sanitation activities
- Nutritional education
- Awareness and training with local authorities and public institutions on Food Security concept

The Manager will be based in Mokha; however one day a week will be used for reporting in Taiz office

Main duties

His/ her work will include:

- Participation on preliminary technical study
- Training Water Committee
- The definition of the kind of awareness sessions and trainings to implement
- Planning of activities
- The search for adapted methods
- The supervision of the activities
- The evaluation of their impact

Profile

Professional experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum 2 years in a similar position
Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent ability to write and speak English and Arabic. • Social skills, capacity to listen and understand the "local" people • Computer literacy (Excel and in Word Software) • Experience in awareness and training related to the topics mentioned • Reporting skills

Deadline to apply: **JUNE 02, 2008.** (CV + application letter in English) have to be delivered at the address below - DIA office - Kalaba / next to Al Saffa Mosque - Taiz (phone: 04 274 927) or by email at: jeanlouis.hayo@justdia.org



Vacancy Advertisement

An immediate vacancy exists at the World Bank Office in Sana'a for an **Administrative Assistant**.

The applicant is expected to meet the following requirements:

- Have three-five years of office work experience including administrative and logistical support.
- Have excellent command of verbal and written Arabic and English.
- Have computer aptitude and ability to master new applications including accounting packages. Knowledge of SAP will be an advantage.
- Have excellent interpersonal, communication and organizational skills.
- Be a committed team player able to work in a multi-cultural environment.
- Have flexibility to absorb ad hoc tasks and work under pressure.
- Understanding of accounting work is desirable.

The incumbent will perform the following duties:

- Provide assistance to accounting department, including maintaining files for accounting and administrative procurement documents, preparing materials for audit checks including photocopying and scanning, preparing excel tables for payments, processing insurance for office vehicles, follow-up on invoices with vendors, obtaining quotations and participating in vendor due diligence reviews, distributing checks to vendors.
- Petty cash custodian. Keeping petty cash ledger and processing transactions related to petty cash.
- Asset custodian including annual inventory of the bank property. Custodian of office mobiles, keys, passes.
- Manage office stationery and store supplies, including keeping consumption sheet and requesting replenishment when needed.
- Process visas/permits for Country Office staff including drafting and typing letters in Arabic/English, interact with concerned government authorities, etc.
- Follow-up on customs clearances for office, maintain staff lists for security and medical purposes, follow up on replenishments with the Bank and perform other miscellaneous duties assigned by the supervisor.

For full consideration, please send by e-mail your letter of application accompanied by the CV before June 10, 2008 to WBYemen@worldbank.org or apply on-line: <http://www.worldbank.org/jobs> and choose vacancy # 081142. **Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.**

Advertisement for Expressions of Interest for Consultant Services for Tender No. 15/2008

The Local Water And Sanitation Corporation Aden Governorate (LWSCA) hereby announces it's desire to invite Consulting firms to indicate their interest to participate in providing the following consultative services:

Technical Consultancy Services for the Aden Water and Sanitation Utilities Development Project (AWSUDP) which includes

(i) preparation of Detailed Feasibility Study
(ii) Preparation of Detailed Designs and Tender Documents and
(iii) Tendering and Construction Supervision of the project works

which will be financed 100% through a loan from the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD).

Interested consultants have to provide evidences for their qualifications to carry out the whole of the above services specially:

- General information and experience of the firm, previous projects they were involved in, work experience in similar conditions , references, etc.. A firm may associate to enhance its qualification.
- Specific experience of the Consultant in the field of the assignment , main task of the consultant and years of experience in the required service (water supply and wastewater studies and designs and construction supervision of water and wastewater projects and related topics)
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The deadline for receiving documents will be on Wednesday June 4th, 2008.

Interested consultants may obtain further information about the assignment between 09:00 a.m. and 13:00 p.m. Saturday to Wednesday at the address shown below.

Three hard copies of the EOI and a digital copy on CD must be delivered to the address below not later than 1:30 pm (Aden Local Time) on Wednesday, June 4th, 2008.

The Project Manager
Local Water and Sanitation Corporation Aden (LWSCA)
Office of the Project Implementation Unit
For attention of Mr. Khamis Ghithan Mobile : 733876033
Crater - Aden , Queen Arwa Road
P.O. Box 4004 Aden
Aden, Republic of Yemen
Tel.(+) 967 2 251269 (Procurement Manager)
Fax.(+) 967 2 266921
e-mail address: water-aden@y.net.ye

After years of illegal exhaustion of underground water

Amran governorate is trying to improve its water supply and sanitation system

By: Hamed Thabet

Although Amran governorate faces a lack of clean drinking water, both residents and authorities are ignoring this problem while exhausting much of the usable groundwater to grow qat.

There are no laws in Yemen preventing farmers from growing qat. In all of Amran's rural areas and districts, nearly all locals depend on qat to provide them an income. However, water already is scarce and cultivating qat depends on a plentiful water supply. People are suffering due to the extensive water use going to qat crops, says Bakr Ali, deputy governor of Amran governorate's environment sector.

He notes that since last year, approximately 70 illegal water-drilling machines have pumped water from Amran's water reservoirs or underground tanks.

"So far, we've gotten rid of most of these machines by lawfully suing them,"

he says, adding, "Only three to seven drilling machines remain, which we'll fight in the coming days." He noted that other illegal drilling machines avoided prosecution by moving to governorates such as Al-Mahrah.

He points out that his department has encountered problems while trying to fight illegal drilling because he says many of the illegal drillers are powerful individuals. "They challenged the government by paying bribes and used their power to stop us, but so far, we're doing fine," he says.

Three months ago in Amran's Kharif district, security forces went to stop a driller, but he refused, challenging anyone to stop him – including the government. More security forces eventually arrived at the scene and the man was caught with the help of local citizens. The illegal drill then was turned over to the court, where the man faced heavy fines for his illegal activities.

"[Drillers] must pay YR 1 million for working and digging illegally. After paying, the owner can take back his water



Illegal drilling in Hamdan District, Sana'a basin. NWRA Sana'a deputy and head of monitoring and licensing discusses the matter with the Head of Local Council Hamdan

drilling machine from the court, but he must guarantee that he won't work illegally again and he must get the government's permission before doing any type of digging," explained Abdulhakim Al-Qeisi, head of water protection in Amran city.

According to him, another problem involved water project workers and several locals in Beit Al-Qara'a district, so the project was postponed for four months and only resumed after influential

leaders intervened. The project will aid 3,000 people.

GTZ's program seeks to implement and improve the water supply and sanitation in rural areas and districts and provide clean water and organize it. "We finally jailed the troublemakers, formed a new committee and started again," he says.

Al-Qeisi also affirmed Ali's allegations that the main problems are illegal water pumping and random digging near

underground water reservoirs.

Beginning in Bani Matar and Arhab and ending in Kharif and Dhaibin districts, Amran's underground water reservoir is between 40 and 45 square kilometers and includes 2,567 wells. Al-Qeisi says the governorate daily pumps 5,000 cubic meters of water.

Solutions

There are 20 districts in Amran governorate, which has a population of 900,000 to a million people. There are also many natural water sources in Amran from which its water reservoir gets its sources. When there's digging near these sources, the reservoir is affected and sometimes runs dry, Ali says.

"We're also trying to stop area residents from growing qat because it takes a lot of water," Al-Qeisi said, "however, this isn't easy because locals don't accept it, so it'll take time. Thus far, the governorate's local council has gathered to study the problem with the responsible authorities that are working in the water sector."

Due to poor service coverage, defective systems and irregular supply, large portions of Yemen's rural population still depend on spring water, which the poor cannot afford. Only 60 percent of the rural population has safe access to clean water and much less to safe sanitation services.

Considering the high rural population growth of around 3.5 percent annually and the increasing pressure on groundwater reservoirs, the challenge to find and provide safe drinking water will increase dramatically in the future.

Last year, Amran governorate decided to dedicate a special council for these problems. The council also is attempting to find solutions by choosing from the available proposed water projects, Ali explains.

Tribal, religious and social leaders from nearly all Amran districts are invited to the governorate's regular water council meeting. The World Bank, the Local Organization for Protecting Water, the Public Works Fund, the Development and Agriculture Fund and the German Technical Cooperation, known as GTZ, also take part in the meetings, Al-Qeisi noted.

Ali said there are 137 proposed projects addressing water problems in the region, which will be completed within the next two years.

Amran's underground water reservoir feeds numerous rural villages, so selling illegally drilled water is another problem because it affects the reservoir and exhausts it, in addition to taking water away from the villages because some villagers were selling it illegally. Ali stated that there's a government order to build six reservoirs in various areas of Amran at a cost of YR 1.35 billion.

Amran is figuring out how to protect itself from exhausting its water supply and safely hold on to what's left in its groundwater tank.

Ramon Scoble, team leader for GTZ's Community-based Water Assistance Project, says local residents don't realize the impact that illegal water drilling and selling has on the governorate.

"We must have awareness programs to make people understand the water problem," he says, noting that GTZ has been doing research in Amran governorate for the past five years.

GTZ began working on \$2 million worth of water improvement projects in 2006 and 10 communities in Amran chosen by the local council will reap the benefits of this work. However, GTZ's water and sanitation programs cover not only Amran governorate, but multiple regions of Yemen, one of its focus countries.

"We receive financial support from the Yemeni government and GTZ provides the technical help to develop the system. This is the first [program] in Amran and for GTZ, it's the first time in the world," Scoble pointed out, adding that GTZ's Community-based Water Assistance Program is only for villages and rural areas – not cities.

"The German water support has been successful and still is working in Amran due to the cooperation of locals and the government," noted Gerhard Lichtenhaefer, advisor to GTZ's larger-scale Integrated Water Resources Management Project.

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مهرجان ربيع صنعاء الفني الأول

تجهيزات فنية جداً ممتازة

مهرجان ربيع صنعاء الفني الأول كان موفقاً وجميلاً وأنا مسرور جداً بوجودي في هذا الجو الذي قلما يمكن أن نجده في المهرجانات عموماً وذلك من حيث التنظيم الجيد للمهرجان كما أن التجهيزات الصوتية والفنية كانت جداً ممتازة وما ينقص إلا الشيء الأهم طبعاً وهو قبول الله.

كما أن استثمار الفن والإنتاج في كفاية البيت وغيرها من الأعمال الخيرية كما هو شأن هذا المهرجان يعتبر أمراً طيباً ومستحسن.

المنشد الأردني/ إبراهيم نعيم الدردساوي
منشد الشارقة (٢)

فيما اختتم فعالياته بنجاح، نواب ومشهدون: مهرجان ربيع صنعاء مثل تجربة فنية الأولى من نوعها

تنبينا الوحدة تبنينا
كي نبي عزاً للوطن
ونسنخي قديماً لا نرضى
إلا الإبداع مدى الزمن
يا قادة أمتنا العظيمة
أضفوا للوحدة في علن
بين الإيمان لكم أرسد
مثلاً للوحدة لن يزل
فأعيدوا وحدة أمتنا
فالكون يراقب في شجن



إبراز فن هادف

هناك جهود مبدولة من أجل كفاية الفن وبنفس الطعم ولا يسعني إلا أن أشكر القائمين على المهرجان، وبتمني أن يكون بمستوى أفضل في السنوات القادمة.

المنشد/ عبد العزيز عبد الغني
نجم سما دبي

تفسير الفن لخدمة المجتمع

في الحقيقة أنا اعتبرها فكرة رائعة أن يتم تفسير الفن لخدمة الجانب الاجتماعي والممثل بكافة الأقسام.

المنشد/ محمد أحمد الكاف
صفاء فرقة المصرة بمحافظة حضرموت

ومشاركة أكثر من ١٠٠ منشد وممثل من مختلف محافظات الجمهورية.

وفي الحفل الختامي للمهرجان قدم عدد من النجوم الإشراف اليمني والعربي وصلات إنشادية نالت استحسان الحضور وأطربت قلوب الجمهور كما قدمت فرقة الروضة الفنية بقيادة المرح خالد الجبوري وكمال طماح والطفل الموهبة أسامه اسكتش قصير بعنوان "الوحدة العربية" والذي تطرقوا من خلاله إلى أسباب فرقة العرب وخوفهم من دولة الاحتلال الإسرائيلي وفرض إماراتها عليهم.

كما أجريت العديد من السحوبات على جوائز قيمة بينها رحلات عمرة شاملة مصاريف السكن والتغذية والنوازل وجوائز أخرى قيمة بينها فحوصات طبية شاملة ودورات تدريبية ورحلات ترفيهية.

هذا وقد أهدت جمعية الإصلاح الاجتماعي الخيرية فرع أمانة العاصمة - درع المهرجان لضيف اليمن المنشد إبراهيم الدردساوي ، كما قامت بتكريم المشاركين في المهرجان من المنشدين والممثلين والفرق الإنشادية والفرق الغنائية المصاحبة لها بالإضافة إلى عدد من الجهات الراعية والمشاركة وبعض وسائل الإعلام الفاعلة.



المنشد/ أمين حاسيم
صفاء فرقتي (الندى والإسراء)

سعيد بمشاركتي الأولى

أنا سعيد جداً لمشاركتي الأولى في مهرجان انشادي خيري تنظمه جمعية الإصلاح الاجتماعي الخيرية فرع أمانة العاصمة- ويعود ريعه على كفاية الأيتام الذين ينهني علينا أن نعمل من أجل إسعادهم ونشدهم للبيت وأدعو كافة الفنانين والمنشدين إلى المشاركة الفاعلة في مثل هذه المهرجانات التي تدعم الخير.

المنشد/ فواز الشهاب

تشكر الجهات الراعية

استهفنا من خلال مهرجان ربيع صنعاء الفني الأول إيجاد ميدان جديد للعمل الخيري وضمان مساندة فئة المنشدين والممثلين لأوجه التنمية في المجتمع ودعم العمل الخيري ، وقد جاء هذا المهرجان كخمسيلة لجهود كبيرة مثلت جدواول خير صبت في نهر المهرجان الذي نرجو الله أن يكون مسبباً لجهود الخيرين ومصير إرواء لجموع المحتاجين ، وبناتها فاعلية هذا المهرجان في ١٥ / ٥ / ٢٠٠٨ تحققت كثير من الأهداف المرسومة بفضل الله ومنه ، ولا يسعنا إلا أن نتقدم بشكرنا لكافة الشركات الراعية وعلى رأسها الرعاية الرسميون بنك سبأ الإسلامي وشركة سبأفون للهاتف النقالة كما نتقدم بخالص الشكر والتقدير والامتنان للشركات والمؤسسات والبنوك التي أشادت بالمهرجان ووعدت بتبنيها لرعاية فعاليات مهرجان ربيع صنعاء الثاني الذي سيبدأ الإعداد له قريباً .

خالد الصبري - رئيس اللجنة المنظمة

فعالية فنية رائدة

بداية نشكر جمعية الإصلاح الاجتماعي الخيرية فرع أمانة العاصمة- على هذه الفعالية الفنية الرائعة والرائدة والتي تعتبر أول فعالية فنية بهذا المستوى الكبير على مستوى اليمن تتجه نحو العمل الاجتماعي وخاصة في مثل هذا المجال الخصب والمتمثل بكفاية ورعاية الأيتام وهي بهذا تشجع غيرها من الجمعيات الخيرية وكذا المؤسسات الرسمية للتوجه نحو الفن والإبداع وكذا تشجيع المواطنين على المساهمة الفاعلة في العمل الخيري.

الأستاذ/ فؤاد محسن دحاية
عضو مجلس النواب

فكرة فنية الأولى من نوعها

حقيقة إن مهرجان ربيع صنعاء الفني الأول يعتبر في تصوري فكرة فنية فريدة والأولى من نوعها حيث استطاعت اللجنة المنظمة لهذا المهرجان أن تجمع منشدين من كل محافظات الجمهورية وهذا حدث فني إنشادي غير عادي وإنشاء الله من خلال هذا المهرجان الطيب الذي رعاه الكثير من مشجعي الفن الإنشادي في اليمن سيعود بالخير الكبير على كفاية الأيتام وهذا عمل يرضي الله تعالى ويتنمي من بقية الجمعيات والمؤسسات الخيرية أن تقتدي بجمعية الإصلاح في إقامة هكذا مهرجانات فنية التي توظف بالفعل ضمير الأمة وتوظف كذلك ضمائر المجتمعات لتؤدي واجبها الديني والإنساني سواء تجاه الأيتام أو مرضى السرطان وغيرهم.

علي محسن الأتوع
رئيس جمعية المنشدين اليمنيين



New project for promoting children's informal education in Yemen

By: AbdulaRahman Ahmed Abdu
Childhood and Youth Development
Center
For The Yemen Times

There isn't much research, activities or attention paid to children's awareness and informal education in Yemen. This was the reason that encouraged the Yemeni government and organizations concerned with child development to create and support a national strategy for childhood and youth. One of the main objectives of this strategy is to endorse an educational environment that supports children awareness of their rights and of the world around them. Hence the creation of "Children and Youth Education Project for Supporting Development and Democracy" implemented by the Childhood and Youth Development Center and funded by the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives.

The problem with children's education in Yemen

According to Dr. Sultan Abdu Naji Al-Akehali, an assistant sociology professor at Sana'a University's Education College, explained that community and government interest in child and youth education outside schools is very recent and does not get adequate funding or support.

"There are gaps in child education systems, whether in schools or outside the school environment. The concept of awareness for children and youth is simply not there. And the growing pop-



There are very extra curricular activities for Yemeni children inside and outside schools. Most children spend their idle time, especially during summer, playing traditional games in the streets.

ulation - Yemen is a young country with more than half of the inhabitants younger than 15 years old - is making the challenge of educating children even harder," he said.

According to Al-Akehali, concerned authorities should work on segmenting the various stages of child and youth development and design programs tar-

getting each stage individually. He also insisted that attention should be given to children and youths all around the republic and not just in the main cities.

He also emphasized the importance of providing children with visual and audio programs, as well as acting opportunities in theater plays and establishing child-appropriate educa-

tional programs to be shown in all governorates.

Huda Saleh Al-Najjar, General Director of the Women and Children Department in the Ministry of Culture, agreed that there is lack of attention and is concerned that there is no coordination between government and non-government activities regarding youth activities and awareness programs.

"We need to identify how much of the national income is dedicated to children and youth development and where this percentage goes or how it is used. We also need to publish more education materials and books targeting children," she said. She added that there aren't as many publications or media dedicated to children as there should be, which is why there is a gap in children's awareness.

Non-governmental organizations for children and youths

There are only a limited number of organizations concerned with children and youths, although it is growing. Ibhar Foundation is a non-governmental organization in Yemen working in this field, which focuses on creating public libraries for children and child rights media.

Nabil Ahmed Al-Khadhir, Media and Public Relations officer at Ibhar, says that children's informal education is non-existent in Yemen. He called on the private sector to pay more attention to child-related activities that stimulate knowledge.

Children's literature specialist Abdurahman Abdulkhaleq confirmed

that the lack of media and publications dedicated to children is one of the main problems why Yemeni children are not as aware or as educated as others in developed countries. He also said that there are very few translated books from other cultures and this also isolates Arab children from learning about other cultures and being more aware of their world.

Abdulkhaleq is also a member of the executive office of the Yemeni Writers Union, and he explained that in 2005 the union produced 13 titles for children, none of which actually reached Yemeni children or received much promotion.

Children's opinions

The Childhood and Youth Development Center launched its first session within the Children and Youth Education Project for Supporting Development and Democracy in mid-May, at which they discussed the issue of Yemeni children and youth education.

During the session they invited two young children, 12-year-old Omar Tawfeeq Al-Zubairi and 13-year-old Salma Abdulghani, to express their opinion on the issue.

Omar criticized TV programs saying that most of what they call:

"children's programs" are cartoons and there aren't many constructive shows dedicated to children's educational development.

"I wish there were more programs that focus on talented children and like the Children's Studio Show on Yemeni

Satellite Channel that hosts talented kids. It gives us inspiration and lets us know about potential careers we might want to be involved in," he said.

Salma was more into outdoor activities and called on parents to "let your children have extracurricular activities" and to encourage children to get exposure to other cultures.

"You need to understand that children want to have fun. So parents should be able to create activities for us that are fun and educational at the same time," she said.

Recommendations

Participants in the session decided on a number of recommendations to promote a better environment that encourages children and youth's learning. The main themes centered around respecting others, freedom of expression, and endorsing cultural values such as patriotism and community participation.

They also encouraged writers and academics that are dealing with child-related curricula to simplify the language and use standard terminology. Some of the specific recommendations were to establish a supreme national council for children's education, include activities and programs concerned with children's educational development in all the ministries' plans and agendas and allocate sufficient budgets for their implementation and establish a network of society-based organizations to bridge the gap between schools and the families and create an inclusive learning environment for children.

Hodeidah Museum: Why does it remain closed?

By: Abdulhafeez Al-Hattami
For the Yemen Times

The Hodeidah Museum, once an attractive sight for local and international visitors, has been closed for 12 years now for unknown reasons. These days, nobody approaches the museum except for angry citizens protesting against the relevant authorities for ignoring the historical building, whose ancient windows and doors have become covered with rust and dust.

Nothing remains in the museum except for rust that tells the terrible story of the ancient building that has become dilapidated as a result of carelessness and indifference on the part of local authorities, as well as officials and government agencies concerned with culture and tourism.

Director of Hodeidah Antiquities Office, who allegedly claims that he is the museum manager and that 17 staff members are currently employed at the museum, pays no attention to the issue.

Two locks on an ancient door and a thick chain have prevented visitors from entering the building for 12 years. Tourists and local visitors are shocked when they pass by the museum and hear locals saying, "This three-story building is the Hodeidah Museum," as there is no banner or sign to identify it.

Despite the fact that numerous government ministers made frequent visits to the Hodeidah Antiquities Office, not one drew attention to the deserted and wrecked building.

"There was a museum here, but please ask the government about its fate and where it is now," citizen Abdullah Saleh



Nothing remains in the museum except for rust that tells the terrible story of the ancient building that has become dilapidated because of neglect.

of Hodeidah regretted while speaking to those around him. "I only see employees gathering at the museum at the end of each month to get their salaries, although the facility where they allegedly work is closed forever."

Last month, it was difficult for the Yemen Times to answer questions raised by foreign tourists and visitors from various Yemeni governorates, who came to the abandoned building to see the museum's artifacts. "Why have the consecutive ministers of culture and tourism been slumbering for such a long time period?" questioned Mohammed Eid, who lives in the museum's neighborhood, while playing with his grandchild in front of the deserted building. "All the museum's contents have been destroyed while the relevant authorities show no reaction to what has happened to the

ancient facility over time. We only see a dozen guys assembling at the museum once a month to get their salaries."

He went on to say, "They are ghost workers...they don't work in order for the government to pay them... and the relevant agencies in the government and officials don't care about the ancient and natural elements in their homeland, nor are they concerned about tourism in Yemen."

The aged man, described the condition of the ancient facility as 'catastrophic'. "Images of the closed museum may be enough to provoke conscience of relevant officials in the governorate to work responsibly and care about fascinating sites and antiquities," he claimed.

The aged man recollected what the museum was like 20 years ago, saying he used to see foreign tourists daily fre-

quenting the formerly-named 'Hodeidah Ancient Museum' west of the city, but it has become ruined over time due to relevant authorities' negligence and carelessness. "I never expected the museum to look like it does now," he remarked.

According to Adel Bukari, an antiquity expert from Hodeidah, the museum contained unique documents, jewelry and garments that date back to the Ottoman Era. Bukari once worked as Director of Hodeidah Antiquities Office, but after he quit, the museum closed.

Having frequented the museum's premises for five days, we saw nothing except for a police vehicle parking nearby and a dozen workers standing in front of its closed door waiting for their salaries.

Those who we met refused to admit that they are regularly-salaried employees the government pays in exchange for their alleged work in the museum.

I then gave a call to Hodeidah media office manager Jamal Ma'ajam asking for further information about the museum. "What has happened to the museum is a crime. It has been closed for 12 years now. When Arif Bukari was in charge of the museum we witnessed its prosperous days, but as the man was replaced by someone else from outside Hodeidah governorate, who is always unavailable in his office, the museum's condition has become catastrophic," Ma'ajam told me.

He quoted Bukari as criticizing other relevant officials in the governorate for attributing what has happened to the museum to their being extremely engaged in other liabilities, which they claim prevented them even to draw attention to the worsening condition of this ancient facility.

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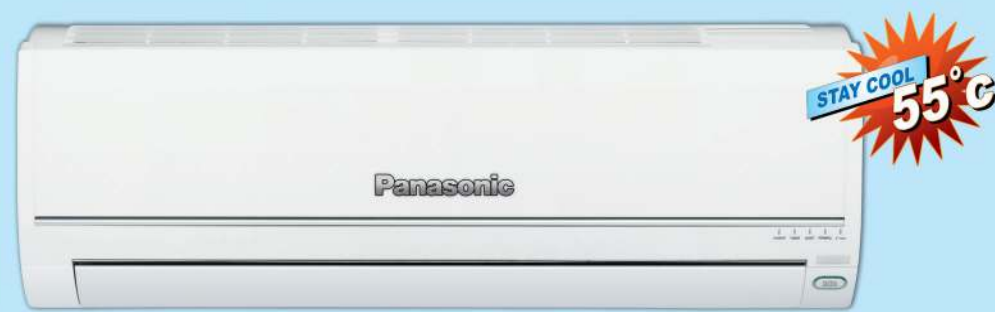
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