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Swine flu inches closer to Yemen

By: Salma Ismail

SANA'A, May 31 — Swine flu has entered the Gulf region where it is spreading, less than a month after health ministers from the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) held an emergency meeting in Qatar to discuss its threat to their countries.

Yemen is taking significant measures to counter any possible spread of swine flu. The World Health Organization (WHO) is coordinating the global response to human cases of swine influenza A (H1N1) and monitoring the threat.

At Sana'a international airport, travelers are checked for high temperatures and handed out green cards asking them to

specify whether or not they have been in contact with confirmed or suspected cases of swine flu, and if they suffer from flu-like symptoms.

However, not all those that come to Yemen come by plane. In 2008, up to 50,000 refugees arrived on the shores of Yemen from Africa. The UNHCR performs regular check-ups but not for swine flu.

The UNHCR, it says, is waiting for directives from the Ministry of Health which is waiting for directives from the WHO. Doctors without Borders, however, do perform medical checks for all refugees arriving on Yemen's shores.

"It has not reached that level yet," says Abdul Hakeem Al-Kuhlani, director of combating diseases and epidemic obser-

vation at the Ministry of Health, explaining that there are still no known cases of H1N1 on the African continent.

"We the GCC, during our meeting decided to take simple, quick, non-invasive measures at our airports," he explained. "We have developed a travel card that patients have to fill out, declaring where they have been during the past two weeks and if they are experiencing any flu-like symptoms."

"Now when patients arrive at the airport they are not met first with the immigration officials, but by health staff. They measure their temperature to determine whether they have a fever, and check for any other symptoms."

Stewardesses and captains of Yemenia Airlines have also been trained on the measures they should take should they encounter any passenger with the suspected symptoms.

"Airlines such as Egypt Airlines and Lufthansa have been very cooperative with our requests," said Kuhlani. "However, Yemenia Airlines has not been as cooperative with us as expected. They do not pass out the forms in the airplane as other airlines do for the convenience of the passenger."

Yemenia Airlines said they did not receive any directives from the Ministry of Health to do so. The ministry will investigate the issue.

In total, Yemen has been notified of three suspected cases: "We received a telephone call from a man who said he was experiencing the symptoms. Following the call, we dispatched a team to the patient's house and they performed tests for swine flu, which turned out to be negative."

Diagnostic kits are available at the National Center for Laboratories, and medication is in stock: "We have recently received 300,000 extra [Tamiflu] pills from the World Health Organization. Our current stock of 260,000 Tamiflu pills will expire in 2010."

Swine flu in the region
Governments across the globe are taking precautions to protect their citizens against the potentially deadly disease and fresh cases are increasingly being reported in new countries.

In Lebanon, the first three cases of swine flu have been diagnosed, according to Health Minister Mohammad Jawad Khalifeh. The cases, a Lebanese man and two visiting Canadians - a woman and her daughter, were given the proper medical treatment and have fully recovered. The man was part of a group of 22 Lebanese who had been attending a training seminar in Spain at an institute where the disease was later detected.

On May 19, Bahrain reported its first case, a 20-year-old student tested positive with the H1N1 flu, the first case of an Arab citizen in the Arabian Gulf.

The authorities in Egypt's Red Sea Governorate have hospitalized a German tourist who arrived at Hurghada airport with swine flu-like symptoms. The man said he had visited a pig farm 10 days earlier in Germany. Medical samples have been sent to laboratories in Cairo for testing.

Eighteen US soldiers who passed through Kuwait had been reported positive with the flu. The soldiers have been treated and have left the country.

The UAE on May 24 confirmed its first case of swine flu, a Canadian doctor who had arrived in the UAE from Canada.

In Israel, 11 people have been identified as infected by the flu strain.

Swine flu everywhere else
According to WHO reports on Friday, up to 53 countries have officially reported 15,510 cases of influenza A (H1N1) infection, including 99 deaths, and the number of A/H1N1 flu infections in on the rise.

While the vast majority of deaths have been reported in Mexico, the US has so far reported the vast majority of infec-



Health workers scan incoming passengers for high fever at Sana'a International Airport.

tions. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention publishes confirmed cases of the virus each week.

The official count of probable cases in the US as of last Friday was 8,975 in 49 states with 15 deaths. However, the total number of people infected in the country is estimated to be as high as 100,000, says CDC spokesman Joe Quimby, taking into account those who were sick but didn't seek medical care.

For several weeks, the WHO's alert level for the H1N1 virus has been at 5 out of 6, indicating that a global pandemic is "imminent."

"We do not want to create panic, but we need to know about the disease," said Mohamed Osama Mere, Yemen's acting WHO representative. "We want to give the public a simple message and that is to be aware."

"The WHO recommends that people avoid close contact with others who appear unwell or who have a fever and a cough," he added. "Wash your hands with soap and water frequently and thoroughly. Practice good health habits including adequate sleep, eating nutritious food, and keeping physically active."

Symptoms
The symptoms of swine flu are similar to those of influenza and of influenza-like illnesses in general, namely chills, fever, sore throat, muscle pains, severe headache, coughing, weakness and general discomfort. The strain responsible for the 2009 swine flu outbreak in most cases causes only mild symptoms and the infected person makes a full recovery without requiring medical attention and without the use of anti-viral medicines.

A traveler that recently arrived from Mexico says that she was given the form to fill out while in the airplane. Among the countries that she wrote down she had visited were the UK, Egypt, France, the Dominican Republic and Mexico. "They barely looked at my card and they stamped it, I was allowed to go with no questions asked. It was 03:00 in the morning: I think they were too sleepy to notice!" She did however pass the heat detector test and did not have any flu-like symptoms.

After a week-long conference in Geneva, the World Health Organization's Margaret Chan said on Friday that health authorities around the world should prepare themselves for a rise in both the number and severity of H1N1 swine flu cases in the coming months.

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Dr. Al-Qubati to the Yemen Times:

“JMP member parties prefer power-sharing to real reforms”

Dr. Mohammed Abdulmajid Al-Qubati, member of the ruling General People's Congress (GPC) General Secretariat and head of the party's Foreign Affairs and International Relations Sector, is a skilled speaker. The ruling party has relied on him to conduct dialogues with other political parties or committees to discuss topics of great significance.

An engineer of public relations, Al-Qubati is often welcomed by all political parties in the country. He has assumed many key posts such as Ambassador of Yemen to Lebanon once and to Cyprus another time. Earlier, he served as assistant secretary general in the ruling party's politics and foreign relations department. Mohammed Bin Sallam met Al-Qubati and discussed with him many urgent issues of great concern to all Yemenis.

As a member of the ruling party, what do you make of the unexpected statements made by Ali Salem Al-Beidh, a politician in exile since 1994, to Al-Hurra Satellite Channel as Yemen marked the 19th anniversary of reunification? What prompted him to appear on the television screen after 15 years?

Over the past 19 years, Yemen made some of the greatest achievements in its history. However, such achievements - mainly unity and democracy - have been accompanied by structural and functional flaws, one of which is that unity was established by an agreement between some of Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP) and GPC leaders while other key politicians were excluded.

When Al-Beidh signed the unity agreement, he set a condition that those YSP officials, who are loyal to Ali Nasser Mohammed, leave the country and the others [his loyalists] remain partners with GPC in power and share key posts in government. The condition was considered to be a trap against the unity.

Unity was established for all Yemenis without exception. The policies of elimination followed by YSP created an atmosphere of widely-spread complaints and nagging in the south since the very beginning and even after establishment of the unified state.

Al-Beidh has made numerous historical ventures since the very beginning of independence. He established the Popular Front, which was later on known as the Popular Front for the Liberation of Oman, and then the Popular Front for the Liberation of Oman and Arabian Gulf. Although HH Sheikh Qaboos Bin Saeed, Sultan of Oman, has been lenient with Al-Beidh, the latter surprised all Omanis by his most recent statements to the media, and the former withdrew his Omani citizenship as a result. In short, Al-Beidh is a man with a history full of adventures and recklessness.

Over the first four years of the unified state, both partners of unity demonstrated serious moves to build a state of constitutions, and law and order. After the 1994 war, many terrible mistakes occurred such as the elimination of a larger group of military and civil servants from the south, manifestation of corruption, mismanagement and incompetence in administering the state's agencies.

What about the reforms proposed by the opposition to ensure the survival of unity through partnership, to stop the embezzlement of public funds, fight corruption and prepare for free and fair elections?

You realize that the authority and opposition agreed to postpone the parliamentary elections four months ago. Their agreement is based on a compromise to amend the constitution, reform the electoral system and establish local governance with broad powers. Such steps are bound to create a good climate and new opportunities for the unified state to prosper.

How do you assess the impacts of statements made by Al-Beidh, Haidar Abu Bakr Al-Attas and other opposition leaders from the south on the status quo and future of the unity?

Yemen's national project [reunification], which is 90 years old as it first began in the early 1930s, is now facing numerous risky challenges. Such challenges require all Yemenis to work hard and search for workable solutions to correct notable flaws and take the project back in the right direction. And any attempt to

convert these challenges into crisis and secession threats will be an unprecedented catastrophe for all Yemenis.

What do you predict the future of Yemen will look like? Is there any hope that unity will survive? Which guarantees will ensure its survival?

It is not the ruling party alone that faces this challenge, but rather all the political parties. We will see victory if people are able to benefit from historical experience. This challenge is a great opportunity to enhance democracy, development and reform, and to build the modern state of Yemen.

GPC member Salem Saleh, who is Advisor to President of the Republic, has said that the ruling party has failed to manage the country. He said that the party is only present during general elections to collect votes, and calls for workable solutions to the Issue of South Yemen. How do you see this?

I said this before Salem Saleh during my interview with Al-Nass Weekly. These suggestions are not new, and we don't deny that they face numerous challenges and that these challenges are accompanied by failures. We are moving toward reforming all failures related with the national project. GPC is not a party. It is an organization. As we are moving to conduct constitutional, political, electoral and legislative reforms and apply bicameral legislature, this signifies that we are due to review the structure of the state and its institutions. Our diagnosis of the notable flaws accompanying government performance reflects our logical confession to what is happening.

What is happening in the southern and eastern governorates is dangerous and threatens unity, as it is the direct result of accumulated wrong policies in the different political, social and cultural spheres, the most prominent of which is eliminating YPS from power, according to Abdulqader Ba Jammal, a senior GPC leader. How do you comment on this?

YSP was not eliminated, as it is the party that eliminated itself. The problem of the south part of Yemen had nothing to do with elimination of YSP since it is the result of eliminating all political partners in the south such as the Liberation Front and those YPS members, who are loyal with Ali Nasser Mohammed.

What, in your opinion, is the real crisis in southern and eastern governorates?

The crisis is that of a dire economic situation, which is also prevalent nationwide. The crisis is caused by flaws in managing unity. You visited Germany and learned that Germans spent an entire year discussing the potential economic issue that may arise after establishing the unity.

But in Yemen, we brought two different economic systems together, one of which is based on nationalized ownership and the other on private ownership. People from the north wanted everything in the south, which is a big mistake since the authority didn't rehabilitate the middle class in the south. This class was affected by the sale of the public sector, and as a result hundreds of thousands of people belonging to this class became jobless.

Had the government just rehabilitated the public sector in the south, thus involving this class in public property purchase and partnership, the situation would have looked better. As a result of hurriedly-taken procedures, middle class citizens in the south lost their property and income sources.



Dr. Mohammed Abdulmajid Al-Qubati

During an interview with a Jordanian newspaper, Dr. Abdulkarim Al-Eryani said, “Yemen's future will be difficult, and local governance with broad powers will solve the dire situation.” He also added that Yemen's problems are limited to unemployment and increasing poverty, thereby sparking legal protests in the southern and eastern governorates. He said the protests are legal and not political and there is a difference between secession calls and legal actions. Do you agree with what Al-Eryani said?

We signed an agreement with political parties on the postponement of the parliamentary elections. The first term contained in the agreement is that of conducting political, constitutional, legislative and electoral reforms. There are political grounds of what works well nationwide, either in the north or in the south.

When will you begin implementing these reforms?

During my interview with Al-Nass Weekly, I said that the authority and opposition are responsible for what happens because they have already diagnosed the situation on the ground. They reached a compromise after having wasted more than two years studying the issues, which were presented for review

and update. We are facing an economic crisis that may help worsen the political problem. When the political problem gets more complicated, it will have negative impacts on the economy. This is the immense challenge facing Yemen and all the political parties in the country are responsible for softening this challenge.

Will the ruling party conduct the proposed reforms within two years, as per the agreement, or not?

I said this at the consultative meeting three days ago. We took the first step toward establishing local governance with broad powers.

When will this happen?

We are going to amend the constitution and other relevant laws in order for local governance with broad powers to be established within one year. This is intended to give the Supreme Commission for Elections and Referendum (SCER) the opportunity to prepare well for the next parliamentary and local elections.

This necessitates taking responsibility based on a national reform program, which cannot be achieved, except through comprehensive national dialogue involving all national leaders in and outside Yemen.

All should participate: southern movement leaders, independent person-

alities and decision makers in order for this step to function as a national consensus document to solve pressing problems in the nation.

You talked about many issues in general, but haven't told me about the practical steps the political leadership must take to ease rage in the south, and in other parts of Yemen. Can you please tell me about such steps?

The first step is to hold comprehensive national dialogue to discuss pressing issues causing rage and tension in many areas of Yemen. We need to combat corruption and put an end to the violation of laws and regulations.

The majority of politicians in government and opposition say the southern issue is not caused by advocates of secession or Ali Salem Al-Beidh. Rather, the issue is the direct result of massive mistakes the authority has committed against Yemeni citizens. As a ruling party member, could you please mention some of these mistakes committed by the government against citizens?

Due to a lack of effective institutions, the poor enforcement of laws and regulations, and incompetent performance, flaws and mistakes are on the increase. If there is corruption, there will be irresponsible practices targeting people's property.

The issue dates back to the time of YSP rule in the southern and eastern governorates. Our mistake in 1994 is that we didn't enact a law to counter property nationalization. Had we done so, all the nationalized homes would have been returned to their owners and many problems in this respect would have been avoided. Shops were returned to their owners but homes weren't.

The judiciary should be given full powers to settle land disputes. For the time being, some committees, topped by the Ba Surrah-Hilal Committee, are visiting governorates to figure out land-related issues.

The government hasn't taken any notice of the Ba Surrah-Hilal report because all those who steal land in the southern and eastern governorates are senior government leaders or supporters. How do you comment on this?

The issues are not only legal as they have political grounds. I disagree with Dr. Al-Eryani's point of view that these issues are legal, not political. Local governance with full powers is key to solving these issues.

Let people elect their governors directly. Let them select executive officials in various ministerial offices at the

governorate and district levels. The burden on the central government will be reduced and firm regulations will be enacted to reduce rampant corruption in the country. Centralization is responsible for the majority of corruption practices.

How do you assess resolutions and recommendations released by the consultative meeting last Thursday?

I attended part of the meeting, but did not see its outcomes. It is me who adopted the idea of consultation and spent three weeks to have others satisfied with the idea.

One of the pressing problems in Yemen is that we have a weak parliament and flawed electoral system. We want to combine proportional list representation with the single constituency system we have now. In 2000, we presented the proposal to our brothers in the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP), and the proposal was later on transferred to the Coordination Council to amend the election law and apply a dual system. At that time, the JMP refused the proposal and I have documents to prove what I say.

JMP member parties were aiming for power-sharing, not real reforms. Now, they hold the ruling party accountable for everything, which is unfair. For the time being, we don't want to return to immature experiences of the past.

The elections are postponed and both GPC and JMP need to begin dialogue to solve the issues that led to postponing the elections.

I don't know why our brothers in JMP want dialogue to consider the condition of power-sharing. This is inapplicable as we need transparent dialogue open to all Yemenis. The JMP member parties are attempting to seize the opportunity, saying that the ruling party has failed, and that they don't want to hold any dialogue with the ruling party in order not to rescue it from its failure. Behaving this way, the JMP helps the national crisis worsen.

We agreed on postponing the elections in order to resolve relevant issues, but three months have already passed and nothing has happened. The JMP is responsible for wasting time as most of its members were against the compromise. They said, “We rescued the ruling party, although we were supposed to let it sink in failure.” They don't know that it is the homeland that would fail, not the ruling party.

Do you have any final comment?

Yemen needs comprehensive reform in all the state's institutions. If we want to fight corruption, we should reshuffle all the state's institutions and consider competence and eligibility in the selection of public servants.

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Tender Announcement**Republic of Yemen****Sana'a water supply & sanitation local corporation
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The Yemeni Government has received a loan (No 383/99) from Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD) toward the cost of Sana'a Wastewater network project/ Sana'a Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade. The loan covers part of the cost in (US Dollar) while the remaining part will be covered by Yemeni Government in Yemeni Rial (YR).

Sana'a Water and Sanitation Local Corporation (SWSLC) now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the implementation of Tech. measures for Sana'a WWTP upgrade of (65000 m3/d) on a lump sum fixed price Contract. The construction period is 720days while the maintenance & operation period is 365days. Bidding is open to all bidders meeting the post qualification requirements outlined in the bidding documents. The main requirements of which are: Audited balance sheets for the last (3) years. Minimum average annual turnover of USD (15 million), A 5 Million USD cash-flow requirement, Evidence of general experience for the last (10) years including (2) similar Projects each of (25) million USD and a minimum of one WWTP Project with digesters.

A brief description of the Project comprising: New inlet sewer pipe, Coarse screens, Pumping station, Buildings for screens, Grit chambers, Inflow measurement, Primary settling tanks, Gravity thickeners for primary sludge, Three anaerobic digesters with the digester building, Stabilized sludge thickeners, Two gas holders. Co-generation plant, Boiler station, Retention basin, Odor control filters, Site roads, Chambers, Pipe works, Boundary wall, Upgrading return sludge pumping station, With all external and Mechanical + Electrical Works and as outlined in bidding documents.

Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the bidding documents at SWSLC office at the address below from 09:00a.m to 14:00 p.m. A complete set of bidding documents in English may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of 250USD till end of 15/july/2009.

Bids must be delivered to the address below by 11:00a.m on July /28 /2009. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of Two Hundred Thousand US Dollar (200,000) bank guarantee. Late bids will be rejected.

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حصلت الحكومة اليمنية على قرض رقم (٩٩/٢٨٣) من الصندوق العربي للإنماء الاقتصادي والاجتماعي لتغطية كلفة مشروع شبكات الصرف الصحي بصنعاء / رفع كفاءة محطة المعالجة لمدينة صنعاء ويغطي القرض جزءاً من كلفة المشروع بالدولار الأمريكي بينما تغطي الحكومة اليمنية الجزء المتبقي بالريال اليمني.

تدعو المؤسسة المحلية للمياه والصرف الصحي بأمانة العاصمة المقاولين الذين تنطبق عليهم شروط التأهيل لتقديم عرض بظرف مختوم للقيام بتنفيذ مشروع رفع كفاءة محطة المعالجة لمدينة صنعاء (بطاقة استيعابية ٦٥٠٠٠ م^٣/ يوم) على مبدأ التعاقد على سعر مقطوع ثابت علماً بأن مدة تنفيذ المشروع (٧٢٠ يوماً) ومدة الصيانة والتشغيل (٣٦٥ يوماً).

المناقصة مفتوحة لجميع المناقصين الذين تنطبق عليهم شروط التأهيل اللاحق والتي من ضمن اهم متطلباتها تقديم كشف حساب مالي لآخر ثلاث سنوات. معدل حجم العمل السنوي بحد أدنى ١٥ مليون دولار ، سيولة نقدية بقيمة خمسة ملايين دولار، إثبات عن الخبرة العامة لآخر عشر سنوات متضمن مشروعين مماثلين كل منهما بقيمة (٢٥) مليون دولار و مشروع واحد على الأقل لمحطات معالجة باستخدام المخمرات.

وصف مختصر للمشروع: يتكون المشروع من خط صرف صحي جديد لمدخل المحطة، مصافي خشنة، محطة رفع، مصافي ناعمة، مبنى للمصافي، أحواض إزالة الرمال، جهاز قياس التدفق للمياه الداخلة للمحطة، أحواض ترسيب أولية ، مكثفات للرواسب الأولية، مخمرات لاهوائية مع المباني التابعة لها، مكثفات للرواسب الثانوية ، خزانات غاز، محطة توليد طاقة ، محطة غلايات مياه، أجهزة إزالة الروائح، طرق وأعمال خطوط، سور حماية، تعديل محطة ضخ الحماة الراجعة وجميع الأعمال الداخلية والخارجية وأعمال الميكانيك والكهرباء المبنية في وثائق العطاء.

يمكن للمقاولين الذين تنطبق عليهم شروط التأهيل والراغبين للدخول في المناقصة الحصول على معلومات إضافية والاطلاع على وثائق العطاء في مكاتب المؤسسة المحلية للمياه والصرف الصحي على عنوانهم المبين أدناه ما بين الساعة التاسعة صباحاً والثانية بعد الظهر ويمكنهم شراء نسخة كاملة عن وثائق العطاء باللغة الانجليزية بموجب تقديمهم طلب خطي للمؤسسة على العنوان المبين أدناه وذلك مقابل مبلغ غير مسترد قدره ٢٥٠ دولار أمريكي وذلك حتى نهاية دوام يوم ١٥ / يوليو / ٢٠٠٩.

تودع العروض في العنوان المبين أدناه بموعد أقصاه الساعة ١١ الحادية عشر من صباح يوم ٢٨ / يوليو / ٢٠٠٩ ويجب إرفاق كفاية دخول للمناقصة مع العرض المقدم بقيمة (٢٠٠٠٠٠ دولار) مانتى ألف دولار أمريكي كفاية بنكية ولن يتم قبول العروض التي تصل متأخرة عن الموعد المحدد .

سيتم فتح العروض بحضور ممثلين عن المتقدمين للعروض الراغبين في حضور جلسة فتح العروض في العنوان المبين أدناه وذلك في الساعة ١٢ الثانية عشر ظهراً يوم ٢٨ / يوليو / ٢٠٠٩ .

عنوان المؤسسة المحلية للمياه والصرف الصحي:

الحصبة - بجانب وزارة الصحة العامة والإسكان.
صنعاء - الجمهورية اليمنية
مكتب إدارة المشروع
هاتف ٩٦٧١٢٣٠٦٥٦
+٩٦٧١٢٣٠٦٥٦ فاكس
بريد الالكتروني cdteam@y.net.ye

Republic of Yemen**Ministry of Water and Environment****Sana'a Water Supply & Sanitation Local Corporation****Consultancy Services for Preparation of Detailed Design and
Tender Document, and Construction Supervision
Invitation for Expressions of Interest**

1. The Republic of Yemen, has received a Credit from the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD) towards the cost of Sana'a Wastewater network project/ Sana'a Wastewater Treatment Plant, and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this credit to payments under the contract for "consulting services for Sana'a New Wastewater Treatment Plant and Effluent Reuse Project". as the following:

**Phase I : preparation of Detailed Design and tender document, and
Phase II: Construction Supervision,**

2. Through Sana'a Water Supply & Sanitation Local Corporation, the Ministry of Water and Environment now invites the eligible international consulting firms to indicate their interest in providing the above services. Interested consultants must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff etc.) **Joint venture or association among foreign, Arab and local consulting firms is encouraged.**

3. A consultant (or a joint venture/association) will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the Arab fund and Government of Yemen Guidelines (www.htb.gov.ye).

4. Interested consultants may obtain further information between 09:00 hrs and 14:30 hrs at the address shown below.

5. Two copies of the EOI must be delivered to the address below not later than 12:00 hours (Yemen Standard Time) on TUE. June 30, 2009. Office of the Project Director

**Sana'a Water Supply & Sanitation
Local Corporation Al-Hasaba Street. AL-Idha'a Road B.O.Box 2659
Beside the Ministry of Public Health & Population
Al-Hasaba.
Sana'a, Republic of Yemen
Phone + 967 1230656
Fax + 967 1230656**

6. The minimum requirement for short listing of any consulting firm (joint venture or association) is:

- Submission of the latest Company's prospectus (with attachments if necessary);
- Successful experience as a consulting firm for at least ten (10) years. Additionally, a specific requirement is to have successful experience as a consulting firm over the last five (5) years in the **Design and supervision** of at least two (2) projects each of a similar nature and size, preferably in Yemen or the region; and
- References from previous or ongoing clients.

الجمهورية اليمنية**وزارة المياه والبيئة****المؤسسة المحلية للمياه والصرف الصحي - أمانة العاصمة****طلب إبداء الرغبة في تقديم الخدمات الاستشارية لإعداد التصاميم النهائية
ووثيقة المناقصة والإشراف على التنفيذ**

١- حصلت الجمهورية اليمنية على قرض من الصندوق العربي للإنماء الاقتصادي والاجتماعي لتمويل تكاليف مشروع شبكات الصرف الصحي / الأعمال الاستشارية لمحطة معالجة مياه الصرف الصحي الجديد، وسوف يتم تخصيص جزء من التمويل لتغطية عقد خدمات استشارية لمشروع محطة معالجة مياه الصرف الصحي الجديد وإعادة استخدام المياه المعالجة كالتالي

المرحلة الأولى : إعداد التصاميم النهائية ووثائق المناقصة.**المرحلة الثانية : الإشراف على تنفيذ المشروع.**

٢- تدعو وزارة المياه والبيئة ممثلة بالمؤسسة المحلية للمياه والصرف الصحي - أمانة العاصمة جميع الشركات والمكاتب الاستشارية الدولية للتعبير عن اهتمامها وتقديم وثائقها لانجاز الخدمات المذكورة أعلاه . يجب على الشركات المهتمة تقديم الوثائق (نشره تعريفي - وصف لأعمال مماثلة قامت بها الشركة - توضيح لكفاءة الاستشاري المتقدم والكادر العامل لديه) ويفضل الشركات التي لديها ائتلاف مع شركات استشارية عربية ومحلية.

٣- سوف يتم اختيار الشركة على معايير الصندوق العربي للإنماء الاقتصادي والاجتماعي ولوائح الجمهورية اليمنية (www.htb.gov.ye).

٤- يمكن الحصول على معلومات اضافية في أوقات الدوام الرسمي من المؤسسة المحلية للمياه والصرف الصحي على الإعلان الموضوع أسفل هذا الإعلان.

٥- يجب تسليم نسختين من وثائق إبداء الرغبة إلى العنوان الموضوع أسفل الإعلان في موعد أقصاه الساعة ١٢ من يوم الثلاثاء ٣٠ يونيو ٢٠٠٩م.

مكتب مدير المشروع**المؤسسة المحلية للمياه والصرف الصحي - أمانة العاصمة****الحصبة - جوار وزارة الصحة العامة والسكان**

ص.ب : ٢٦٥٩ تلفون : +٩٦٧١٢٣٠٦٥٦ فاكس : +٩٦٧١٢٣٠٦٥٦ - ٦

يجب أن تشمل وثائق ابداء الرغبة على جميع الوثائق المذكورة أعلاه أو على الأقل الوثائق التالية:

- لإقتديم نشرات تعريفية حديثة عن الشركة (مع أية مرفقات).
- لإخبره لا تقل عن عشر سنوات كشركه استشاريه .
- لإخبره ناجحة لأكثر من خمس سنوات في التصميم والإنشاء أن تكون الشركة قد نفذت مشروعين ذات طبيعة وحجم مشابه ويفضل أن يكون ذلك في اليمن أو في المنطقة.
- لإقتديم رسائل تزكيه من أرباب عمل حاليين أو سابقين .

Who are the Somali pirates?

Few stories of the day are attracting as much attention as that of modern-day pirates attacking and seizing ocean-bound vessels. But who are the Somali pirates? The Media Line's man in Somalia, Abdinisir Mohamed Guled answers the question...

By: Abdinisir Mohamed Guled
The Media Line News Agency

In recent times, stories involving Somali pirates have ranked among the most read and most followed news stories. The world's attention has been fixed on Somalia's notorious waters, swarming with pirates. Many ships have been hijacked along the Somali coast and, in some cases, hundreds of miles out into the Gulf of Aden.

Hoping to secure larger ransoms the pirates have started attacking larger ships and ships with more valuable cargos.

International awareness of piracy increased when pirates seized a Saudi supertanker carrying \$100-million worth of oil, and when a Ukrainian ship was captured with a huge military cargo including 33 tanks, as well as an American captain, Richard Phillips, who was rescued by the United States Navy in an operation that killed three pirates and captured one, who is being questioned in the U.S.

Somali officials have asked the Western navies to storm the ships and arrest the pirates because they say that paying ransoms only fuels the chaos in the war-ravaged nation.

International navies patrolling the waters along the Somali coast have restored a little nationalism to some Somalis, who, while hating the pirates, have expressed a reserved sympathy for them because of the issues that created them.

The recent news rush and hysteria has often been short on context and long on conspiracy theory. The pirates, as unsavory sounding they may be, are the product of an era that has seen a massive, almost wholesale neglect of the humanitarian crisis plaguing Somalia, with international ships plundering its coastline, and numerous cases of illegal dumping of toxic waste along Somalia's shores.

The Media Line (TML) looks at

some of the myths and misinformation surrounding Somali piracy, its roots, and its objectives.

One of the main issues facing people living in Somalia's coastal villages is the presence of large foreign vessels with large nets and aggressive crews intimidating local fishermen and overfishing in areas once essential for local fishermen to make their living. Due to this fish plundering and terrorization, the primary food and income source for many Somalis has dwindled significantly.

TML met with one of the "pirates," who related that he had become a pirate to join the fight against the ships destroying local fishermen's boats.

Identifying himself as "Mohamed Hadle," he explains his reasons for taking part in the practice of hijacking ships.

"This unusual tactic was spawned from many years of poverty and oppression; this was the root of the uprising," he says, proudly detailing some of the exploits of himself and his colleagues.

Since 1991, Somalia has been the scene of violence and chaos. After warlords toppled former dictator Mohamed Siad Barre, the country has been wracked with violence and starvation, and to the anger of many locals there has been a constant binge of illegal fishing, industrial waste and toxic waste dumping.

Hadle recounts that after years of exploitation by foreign boats, dozens of fishermen held a meeting to address how best to deal with the situation. Some decided to plug on, hoping for the best, but for the majority of fishermen reality had pounded them too hard and too often, and the decision was made to form a seafaring militia.

"We decided to use our small boats, along with some guns we had in our houses, to hijack any ship violating Somali waters," Hadle says.

Hadle's group of fishermen became one of several groups of pirates that

now identify themselves as "Somalia's coastguards."

Describing some of the operations carried out by his group, Hadle claims the group has hijacked three ships and received \$1 million of ransom from each one. The money energized the group and they began to ratchet up both their hijacking efforts and business aspirations.

After collecting the first million, the group decided to construct a piracy network, buying speedboats, modern marine equipment and additional weapons.

There are unconfirmed reports that the pirates have their own management and offices in Mogadishu and the two pirate havens, the towns of Harardhere and Eyl.

For many years, Hadle says, he was a fisherman who kept to himself and even after numerous instances of harassment by international ships still refused to take up arms against them. But eventually reality set in and he was forced into piracy by "belligerent vessels."

"In truth, I had absolutely no desire to join the pirates, but after the total ruination of my livelihood I was forced into it," he says.

Hadle describes an incident in 2008 when a boat that his group wanted to seize sprayed them with boiling water and shot at Hadle and his colleagues. Several of the pirate crew were wounded; they decided not to return fire and fled. One of Hadle's friends is missing and is presumed dead after the ordeal.

When asked how the pirates distinguish whether the vessels under attack are armed or not, he says that the attacks are games of chance, but they fire shots at the ships before boarding them, seeing that many of their friends had been killed during such attacks.

When a ship is hijacked, the crews are controlled by having guns pointed at them and they are sometimes beaten; but they feed the hostages well, he says, smiling.

"We give them the best Somali food, because we will get undreamed of ransom," Hadle tells TML.

He adds that the pirates are misunderstood – they are not bandits but coastguards who defend the waters



The Chinese South Sea Fleet conducting an anti-terrorism drill in which commandos flew to a merchant ship and then assaulted it by rappelling down from the helicopter and "cleared" the vessel of pirates and "rescued" the crew. In December 2008, a Chinese cargo ship, the "Delight", and its 25 man crew, was taken by Somali pirates. About the same time, a Chinese fishing boat, with a crew of 24, was also taken by Somali pirates off the coast of Kenya. China has said it will contribute forces to help deal with the Somali pirates.

from waste dumping and illegal fishing.

When TML asked Hadle if the pirates gave some of their ransom money to Islamists, he denies it saying they are money seekers not weapons suppliers, and fear that arms would fall into the hands of al-Qa'ida-linked Somali insurgents.

In the last two years piracy recruitments have risen markedly because poor young Somali teenagers consider piracy the road to "quick riches."

"Piracy is really good work, because you will get hundreds of thousands of dollars at once," says Somali high school student Abdullahi Farah.

According to Hadle, the ransoms are divided among the pirates, but the biggest share falls to the commanders, and he was one of them.

Clutching a small, elegant walking stick, Hadle says that at 35 years of age

he is a well-respected man with status provided by his piracy skills.

"I have three wives, two are in Garowe, Puntland and one in Mogadishu and I'm able to support them in the best way," he tells TML proudly in an interview at one of his houses.

He owns two small cars, one lorry and several commercial sites, including stores. He is thinking of quitting the piracy business in the coming months, and says he will become "an elder."

The pirates are ambitious young men trying to live the good life in a troubled country, but they face constant danger in a game of chance. But despite the dangers, hundreds of armed men join the pirates every week.

In the northern coastal towns such as Harardhere, Eyl and Bossaso, the pirate economy is thriving because of

the money pouring in from pirate ransoms that have reached tens of millions of dollars this year alone.

But not everyone thinks of the pirates as the Robin Hoods they see themselves as: helping the poor when ransom money comes in.

"The pirates are a major force in the mindless violent crime in our country," Somali ex-maritime officer Mohamed Abdi tells TML by phone from Hargeisa, Somaliland.

He says the wealthy pirates are tricking poor young women into humiliating acts, such as sex for money.

Nevertheless, hundreds of people support the piracy.

"I would not be against marrying a pirate man because I would be living in a good life, because they have a good income," says Sahra Abdullahi, a resident of Harardhere.

World Development Report 2009

Reshaping Economic Geography

Economic growth will be unbalanced, but development still can be inclusive. That is the main message of this year's World Development Report. The report proposes that spatial transformations along the following three dimensions will be necessary. Density: Higher density as seen in the growth of cities. Tokyo, the world's largest city is home to 35 million—a quarter of Japan's population—but stands on just four percent of its land. Distance: Shorter distances as firms and workers migrate closer to economic opportunities. Eight million Americans change states every year,

migrating to reduce distance to economic opportunity. Division: Fewer divisions as countries thin their economic borders to enter world markets to take advantage of specialization and scale. Border restrictions to flows of goods, capital, ideas, and people continue to prevent progress in Africa, in contrast with Western Europe.

Growing cities, ever more mobile people, and increasingly specialized products are integral to development. These changes have been most noticeable in North America, Western Europe, and Northeast Asia. But countries in East and South Asia and Eastern Europe are now experiencing changes that are similar in their scope and speed. World Development Report 2009: Reshaping Economic Geography concludes that such transformations will remain essential for economic success in other parts of the developing world and should be encouraged.

The report is divided into three parts:

Part One: Seeing Development in 3D

Part One defines the spatial dimensions – density, distance, and division – and describes their evolution with economic development. Chapters 1, 2, and 3 present a broad sweep of stylized facts showing how the economic topography at the local, national, and international scales is changing, and how the scope and pace of this change compare with earlier shifts in the economic geography of Europe, North America, and Japan.



Part Two: Shaping Economic Geography

Part Two illustrates the interplay among scale economies, factor mobility and transport costs, to explain the formidable forces that shape the geographic transformations described in Part One. Chapters 4, 5, and 6 are the steps in a tour of the "engine room" each spotlighting a different facet of the interactions among agglomeration, migration and specialization.

Part Three: Reframing the Policy Debates

Part Three revisits and reframes three long-standing policy debates on urbanization, territorial development, and international integration. Chapters 7, 8, and 9 lay out the steps necessary for, respectively, an inclusive urban-

ization strategy, an effective territorial development approach, and integration of isolated countries with world markets.

Place and Prosperity

Places do well when they promote transformations along the dimensions of economic geography: higher densities as cities grow; shorter distances as workers and businesses migrate closer to density; and fewer divisions as nations lower their economic borders and enter world markets to take advantage of scale and trade in specialized products. *World Development Report 2009* concludes that the transformations along these three dimensions – density, distance, and division – are essential for development and should be encouraged.



The conclusion is controversial. Slum-dwellers now number a billion, but the rush to cities continues. A billion people live in lagging areas of developing nations, remote from globalization's many benefits. And poverty and high mortality persist among the world's "bottom billion," trapped without access to global markets, even as others grow more prosperous and live ever longer lives. Concern for these three intersecting billions often comes with the prescription that growth must be spatially balanced. This report has a different message: economic growth will be unbalanced. To try to spread it out is to discourage it – to fight prosperity, not poverty. But development can still be inclusive, even for people who start their lives distant from dense economic

activity. For growth to be rapid and shared, governments must promote economic integration, the pivotal concept, as this report argues, in the policy debates on urbanization,

territorial development, and regional integration. Instead, all three debates overemphasize place-based interventions.

Reshaping Economic Geography reframes these debates to include all the instruments of integration – spatially blind institutions, spatially connective infrastructure, and spatially targeted interventions. By calibrating the blend of these instruments, today's developers can reshape their economic geography. If they do this well, their growth will still be unbalanced, but their development will be inclusive.

Did you know

- half of the world's production can fit into an area smaller than Algeria?
- Cairo's metropolitan area generates over half of the Arab Rep. of Egypt's production using 0.5 percent of the country's land area?
- in the U.S., 96 percent of innovations take place in metropolitan areas?
- 200 million Chinese migrants travel to their hometowns to spend the Lunar New Year?
- as transport costs fell over the last century, countries traded even more with neighboring countries than with more distant ones?
- in 2006, Singapore, with 700 sq km in area, exported the same amount (US\$300 billion) as the Russian Federation, with more than 16 million sq km?

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- A VALID CERTIFICATE OF INSURANCE.

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تعلن شركة مصافي عدن لشركات المقاولات المحلية والمقاولين المحليين المصنفين في الدرجة (1) والشركات الأجنبية المتخصصة في المشاريع الإنشائية للدخول في المناقصة العامة لمشروع تشييد مبنى الإدارة العامة لشركة مصافي عدن على أن تتوفر في الجهة المتقدمة للمناقصة المؤهلات والخبرات كمقاول رئيسي للمشاريع الإنشائية والأعمال والأنظمة المتخصصة المكتملة لها.

يمكن للراغبين في التقدم للمناقصة الحصول على المجموعة الكاملة لوثائق المناقصة (باللغة الإنجليزية من إدارة المشاريع بشركة مصافي عدن مقابل رسم وقدره (٥٠٠ دولار) لايرد.

يتم تقديم العطاءات في مظاريف محتومة من أصل + نسختين قبل الساعة ١١ صباحاً من يوم الثلاثاء الموافق (٢٠٠٩/٩/١) على العنوان التالي

شركة مصافي عدن مدير المصافي - رئيس لجنة المناقصات
تلفون +٩٦٧٢٣٧٦٢٥٨ فاكس +٩٦٧٢٣٧٦٦٠٠

سيتم فتح المظاريف بحضور مندوبي المقاولين والشركات المتقدمة للمناقصة (حسب رغبتهم) وذلك في الساعة ١١ صباحاً من يوم الثلاثاء الموافق (٢٠٠٩/٩/١) ولن يتم إستلام أي عطاء يصل بعد المهلة المحددة.

لن ينظر في العطاءات المقدمة مالم تكن مستوفية لتعليمات المناقصة وعلى المتقدمين تسليم عطاءاتهم مصحوبة بالوثائق التالية.

تأمين إبتدائي لا يقل عن ٢.٥ % من قيمة العطاء بواسطة ضمانة بنكية سارية المفعول لمدة لا تقل عن ١٢٠ يوماً من تاريخ فتح المظاريف أو شيك مقبول الدفع من أحد البنوك المعتمدة

بيانات الخبرة السابقة في تنفيذ المشاريع المماثلة خلال الخمس سنوات الماضية كمقاول رئيسي والجهات المنفذة لها تلك المشاريع.

على الشركات والمقاولين المحليين إرفاق عطاءاتهم بمايلي

شهادة التصنيف في الدرجة الأولى سارية المفعول
البطاقة الضريبية (سارية المفعول) البطاقة التأمينية (سارية المفعول)
شهادة مزاولة المهنة (سارية المفعول)

على الشركات الأجنبية إرفاق عطاءاتهم بمايلي

شهادة تأمين (سارية المفعول)

شهادة السجل التجاري (سارية المفعول)

يلتزم صاحب العطاء الفائز بالمناقصة بدفع ١% من قيمة العطاء كرسوم تحسين المحافظة، كما يلتزم بسداد أية ضرائب أو رسوم مرتبطة بتنفيذ المشروع وبحسب القوانين النافذة في الجمهورية اليمنية.

للاستفسار أو التنسيق لزيارة الموقع أثناء إعداد العطاءات للاتصال بالعنوان التالي: (السبت إلى الاربعاء من الساعة صباحاً ٧ إلى ٤ عصراً)

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JOB VACANCY

The DED (German Development Service) is a Government financed development agency focusing on seconding experienced experts to Yemeni partner organizations. To support our country management team we are looking for a **PROGRAMME ASSISTANT** with the following characteristics of the post:

Designation of the post
Programme Assistant

Reporting to
Country Director (CD)

Duration of the post
Starting from August 2009 (permanent post)

Work station and area of intervention
The Programme Assistant is stationed at the DED head office in Sana'a and will be travelling frequently to all regions in Yemen where the DED is active.

Objective of the post
Assist the country director and sector coordinators (SC) in the management of all DED programme - related matters, with special emphasis on maintaining good relationships and effective cooperation with Yemeni partner organizations.

Tasks

- Assist CD and SC in all communication, correspondence, negotiations, and networking with DED partner organizations
- Assist CD and SC in establishing effective networks with other donor organizations
- Assist in the in-country-preparation of new DED staff
- Assist DED experts in all matters related to their work with special emphasis on maintaining good and effective cooperation with Yemeni partners
- Continuously monitor the security situation in Yemen, serve as contact person for the risk management office and advise the country director in security matters
- Assist DED staff in emergency situations
- Assist SC in the evaluation of partner requests according to DED standards
- Assist SC in progress monitoring and evaluation
- Act as workshop facilitator in DED workshops
- Assist in the organization and implementation of small studies and short term missions
- Assist CD and SC in the elaboration of cooperation agreements with partner organizations
- Assist DED technical groups in the organization of their meetings
- Assist CD and SC in the follow-up and documentation of developments in DED priority sectors in Yemen
- Translate Arabic texts into English/German and vice versa
- Serve as interpreter during meetings from Arabic into English/German and vice versa
- Mediate between DED staff and other parties in case of conflict

- Obtain the official acceptance of new development workers by the relevant Yemeni partner organizations and government institutions
- Participate on request of CD in technical meetings, workshops, donor meetings on behalf of DED

Special characteristics of the post

After a period of introduction the Programme Assistant should be acquainted with all relevant DED planning, reporting and quality management standards. He /she should have profound knowledge of the entire country programme of DED Yemen and be familiar with all related documentation (project evaluation papers, cooperation agreements, reports). He/she should know the key persons of all relevant Yemeni institutions and international partner organizations/donors. He/she should know where to obtain the most important documents and policy papers (national and donor strategy papers, sector evaluation reports, planning documents, reports, studies, statistics, etc.) for the DED priority sectors.

Ideal Profile of the holder of the post

- University degree in a development related field
- Fluent (spoken, written, translation) in Arabic, English and German
- Good communicator
- Respected by partners and government officials
- Capacity to mediate in critical situations
- Experience as workshop facilitator
- Interested in and well informed about Yemeni development politics and programmes
- Driving license

Applications

Only applications in GERMAN language accompanied by a detailed CV in Europass format will be considered.

Nationality of applicants: Yemeni

Deadline: 10. June 2009

Address for applications: yem@ded.de or DED, P.O.Box 92, Sana'a

For further information on DED Yemen visit our website: <http://jemen.ded.de>

From clay to safe water



In a country with one of the highest rates of under five mortality in the Middle East, waterborne diseases can be drastically reduced by water purification through a filter. Newest on the market in Yemen is the silver filter. Alice Hackman follows its fabrication and asks how it works.



Up to 1.8 million people

die every year from diarrhoeal diseases including malaria, of whom 90 percent are children under five, mostly in developing countries, according to the World Health Organization, and 88 percent of these are attributed to unsafe water supply, inadequate sanitation and hygiene. In Yemen, to reduce waterborne health hazards such as gastrointestinal infections, rainwater, in particular, should be filtered prior to human consumption.



One Yemeni potter

is making a difference. Father of two Ali Salman (second right) has abandoned tanoor and flower pot production to make low-tech ceramic filters to provide Yemen's children with safe drinking water. With the support of GTZ and in partnership with the Yemeni-based Silver Filters Company, he and his family now use their inherited talent to make potable water more available countrywide.



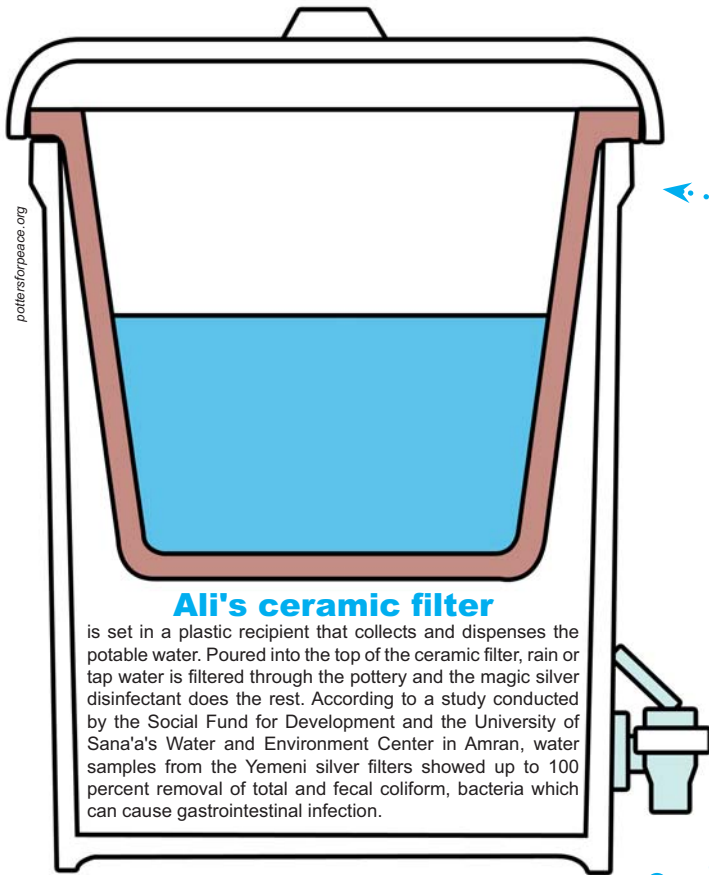
Alice Hackman



Alice Hackman

Next stop the kiln

or oven, in which 11 to 12 small gas cylinders are used to slowly fire the filters for no less than 11 hours. After being marked with its own serial number, each filter is stacked inside. When the door closes, the heat soars to an incredible 300 °C for four hours, and then up to 880 °C for another seven. The high heat changes the molecular composition of the pottery to make it last for a long time.



Ali's ceramic filter

is set in a plastic recipient that collects and dispenses the potable water. Poured into the top of the ceramic filter, rain or tap water is filtered through the pottery and the magic silver disinfectant does the rest. According to a study conducted by the Social Fund for Development and the University of Sana'a's Water and Environment Center in Amran, water samples from the Yemeni silver filters showed up to 100 percent removal of total and fecal coliform, bacteria which can cause gastrointestinal infection.



Alice Hackman

The ingredient x

of the silver filter is colloidal silver. Once each filter has proven it has a successful flow rate of 1.5 to 3 liters an hour, it is dipped in water containing a very small quantity of this clever ion which suffocates bacteria, destroys pathogens and kills parasites. With this positively charged ion inside them, Ali's ceramic pots can turn bacterially-contaminated water into safe drinking water for up to several years.



Alice Hackman

Bacteria-free water

improves a family's health and considerably reduces doctors bills - as well as the cost of transport to reach the local clinic. In the Amran study, from 63.0 percent of children suffering from diarrhea, less than 20 percent did so, after their families having used the silver filter for six months. Medical expenses on diarrhoeal treatment declined from over YR9,000 to nothing or less than YR5,000 per household.



Alice Hackman

A filter can save lives,

and proof of how much women valued it in one pilot stud, conducted in Mahwit by CARE International, was the frequency with which its outside plastic container was cleaned: at least every other day. A labor of love, the regular cleaning showed the importance these low-income families gave to the silver filter. The inside ceramic component however should only be cleaned once a month, with a brush and clean filtered water.



Alice Hackman

Water purification

in Yemen can contribute to reaching the United Nations fourth and seventh Millennium Development Goals: «to reduce by two thirds the mortality rate among children under five» and «to reduce by half the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water.» At YR 5,000, the silver filter is an affordable means to ensure everyday access to potable water, for international non-governmental organizations and heads of private households alike.

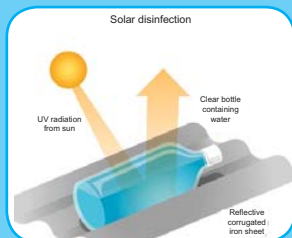
Safe water without a filter



Although boiling water, here in tea, provides 100 percent safe water, at altitude, the technique consumes a lot of gas or wood.



Widely used in rural areas, chlorine purifies water and protects it against recontamination, but correct dosage is vital.



Disinfection by UV rays is economical and a natural way to purify water, provided the sky is not overcast.

4U

If you would like to find out more about silver filters, check out the following websites: www.silverfilters.org, www.potterswithoutborders.com, www.pottersforpeace.com

If you would like to buy a silver filter or find out more about their production in Yemen, call the Silver Filter Company on 01-538 792, or visit them in Sana'a on Nouakchott Street, just west of the Supreme Elections Commission on Baghdad Street.

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Sunlight, gelatine and kitchen spices

Digital photography is gaining ground by the year, and companies that previously sold traditional silver films by the ton are slowly closing down, or abandoning old techniques to join the pixel revolution.

German artist Alfons Alt advocates for traditional chemical photography with bold prints of the animal, vegetable and mineral, but not with silver film. Instead he uses gelatine, potassium bichromate and dry pigments.

A self-proclaimed "altotypiste," Alt recently visited Yemen with his magic suitcase to share his vision with six Yemeni photographers and artists. Their joint exhibition opened on Sunday at the National Museum in Sana'a to the sound of a German brass band.

By: Alice Hackman

Alfons Alt opened up his suitcase. Inside, he revealed the bare minimum to conduct his alchemy: a measuring jug, bovine gelatine, orange powder, some canvas, two brushes, and a chocolate thermometer. Yemen would provide the rest, he told the six Yemeni artists assembled to meet him, namely the sun.

Alt is famous for his "altotypes." Inspired by 19th century artist Rodolfo Narnias' "resinotypes" and renamed jokingly after himself, they are, in a few words, positive photographic imprints on gelatine, further embellished with dry pigments. The result is a cross between a photo and a painting.

Contrary to today's popular digital photography, it is a magical process, where the image is slowly revealed to the naked eye and the result cannot be divided up into tiny dots or pixels. Magic permeates the experience: armed with a soft brush, Alt then dusts powdered pigment onto the still-wet painting.

"The more you brush, the more you see the photo, and the less you do, the more it looks like a painting," he said with a twinkle in his eye. The final product or "altotype," is, he grinned, "Thirty percent photography, 30 percent etching, 30 percent painting and 10 percent divine benediction."

"I'm looking for durability: things where you don't know whether they are

today, yesterday or tomorrow," he said, his enthusiasm contagious. "What interests me is building a world vision, a cosmogonic vision."

"I am like a detective looking for a story that I don't know," he explained. "I advance intuitively, following a trail of breadcrumbs. Perhaps I will discover it at the end of my life, but what is especially interesting is the road to get there."

"It's life a man running all his life. You see him in the desert, near the icebergs. At the end of his life, he bites a lemon and says, 'Oh, it's sour.' Perhaps that's the story of my life. We all run behind something that we don't really know."

In his quest for an explanation to the universe, Alt pieces the clues together with ingenuity and dedication: "I spent 15 years on animals, but I don't want people to think I am monomaniac," he laughed. "The vegetable is also a magical world, and then there is the mineral."

A giant Pakistani termite mound may be reminiscent of the Gherkin building in London by Norman Foster, but the animal world provides much more than just parallels in protective structures, he explained.

"Animals are related to religion," he explained. "The fish is a symbol of Christ. The sacrifice of Abraham is shared by Christianity, Judaism and Islam. I am here to reconcile people. Our job as artists is to bring people together."

Yemeni talent

So does a German cultural week. This



In his quest for a cosmogonic vision, Alt has depicted the animal, vegetable and mineral.

May, the French Cultural Center and the German House brought Alt together with six Yemeni artists to share ideas and techniques. The result was very successful, and everybody left their own personal imprint, said Alt, in smart Yemeni attire at the exhibition's opening.

"I expected to learn something, but this exceeded my expectations," said photographer Bushra Al-Mutawakel, who described working with Alt as an invaluable experience. "It was labor intensive, but very gratifying when we saw the results. It was about delaying the gratification; it was a labor of love."

"We print [our photographs] in black and white on plastic paper," explained AbdulRahman Jaber, whose work was also on display at the exhibition. "First, we prepare the paper [canvas] with seven layers of gelatine, then we add bichromate over the gelatine and leave it to dry."

"We put it in a dark room, then take it out and expose to the light with plastic paper to control the light." He explained. "You get a positive copy on paper."

After exposure to light, the canvas must be thoroughly washed with water to clean off all the light-sensitive potassium bichromate. Once completely clean, it shows two shades of white. When dusted with pigment, the lighter shade absorbs the most color and the image is finally revealed.

Jaber is a digital painter, but Altography was very different: "Each one has its own taste," he said, explaining that they are as different "chicken and fish."

For photographer Asia Al-Sharabi, however, the new technique gave her work more depth than before: "The new technique gives it more mystery, especially with my style," she explained. "I wanted to show a Yemeni woman's identity, but without showing her: Playing with the technique, I was able to show her clothes without showing her."

Photography meets painting

While most of the Yemeni artists used their photographs as the basis for their new creation, painter Salwa Al-Eryani worked with on scanned copies of three of her paintings, two in acrylic and the third

a digitally-colored sketch in ink.

Which of the three does she prefer? "It's like choosing between two children," she laughed, "But probably the digital painting: It's strong and visible."

Once they had painted their works over with layer after layer of gelatine, all six artists laid out their canvases under a special lamp to reveal the image below. They tried different exposure times, but 10 minutes worked best for most of them, said Al-Eryani.

"It was the first time for me to work with pigments without water," she explained. "Because the painting is a little bit wet, you don't need the water."

Of the pigments they used was bone char or ivory black, so called because it was once made from burnt elephant tusks before it became illegal. Nowadays, said

Alt, it is made from charred animal bones and teeth and is the blackest pigment you can find.

Lapis Lazuli, the blue stone mined in Afghanistan, can also be used as a pigment. Although nowadays only one company in the whole world makes it, it was used many years ago as a pigment in the pyramids, said Alt.

Altography, Yemeni style

"I learnt a lot," said engraver Naser Al-Aswadi, who first met and occasionally worked with Alt in France before he came to Yemen. "It was great to work with other Yemenis artists on a technique which was new to us."

"We're still working at the [French cultural] center," he added. "We're starting to use Yemenis ingredients. If they work, we will continue to use them."

Instead of using expensive pigments imported from France, the artists have decided to try using local kitchen spices. Turmeric and saffron are only some of the pigments readily-available in the market, said Al-Aswadi. And the red soil from Wadi Dhahr could work equally well, added Al-Sharabi.

As for revealing the image, the lamp can easily be replaced by sunlight, controlling exposure and choosing a suitable time of the day: "In Europe, you can only work from 11:00 to 15:00, but here there is more ultraviolet," said Alt.

"All of us want to keep doing the technique," said photographer Ameen Al-Ghaberi, who had never worked with pigments before the ten day workshop with Alt. "He has given us the name of the materials so we can import them."

"I had no experience before in painting," said the photographer. "I wanted to make some of them again for details, but

4U

The altotypes are on exhibition at the National Museum until June 13. Opening hours are from 09:00 to 13:00 and 16:00 to 18:00 from Saturday to Wednesday, and from 09:00 to 13:00 on Thursday. The museum is closed on Friday.

To find out more about Alfons Alt's work and international exhibitions, go to www.alfons-alt.com or email contact@alfons-alt.com.

there wasn't a lot of [canvas] left."

Lasting impressions

Among Al-Ghaberi's fans was Blandine Amiel, French living in Yemen: "I like the old-looking portraits of Yemeni people," she said.

"These would work well in France," agreed her friend Nicolas Decaillet. "People easily understand an expression or a look."

"I like the big fish," said Jochen Renger, pointing to a giant altotype of a fish by Alt. "I would like to have it in our living room, opposite the sofa. It gives me a feeling of relaxation. When I see the fish, I smell the salty air of the sea and good memories pop up in my mind."

"I also discovered here in Yemen how tasty fish is," adds the German water expert, who has lived in Yemen for over five years. "When I see this, I am almost hungry."

Caricaturist Fahad Al-Jebzi voted for a portrait by Jaber: "I like the Yemeni girl who is working in handicrafts," he said. "She is typically Yemeni."



Turmeric is only one of the natural pigments available in the Yemeni market



Altography is a cross between photography and painting; Here, Salwa Al-Eryani produced an altotype one of her digital paintings.



Photographer Bushra Al-Mutawakel, one of whose altotypes is above, described altography as a labor of love.

Section I. Invitation for Bids

Tender Advertisement no. (14) 2009]for 1st Time
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The [Yemen Gulf of Aden Ports Corporation — Port of Aden] here announces its desire to invite bidders to Tender no. (14) for supplying [One No. Twin Screw Fast Pilot boat for Port of Aden] which will be financed from:

Government source.

Bidders who are willing to participate in this Tender have to submit written applications to [Tender committee Secretary] to receive Bidding Documents for an amount [30,000YR] non-refundable. Bidders have to apply during the official working hours at [Yemen Gulf of Aden Ports Corporation — Port of Aden-Tawahi

Tel : 00 967 02 20200168

Fax: 00 967 02 201541

YGAPCplanning@y.net.ye

The deadline for selling BDs will be on [27th june 2009]

Bids must be submitted in sealed envelopes addressed to the Chairman of the Board Executive Charirman. The following documents must be contained in the bid:

- 1- A Bank Guarantee for a lump sum (60.000 USD for one pilot boat) (Sixty Thousand American Dollars.) Bank guarantee has to be valid for not less than 150 days from date of Bid Opening. Bank guarantee may be substituted with a payable cheque.
- 2- Valid tax certificate (A foreign bidder who is not already doing business in Yemen may provide a copy of the appropriate VAT registration document from his home country.)
- 3- Valid Insurance Certificate. (Insurance certificate is required only from firms with employees in Yemen who are entitled to benefits from the Public Enterprise for Social Security in Yemen)
- 4- Valid registration and classification certificate. (In the event of an award of contract if the successful firm is not already registered it will be required to evidence registration with the concerned Entity in Yemen as a requirement for contract effectiveness.)

A foreign bidder may provide the equivalent documents indicated in 2, 3 and 4 from its country of registration as appropriate.

The Dead line for submission and bids opening will be (Wednesday) at [11:00 Am] on 1 July 2009 J. Bids received after this deadline will be returned unopened.

Bid Opening will take place at [the Office Chairman Executive — Headquarters] and at the same time mentioned above, in presence of bidders or their authorized representatives.

Potential bidders may inspect BDs before purchasing during working hours for a period 27 days starting from advertisement.

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The position of **Administration coordinator** in one of the leading travel companies is vacant for immediate employment. The office is located in Sana'a, the incumbent should have the following main working knowledge:

HE or SHE should be:

- 1- Responsible for secretary work of the General Manager.
- 2- Administrative work of the office.
- 3- Responsible for all the Arabic and English correspondence.

Qualification Required:

University Degree preferred in Business Management/Commerce.

Professional and personal skills required:

- 1- Fluent written English and Arabic skills.
- 2- Excellent computer Literacy : Word, Excel, Power Point and Internet.
- 3- More than 2 Years Experience in Secretary work.
- 4- Able to work under pressure.
- 5- Working hours 8am-1pm and 4pm-7:30pm
- 6- Good team player.

Any interested applicant should send his/her CV with a recent photo attached to anwar320@hotmail.com before 15/06/2009.

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Trade magazine published by the Ministry of Industry and Trade is announcing a vacancy for the post of **Managing Editor** of the Trade magazine. Selection will be based on merit.

Qualifications to apply:

- Practical experience in journalism for at least 15 years in the field of local and international economic journalism, with preferably experience in a similar post.
- Commitment to the prescribed working hours (will be decided in the work contract)
- Less than 50 years of age.
- Holder of a university degree and competent in computer and internet skills.
- Creative, enthusiastic and innovative
- Applicants should attach copies of his/her supporting documents.
- Applicants will be interviewed.

Interested applicants should submit their document to the magazine's administration at the Ministry of Industry and Trade within a week of this announcement. For inquiries: Tel 777218126

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Fine artists from all over the Arab world

By: Ismail Al-Ghaberi

In thirteen showrooms, Sana'a last week hosted the talent of almost a hundred fine artists from around the Arab world and China, to celebrate Al Quds as the Arab Cultural Capital 2009.

Up to 282 paintings from 98 different artists from 13 Arab countries and China were on display at the exhibition, entitled Sana'a International Forum for Plastic Arts and organized by the Yemeni Ministry of Culture.

At the exhibition's opening,



Minister of Culture Dr. Mohamed Abubakr Al-Maflahi said that this forum offered a great opportunity for artists from the region and the world as a whole to meet, hold constructive dialogue and exchange experience.

Forum general coordinator Hakim Al-Aqel stressed that the forum was a great opportunity to familiarize participants with plastic fine arts in Yemen, and give Yemeni artists an idea about level of developments in plastic arts in other Arab countries.

The exhibition, which was on until May 24, included a symposium on "the Arab Plastic Artist Movement, Half a Century of Achievements." Participants included researchers and art critics from different Arab countries.



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