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Inside:

As stats on war-related devastation are released, Gov't committee resumes Sa'ada field visit to complete assessment

By: Yemen Times Staff

SA'ADA, Aug. 6 — A government committee authorized by President Ali Abdullah Saleh to assess damage from the Sa'ada fighting resumed its field visit to the war-torn governorate on Sunday to complete its assessment, a government source told various media outlets on condition of anonymity.

Local Administration Ministry Undersecretary Akram Al-Sheikh stated to the Yemeni army-affiliated 26September.net that the committee will continue its assessment in Sa'ada according to a previously specified schedule of priorities.

He expects the assessment of war damage in Bani Hushaish area, situated east of Sana'a, to begin once the committee completes its findings in Sa'ada.

At its weekly meeting on Tuesday, the

Yemeni Cabinet directed the committee to immediately assess damage in Sa'ada governorate and Bani Hushaish area in Sana'a governorate and then forward complete reports to it in order to approve any required compensation and resume reconstruction.

Cabinet ministers reviewed an initial progress report on the damage assessment resulting from the four-year fighting between the Yemeni army and Houthi supporters in Sa'ada and other areas in various development and service spheres. Local Administration Minister Abdulqader Hilal presented the report.

Stats on war-related devastation

According to the report, the fighting damaged as many as 4,141 homes, 64 fruit and vegetable farms and 24 poultry farms in several Sa'ada areas. The report

adds that some 201 public facilities and installations also were partially or completely destroyed in the fighting.

Education topped the list of public facilities affected by the war, which damaged 116 primary and secondary schools. The health sector came in second with 36 facilities damaged, while the endowment and religious guidance sector came in third with 26 facilities and mosques either partially or completely destroyed.

A field subcommittee, which is part of the larger government committee, decided at a meeting late last month to form field teams at the governorate and district levels to contribute to the damage assessment process.

Sa'ada war included in study center report

The Yemeni Center for Strategic Studies

last week launched its annual report for 2007, which included issues such as public protests, the war in Sa'ada and dialogue between the various political parties on forming an elections committee and election amendments, among other issues, NewsYemen.net reported.

It pointed out that the report significantly dealt with the Sa'ada conflict and reflections upon it, as well as both domestic and foreign powers' stance toward the conflict.

Fighting between Houthi loyalists, who are members of the Shi'ite Muslim Zaidi sect led by Abdulmalik Al-Houthi, and Yemeni government forces flared following previous attempts to end hostilities in the northern governorate of Sa'ada, including a 2007 Qatari mediation that was revived this year.

Continued on page 2



An official report revealed that the Sa'ada war left more than 4,000 homes damaged and more than 200 public facilities partially or completely destroyed.

Jury declares Yemeni inmate "guilty" in first Gitmo war-crimes trial

By: Sarah Wolff

GUANTANAMO BAY, Aug. 6 — Yemeni national Salim Ahmed Hamdan, Osama Bin Laden's former driver, was declared guilty on five out of eight counts of providing material support to terrorists and conspiracy yesterday by a six-member military jury in the first war crimes trial to be held by the United

States since World War II.

However, the jury was split when it came to convicting Hamdan of conspiracy and found him not guilty of two of the weightier conspiracy charges. Though he evaded the two strongest charges, Hamdan could still be sentenced to life in prison in the U.S. when the trial resumes. The defendant reportedly cried shortly after the verdict was announced.

The jury entered deliberations on Monday at the United States naval base at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, where the trial took place. Sentencing was scheduled for yesterday afternoon, past press-time in Sana'a.

The defense team previously voiced their fears publicly that the military commission trial would produce a rubber-stamped guilty verdict for their client. A Pentagon spokesperson also announced Tuesday that Hamdan might remain in detention even if he was found not guilty, a fact that throws the reasons for conducting trials at all into question.

"Even if he is acquitted of the charges before him, he'd still be considered an enemy combatant and therefore, would continue to be subject to...detention," Pentagon spokesperson Geoff Morrell said at a Defense Department press conference Tuesday. "In the near term, at least, we'd consider him an enemy combatant and still a danger and likely still would detain him for some period of time thereafter," Morrell added.

Born in Hadramout in 1970, Hamdan worked for Bin Laden during the Al-Qaeda attacks on both the USS Cole destroyer in Aden in 2000 and the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on U.S. soil. When U.S. forces captured Hamdan during



Salim Ahmed Hamdan

their invasion of Afghanistan in November of 2001, he was caught by members of the Afghani Northern Alliance with two surface-to-air missiles in the trunk of his vehicle and turned over to the U.S.

Hamdan's case centered on the level of his involvement in Al-Qaeda, not whether or not he was a member of Al-Qaeda, since he had admitted to working for Bin Laden and swearing an oath of allegiance to him.

Continued on page 2

Al-Qaeda's war in Yemen

Threats of large-scale attack and fierce clashes as relations cool between Yemen and U.S.

By: Aqeel Al-Halali
 For The Yemen Times

SANA'A, Aug. 6 — A leading Al-Qaeda figure in Yemen has threatened to execute armed attacks "at larger scales" if the Yemeni government doesn't release his detained colleagues from prison.

This comes a day after a government announcement that it is interrogating suspects in the July 25th suicide bombing that targeted a camp in Hadramout governorate's Sayoun city, 794 kilometers east of Sana'a.

In a taped recording, Yemeni Al-Qaeda leader Hamza Al-Qaity stated, "Your worries are our worries, your sorrows are ours and your grief is our grief. We'll never forget you, Allah willing. As for you, oh [Ariel] Sharon of Yemen, [Political Security director] Ghalib Ba Gumesh, you'll see how our colleagues will be freed from your prisons, Allah willing."

Local and Arab media broadcast part of the tape.

Al-Qaeda has called on its support-

ers to attack American facilities and direct heavy and damaging attacks upon foreign facilities, but to avoid attacking the Yemeni Army and police.

Security forces have been chasing the 38-year-old Al-Qaity, who was

born in Hadramout, for the past two and a half years since he and 22 other Al-Qaeda members escaped from Sana'a's Political Security Prison in Sana'a in early 2006.

Continued on page 2

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VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT



YEMEN

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) invites Yemeni Nationals to apply for the following position within United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) – Yemen.

1- Post Title: Finance Associate

Duration: 12 months

Responsibilities:

- Full compliance with UN/UNDP rules, regulations, and policies of financial activities. Financial recording/reporting system follow-up on audit recommendations; implementation of effective internal controls, proper functioning of a client-oriented financial resources management system.
- Country Office (CO) business processes mapping and elaboration of the content of internal Standard Operating Procedures in Finance in consultation with office management.
- Administration of budgets and functioning of the optimal cost-recovery system.
- Implementation of the control mechanism for development projects through monitoring budgets preparation and modifications.
- Maintenance of the internal expenditures control system.
- Timely review of cash position for local accounts to ensure sufficient funds on hand for disbursements. Timely identification and recording of receipts for income application.

Qualification:

- University degree in Accounting/Finance.
- At least 5-7 years experience is required.
- Good communication skills.
- Good command of English and Arabic (Oral and Written).

2- Post Title: Information Communication Technology (ICT) - Associate /Webmaster

Duration: 12 months

Responsibilities:

- Web Development to develop and work flow automation through web-based application with database management interfaces, develop web pages and control panel administration for the work flow system, maintain a dynamic and fast database.
- Web Management of UNDP's web, intranet and extranet sites.
- System Administration Assist to manage the organization active directory, maintain local area network and local servers, share point and exchange server.
- ICT support to staff to ensure business continuity at all times, implement security policies pertaining to computer users and network access and to provide timely maintenance of communication equipments in the office.
- To provide training on policies and procedures of ICT use in the office and to perform non-technical training to staff.

Qualification:

- University degree in Computer Science.
- At least 2-4 years experience is required.
- Knowledge of UNDP rules and procedures.
- Good communication skills.
- Good command of English and Arabic (Oral and Written).

3- Post Title: Administrative Assistant (Assets Management):

Duration: 12 months

Responsibilities:

- Provision of inputs to the related Country Office (CO) administrative business processes.
- Receiving, inspecting and verification of all incoming equipment, furniture, vehicles and supplies.
- Ensuring that CO/Projects Assets data and items description are accurately collected and recorded in special forms.
- Update of Capitalized and Non-capitalized property inventory records in Atlas/special data base and track movement of equipment, furniture or vehicles to new locations.
- Preparation of inventory reports as required and submits to Head of Unit.
- Maintenance of the filing system ensuring safekeeping of confidential materials and documents.
- Ensures that certified inventory lists are obtained from all projects at the end of the year.
- Participate in related project closures.
- Training of staff engaged in the conduct of physical inventory.
- Briefing of staff members on issues relating to area of work.
- Sound contributions to knowledge networks and communities of practice.

Qualification:

- University degree in Business of Public Administration or any other related field.
- At least 3-5 years experience is required
- Experience in the usage of computers and office software packages (MS Word, Excel, etc.).
- Good communication skills.
- Good command of English and Arabic (Oral and Written)

4- Post Title: Operations Associate (Head of General Services Unit):

Duration: Fixed-Term

Responsibilities:

- Administrative activities with UN/UNDP rules, regulations, policies and strategies.
- Support to the CO administrative business processes mapping and elaboration of the internal standard operating procedures (SOPs).
- Preparation of administrative team results-oriented work plans.
- Supervises the receptionist and manages the registry functions and the handling of mail services, email, fax facilities, diplomatic pouches, and archives.
- Arranges logistics for conducting internal workshops/training retreats, hotel reservations, high level missions, airport pick ups and arrangements for incoming and outgoing missions and visitors.
- Closely monitors drivers and vehicle fleet and ensures that proper records, registration and insurance of all UNDP & project vehicles.
- Supervises the security guards and ensures proper office security functions.
- Supervises the repair and maintenance of office furniture; renovation, painting and plumbing works etc.
- Supervises cleaning staff and Gardner and ensures that they provide efficient services.
- Supervises all office/projects shipments custom exemption and clearance processes.
- Supervises and controls the stocks of supplies and stationery in the stores, and the maintenance of records.
- Proposes and implements cost savings and cost recovery measures for support services to partners and clients provided by General Services Unit.
- Prepares and monitors section work plan.
- Ensures effective and accurate CO inventory management
- Proper planning and tracking of common services budget.
- Organization of training for the operations/projects staff on administration.
- Sound contributions to knowledge networks and communities of practice.

Qualification:

- University degree in Business of Public Administration or any other related field.
- At least 5-7 years experience is required
- Experience in the usage of computers and office software packages (MS Word, Excel, etc.).
- Good communication skills.
- Good command of English and Arabic (Oral and Written)

Interested candidates are requested to visit our website at: <http://www.undp.org/undp-vacancies.htm> for detailed term of reference of the position 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 Thursday, 21 August 2008.

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

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World Breastfeeding Week 2008 Unite for children by supporting mothers

By: Yemen Times Staff

Despite the fact that over half of the Yemeni population is under the age of 16 years old, little is being done to ensure their prosperity through preventive health measures. Almost half of Yemeni children under five years old are underweight and more than a half are stunted, according to the Ministry of Health.

By celebrating World Breastfeeding Week, UNICEF Yemen joined all UNICEF offices around the world to advocate for breastfeeding as a main solution to help Yemeni children fight malnutrition. Naseem-Ur-Rehman, UNICEF in Yemen's chief communications and information officer, emphasized that the mass media has a responsibility to women and children to help bridge what he calls the information gap.

"Infants are six to 25 times more likely to die of diarrhea, four times more likely to die of pneumonia and half of all Yemeni children are malnourished," said Ur-Rehman. "Exclusive breastfeeding can help this."

Currently, exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months of life is at only 12



According to UNICEF, 46 percent of Yemeni children under five are underweight, 12 percent suffer from wasting, and 53 percent from stunting.

percent in Yemen and is in decline, according to UNICEF-Yemen. This can lead to higher rates of malnutrition and death among children under five.

According to UNICEF's State of the World's Children report for 2008, the rate of exclusive breastfeeding in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) was 28 percent, a whole 10 percentage points below the average for developing coun-

tries. The MENA region is also lagging behind sub-Saharan Africa, where current rates of exclusive breastfeeding are between 30 and 39 percent.

Despite exclusive breastfeeding being the most complete form of nutrition for infants, figures are not progressing in the MENA region, said a UNICEF statement about the event.

This year, under the theme "Mother Support: Going for the Gold," partly inspired by the Olympic Games held this month, World Breastfeeding Week calls for greater support to mothers in achieving the gold standard of infant feeding: breastfeeding exclusively for six months and providing appropriate complementary foods with continued breastfeeding for up to two years or beyond.

Dhekra Annuzaili, UNICEF-Yemen's nutrition program officer, said that breastfeeding is very economical for Yemeni families, especially since infant formula prices are high. She described the main threats to breastfeeding as 1) poor feeding practices for infants and young children, 2) formula companies and 3) political commitment.

Ur-Rehman agreed that the problem lies in Yemeni culture, which supports formula feeding through the promotion of images and language that portrays feeding children formula. In addition to that, there is low awareness of breast milk's natural

superiority.

"There is an inappropriate [amount] or lack of facilities to enable mothers to breastfeed wherever they may be, and there is a lack of a social support system for mothers who want to breastfeed," added Ur-Rehman.

Considered a basic child-survival intervention, exclusive breastfeeding also holds the key to reducing the rates of underweight and stunting among children under five, which remains highly prevalent in countries such as Yemen, Sudan and Djibouti.

A myriad of contrasts in a highly diverse region

According to UNICEF, countries like Tunisia, Egypt and Iran have retained the highest scores in exclusive breastfeeding in the region for several consecutive years. However, they still have below 50 percent of exclusive breastfeeding, leaving no room for complacency and underscoring the urgency of enhanced promotion of the practice among pregnant and lactating mothers, as well as within policy design, which should involve health practitioners, development partners and local communities.

A glance at exclusive breastfeeding practices in the Gulf countries reveals very slow progress, but more critically, it exposes the absence of reliable and recent data. While exclusive breastfeeding in the Gulf remains noticeably low on the basis of available figures, results are indicative of a steady percentage of mothers choos-

ing to initiate complementary feeding as early as the first month. Similar patterns are seen in industrialized countries, where exclusive breastfeeding is eclipsed by the growing diversity of artificial milk substitutes in the markets.

In drought-prone countries like Djibouti, Yemen and Sudan, the need for exclusive breastfeeding is all the more important because of the fragile nutritional status of newborns and mothers, which is seriously jeopardized by growing food insecurity as a result of the global rise in food prices and limited access to basic services and humanitarian aid.

Breastfeeding: the human rights angle

"Mother Support," the theme of World Breastfeeding Week 2008, calls for enhanced community-based breastfeeding support systems and the development of national frameworks linking knowledge, existing capacities and resources to protect and support breastfeeding at all levels.

"Exclusive breastfeeding contributes to the achievement of Millennium Development Goals One and Four in particular. Governments, healthcare providers, communities and families all have an important role to play," said Sigrid Kaag, UNICEF Regional Director for the Middle East and North Africa.

Partnership building in support of mothers in the region has gradually grown in the form of "baby-friendly" hospitals, by means of an open dialogue between



health practitioners, mothers and communities. The inclusion of child-feeding interventions as part of national health and development initiatives is also fundamental. Today, about 90 percent of prenatal health facilities in Tunisia, Oman and Iran are "baby-friendly."

H.M. Queen Rania of Jordan, who is a strong supporter of children's and women's rights, said on the occasion of World Breastfeeding Week that breastfeeding is not only the best choice for infants, it is also a mother's right. Networks in place in many countries need to be supported in their efforts to promote community-friendly breastfeeding. This means women-friendly workplaces, balanced parental responsibility (men must also be involved in the care of children), and the endorsement of breastfeeding structures at all levels. Governments must be held accountable in their commitment to devise social services that enable breastfeeding mothers to uphold their work responsibilities and remain unhindered in public life, according to H.M. Queen Rania's statement.

"We need to fully grasp the importance of optimal infant feeding as an essential key to human development," she said.

Advantages of breast feeding for children

- Benefits under weight babies.
- Safe guards women's own wellbeing.
- Protects babies from: Diarrhea (no.1 killer) & Pneumonia (no.2 killer)
- Immune system: health enhance nutrients, meticulous, enzymes, hormones, antibodies that a baby needs.
- Improves response to vaccination.
- Strengthens the mothers' emotional bonding with their infants.
- Save money and avoid expensive formula.

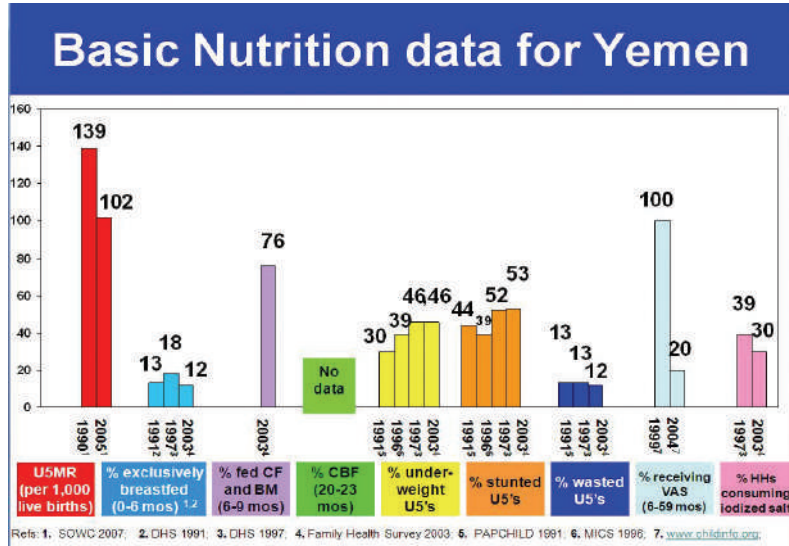
- Offsets specified adverse effects of food crisis on nutritional need of children.

Risks for babies who do not breast feed

- Mortality
- Respiratory infection
- Diarrhea and other infections
- Obesity
- Asthma and wheeze
- Diabetes and other infections
- Childhood cancers
- Weak mental development and visual acuity
- Abnormal development

Advantages of breast feeding For mothers

- Breast and ovarian cancer.
- Type II Diabetes other chronic illnesses.
- Early return of menstrual periods and fertility.
- Less time between pregnancies.
- Difficulties in cleaning and preparing formula and bottles.
- Financial burden of artificial baby milk and fuel.



Yemen - along with Djibouti and Sudan - had the lowest rates of breastfeeding in the region.



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National Bank Of Yemen



البنك الأهلي اليمني

Condensed Interim Financial Statements For The Six Months Ended 30 June 2008

National Bank of Yemen, the first in Yemen announces the Interim Financial Statements for the six months ended 31st July 2008

Dahman Accountants & Auditors - Consultants

RSM

INDEPENDENT REVIEWER'S REPORT ON THE NATIONAL BANK OF YEMEN TO H.E. THE MINISTER OF FINANCE

REPORT ON THE CONDENSED INTERIM FINANCIAL STATEMENTS We have reviewed the condensed interim financial statements of the National Bank of Yemen (the Bank) which comprise the balance sheet as at 30 June 2008, the related income statement, statements of changes in equity and cash flows for the period then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes.

OPINION Based on our review, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the accompanying condensed interim financial statements are not presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with the significant accounting policies, used in preparing these condensed interim financial statements upon a consistent basis.

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY For The Six Months Ended 30 June 2008

The Bank's Board of Directors, in its meeting held on 15 April 2007, resolved to increase the capital of the Bank to YR 10,000,000 thousands. H.E. the Minister of Finance has approved this increase in the capital. The capital will be raised from the Government's share of profit at the end of each year, as the Bank's Board of Directors will decide until the amount of the capital reaches YR 10,000,000 thousands.

INCOME STATEMENT For The Six Months Ended 30 June 2008

OPERATING INCOME Interest on loans and advances and due from banks 1,053,906 1,259,512

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS For The Six Months Ended 30 June 2008

INCORPORATION AND ACTIVITIES The National Bank of Yemen (the Bank) was incorporated in Aden in 1959. It is wholly owned by the Government of Yemen. The Bank undertakes all banking activities through its head office and 29 branches spread all over the Southern and Eastern Governorates and through two branches in Sana'a, and one branch at each of Hodeidah and Taiz.

RISK MANAGEMENT OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS Risk is inherent in the Bank's activities but it is managed through a process of ongoing identification, measurement and monitoring, subject to risk limits and other controls.

Risk Management Table showing Exposure to credit risk by sector for 30 June 2008

The table below shows the maximum exposure to credit risk for the components of the balance sheet. The maximum exposure is shown gross, before the effect of mitigation by the use of collateral agreements.

CONDENSED INTERIM FINANCIAL STATEMENTS The condensed interim financial statements have been prepared on a historical cost basis, except for the available-for-sale investments, financial assets and financial liabilities held at fair value through profit or loss and that have been measured at fair value.

OPERATING EXPENSES Commissions and fees on banking services 38,648 31,409

NET OPERATING INCOME 2,650,483 2,849,986

CONTRA ACCOUNTS AND OTHER COMMITMENTS, NET 31,989,280 36,125,309

Cash in hand and reserve balances with the Central Bank of Yemen 10,899,020 12,950,745

ASSETS Cash in hand and reserve balances with the Central Bank of Yemen 10,899,020 12,950,745

LIABILITIES AND EQUITY Due to banks 29,724,897 30,981,204

CONTRA ACCOUNTS AND OTHER COMMITMENTS, NET 31,989,280 36,125,309

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CONTRA ACCOUNTS AND OTHER COMMITMENTS, NET 31,989,280 36,125,309

CONTRA ACCOUNTS AND OTHER COMMITMENTS, NET 31,989,280 36,125,309

Exchange Rate Risk Due to the nature of the Bank's activities, the Bank deals in different foreign currencies; hence it is exposed to exchange rate risk.

Exchange Rate Risk Table showing Net exposure to foreign currencies

Liquidity Risk Liquidity risk is the risk that the Bank will be unable to meet its payment obligations when they fall due under normal circumstances.

LIABILITIES AND EQUITY Due to banks 29,724,897 30,981,204

CONTRA ACCOUNTS AND OTHER COMMITMENTS, NET 31,989,280 36,125,309

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CONTRA ACCOUNTS AND OTHER COMMITMENTS, NET 31,989,280 36,125,309

LAOHN IN HAND AND RESERVE BALANCES WITH THE CENTRAL BANK OF YEMEN

LAOHN IN HAND AND RESERVE BALANCES WITH THE CENTRAL BANK OF YEMEN Table

DUE FROM BANKS Due from the Central Bank of Yemen and other local banks 3,561,353 4,779,268

ASSETS Cash in hand and reserve balances with the Central Bank of Yemen 10,899,020 12,950,745

LIABILITIES AND EQUITY Due to banks 29,724,897 30,981,204

CONTRA ACCOUNTS AND OTHER COMMITMENTS, NET 31,989,280 36,125,309

CONTRA ACCOUNTS AND OTHER COMMITMENTS, NET 31,989,280 36,125,309

Republic of Yemen
Ministry of Public Health and population
Health Reform Support Project (HRSP) Credit 3625
Credit administration Unit (CAU)

Announcing Vacancy for the post of Accountant of the CAU

The World Bank financed Health Reform Support Project (Credit 3625) seeks applicants for the position of Accountant at the CAU. The Accountant will report and be accountable to the Financial Management Specialist and Credit Administrator, and will work closely with other staff of the CAU, relevant departments of the Ministry of Health and Population, Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, and the Ministry of Finance.

The accountant will be responsible for the following :

1. Collect and file all supporting documentation on all financial transactions of the project under CAU management.
2. Record on a daily basis all the financial transactions after ensuring that they have been properly authorized and in accordance with the budget and the CAU procedures of internal control.
3. Prepare bank reconciliation between the bank's account and the Designated Account (DA) withdrawals, on a monthly basis to reflect the monthly receipts and disbursement from the DA.
4. Prepare quarterly project financial statements under CAU direct management, and liaise with the procurement officer, to include procurement quarterly results and project's physical progress of activities as measured by project's indicators.
5. Prepare quarterly Project Financial Monitoring Report (FMR) to be submitted to the PSC, World Bank, and other relevant bodies.
6. Prepare the credit withdrawal applications with supporting documentation and submit it to the CAU administrator for approval and then submission to IDA for replenishment of funds as needed.
7. Follow-up on all financial matters with the relevant departments of the Ministry of Public Health and Population, Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MOPIC), Ministry of Finance (MOF), and the Central Bank of Yemen.
8. Ensure that the project is audited annually according to the requirement of the project.
9. Assist the external auditors in performing their annual audit of the project by providing necessary documentation, written procedures, and annual financial statements.

Qualifications:

- A minimum of five years experience in accounts, financial planning and budgeting.
- A Bachelor's degree in accounting or auditing .
- A good knowledge, and use of the generally accepted accounting principles.
- The ability to operate accounting software, keep updated accounting records and books of accounts, and generate project's financial statements and other reports as needed by the project's management .
- Proficiency in speaking and writing in Arabic and English.
- Familiarity with the government and World Bank financial and accounting procedures and guidelines is perfect.

Expressions of interest must be delivered to the address below by 16 August 2008. Interested consultants may obtain further information at the address below during office hours from 8:30 a.m to 3:00 p.m.

Credit Administration Unit
Health Reform Support Project
4th Floor-Ministry of Public Health and Population
P.O. Box: 1330 – Al Hasabah – Sana'a – Republic of Yemen
Tel: + 967 1 252224 Fax: 967 1 251622 Email: hrsp@y.net.ye

Republic of Yemen
Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation

SELECTION OF CONSULTANTS
REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
CONSULTING SERVICES OF CONSTRUCTION SUPERVISION OF
HASSAN DAM PROJECT – ABYAN GOVERNORATE

The Republic of Yemen has received a Loan from Government of Abu Dhabi, represented by Abu Dhabi Development Fund, and The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, intends to apply part of the budget proceeds to make payments under the contract for Consulting Services of Construction Supervision of Hassan Dam Project. The services include the supervision consultancy for:

- Package AC-01:** Hassan Dam and Appurtenant Structures and Access Road to the Dam Site
Package AC-02: Construction of Irrigation works including Weir, Off-takes for Canals and related conveyance structures, roads along canal and to the weirs, access roads wadi training works.

All the construction packages are proposed to be completed within 3.5. years. The estimated period of construction of each package is given below:

- Package AC-01:** 42 months
Package AC-02: 36 months

The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation now invites eligible consultants to indicate their interest in providing the 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.). Consultants may associate to enhance their qualifications.

A consultant will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the High Tender Board's *Manual for the Procurement of Consultants Services*

Interested consultants may obtain further information at the address below from 08:00 a.m. to 14:00 p.m.

Expressions of interest must be delivered to the address below by 30/08/2008.

Dr. Eng. /Yousef Ahmad Fara'a
Project Manager
General Directorate of Irrigation (GDI)
Ministry of Agriculture & Irrigation (MAI)
Al Meethaq Street – Sana'a – Republic of Yemen
Tel./Fax: +967-1-226462
Mobile: 967-734116908
E-mail: HassanDam@yemen.net.ye

Tender Announcement No. 2/2008

The Maritime Affairs Authority (MAA) here announces its desire to invite bidders to Tender No. (2/2008) for the construction, equipping, completing, selling and supplying a maritime tugboat that is integrated and specializing in towage, salvage and fire fighting in high seas and capable of working in all high-humidity weather conditions as well as during the summer season. The tender will be funded by a government financing approved by the government of the Republic of Yemen.

Bidders who are willing to participate in this Tender have to submit written applications to [the MAA headquarters to buy and receive Bidding Documents for USD 1,000 non-refundable.

Bidders have to apply during the official working hours at:

Al-Mesbahi Roundabout, Hadda Street,
Near Yemen-German Hospital, Sana'a, Republic of Yemen
P.O. Box: 19395
Tel: +967 1 423005 - +967 1 414412
Fax: +967 1 414645
E-mail: MAA-HeadOffice@y.net.ye

The deadline for selling BDs will be on 3 September, 2008.

Bids have to be submitted in sealed envelopes addressed to the MAA, mentioning the project name, Tender number and name of bidder. The following documents must also be attached to the envelope:

1. An unconditional Bank Guarantee for a lump sum of only \$150,000 (only US dollars one hundred fifty thousand) that is valid for not less than 120 days from date of Bid Opening. Bank guarantee may be substituted with a payable check.
 2. Valid tax certificate and a copy of VAT registration 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. (foreign suppliers must provide equivalent documents from their respective countries.)
 5. All other documents mentioned in the Tender documents.
- These documents have to be submitted not later than 1:00pm on Wednesday 3 September 2008. Bids received after the deadline for submission will be returned unopened.
- Bid opening will be at 1:00pm on Saturday 6 September 2008.
- Bid Opening will take place at the Bids Committee Director's Office, MAA in the presence of bidders or their authorized representatives.

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

إعلان المناقصة العامة رقم (٢) لسنة ٢٠٠٨ م

تعلن الهيئة العامة للشؤون البحرية- الجمهورية اليمنية- عن رغبتها في إنزال المناقصة العامة رقم (٢) لعام ٢٠٠٨ بشأن بناء وتجهيز وإتمام وبيع وتوريد ساحة بحرية متكاملة متخصصة في أعمال القطر والإنقاذ البحري وإطفاء الحرائق في أعالي البحار، وقادرة على العمل في ظروف الطقس عالية الرطوبة وكذلك أثناء فصل الصيف. والتي سيتم تمويلها بموجب تمويل حكومي معتمد من حكومة الجمهورية اليمنية، وعلى الراغبين في المشاركة في هذه المناقصة التقدم بطلباتهم الخطية خلال أوقات الدوام الرسمي إلى مقر المركز الرئيسي للهيئة الكائن في العنوان التالي:-

شارع حدة - جولة المصباحي - جوار المستشفى اليمني الألماني
مدينة صنعاء - الجمهورية اليمنية.
تلفون: (+٩٦٧١-٤٢٣٠٠٥) (+٩٦٧١-٤١٤٤١٢) فاكس: (+٩٦٧١-٤١٤٦٤٥).
بريد الكتروني: MAA-HeadOffice@y.net.ye
صندوق البريد: ١٩٣٩٥

لشراء واستلام وثائق المناقصة نظير مبلغ وقدره (١٠٠٠) دولار لا يرد .
وآخر موعد لبيع الوثائق هو تاريخ ٣/٩/٢٠٠٨ م.

يقدم العطاء في مظروف مغلق ومختوم بالشمع الأحمر إلى عنوان الهيئة ومكتوب عليه اسم الهيئة والمشروع ورقم المناقصة، واسم مقدم العطاء، وفي طيه الوثائق التالية:-

- ١- ضمان بنكي غير مشروط بمبلغ مقطوع قدره \$١٥٠,٠٠٠ (فقط مائة وخمسون ألف دولار)، صالح لمدة (١٢٠) يوماً من تاريخ فتح المظاريف، أو شيك مقبول الدفع.
- ٢- بطاقة ضريبية وشهادة تسجيل ضريبة مبيعات ساريتا المفعول (على المناقصين الأجانب الذين لا يقومون بأي أعمال في اليمن عليهم تقديم نسخة من وثائق التسجيل لضريبة القيمة المضافة من بلدانهم).
- ٣- بطاقة تأمينية، سارية المفعول (تطلب بطاقات التأمين فقط من الشركات التي لديها عمال في اليمن والتي يحق لها الاستفادة من العوائد المقدمة من المؤسسة العامة للضمان الاجتماعي في اليمن).
- ٤- شهادة تسجيل وتصنيف سارية المفعول لدى الجهات المختصة (على الموردين الأجانب تقديم ما يعادل هذه الوثائق من بلدانهم)
- ٥- بقية الوثائق التي تنص عليها شروط وثائق المناقصة.

- آخر موعد لاستلام العطاءات هو الساعة (١) ظهراً من يوم الأربعاء الموافق ٣/٩/٢٠٠٨ م، ولن تقبل العطاءات التي ترد بعد هذا الموعد وسيتم إعادتها مغلقة.
- موعد فتح المظاريف هو الساعة ١ ظهراً من يوم السبت الموافق ٦/٩/٢٠٠٨ م.
- سيتم فتح المظاريف بمكتب رئيس لجنة المناقصات الرئيسية بالهيئة بحضور أصحاب العطاءات أو من يمثلهم بتفويض رسمي موقع ومختوم.
- يمكن للراغبين في المشاركة في هذه المناقصة الإطلاع على وثائق المناقصة قبل شرائها وذلك خلال الدوام الرسمي لفترة (٢٧) يوماً من فترة الإعلان.

Handicraft Export Promotion Program an international gateway to Yemeni handicrafts

For the first time Yemen participates in an international handicrafts and products exhibition targeting whole sellers at the Messe-Frankfurt Exhibition in Germany. The visitors expressed their interest and since then the doors were open for Yemeni small and micro enterprises to present their work to the world

By: Nadia Al-Sakkaf

Fekri Saleh was amused when he saw how the pieces of Yemeni handicrafts on display in a small stand in Hall 9.2 attracted visitors' attention like magnet. Hearing sounds of delight made him think, why on earth had Yemen not participated in the Messe Frankfurt Exhibition before? Messe Frankfurt is one of the largest exhibitions in the world and is organized each year to exhibit all kinds of gifts, home decoration, Christmas decorations, handicrafts, incense, other promotion and marketing handicrafts programs and fair trade stands from deferent countries and antiques.

The Social Fund for Development through its Handicraft Export Promotion Program (HEPP) contracted two small scale enterprises Talha Center and Baituna Lilturath, to collect 17 distinct pieces from around the country in order to display them in the exhibition and make contracts with interested retailers from around the world for bulk quantities.

Yemen's stand included many handicrafts such as embroidered cushions, huge carpets from Socotra Island, bamboo baskets, traditional daggers (Jambia), old Sana'a city lanterns, hand made designer scissors and many others.

Fekri explains that the visitors commented on how beautiful many of the items are, and during the three day exhibition HEPP landed 22 contracts worth more than 60,000 dollars. This year because the exhibition was held in the summer vacation, not many people could visit. And there is a great opportunity in other exhibitions next year.

"This participation introduces HEPP (handicraft export promotion program)

program to the world as the gateway to Yemen. This program will facilitate everything concerning shipments, deliveries and even the quality of products. By making wholesalers aware of this program, Yemen's reputations and handicrafts could reach interested people from all around the world," he said.

Empowering SMEs

HEPP is one of the many programs initiated by the Small Micro Enterprise Promotion Services (SMEPS) in order to build the capacities of Yemeni Small and Micro Enterprises (SMEs). This is why the two organizations Talha Center and Baituna Lilturath were selected to be the middleman between the handicraft makers and HEPP, which in turn will promote these products around the world.

HEPP also provides the associations and others involved in the supply chain with trainings in order to build their capacity and empower them to create products of international standards in order to compete in large exhibitions.

They give them training on finishing the product and how to modify the handicrafts in order to suit European taste without losing the identity or originality of the initial products. For example, instead of using candles in the traditional Sanani lanterns, the local manufacturers would modify the product to be fitted with a light bulb. And instead of having one single color, a variation of colors would be adopted...etc. The organizations also receive training in Micro Enterprise Management, personal productivity, marketing, communication with international companies, Human Resource, and even English and computer skills.

Moreover, HEPP provided training and feedback to the packaging company SAS for Cargo Services that was con-



Seventeen distinct pieces from around the country were on display in the exhibition and 22 contracts with interested retailers from around the world for bulk quantities were availed.

tracted to package and transport the handicrafts to Germany for the Messe Frankfurt Exhibition. Now they are trained to do door to door delivery, and container sharing.

HEPP charges only 5 percent of the contracts as service cost because the program's operations and staff are funded by the Social Fund of Development. This way, Yemeni SMEs would be encouraged to create products at a lesser cost and the whole sellers would be encouraged to buy such products. Gradually this service charge would increase so that the program becomes a standalone project that can depend on itself completely. By that time, Fekri hopes that Yemeni products have found its place in the world handicraft map and hence can demand a good price.

The programs mission is to work with local enterprises and empower them until they become strong enough to depend on their own and compete in international markets. HEPP has dedicated a website for interested retail companies to log into and view available Yemeni handicrafts and order from them whatever quantities

they want, so far the site had been visited around 300 companies who showed interest in Yemen. Because of Messe-Frankfurt companies in Italy, Spain, Germany, USA, Japan and Switzerland showed interest and already signed contracts to buy Yemeni products. The money would go directly to the enterprises who will work with the handicraft makers to provide the required goods under HEPP's supervision to ensure quality, timeliness and customer satisfaction.

Messe-Frankfurt

Messe-Frankfurt is the world's largest trade fair organizer with its own exhibition grounds. With 29 subsidiaries worldwide, five branch offices and 48 International Sales Partners offices outside Germany, the Group has a presence in 150 countries and at more than 30 exhibition sites.

Last year, 112 trade fairs are held, serving as a meeting place for more than 64,000 exhibitors and 4 million visitors. Yemenis stand was at the development countries hall along with developing countries in Africa and Asia.

SMEPS contracted a consultant Klaus Linkenheil, who is an international expert on environmentally and socially responsible projects and has been to Yemen four times during which he created handicraft and incense and value chain studies.

He is assisting HEPP on how to market Yemeni handicrafts in Europe, and hence the participation in the exhibition. Since this was the first experience of its kind, SMEPS contracted a Bushra Al-Nuzaili who is a Yemeni artist living in Bonn - Germany to help in decorating the stand and with the pricing of the goods.

"We focus on Europe because that is where the Yemeni products are most demanded, and there is a genuine interest in Yemen. Also the procedures for marketing and promotion are less completed than in the USA for example," commented Fekri.

In order for HEPP to be successful, Yemen needs to participate more than once in such international exhibitions. The next exhibition is Ambiente Frankfurt between 13 and 17 February 2009. It is organized into 3 major theme bundles with product groups namely:

World of Table, Kitchen & Housewares, World of Gifts and World of Interiors. However, the Social Fund for Development had not accounted for a second participation, and now SMEPS is seeking support from various organizations and agencies in order to complete the mission.

"We hope to be able to participate in the coming exhibition but it all depends on the support we get," Fekri said.

Center for Promoting Imports from Developing Countries

One of the potential supporters for HEPP could be the Center for Promoting Imports from Developing Countries. This center assists some developing countries by providing services aimed at strengthening the competitiveness of local companies in exporting and managing their products in European markets.

Although HEPP in essence complies with CBI's mission, their coordinator in Germany said Yemen can only benefit from CBI's services if the country was included in the list of developing countries supported by the center. They recommended the Netherlands embassy in Yemen to help advocate for Yemen to be included in CBI's plan for 2009.

"CBI is very interested in supporting Yemeni handicrafts' access to European markets, but currently Yemen is not one of its project countries. We are hopeful that with the support of the Dutch embassy, we can get Yemen included in the CBI project countries list," said Wisam Al-Ariqi SMEPS Executive Director.

Fairtrade

According to the Wikipedia, Fair trade is an organized social movement and market-based approach to alleviating global poverty and promoting sustainability. The movement advocates the payment of a fair price as well as social and environmental standards in areas related to the production of a wide variety of goods. It focuses in particular on exports from developing countries to developed countries, most notably handicrafts, coffee, cocoa, sugar, tea, bananas, honey, cotton, wine, fresh fruit, and flowers.

If Yemeni handicrafts become fair-trade certified, then they could be sold at higher prices in the world market and

more money could hence go to the people making these handicrafts. SMEPS had already applied on behalf of the Yemeni government to get the fairtrade label for Yemeni handicrafts. They have two applications simultaneously being processed, one with the Fairtrade Labeling Organization for coffee, and the other with International Federation for Alternative Trading for the handicrafts. Meanwhile, SMEPS has contacted fair-trade products' GEPA buyers such as who, according to Al-Ariqi have shown interest in Yemeni handicrafts and are willing to promote them in terms of buying the products and supporting the labeling of the Yemeni coffee and handicrafts as fair-trade products.

The International Fair Trade Association (IFTA) is a global association created in 1989 of Fair trade producer cooperatives and associations, export marketing companies, importers, retailers, national, and regional fair trade networks and fair trade support organizations.

In 2004 IFAT launched the FTO Mark which identifies registered Fair Trade Organizations (as opposed to the FLO system, which labels products).

So far, SMEPS had filled the Once the products are labeled, they could be promoted through the GEPA and other similar associations and the out reach of Yemeni products would increase.

GEPA is Europe's largest alternative trading organization. According to the Wikipedia, the abbreviation GEPA stands for "Gesellschaft zur Förderung der Partnerschaft mit der Dritten Welt mbH", literally meaning "Society for the Promotion of Partnership with the Third World". With Yemeni products being fair trade, GEPA can promote them in 15 regional fair trade centers in the Federal Republic of Germany that supply approximately 800 shops worldwide and roughly 6,000 action groups with fairly traded groceries and handcrafted products.

Numerous supermarkets and food retailers also sell GEPA products. Cafetiras of companies, student unions, conference houses etc are provided by the society on a wholesaler basis. The GEPA website also has an online shop which generates sales.

المليون الأول من

تحتضن محافظة أب الخضر الفائزة الأول بالمليون الأول في مسابقة إفتح وأربح مع شارك

الأخ / مفيد سعيد محمد إسماعيل

ولاتزال ٢٩ مليون ريال بانتظاركم... إبحث عن الكنتز تحت اغطية شارك، الفرصة متاحة والمسابقة مستمرة لمدة ثلاثة أشهر.

٢٩ خطأ - ٢٩ مليون

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4U

About Talha Center

This is a center to promote Yemeni traditional products. The new management took charge of Talha Center in the last quarter of 2007. Since then, the center refocused its work on being the connecting point between simple handicraft makers and smaller associations and between international markets through the HEP Program. Today the center deals with 21 different producers in Sana'a and Hudeidah governorates. It helps them improve the quality of their products, create better finishing and accommodate customer demands and customization of products to suit international tastes. The center has a permanent exhibition for Yemeni products that is open between 9-12 noon and 3:30 to 6 in the evening, it is free entry. Talha Center is located behind Talha Mosque at the Old City of Sana'a. Phone number :486176

About Baituna Lilturath

This is an established aimed at reviving Yemeni heritage through documentation of the old authentic costumes and embroidery as well as duplicating them in modern styles. The association deals

with textile and embroidery whether for dresses or decoration pieces such as cushions and artistic cloth pieces to be hung on walls. Baituna Lilturath trains women and poor communities to produce such products and helps market and promote their work. They have a permanent exhibition at the establishment's center behind Al-Atiba Building in Al-Zubairi Street - Sana'a, and participate in many exhibitions around the world. The exhibition at the establishment's premises contains traditional dresses from all Yemeni governorates as well as new embroidery. Entry to the exhibition is free and it is open between 9-1 in the afternoon and between 4-6 in the evening. Phone number: 216199.

About SAS for Cargo Services

Sami Abdullah Sabiha for Cargo Services is one of the most efficient Yemeni cargo services that work in the transportation industry. SAS provides packaging, international forwarding and cargo services for any kind of products. They believe in excellent customer service and "treating each customer as the only customer".

SAS is located at Algeria Street - Sana'a, and could be reached by phone at 472192/3 or email at: info@sas4cs.com

About HEPP

In 2004 the Social Fund for Development Yemen launched a program to identify and promote unique products which are produced by small and micro businesses and social organizations with the goal to expand the country's domestic and international trade.

The program also aims to give advice to the producers how to improve their businesses, e.g. in the fields of production methods, quality control, marketing and product design to make Yemeni products more attractive to export markets. So far a number of product groups have been classified for promotion: baskets & natural fiber items, textiles & dresses, silver jewelry & metal work, pottery, gifts & decorative items, window decorations, incense & myrrh, recycled crafts, furniture & interiors, natural cosmetics & medicine and Mocha coffee.

For more information visit: www.yemen-handicraft.com



NOTICE OF CLARIFICATION

This notice is in reference to our advertisement of Thursday, July 31, 2008 regarding the opening for the position of Deputy Chief of Party (DCOP) for the Basic Education Support and Training (BEST) Project being implemented by The Academy for Educational Development and funded by the United States Agency for International Development.

Please note that the BEST-Yemen Project requires a Yemeni national to fill this significant position.

We wish to express our apologies for this oversight and thank you for your understanding.

Contact: honeil@aed.org



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جولة الكتيب	مجمع أرض الأحلام السياحي	الحديدة
شارع تعز	أسواق مكة	إب
جوار فندق - ريبون سيتي	المؤسسة الاقتصادية	المكلا
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لفترة من ١٣ - ٢٩ أغسطس ٢٠٠٨
الموافق ١٢ - ٢٨ شعبان ١٤٢٩ هـ



تنظيم شركة ماس للإنتاج الفني والإعلاني

"Masked Criminals" veiled

By: Mohamed Assana
mohamedassana@yahoo.com

"Masked Criminals"???

Your article title is tasteless; I can only say, it represents your inner thoughts or view of the veil in general, instead of leaving it to the reader to decide.

I come from a family that has both veil and non veil women, wearing the veil was

never imposed nor condemned by anyone in my family. I personally don't think of the veil as a degrading tool for women; however I do agree it is more of a cultural then a religious dress code.

Yemen culture is highly praised and respected among all others that come to know Yemeni culture; it set us a part from the rest of the Arab/Islamic world, by how modest Yemeni men and women dress code is.

Talabansation of women in Yemen is not in existent, if this is what you are

referring to.

Just as you have mentioned in your article, women in Yemen are well integrated into the Yemeni society more than women in other "modern" Arabic/Islamic societies, with and without the veil.

Women in Yemen are well respected honored for what they are and for what they contribute to our society.

To my understanding the veil is neither a mask nor a jail cell; it is a form of clothing fashion.

"Masked Angels"

By: Adnan Alhalmi
adnanalhalmi@yahoo.com

This article is a response to Mr Faud Hazaea's article "Masked Criminals" issue No.1177, in 31 July, 2008. First of all, it is delightful to see Yemeni youths including their society's problems in their writings, and what is more important is that they write in English. I respect your view and for shedding a light on social matters, but I think it is not that important topic to be raised into discussion, as veil is a personal option and it has become a part and parcel of women's fashion; rather than a compulsory option as you mentioned in your article. I disagree with what Faud says that "Yemeni women are jailed like criminals". This is a wrong view, and I think that Yemeni women are better aware of their interest than others; further I regret to say that what you announce and advertise for is a western propaganda to corrupt our simple society, as it were.

Dissimilarly, our society respects its women more than any society, and if there are some people who don't; through enlightenment and education they will correct their mistakes if there are any. Shamefully, to speak of such falsified freedom, which I guess its concern is to destroy our values and morals, Islam has given women more than any religion, why to imitate others. I wonder why we Arab when we became educated with a little knowledge, what we start to do is to forget and leave our habits, traditions and religion aside. Therefore, it is worthwhile to discuss other problems that affect our life like high prices, dowry expenses, corruption and retaliation. Veiled or unveiled woman doesn't affect us, so what is wrong with the "veil." A woman is free whether to wear the veil or not it is her option.

Therefore, I think that people of such view express their opinions rather than others'; in a mistaken attempt to adapt and acclimatize with the globalization culture, that has brought about to us many facilities, but at the same time brought about a new kind of pollution

called "moral pollution." Once more I think we are better to imitate the west in the field of industry, technology, so as to we would be able to construct our society socially, politically, economically, and culturally. I dare say that, we complain of the illiteracy of the educated people, than the illiteracy of the ignorant people.

In terms of choosing a wife I think you are right to some extent, it is a difficult choice.

But normally you are authorized to see, ask, and search for your prospective spouse's reputation and then after making sure of your choice, you will be allowed to see her, what is the benefit of seeing a woman in the street. As a result, I think you Mr. Faud who looks down on women, as you named Yemeni women like "Masked Criminals" having such view is like leading one to fire. Do you want Yemeni women to imitate western women? No match the answer is absurd.

Shortly, I hope that have at least attempted to clarify a mistaken view, without hurting any one.

Expect a rainbow

By: Mona Abdulrhman Hashem
somedagoodrem@hotmail.com

Expect a rainbow,
and you will find it eventually.
your dreams will come true
as long as you believe they will.

Expect a rainbow,
believe in the impossible,
otherwise you may miss
the opportunity when it
knocks on your door.
Expect a rainbow,
look beyond the storm for
the beauty that follows

the darkness.
Expect a rainbow,
have faith in yourself
above all things.
if you believe in yourself,
then others will believe in
you too.

Through The Mind's Eye

By: Maged Thabet Al-kholidy
majed_thabet@hotmail.com



To marry educated or uneducated women? Part 4

Having surveyed the aspects of marrying educated and uneducated women in the three previous parts of this topic, it is time to conclude the topic with making a contrast between the two cases in regard to the men's conditions and circumstances. Firstly I thank those who sent their responses, commenting on the points of the previous parts. I did really like their viewpoints which show some new aspects of marrying educated and uneducated women.

In this article, though I refer to real stories, I also reveal my point of views about the topic. What I am going to do here is to shed light on how the educational level of the man influences his choice whether to marry educated or uneducated women.

Actually, there are many other factors which influence men's selection of wives like the financial status, the cultural tendency and so on. The factor of the educational level of both plays a role in the marriage life success. So according to the educational level of both each man and woman should choose his/her husband and wife. The following cases show how the marriage life is influenced by the educational status of the man and of the women.

I think, a well-educated man faces

many problems when he marries uneducated woman. By problem, I do not mean financial, social or emotional problems but exactly the problems of understanding. Understanding each other is, I think, something essential for marriage life. Of course, the thinking of an educated man would be completely different from the thinking of the uneducated women. This creates a clash between such husband and wife.

To illustrate the point, I would like to refer to a real story. A university doctor has uneducated wife. He always thinks about more future studies and researches, aiming to get higher degrees, updating his knowledge in his specialization. He gives this thing the priority, doing best to achieve his goals. "I never get any support from my wife to do so", he said, claiming that she always blames him for shortcomings which occur because of his deep interest only in the academic field. As he said "problems occur from time to time so that I get fade up", deciding either to stop his academic interest or divorce her.

Such a husband may prove to be ignorant towards his wife and her duties. That may be true and she has the right to fight for them. But the point also indicates that she do not pay attention to his dreams which she must be proud of. This, I think, will not be the same as in the case of the

educated woman.

The above example shows the clashes which occur in the marriage life due to the lack of the mutual understanding between the husband and wife. Such marriage may continue for sometime because of some social or family considerations especially if the husband and wife are relatives. But, we can say, or at least I can say, that this marriage has failed.

In comparison with this, the marriage of educated man and educated woman will succeed if the other things like love, social status, etc are achieved. Regarding the example stated above, the failure of marriage is because of the lack of harmony in the understanding between the couple. Such a lack is apparently resulted because of the difference between the education of the wife and husband.

This is only one case in which the difference of the educational level of the husband and the wife may lead to marriage failure. So both men and women who think or who are about to get married must be aware of so that they avoid any bad circumstances later.

Maged Thabet Al-kholidy is a writer from Taiz, currently doing his M.A. at English Dep, Taiz Uni. He is an editor of English Journal of the University.



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A hearty "Hai!" to second Japanese culture week in Sana'a

By: Alia Ishaq

Yemenis drinking green tea and trying on traditional costumes like kimonos? Only at Japanese culture week in Sana'a!

"It was so much fun!" enthused Mohammed Al-Tamimi, a 20-year-old youth who calls himself "Ji-chan" in Japanese. Al-Tamimi, a visitor who participated in Japanese culture week, learned two traditional Japanese dances and says he's now interested to learn more about Japanese culture.

Other Yemenis like Mohammed left the Sana'a Cultural Center, where the week's main events were staged, saying words like "Hai," (Japanese for "Yes") and "Arigato gozaimas" ("Thank you very much"). Attendees were proud to display the new language skills they obtained during the week.

Japanese culture week was held in Sana'a this past week, from Aug. 3-7, organized to be part of the ongoing Sana'a Summer Festival, which began July 16.

The week's inauguration ceremony took place Aug. 2 at the home of Japanese ambassador to Yemen, Masakazu Toshikage. Several other ambassadors attended the event, along with Yemeni Culture Minister, Mohammed Al-Maflahi. "We're really happy to see such events because the Japanese are our partners in Yemen's development," Al-Maflahi noted.

Toshikage pointed out that this was only the second time Japan has hosted a culture week in Sana'a. The Japanese Embassy in Yemen decided to make it an annual event after witnessing the surprising success of last year's Japanese culture week, which saw more than 3,000 visitors.

"It's an attempt to promote better understanding between the peoples of our two countries by introducing traditional



A band from the Japanese southern prefecture of Okinawa performed for a crowd of hundreds at the Sana'a Cultural Center this week.

Japanese art and culture to the Yemeni people," Toshikage stated.

The opening ceremony included a 30-minute preview performance by the Okinawa Band, a traditional music group from southern Japan's Okinawa prefecture. The band came to Yemen after touring in Syria and Jordan, performing again Sunday for a Yemeni audience of hundreds at the Sana'a Cultural Center. The concert was the week's main event.

The Okinawa Band is famed for its unique musical style differing from that of mainland Japan. Okinawan music is played on traditional instruments such as the sanshin, a guitar-like instrument with

strings made of snake-skin, the shimadaiko, which is a drum made of cowhide, and the ryuteki, a type of flute.

The band has four members, three of whom play instruments, plus one singer accompanied by a female dancer. "I was anxiously waiting to come to Yemen to participate in this cultural event," the band's singer Ikeda Suguru said.

The 29-year-old, who captivated the audience with his beautiful voice, has been singing since age 11 and already has released eight albums in his home country. His unique music is famous throughout Japan for its artistic mixture of traditional and modern sounds.

In addition to the Okinawa music concert, other activities including showing Japanese movies with Arabic subtitles were shown nightly, in addition to a variety of programs enabling visitors to experience Japanese culture. These included Japanese calligraphy, where visitors could have their names written in Japanese, trying on kimonos, or traditional gowns, and

origami, which is a method of folding paper to create figures.

There were also Japanese tea ceremonies, martial arts and dance performances by Yemeni volunteers.

Japanese student hosts

Along with the hundreds of Yemenis who attended the event, several Japanese university students came all the way from their home country to attend the culture week. Their visit was arranged by the Japan-Middle East Conference Group, which is made up of university students interested in this region. The Japanese students helped orchestrate the week's activities to introduce Yemenis to their culture. However, most said they came to learn more about Yemeni culture. "I came here to learn what the people are like and to get more information about Yemen's culture and economy," 22-year-old liberal arts student Taka Hiwatashi explained, adding, "I'd read a lot about Yemen, but I came here to see it with my own eyes."

His friend, 18-year-old Telebei Seki, who studies economics in Japan, said he really loved the event and that he was pleasantly surprised to see some Yemenis speaking Japanese. He said what he loved most about Yemen was the children he encountered, commenting, "I find Yemeni children really cute; their smiles really cheered me."

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