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Inside:   **2** Childhood discussed at Taiz University conference  **5** Yemen's development challenges  **8** Marketing questions

Readers' Voice
 Last edition's question:
 Official media organizations always promote investment in Yemen, while many Yemeni and foreign investors see that the investment situation is discouraging. Do you think some will risk investing in Yemen?
 I don't know (5)
 Yes (45%) No (50%)
 This edition's question:
 The homes of many poor inhabitants of Socotra Island - 'Pearl of the Indian Ocean' - were washed away by heavy rains and flooding. Do you think the government will use military planes to provide prompt relief aid?
 - Yes
 - No
 - I don't know
 Go to our website at: yementimes.com/#poll and have your voice heard

Health Minister: No single case of smallpox in Yemen

By: Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A, June 1 — In a statement to the Yemen Times, Health Minister Dr. Abdulkarim Rasaei denied reports earlier this week that dozens of local citizens in Bani Matar, a district west of Sana'a, were infected with smallpox. "Smallpox vanished during the 1970s," he said, describing such news sources as "irresponsible." The news was reported by Al-Motamar Net and published in the Yemen Times three days ago. The minister added, "Citizens in Bani Matar were infected by chicken pox, not smallpox."
 Dr. Hashim A. El-Zein, World Health Organization (WHO) representative in Yemen, said that according to a Ministry of Health report, there are 95 chicken pox cases in Bani Matar. He added, "Thirty-three cases are consid-

ered mild, whereas 24 are moderate, eight are severe and 30 have been treated, according to the ministry report."
 Dr. Abdul Hakim Al-Kuhlani, General Manager of the Health Ministry's Epidemic Surveillance, confirmed that Yemen has been free of smallpox since 1979. However, he admitted that there is a chicken pox outbreak in Bani Matar.
 "We sent a team consisting of a doctor, four nurses and an epidemic surveillance officer to the region once we received reports mentioning the possibility of chicken pox cases. The next day, a team of three male nurses and one female nurse provided additional medications to the region," he noted.
 Al-Kuhlani said chicken pox can be found in developing countries, including Yemen. "Some viruses become active during summer and the virus that

causes chicken pox is one of them," he explained.
Smallpox vs. chicken pox
 Regarding smallpox, El-Zein pointed out that the disease was eradicated following a successful worldwide vaccination program, with the last case reported in 1977 in Somalia. After the disease was eliminated worldwide in 1979, WHO declared that smallpox had been wiped out. For that reason, routine vaccination against smallpox among the general public was stopped, as it no longer was necessary for prevention. However, laboratories saved some of the variola virus that causes smallpox for research purposes.
 Smallpox is a contagious, serious - sometimes fatal - infectious disease. Exposure to the smallpox virus is followed by an incubation period, during

which individuals have no symptoms and may feel fine. The incubation period averages approximately 12 to 14 days, but can range from seven to 17 days. People are not contagious during this time.
 As for chicken pox, scientific studies mention that the disease is a rash caused by the varicella-zoster virus (VZV). Once an individual is exposed to the virus, it takes between two and three weeks before symptoms appear.
 Chicken pox is very common, highly contagious and usually occurs during childhood, with more than 90 percent of cases occurring in children under age 12. Adults who contract chicken pox usually are more ill, especially with pneumonia.
 Smallpox can be spread by direct contact with infected bodily fluids or contaminated materials like bedding or

clothing. Smallpox rarely is spread via airborne viruses in enclosed settings like buildings or buses, whereas chicken pox is transmitted by air when an infected individual coughs or sneezes.
 Medical studies show that the easiest way to prevent catching chicken pox is to get vaccinated; however, vaccination is successful in only 70 to 90 percent of all instances. Individuals who've been vaccinated but still acquire chicken pox usually have a milder form of the disease that heals more quickly than non-vaccinated individuals.
 Ordinary people may not distinguish the differences between the two diseases, as symptoms sometimes are similar. Symptoms like mild fever, backache, headache, sore throat, a rash (red spots) and blisters filled with fluid can be found in both smallpox and chicken pox patients.

Investing in the Future launches a unique program for Arab journalists

THE HAGUE, May 31 — On Wednesday 7th June 2006 the launching of a new program *Investing in the Future* will take place at a conference in The Hague, the Netherlands. The program is an initiative of several Arab media NGO's and Free Voice.
Investing in the Future wants to stimulate balanced and professional journalism in the Middle East and North Africa through mid-career trainings of journalists from this region.
 The organization is organized by Free Voice in cooperation with the Center for Defending Freedom of Journalists in Jordan. On 6th June, the Arab participants to the conference from Morocco, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Bahrain and Yemen will meet the Dutch Minister of Development Cooperation, Mrs. Van Ardenne.



Investing in the Future Program shall organize activities to strengthen the legal position of journalists and shall stimulate the free practicing of journalism. Special attention will go to promote the expertise of lawyers, specialized in media cases.
Goal
Investing in the Future aims to develop an "Arab Media Community for Change". This will give good journalism and freedom of the press in the Middle

East and North Africa a boost.
Conference
 This unique program will be presented on 7th June at the conference *Investing in the Future; Professional Training of Journalists and Protection of Journalists in the Arab World*. The conference will be held at the media center of the Dutch parliament Nieuwspoor, Lange Poten 10 in The Hague, the Netherlands between 12.00-15.30.

On the second day of the conference (8th June from 9.30-16.30) experts, journalists and representatives of media NGO's and donors from the Middle East, North Africa and Europe will discuss good and bad practices in media training and protection of journalists in the Arab world. The conference will be chaired by Bertus Hendriks (Middle East expert from Radio Netherlands) and Willem Offenbergh (journalist).
Special guests
 The special guests and key note speakers who will participate in the conference are representatives of Arab organizations, active in the field of human rights, freedom of the press and journalism.
 • Mrs. Nadia Al-Saqqaf, Editor-in-Chief of the *Yemen Times* from Yemen. She is one of the rare, young female editor-in-chiefs from the

Gulf region. She will speak about the role of female journalists in the Arab world and the lack of freedom of the press in Yemen. On 30 May 2006, *Yemen Times* received the "Free Media Pioneer Award 2006" of the International Press Institute (IPI);
 • Mr. Mahmood Abdulhadi, director of the Al Jazeera Media Training & Development Centre (Qatar) about the Al Jazeera Experience;
 • Mr. Fadi al-Qadi, representative of Human Rights Watch Middle East (Egypt) about Human Rights, Freedom of the Press and Journalism
 • Mr. Nidal Mansour, director of the Center for Defending Freedom of Journalists in Amman and one of the architects of the *Investing in the Future* Program.
 The press is invited to assist at the conference on the 8th June starting at 14.00.

Socotra homes damaged by flooding

By: Yemen Times Staff

SOCOTRA, May 31 - The number of Socotra homes reportedly damaged by heavy rains has reached 32, according to an island Red Cross office report.
 For his part, Director of Socotra District, Ahmed Al-Awadi told September 26 Net, "Losses were large, particularly on the southern coast where flooding killed 1,360 sheep, 11 cows and nine camels. Also, 300 date trees were washed away and 11 water ponds were damaged as well. Additionally, a fishing boat was wrecked and large foodstuff quantities were destroyed in Atbarah, Handaq, Bedhuala, Stero, Al-Mahta, Muharb, Syar Wadi and Dafshah on the southern coast. Damages in Shuab Asharti were gross and have not been registered.
 Al-Awadi also called upon concerned authorities to provide the damaged areas with tents and foodstuffs, in addition to other necessary appliances to be distributed among citizens.
 Informed sources noted that it is difficult to carry urgent aid to the island, "Only if the government is keen and feels responsible to bring such aid via military transport planes. Many Yemeni companies and establishments are ready to send aid, but who will transport it?"

Symposium: More press rights, freedom and democratic change

By: Yasser Al-Mayasi and Walid Al-Boks

SANA'A, May 31 — A symposium on freedom of expression and democratic change was held Tuesday, organized by Women's Forum for Research and Training (WFRT) and Al-Wasat newspaper, in cooperation with FRONT LINE organization.

Several participants spoke at the symposium, including former head of the journalists syndicate Abdulbari Tahir, who confirmed that Yemeni press in particular and the democratic experience in general are undergoing transition from a totalitarian period to democratic practice, which subjects them to problems realized in rights abuse, suppression and legislation contributing to restriction and prohibition.
 He assured that there is a real conflict, whose sides are corruption and tyranny on one hand, and the limited margin of freedom on the other. Tahir continued, saying that the press and publication draft law was one of the most prominent issues ever raised since the third journalists syndicate conference and continues to be journalists' priority in order to prevent undermining the existing margin of press freedom.
 Ibrahim Khalid, secretary of the FRONT LINE establishment's Middle East section, said a country like Yemen is capable of being a country in which

all enjoy their democratic rights and this qualifies it to be the earthly heaven. He confirmed the necessity of enlarging the democratic space to achieve a true democratic climate. "We learned that man is the real value in life."
 Khalid added that his establishment is ready to offer all support so that defense of freedom becomes necessary. He assured the necessity of establishing a Yemeni human rights reference whose duty is to be a link with international human rights communities. The reference also will coordinate the efforts of those working in human rights fields and wishing to express their viewpoint to the outside world. Khalid said his establishment not only records abuses, but is interested in human rights activists facing danger and working in austere conditions.
 Abdulkareem Al-Khaiwani, Chief Editor of Shora net web site, said democracy is one of the important results of unity; however, as an infant

experience, it was leaning on a balance between the two unified sides. He said the experience suffered a setback with the 1994 war, following which the victorious side resorted to its ruling ex-unity totalitarian experience. Many political parties accepted the democratic margin under the pretext of protecting democracy.
 Continued on page 2

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Saudi Arabia returns 70 Yemeni children

SANA'A, May 31 — Saudi Arabian authorities recently returned 70 Yemeni children who earlier had infiltrated Saudi territories in search of employment.

A border guard source told the Yemeni ruling party's Mu'tamar Net, which published the news Wednesday, that border guard forces this week aborted an attempt to smuggle two girls captured with another individual following a rugged route heading toward Saudi border areas.

The source affirmed that authorities handed over the individual accused of smuggling the two children to security authorities for interrogation and will send him to General Prosecution as a prelude to trying him according to law.

For his part, the director of Hardh border crossing's social care center said in a statement to the same source that the 70 children his center received this month range in age from six to 15. He pointed out that the center forced the children's families to offer written pledges to not allow them to go abroad again in quest of work.

For her part, a Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor official in charge of fighting child labor attributed the reason for children heading for Saudi border areas to look for work to lack of consciousness among families, affirming that such incidents occur due to poverty and for child trafficking purposes because it is propagated.

Ministry official Muna Salem told

media she discussed the subject with several U.S. officials and international organizations during her recent participation in a 30-day child smuggling project in the United States. Whereas 14 African and European nations participated in the project, only two Arab states participated — Jordan and Yemen.

Salem mentioned understanding shown by officials and specialists she met at U.S. Congress, the Pentagon, the judiciary and other organizations, adding that Yemeni children searching for work in Saudi border areas actually is part of the child labor question, since it's done with their families' permission and has nothing to do with child trafficking, to which the U.S.

State Department points in some of its reports on Yemen, depending on what some media propagate in this regard.

She said at the conclusion of their meetings, project participants and U.S. organizers praised ongoing coordination between the Yemeni and Saudi governments and measures Yemen's government is taking to curb the problem.

Salem pointed out that during her participation in project meetings, she acquainted herself with an experiment involving five U.S. states dealing with child trafficking problems, adding that, "Our situation in Yemen is much better, if compared with the problems of some countries that traffic in children and human organs."

Yemeni students in India stage sit-in

SANA'A, May 31 — Approximately 300 Yemeni students began a sit-in Monday in front of the Yemeni consulate in Mumbai, India, demanding the Ministry of Higher Education and the cultural attaché implement President Ali Abdullah Saleh's Feb. 18, 2005 directives to solve various problems they suffer.

Mumbai news reports mentioned that the striking students gathered in front of the Yemeni consulate lifting banners calling for implementing presidential directives to meet their demands, specifically increasing their monthly financial grants, releasing study fees the cultural attaché is retaining and returning expended

study assistance the Higher Education Ministry unjustifiably halted for several scholarship students.

According to Al-Wahdawi Net, Indian police permitted the students to demonstrate in Azad Meidan area near the Yemeni consulate.

Students told the Yemeni consul that their strike is protesting ministry and attaché negligence, ignorance and not carrying out the president's directives, despite more than a year since their issuance. They said they wouldn't end the strike until their demands are met, even if forced to escalate the sit-in to a hunger strike under the nose of media and civil society organizations.

Childhood discussed at Taiz University conference

TAIZ, May 29 — The second Childhood Conference on children's development and protection began Monday at Taiz University. Dr. Saleh Ba Surrah, Minister of Higher Education, said the ministry seeks to tackle problems like establishing relations between public universities which "seem to be remote islands not based in one home."

"We'll try to reconsider the status of private universities, as they are responsible for preparing educated generations. These universities should adhere to the law's conditions by having qualified teaching staff, not depending on teachers from public universities," Ba Surrah said.

He added that education should be considered before caring for childhood. "Reforming education is they key to restoration. Education has four pillars: family, school, society and higher education institutions."

Taiz University Rector Dr. Mohammed Al-Sufi stated that the university adopted the conference as part of its strategy to mix with society, feel its problems, offer scientific services required for development and create a remarkable



Children from Taiz at the inauguration of the conference. YEMEN TIMES PHOTO

added.

Dr. Abdullah Al-Dhaifani of Taiz University's Education Qualification Center said a society that ignores childhood is unable to have space in the world. "Talented children participating in the conference were carefully selected from schools. There are 55 students with different talents."

Held in coordination with the Education Qualification Center and Al-Saeed Foundation for Science and Culture, the conference will continue through today.



Part of the audience. YEMEN TIMES PHOTO

\$36 million granted annually for student scholarships abroad

SANA'A, May 31 — Official reports recently revealed that the number of students sent abroad to continue university and higher education studies has exceeded 5,300, with most learning theoretical subjects that could have been studied in Yemeni universities.

Ministry of Higher Education reports distributed to media last week and published by News Yemen web site this week indicated that 78 percent of those granted scholarships to study abroad obtain university degrees in theoretical studies, while 22 percent obtain advanced degrees (a master's or doctorate) in specializations no longer deserving to be studied abroad.

The reports also mentioned that government spending on scholarships is very heavy, amounting to more than

\$36 million annually, indicating that those sent to study abroad are sent to countries where universities are no better in standard than in Yemen.

A Ministry of Higher Education source pointed out that the scholarship granting process mostly is random and not based on scientific bases. The source added that scholarships are granted to those not deserving them, including mostly sons of senior officials and those with mediation and influence, and thus are allocated only for them.

Sources demanded concerned authorities reconsider the scholarship granting process and the specialties students are sent to study abroad, as well as fight corruption and trading with such scholarships, which consume billions in the state budget.

Yemen halts Somaliland cattle imports

SANA'A, May 31 — Media sources mentioned last Tuesday that top government directives were given to Al-Mokha Port officials to cease importing cattle from Somaliland Republic ports in Barbarah and Hergisah.

Al-Shoura Net, which published the

news, reported that informed sources explained such a step as punishment to pressure the secessionist Somaliland government, which backs war princes coalition forces, accused by Yemen and the legitimate Somali government as the reason for the ongoing war in Mogadishu.

Blood money for willful killings increased up to YR 5.5 million

SANA'A, May 30 — Islamic Sharia parliamentary committees and justice and endowments on Tuesday amended the Crimes and Penalties Law's Article No. 40 regarding blood money, increasing the maximum amount from YR 750,000 to as much as YR 5.5 million.

Both committees set blood money for unintentional killings at YR 1.6 million. Compensation for willful and unintentional injuries must be a portion of blood money for both types of killings, based on the size of the injury.

According to the new amendments, if a murder occurs due to fighting between killer and victim — meaning both parties were involved — then the former must pay blood money proportional to what he would have committed, while his relatives also must pay some money. The amendments were based on 1994's Republican Decree No. 12. Until last Tuesday, blood money for willful killings of men did not exceed YR 750,000 (equivalent to \$4,000), while half that sum was paid as women's blood money.

Sana'a to host international democracy conference

SANA'A, May 30 — Yemen's capital city will host an international conference on democracy, political reforms and freedom of expression this month.

The event will be organized by the Foreign Ministry, the government partner, and the Human Rights Information and Training Center (HRITC), which represents Yemen in the Democratic Dialogue Program, in cooperation with Italian organization No Peace Without Justice (NPWJ).

The HRITC said the conference will

involve more than 200 men and women participants from various nations, mainly the Middle East and G8 government representatives and activists.

The conference aims to assess what's been achieved so far in areas of democratic dialogue and reforms in the region since the 2004 Sana'a Regional Conference. It also will involve discussing numerous issues related to democracy, political reforms and freedom of expression in the Middle East.

U.S. watercrafts intercept Yemeni fishing boats

LAHJ, May 30 — Media sources revealed last Monday that United States war watercrafts from the Djibouti Marine base intentionally intercepted and examined a group of Yemeni fishing boats in Aden Gulf and investigated their fishermen.

Al-Shoura Net mentioned that three model HOK-6 U.S. war watercrafts last Sunday afternoon stopped a wooden fishing boat heading to Socotra from Lahj's Ra'as Al-Qarah coast with 17 fishermen aboard.

One fisherman said their boat was besieged from three directions, with three armed Marines jumping into the boat and ordering the fishermen to raise their hands while they searched the boat for arms or those who weren't fisher-

men.

Wishing to remain anonymous, the same fisherman mentioned that the Marines requested the fishermen sail horizontally for six miles, and then head southeast to their fishing destination of Socotra. He affirmed that U.S. Marines had stopped and checked many fishing boats in Aden Gulf and the international passage.

He added that Yemeni coast guard forces two weeks ago requested fishermen in Aden Gulf and those near Socotra to be careful and to specify the amount of fuel aboard, as well as their names. Additionally, fishermen were asked to leave a copy of their identity cards at the closest coast guard checkpoint, as similarly demanded by U.S. Marines at sea.

Sa'ada police seize hashish traffickers

SA'ADA, May 30 — Sa'ada security authorities seized two hashish smugglers Monday morning near Rازه Mountains as they were trafficking 90 kilos of hashish to Saudi Arabia, Al-Sahwa Net reported.

According to official sources, police arrested two traffickers from a five-member gang and still are searching for the other three. The two arrested smugglers currently are being held at Rازه Police Station and due to be transferred to Prosecution for investigation and trial.

Hajah police reportedly referred to Public Prosecution three individuals caught in Haradh in the past few days as they passed two kilograms of hashish from Yemen to Saudi Arabia.

A dangerous drug banned worldwide, hashish is grown locally in

areas like Ibb and Taiz, according to local residents there. The drug has been seen in use in Yemen for more than a decade, but never has been as popular among rich youth as today, possibly attributed to increased external influences upon Yemenis.

Considering Yemen's strategic location, drugs typically are shipped from Southeast Asia via the Gulf of Aden and other Yemeni coasts. From there, it's shipped to numerous Gulf states, including Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar and other regional nations.

Not surprisingly, many of these illegal drugs are left behind and used in Yemen. New markets for these drugs have been created in places like Aden, Hodeidah and other cities across the Red Sea and Arabian Gulf shores.

Continued from page 1

Symposium: More press rights, freedom and democratic change

Al-Khaiwani considers the absence of prominent and effective political leadership, which weakened the press and journalism system, as a factor that pushed the press to the front line to face tyranny. It shed light on flaws and negative behaviors, which put it on the front line of official suppression and made the journalism career dangerous.

Media committee secretary Ali Al-Jaradi pointed out that there is legislative confusion in the press law, which approves executing and imprisoning journalists. He added that this is an important point, besides absence of freedom of expression, and he wondered about the value of democracy without freedom. Symposium participants assured the need to simplify the laws, saying that most laws that don't suit a democratic country should be revised.

He continued, saying that violence against journalists exposes any government claiming to be democratic, as well as the fact that oppressing journalists diminishes state prestige. Al-

Jaradi said the syndicate has several claims regarding oppression, adding that oppression against journalists and journalism uncovers a government that claims to be democratic. He added that it's pointless to have political parties without free press.

Al-Jaradi proposed public courts for journalist abuses, proposing that each case have a separate file containing beating, threat and scare instances which journalists experience, all of which should be converted into penal cases against those committing such crimes.

Journalist Nabila Al-Hakimi divided the impediments to journalism in Yemen into three divisions: first is the authority's effort to disintegrate the journalists syndicate, the second is to confuse syndicate activity and the third is the overt urge of honorable writers that there should be more freedom of expression so that all media can express themselves freely, adding that there is no democracy without multi-media.

Jaadan cistern rehabilitation kicks off

AMRAN, May 30 — The Jaadan cistern rehabilitation project was inaugurated in Amran governorate's historic town of Thula. The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is funding the \$60,000 rehabilitation.

Amran Gov. Taha Hajir, U.S. Ambassador to Yemen Thomas Krajcski, Deputy Minister of Water and Environment Mohammed Al-Hamdi and a host of local Yemeni officials attended the inauguration.

Thula cistern is 700 years old. The "new" cistern has a traditional filter sys-

tem and five hand-pumps enabling users to fetch water easily.

Like many Yemeni mountain villages, Thula harvests rainwater in cisterns for household water use, which allows the community to make the best use of scarce water resources. However, rainwater can become contaminated as it flows through collection channels into the cistern. Also, water stored in open cisterns can become spoiled from animal waste, trash and dirt from clothing, shoes, hands and buckets as women and children collect water.

USAID is sponsoring rehabilitation

of Jaadan Cistern, the town's main cistern. The cistern renovation plan carefully considered the town's historical and cultural importance, by using mainly natural stone materials and the traditional "qadad" plastering method. The contractor selected for the project has a long family tradition of using qadad and is an expert in the special techniques required for its proper application.

The cistern renovation is part of a series of community-based environmental health interventions funded through USAID's Partners for Health Reform program. USAID's environmental health

program components were designed via consultations and focus groups conducted with community and local council members in Thula district. Additionally, the project surveyed 269 households in 12 villages to determine local knowledge and practices related to water, sanitation and hygiene.

A locally elected project oversight committee composed of five men and five women will work with the local council to raise community members' awareness, including children, about their role in keeping the cistern clean and assuring its maintenance.

Upcoming cleaning campaign in Hammam Damt on June 5

SANA'A, May 30 — Cleaning up a crater and its surroundings, Al-Dale'a Governorate upon invitation of the Governor will witness an unusual sight on 5 June. Dozens of helpers will brave the gaping depths of the largest of Hammam Damt's sinter cones and free its lake from the plastic bottles and other rubbish visitors have left behind there over the years.

On the occasion of the upcoming International Day of the Environment on June 5, the Ministry of Water and Environment, ARWA Mineral Water Co. (Shamlan), Universal Group, the Social Fund for Development, the Governor's office, the local Cleaning Fund, the German Organization CIM and the German Embassy join forces in organizing a cleaning campaign in Hammam Damt. The inauguration ceremony is scheduled for 11:00 a.m. and will act as a kick-off for intensive cleaning and public awareness activities over a period of three days.

"We are happy for the impulse for this initiative initially expressed by the German Embassy and for the spontaneous assistance provided by ARWA Mineral Water Co. (Shamlan), Universal Group and the Social Fund for Development for jointly organizing with us and the Local Council a cleaning campaign at Hammam Damt," expresses the Minister of Water and Environment, Eng. Abdul-Rahman F. Al-Eryani. "Illegal waste disposal is an all-too-familiar sight in Yemen, with trash strewn along the roadsides, wadis, and beaches and posing a major hazard to human health and the environment. We are proud to have such entities partnering with us



The popular spa of Damt.

in this event," says the Minister.

By almost any form of evaluation, municipal solid waste management is a growing environmental and financial problem in Yemen. The majority of local councils cannot manage the growing volume of waste produced in their cities. The problems associated with the management of solid waste have reached sizeable proportions. They can only be solved if the government and civil society join forces and respond to their common responsibility. Sustainable waste management must be efficient in terms of environmental protection, socially acceptable and efficient in terms of economic viability. The challenge today is how to reach a strategy where all three aspects are of mutual importance. Waste management has become a progressively

more difficult and visible issue in Yemen over recent years. Service providers are struggling to keep pace with demographic growth and economic and social developments and its impacts on public health, safety and the environment. Many waste management service providers are caught in a downward development spiral, with low levels of investment and service performance affecting public satisfaction and cost recovery. "A lack of public awareness deteriorates the situation. However, appropriate waste management is a basic need of every citizen. We are fortunate to be joined in this cleaning campaign by extraordinary partners," says the Minister.

"I am happy that companies like

ARWA Mineral Water Co. and Universal Group immediately agreed to support the campaign in Hammam Damt. A signal like this from the private sector reflects the concern about the current waste situation in the country. Waste should be seen as a resource which may even offer attractive economic prospects under certain circumstances. For example, Germany is aiming for a closed substance cycle. Under this concept, waste is to remain predominantly within the economic cycle of production, distribution and consumption, and would ultimately be used as a substitute for primary raw materials in the form of secondary raw materials," says the German Ambassador, Mr. Frank M. Mann. "I am happy that Germany already for

some years is engaged in assisting the Yemeni Government in the field of solid waste management and has funded a number of successful awareness and pilot projects."

"ARWA Mineral Water Co. (Shamlan) is delighted to be a part of this unique effort to promote environmental stewardship. Whether it is keeping Hammam Damt litter-free or helping to increase public awareness, it's all a part of thinking green and being a trusted and valued community partner. We feel the campaign will help to establish direct contacts with the affected citizens in order to raise awareness and to act together to help present and future generations by promoting sustainable waste management for a cleaner, healthier and more attractive environment in our country, with our support to this campaign," highlights Mr. Jamil Morshed, General Manager of ARWA Mineral Water Co.

"A constraint upon public education and community participation is the strongly held attitude that waste management is in the whole responsibility of the Government. Waste left in public areas may not be perceived as a public health risk or even an eyesore. However, it is the responsibility of every single member of the society. A clean environment will help us in our efforts to improve living conditions in Yemen," says Mr. Abdulwahab Al-Mujahid from the Social Fund for Development.

"In the interests of sustainability, this equation should not only consider the aspects of environmental protection, but also the economic effects, as well as the social aspects (e.g. jobs).

The economy of Hammam Damt is depending on tourism and agriculture. However, the current waste situation does not support our aim of promoting our country for tourism. Therefore, it is of importance for us to support this upcoming campaign. Moreover, Universal intends to carry out similar campaigns in other cities and historical locations around Yemen to create awareness towards this issue. This is a further demonstration of how important litter prevention and other quality of life issues are to the activities adopted by the Universal Group, aimed at promoting Yemen worldwide", emphasizes Mr. Jamal Omar, General Manager of Universal Hotels.

"Public knowledge and the willingness to devote time and energy to cleanliness and waste reduction needs to be enhanced. Even in places with the provision of waste bins it is a common practise for many households to dispose of waste in the nearest convenient place such as open drains or areas around waste bins. There seems to be a lack of community spirit and residents are prepared to dispose of their waste in someone else's neighbourhood, without considering the effect of their actions on other member of the community and on the environment", says Dr. Lia Carol Sieghart, CIM.

The partners are looking forward to a successful campaign, the Minister once again thanks them and the Governor of Al-Dale'a for making this event possible and welcomes everybody who would like to join in and help restore the sinter cone to its natural beauty.

Is local authority governance diminishing?

By: Mohamed Ragih

Establishing any authority would necessarily cause a qualitative change in any community adopting a democratic option for local administration. It changes many administrative concepts pursuant to a program that focuses on the local community development, depending on the administrative and economic principles.

However, administrative units are more than a governor, a mayor or an elected local council. They are a system of complicated human relations that could go far beyond this. It is an economic, social development in addition to capacity building. It is the establishment of a new situation, which requires skills and knowledge that in turn need require the capacity for building. It also needs promotion of social awareness and training.

Concepts of structure

Like many developing country, Yemen is seeking to achieve a sustainable development. Yet undertaking local authority systems was an early desire dating back to the days of the establishment of reunification. It was considered

a rational governmental method that promotes public democratic participation through free local elections, meeting the local community demands, and calling for local elected institutions accountable before their electoral assemblies.

For a long time a legal framework that regulated the structure was missing until Law 4 of the year 2000 furnished it. This law set up a foundation for the decentralization of economic and administrative systems. The establishment of local governance was implemented in 2001 the following year. A media clamor accompanied it internally, with an international interest and support, considering it an expansion of public participation and the important step in decision-making it implied. It is also a contribution of the activation of local social, economic, developmental and cultural affairs through elected councils. However, these councils were expected to set their investment plans, programs and budgets. The local councils were also supposed to play their role in monitoring conformity with their establishment law and the commitments to the international community. The councils should have monitored their executive institutions in their districts

and governorates and brought them to account.

Jobless councils

Six years elapsed with seemingly no role for the local councils. These in fact diminished and became an additional burden to the local community and the country in general. According to field research and statistics, the local councils did not practice any activities nor did they introduce services or development projects of any kind. They did not even set budgets for local development.

Executive council meetings were effectively poor. Their rate was only 24 percent in 2002. They were very low in 2003 as well with only 26 percent. As for 2004 and 2005, they did not exceed 40 percent. This indicates a lack of agendas for the work of these councils. They reflect the central inattention, which neglected their awareness role. They should have provided their branches with the necessary advice in the fields of local system. It reveals the weak performance of control and follow up systems set-up in the governorates and within high authorities in the center.

Failure of the fourth conference

The development plans sector in the ministry of planning and development, issued a report reviewing the third fifth-plan of the local development of 2006-2010. It assessed the local councils' performance as lacking infrastructures with incomplete institutions. The local authority's capacity and skills in planning and follow up are limited. Their strategic perspective in setting local development priorities is attributed to an absence of coordination with development partners and the central systems.

This indicates that the establishment of these local councils, which received a large portion of the donors and international organizations support, were not based on institutional and people perspectives. There were no laws or statutes that organize them. Democratic performance was also absent which resulted in the loss of public support. The fourth conference of the local councils, scheduled to convene last month, was postponed for these very reasons: weak performance and the abstinence of donors to pay the annual support for them in addition to preparations for presidential elections.

Mohamed Ragih is a Yemeni journalist.

Spacotel Yemen launches Customer Self Service Project

On the occasion of the 16th Anniversary of Yemeni Reunification, Spacotel Yemen launches the Customer Self Service Project under the supervision of Beta Sys Company for Information Systems. The project is the first of the kind in Yemen as it includes an advanced information system, which operates by touch.

Walid Akkaoui, Marketing Director at Spacotel Yemen, stated the project includes advanced technology and modern information system for customers' service.

"It is a guiding system via information technologies enabling customers to serve themselves easily by touching an electronic screen, which displays data and guiding images

to services provided by Spacotel Yemen," Akkaoui added.

The system facilitates the process of obtaining detailed information very quickly.

The project's inauguration is part of a Spacotel Yemen's strategy, which is aimed at applying the most modern technological means in the world of information and telecommunication. In turn, these modern technological means aim to meet the needs of customers. The service will be available at Spacotel Yemen's point-of-sale centers.



The Military has Failed, the War is Lost Why the US may have to quit Iraq sooner than planned

By: Patrick Cockburn

Iraq is full of sad memorials to Britain's disastrous invasion of the country in the First World War. In military cemeteries along the Tigris and Euphrates are buried some 31,000 British and Indian soldiers who died in battle or of disease in four years fighting. I used to visit one cemetery in Kut where a British army of 9,000 surrendered to the Turks in 1916. The swamp water had submerged the graves leaving only the tops of tombstones protruding out of the green slime.

The second and equally ill-judged British intervention in Iraq, this time as an ally of the US, which started in 2003, looks as if it is going to be slightly shorter than the first. By the end of 2006, the new Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki says that US and British troops will have handed over security to Iraqi forces in 16 out of 18 provinces.

In fact 8,000 British troops could be withdrawn even earlier since there is no reason for them to stay in Basra which they do not control and where they are likely to take casualties. Inside the city, the militias are already predominant. The motive for British sol-

diers staying is presumably so the US can have at least one ally with troops on the ground.

Why was Mr Maliki more assertive about the time table for withdrawal than his predecessors? Certainly he needs to offer something concrete on a US withdrawal to Sunni members of his government. Tariq al-Hashimi, the Sunni Arab vice president, said "there have been real signs by the US and British government that a decision was taken to withdraw foreign forces." He said this was enough for the armed resistance to talk to the US about the withdrawal and the role to be played by the insurgents after it is complete.

A word of warning here: one of the many problems of bringing peace to Iraq is that the Sunni community, though it launched a ferocious guerrilla war against the occupation which killed or wounded 20,000 US soldiers, does not have a coherent leadership unlike the Shia and the Kurds. There is little sign that elected political leaders like Mr Hashimi can do more than plead with the insurgents. But his overall point is important. Opinion polls have consistently shown that an overwhelming majority of Iraq's five million Sunni Arabs support armed attacks on US forces. This figure may wobble

a bit as some Sunni look for American protection against Shia death squads but overall the Sunni remain against the occupation.

There are now signs that the Shia, totaling 60 per cent of Iraqis, also want to see the occupation ended sooner than seemed likely six months ago. The US has become a major obstacle to them using their election victories last year to get a permanent grip on power in Baghdad. The US sided with the Kurds and the Sunni in forcing out the former Prime Minister Ibrahim al-Jaafari though it was not able to divide the Shia coalition permanently.

The US and British armies in Iraq have both failed—though they could argue that the root of the failure is political rather than military. Three years after the overthrow of Saddam Hussein they control extraordinarily little territory in the country. Watching American forces in Baghdad since 2003 it always seemed to me that they floated above the Iraqi population like a film of oil on water.

Shia animosity towards the Americans and British forces is now beginning to look like that of the Sunni at the beginning of the guerrilla war. In Basra crowds spontaneously dance and cheer when a British helicopter is shot

down just as the Sunni used to celebrate the destruction of every US Humvee in Baghdad (even then Tony Blair and George Bush claimed that the insurgents were just a small group of foreign fighters and Saddam Hussein loyalists).

The problem about the withdrawal is that it may be coming too late. The White House and Downing Street never took on board the sheer unpopularity of the occupation and the extent to which it tainted the Iraqi government, soldiers and police in the eyes of ordinary Iraqis. The Iraqi army and police are 230,000 strong and this figure is due to rise to 320,000 men by the end of next year. But in reality the allegiance of these forces is to the Sunni, Shia and Kurdish communities and not to the central government. The problem has always been loyalty rather than training.

The US and British armies in Iraq are becoming less and less relevant to political developments good or ill. Their presence is not acceptable to most Iraqi Arabs. They clearly cannot stop a civil war that has already started in the centre of the country. The main reason for keeping them there is to avoid a scuffle which would look like America's last days in Vietnam.

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The civils works will principally be the building of access roads, rig locations and associated operations.

The position is rotational and the majority of time will be spent in the field as part of a small team comprising of the Civils HSE Supervisor and the Community Affairs Officer.

Candidates must demonstrate previous experience in Civils supervisory positions, will possess a valid driver's licence, (at least 4 years), be physically fit, competent in written and spoken English and have good computer skills including Microsoft applications and internet/email usage.

Full camp accommodation and messing will be provided in the field.

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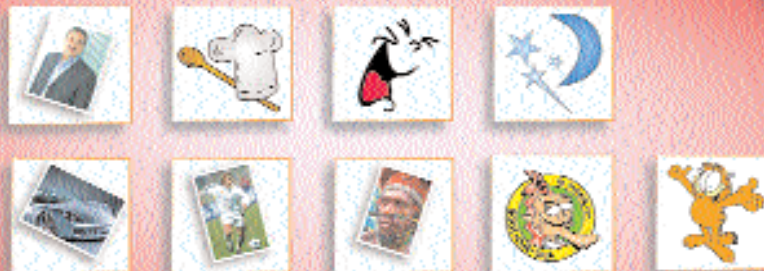
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Yemen's development challenges

Population growth, a discouraging investment environment, human resources deficiency and inactive anti-corruption reforms are prominent factors slowing Yemen's development pace, according to the third Five-Year Development Plan for Poverty Reduction and Reform (DPPR).

By: Mohammed Al-Jabri

“Yemen has capacity deficits, financial constraints and governance shortcomings standing as major obstacles for the country to be able to achieve 2015 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs),” said Flavia Pansieri, United Nations resident coordinator at Saturday's consultation meeting of the third national Development Plan for Poverty Reduction and Reform (DPPR) in Sana'a. “Yemen is progressing, but in slow incremental steps. It needs to rev up or double its efforts,” she added.

Yemen ranks among nations with the highest population growth rate. According to Dr. Ralf Dreyer, European Commission Charge d' Affaires in Sana'a, Yemen faces diffi-

culties in the next 20 years due to population growth. Citizens are distributed among 129,299 villages and districts in the countryside, an indication of their wide scattering, thereby affecting the process of distributing services.

Increasing internal immigration poses yet another development problem, as the workforce heads for main cities in search of jobs, leaving behind agricultural land. All of these factors have negative consequences for the country's economy and weaken development.

Yemen lacks an investment environment capable of attracting both internal and foreign investors. According to the DPPR, there are a variety of reasons for this, most notably security, administration, taxation, customs, limited qualified human resources, land problems and infrastructure deficiency. Internal terrorist acts figure prominently as well.



Prime Minister Abdulqader Bajammal (center) speaks at Saturday's third DPPR consultation meeting in Sana'a. YEMEN TIMES PHOTO

“Now more than ever, Yemen requires rigorous action to move ahead toward improving its governance status and creating enabling environment for doing business. Apart from fighting corruption, this entails comprehensive

judicial and land registration reform programs to provide an enabling environment to attract internal as well as foreign investors,” Pansieri said.

European Parliament member Avril Doyle criticized Yemen's investment environment as failing to attract investors, pointing out that rich Yemenis abroad don't invest in Yemen because they don't trust the country's economy.

Inability of human resources development poses a threat to society's development, with illiteracy as a case in point, as illiterate adults comprise 47.2 percent of Yemen's population. School dropout rates have increased remarkably, especially among female secondary students; consequently, Yemeni education outputs are feeble.

The number of secondary school students was 484,000 in 2001, whereas there are now 682,765 students nationwide. There are 14,617 basic education schools, of which 260 are

private. Regarding basic education, the number of female students remains low at 53.9 percent of the population, whereas males comprise 73.1 percent.

Looking at vocational and technical education, there previously were 26 institutes with 6,567 students; however, this number increased during 2001-2005 to 29 institutes with 20,203 students. This sector faces problems, as evidenced by increasing students while the institutes suffer capacity deficits. The third DPPR aims to increase the number of institutes to 145 by 2010, with a seven percent student increase.

Women's development participation is not high. They comprise 28.3 percent of the private sector workforce, with 78.8 percent working in agriculture and grazing. Working women in the education sector are 18 percent, 25 percent work in Health and Social Affairs and 16.4 percent work in state administrative staffs.

Two women were appointed ministers in the last Cabinet reshuffle. Also, there is only one female ambassador abroad and one in Parliament, indicating the low number of women candidates. The third DPPR aims to increase women's participation in decision making by increasing their participation in running in parliamentary and local elections by five percent and by 30 percent as electors; participating in government employment by five percent and in diplomatic affairs by five percent; and in police and security authorities by five percent.

The agricultural sector plays a vital role in achieving food security, creating job opportunities and reducing poverty, as it is a basic means for development in the countryside. However, Yemen has limited agricultural resources, with 1.5 million hectares of agricultural land equivalent to 2.5 percent of its total area, which doesn't match population growth to ensure food security. Also, most farmers depend on traditional tools, resulting in low production and consequently, affecting limited-income farmers.

Qat planting continually increased during 2000-2005 – involving 10.6 percent of agricultural lands – whereas grain production slowed remarkably. Over the past three decades, qat fields increased 18-fold. Approximately 108 tons of qat were produced in 2000, increasing to 124 tons in 2005. Qat planting consumes approximately 30 percent of agricultural water use in general; that is, 850 million cubic meters annually.

Many poor and limited-income citizens chew qat, with studies showing that qat spending comprises 26 percent of family income. Some YR 250 billion is spent on qat annually and 20 million working hours wasted daily due to qat chewing.

The agricultural sector also faces various structural challenges like water shortage, limited agricultural lands, incompetent irrigation systems and inadequate rainwater collection.

Yemeni women deprived of family inheritance

By: Arwa Al-Anesi

While no laws forbid women from having their inheritance, the majority of Yemeni women, especially in rural areas, do not know about or are neglected in their inheritance and property. Without justification, fathers, brothers and husbands usually administrate women's properties, deciding what and when they must give women.

In the countryside, tribal laws and customs have supplanted Yemen's inheritance laws, which are based on Islam. Tribal rulers make agreements depriving women from inheriting their rights. Women belonging to these tribes are urged to follow the tribe's law, which ignores them and limits inheritance to men.

In most circumstances, the majority of Yemeni women don't have any official documents proving their inheritance property; therefore, they can't appeal to the judiciary because they don't know what their property is. In numerous cases, male inheritors force women to sell them their inheritance share at very low prices. If women refuse to do so, male inheritors often deny all women's property rights.

“My mother sold much of her land to her brothers' children at cheap prices. She knows it's worth 10 times what she received, but she preferred to get something instead of losing everything,” said a 48-year-old Sana'a woman wishing to remain anonymous.

Women often have what's necessary to prove and take their property from inheritors, but unfortunately, judicial procedures usually take years before citizens see justice. Therefore, women prefer not to resort to the courts, believing they'll lose more than what they have, as well as cut all relations with their families.

According to a 2003 Ministry of Justice report, the total number of documented inheritance division cases in 17 governorates was 2,208. It showed that Hajja, Ibb and Taiz had the largest share of cases, while Al-Beidha and Al-Mahara had the least. Meanwhile, in a working paper presented at the December 2005 Arab World Women's Rights conference in Sana'a, Dr. Ramzea Al-Eryani claimed that the number of women deprived of their inheritance rights in Yemen was approximately 1.27 million.

The practice of depriving Yemeni

women of their inheritance rights has been observed since long ago. Famed Yemeni Islamic scholar Imam Mohammed bin Ali Al-Shokani (1758-1834) mentioned the issue in his writings more than 170 years ago. He nullified citizens' behavior in his era, which employed many indirect methods to cheat Islamic Shariah (law).

Al-Shokani forbade common Yemeni practices of his time, such as mentioning most of the estate to the sons' children as a gift, making a vow to God by giving sons and their children most of the property and endowing all property to sons' progeny.

From his position as a judge, Al-Shokani found that in most cases, citizens were just doing it to deprive women of their inheritance rights. Therefore, he forbade such behavior if done with the intention of depriving women of their inheritance rights.

However, without their daughters' knowledge, some rich families employ unjust methods to deprive them of their full inheritance. Intending to avoid new partners in the future, fathers mention all of the property to their sons before dying, thereby depriving women rights bestowed upon them by law and by God.

Ironically, the situation has reached a point where many rich families prevent their daughters from marrying to protect family properties from being transferred to another family.

“My family refused to marry me because they don't want our money to go outside the family,” said 80-year-old Fatima Abdullah, a single woman who owned millions of dollars “Now I don't have a husband or children to administrate my money. Today my brothers' children use my money as they want. I hope they give me some of my property to build a mosque or help the poor,” she added.

Many cases like Abdullah's are witnessed nationwide, as culture plays a key role in such occurrences and oppresses women in society.

On the other hand, many women inheriting family property and wealth tend to live in very bad financial situations because of unfair inheritors. In certain parts of Yemen, citizens believe that a woman loses all of her family inheritance rights after she marries.

“My bad financial situation forced me to accept work as a servant to provide for my children,” said 40-year-old Nabila Ahmed, who claims to have been deprived of her late father's rich-

es. “My father was a rich and important general. He owned four large houses, but my two brothers refused to give me anything from his property. They even refused to let me live with my children at one of my father's houses,” she added dejectedly.

Yemeni customs force women to abandon their inheritance in order to maintain good relations with their families. Nearly all Yemeni women grow up with the concept of respecting men and it's considered shameful for a woman to ask the men about her inheritance. Women always should be grateful to the men for their generosity when giving her some of her inheritance and she is not allowed to request the remainder. For this reason, most court cases today relate to women's inheritance. As expected, children usually begin asking about their mother's inheritance and property after she dies.

Fatima Mohammed, 70, from Sana'a, still retains many official documents declaring her mother's inheritance rights. The 96-year-old documents show that the dead mother inherited much land in Sana'a worth hundreds of millions today. Sorrowfully, her mother's cousins sold most of the land without her knowledge.

“My mother's cousins denied all of her property rights after she passed away, exploiting the fact that I don't have any children or brothers or sisters who would ask about her property. They took everything and told me that I don't need the money because I don't have children. I wish I could recover some money to allow somebody to perform the Hajj for my mother, who died at a very young age.

“Since I reached 70, I don't care about my mother's money because I can't use it now. What satisfies me is that I began to see God's punishment on my mother's cousins.”

From a religious viewpoint, Islamic Shariah clearly mentions the issue of women's inheritance and punishment imposed on those keeping women from their God-given rights from their parents and family. “Men shall have a share in what parents and kinfolk leave behind and women shall have a share in what parents and kinfolk leave behind.” (Qur'an 4:7)

It's stated again in another Qur'anic verse: “Those who unjustly eat up the property of orphans, eat up a Fire into their own bodies: they will soon be enduring a blazing Fire!” (Qur'an 4:10)

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- **Programme Associate – Human Rights and Elections**
manage the human rights and elections programmes to assist Yemen in improving its democratic governance and the participation of the Yemeni people in the betterment of their society
- **Programme Associate – Crisis Prevention and Recovery**
manage the crisis prevention and recovery programmes which will enable Yemen to better manage natural disasters and crisis
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Deadline for receipt of applications is 30 June 2006.

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

Education For All International commitments: time to act (Part-I) EFA Global Monitoring Report 2006 (8/9)

When 164 governments adopted the six Education for All (EFA) goals in 2000, they espoused a holistic vision of education spanning learning from the first years of life through adulthood. In practice, achieving good-quality universal primary education (UPE) and gender parity, two of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, has dominated attention. As the United Nations Literacy Decade unfolds, the EFA Global Monitoring Report 2006 aims to shine a stronger policy spotlight on the more neglected goal of literacy – a foundation not only for achieving EFA but, more broadly, for reaching the overarching goal of reducing human poverty.

Part V assesses international commitments to basic education, including literacy, in light of the considerable expectations surrounding pledges in 2005 to increase aid substantially over the next five years.

- Bilateral aid is increasing, but education's share is declining
- Aid to basic education has increased, but double the amount of current pledges is needed
- Post-secondary education still receives twice as much bilateral aid as basic education
- Donors give short shrift to literacy
- The poorest countries do not necessarily receive education aid

International commitments: time to act

Several high-profile meetings in 2005 raised expectations that the international community would boost support to sharply reduce poverty and achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. The signs are that some significant breakthroughs are being made. The G8 countries agreed to debt relief for some of the world's poorest countries. Donors made commitments that could increase overall aid by more than 50% by 2010. Education should benefit from these developments, but funding still falls short of what is needed to achieve even a limited number of the EFA goals in the world's poorest countries.

A slow upward trend

Official Development Assistance (ODA) increased in real terms by 4% from 2002 to 2003, and preliminary figures indicate a further 5% increase for 2004. ODA is at the highest level ever recorded, though as a share of donors' aggregate gross national income (0.25%) it is still well below the average recorded up to the early 1990s (0.33%) and the United Nations target of 0.7%. Overall, the least developed countries receive about one-third of



A group of adults in Peru participate in a literacy class funded by the government.

total ODA. With some notable exceptions, these are the countries with the poorest EFA indicators. Bilateral aid to education increased to US\$4.65 billion in 2003, a 31% increase over its 2000 low of US\$3.55 billion but still well below the 1990 high of US\$5.7 billion (all at constant 2002 prices). The 2003 allocation represented 7.4% of total bilateral aid, down from 8.8% in the previous year and the lowest share in ten years. Bilateral aid to basic education almost trebled between 1998 and 2003 but still accounted for less than 2% of bilateral ODA. Major multilateral aid agencies committed US\$15.9 billion per year on average between 1999 and 2003, with education receiving 9.3%. Basic education received about 60% of this amount. The World Bank is the most important multilateral donor to education (US\$543 million per year from 1999 to 2003, equivalent to more than 40% of total multilateral commitments). The European Commission is an increasingly important donor to the sector at US\$347 million per year over the period. Combining bilateral and multilateral aid, total aid to basic education amounted to US\$2.1 billion in 2003, only 2.6% of overall aid.

Debt relief accounted for US\$5.9 billion of the nominal US\$16.6 billion increase in total bilateral aid between 2001 and 2003. To receive irrevocable debt relief, countries must usually demonstrate that they have policies and goals designed to achieve basic education objectives, among other social reforms. Examples are elimination of school fees, measures to hire teachers and provision of textbooks. Several heavily indebted poor countries have increased government expenditure on poverty reduction and indicated that they would use about 40% of debt relief for the education sector. In a different approach, some Latin American governments are promoting debt swaps to directly finance education programmes. Argentina negotiated with Spain for the transfer of US\$100 million in lieu of debt

payments, to help 215,000 in some of the poorest parts of the country to complete lower secondary education.

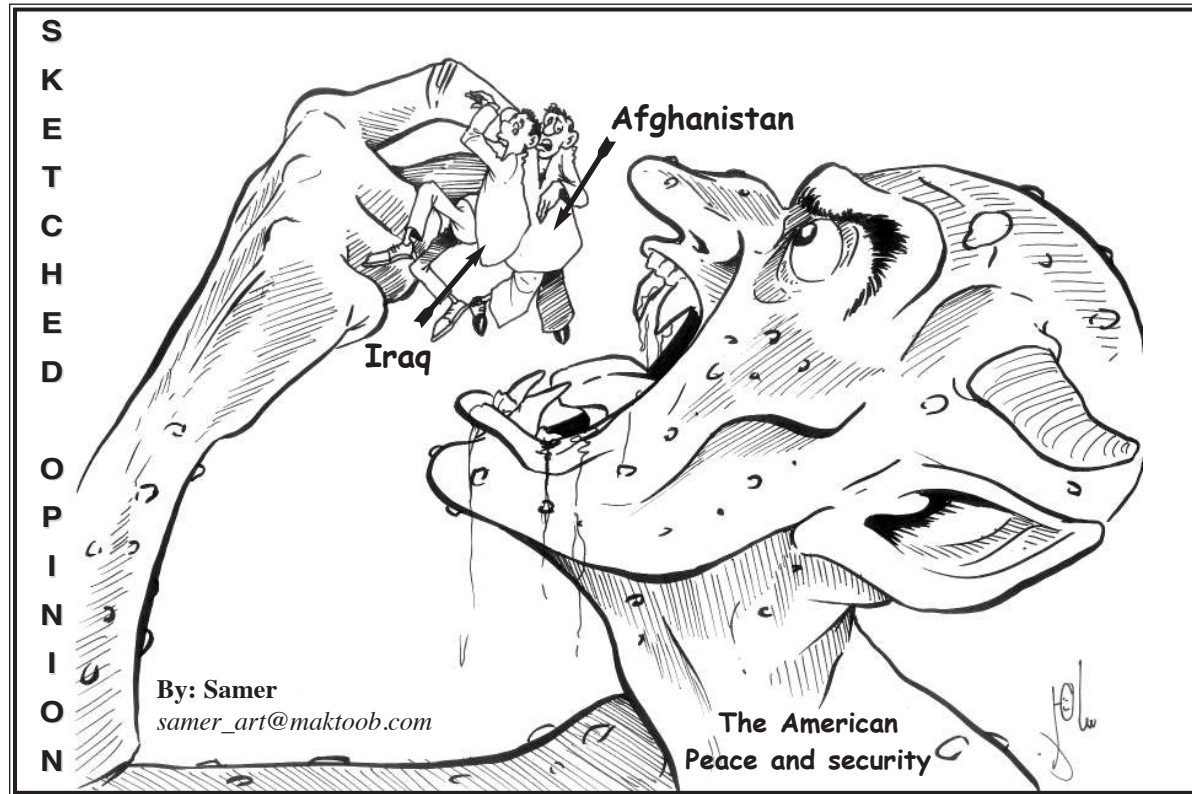
For many donors, basic education is not a priority

Basic education is still not heavily favoured in bilateral aid flows, despite recent increases. On average, countries allocate 9.7% of their bilateral aid to education, the shares ranging from 2.8% (United States) to 35.7% (New Zealand). Overall, nearly 60% of bilateral commitments to education are still for the post-secondary level, twice what is allocated to basic education.

Basic education's share of total education aid averaged 28.3%, with shares ranging from 1.4% (Italy) to 66.6% (Denmark), 67.4% (United States), 78.4% (Netherlands) and 88.6% (United Kingdom). From 1999 to 2003, France, Japan and Germany accounted for almost 60% of total bilateral aid to education, while the United States, the Netherlands, France and the United Kingdom accounted for 62% of bilateral aid to basic education. Only Denmark, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and the United States allocated an average of over 60% of their education aid to basic education between 1999 and 2003. Some large donors, such as France, are restructuring aid programmes to further the Millennium Development Goals and are shifting more resources to basic education.

Disproportionate volumes of bilateral aid go to middle-income countries with relatively good social indicators, including primary school enrolment

The regional distribution of bilateral aid reflects historical and political factors as well as general aid policy. Countries with the lowest Education Development Index are not necessarily accorded priority. Disproportionate volumes of bilateral aid go to middle-income countries with



relatively good social indicators, including primary school enrolment. Nine countries allocate over 40% of their aid to sub-Saharan Africa. Australia, New Zealand and Japan give priority to East Asia and the Pacific. Strikingly, only Norway, Switzerland and the United Kingdom give more than 20% of their aid to South and West Asia, the region facing the largest EFA challenge in terms of numbers of people; sixteen donors allocate less than 10% of their education aid to this region.

Literacy: an instrument for reaching other ends

Literacy is not high on the agenda of most international agencies, beyond strong support for the achievement of UPE. Few bilateral donors and development banks make explicit reference to literacy in their aid policies. Most refer to literacy as an instrument for reaching other ends. Literacy in the fight to eradicate poverty receives attention (e.g. from the European Commission, Norway and New Zealand). Most agencies endorse EFA without explicit reference to literacy, although some see it as a principal goal of good schooling (e.g. Canada, the European Commission and the United Kingdom) or as a skill at the heart of basic education (e.g. Sweden and the United States). Japan emphasizes the importance of literacy in advancing development projects.

How these statements translate into funding allocations is difficult to assess. Data on aid for adult literacy programmes tend to fall in the 'basic skills for youth and adults' category in the OECD-DAC donor database. Very few agencies have disbursement data on literacy, and those that do generally qualify the data's accuracy.

There is a strong case for a new international dialogue on literacy, including its place in agency policies and in bilateral and multilateral discussions with governments.

France is not working

By: Brigitte Granville

France's chronic malaise is marked by periodic explosions of protest. The two most recent episodes – the rioting and arson in French cities last autumn and the successful student campaign earlier this year against a new law governing young labor-market entrants – seem to have little in common. But their unifying thread is youth, unemployment, and uncertainty about the future, as well as the suffocating state paternalism that underlies the wider malaise itself.

Take, for example, the desirable goal of job security. French governments have sought it in the only way they know – by ever more regulation. Unsurprisingly, rules that make it difficult to fire established workers discourage employers from hiring new ones. Insiders enjoy lavish protections, while entry barriers to the millions left outside are insurmountable.

As a result, unemployment is averaging 10% this decade and has not been below 8% for 20 years. And, while the overall level of unemployment has remained stable – albeit at a shockingly high level – the unemployment rate among young men (in the 16-24 age group) jumped from 15.3% in 1990 to 21.4% in 2005.

France's benevolent paternalism penalizes the young beyond the labor market as well. On paper, wealth redistribution through high taxes and state transfers, reflecting Republican ideals of equality and social cohesion (*fraternité*), has brought good results. Unlike most other OECD countries, where inequalities have increased over the last 30 years, in France pre-tax income inequality decreased slightly, or at worst remained stable, from 1970 to 2000.

But this aggregate stability masks shifts in income distribution that have favored older age cohorts. Those around retirement age (51-65) saw their share in total income rise by three percentage points in the last ten years, while younger groups, particularly those aged 18-25, lost ground, with their income share falling by five percentage points. By 1995, relative poverty was increasing sharply for young adults, while the opposite trend occurred among the elderly. In 1970, a quarter of all pensioners lived in poverty; today, the figure is only 4%.

Joblessness is the main cause of poverty, and the best protection against it is earned income, for which even France's generous welfare payments are an inadequate substitute. Moreover, the high payroll taxes needed to finance these benefits constitute another deterrent to hiring, as does the high minimum wage, which tends to price unskilled labor above its potential productivity. The relatively generous dole and the prospect of high taxes once in work merely reduces the incentive to take low-paid jobs. As a result, 40% of all transfers go to poor but able-bodied people of working age.

The full extent of the French system's pathology becomes fully clear in the light of successive governments' attempts at reform, with piecemeal measures the norm – and thus proving counter-productive on balance, or fail-

ing altogether. Minimum-wage increases, for example, counteract income-tax credits and lower payroll taxes aimed at encouraging youth employment. The unspoken premise is that there must be no losers, not even in the short term.

The logical answer would be to reduce equally the degree of job security enjoyed by the entire labor force. But no French government in recent decades has been remotely strong enough to face down opposition – often involving illegal action that goes unpunished – to any reduction in entrenched privileges.

Perhaps the only way out of France's current impasse is the no-less traditional French route of revolution. According to this view, the system is unreformable, and real change will be possible only after it finally collapses, perhaps owing to fiscal weakness, since the combination of deficit-financed transfers, low growth, and low labor-market participation may prove unsustainable. After all, whatever the deeper causes of the French Revolution of 1789, the immediate trigger was a public-finance crisis.

The social strains of high unemployment – especially among young people – may force decisive change even before any fiscal meltdown. But evolutionary progress is always preferable to revolutionary upheaval, and, despite all the difficulties of genuine incremental reform, the prospects are not absolutely hopeless.

This is clear from the remarkable recent experience of "Sciences Po," one of the elite *grandes écoles* in the center of Paris. An ostensibly meritocratic competitive admission system to the *grandes écoles* is in fact monopolized by the socially privileged, who accounted for 81% of students admitted to Sciences Po in 1998 (compared to the roughly 60% of students at Oxford and Cambridge who come from fee-paying private schools). The head of Sciences Po, Richard Descoings, implemented a program of positive discrimination that favors disadvantaged candidates, such as those from immigrant suburbs and rural areas, and charges increased fees to wealthier students.

Descoings faced strong – and often cogent – opposition. But the dynamic of all reform is clinched when even weighty arguments succumb to the urgency of change. For France as a whole, the long-term cost of withholding tough medicine will ultimately be much higher than the short-term pain of reforming the country's fiscally unsustainable and spiritually impoverishing welfare state.

Young people in France will rediscover trust and hope when they can be shown a world where fairness consists not just in egalitarian and unconditional redistribution, but also in hard work and good behavior. Change for the better will be founded on the basic conviction that one should get what one deserves and deserve what one gets.

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The coming St. Putinsburg summit

By: Konstanty Gebert

St. Petersburg is a great place in early summer, when the "White Nights" bathe the city's imperial palaces and avenues. Small wonder, then, that Russian President Vladimir Putin likes to show off his hometown.

Three years ago, during the Tsarist capital's 300th anniversary, Putin hosted some 40 heads of state, ranging from George W. Bush and Gerhard Schroeder to Belarusian dictator Alexander Lukashenko and Turkmenistan's Saparmyrat Nyazov, who styles himself "Turkmenbashi," the father of Turkmen. Human rights activists questioned the wisdom of endorsing the leader of a growingly authoritarian Russia. Yet Putin managed simultaneously to celebrate his anti-Iraq war cooperation with Europe, have the US swallow this, and be recognized in front of his local minions as a world leader.

This summer, St. Petersburg (dubbed by local wits "St. Putinsburg") may see a repeat performance: Russia will preside over a G8 summit for the first time, despite increasing authoritarianism, the ongoing bloody war in Chechnya, and now support for Iran's nuclear program.

Deflecting mounting criticism, Bush rejects appeals to boycott the summit. "I need to be in a position where I can sit down with him [Putin] and be very frank about our concerns," Bush said in late March at Freedom House in Washington.

Is Bush wrong? The question of whether to meet with nasty but powerful people has dogged diplomacy since its

inception, and both ends of the question have been argued endlessly – and inconclusively. So it is probably best to examine the merits of each case separately, looking to precedents and agendas for guidance.

What is now known as the G8 was launched in 1975 as an informal group of the United States, Europe's Big Four – Britain, France, Germany, and Italy – and Japan, with Canada added as an afterthought. It expanded to include Russia in 1998 for political, not economic, reasons. Russia's unhappy status as a democratizing, but still potentially threatening, former superpower, played a role, as did its huge energy reserves, which is why China, incomparably more powerful economically but politically beyond the pale, was never invited to join. Indeed, though supposedly grouping the world's largest economies, the G8 now includes a country with an economy the size of Holland's, even if it is still excluded from deliberations of the other members' finance ministers.

In retrospect, Russian membership should probably be considered a mistake. Russia has stabilized under Putin, but its has become markedly less democratic. Its economy has boomed thanks to oil and gas exports, not to healthy market developments. The state still controls the economy as it sees fit, as the de-facto renationalization of Yukos amply demonstrates.

On the other hand, the Kremlin has refrained from international adventurism, and rather consistently supported the US in its "war on terror." As European economies grew more dependent on

Russian oil and gas, and the US military in Central Asia on Russian acquiescence, reversing the decision to admit Russia to the G8 became politically unthinkable. The 2003 summit confirmed Russia's privileged position. A repeat performance this summer would make it all but unshakable.

Has "being frank about our concerns," the justification for hobnobbing with the likes of Putin, proven effective? Perhaps not. Nevertheless, although Russia has been backsliding since Putin took power in 2000, his policies might have been worse had he been ostracized. In any case, a US boycott of the forthcoming summit would be a Russian triumph, as it would throw the West into disarray.

But there need to be limits to the West's tolerance, particularly given the summit's agenda, which features energy security, fighting disease, promoting education, counter-terrorism, and non-proliferation. Is Russia a trustworthy partner in these areas?

Russia is, in fact, the main provider of energy insecurity in Europe. Its gas blackmail of Ukraine frightened the entire Continent, and its new Baltic pipeline to Germany has provoked howls of outrage from Poland and the Baltic states, which are angry at losing the economic and political dividends a land route gives them. They are also fearful that Russia will use the energy weapon against them in the future, once the new pipeline allows the Kremlin to do so without affecting Western Europe.

This made little impression on their German EU partners – unsurprisingly, since Schroeder now chairs the con-

sulting that will build the pipeline. As former French Prime Minister Pierre Mauroy put it in 1981, when he refused to cancel a gas deal with the USSR over the imposition of martial law in Poland, "Should the suffering of French people deprived of gas be added to the suffering of Polish people deprived of freedom?" Old habits die hard.

Russia's record is equally bleak on other items on the summit's agenda. It heads the list on the spread of preventable diseases – not only HIV, but tuberculosis, with 32,000 deaths last year alone – and its education standards are in severe decline. On terrorism, Russia was the first country to host an official Hamas delegation after the Palestinian elections, and it continues to crush Chechen terror and resistance with methods that would bring it to an international court, were it not a Security Council member. On non-proliferation, just ask the ayatollahs in Teheran.

Putin's Russia is not a place for democratic leaders to hold a summit, especially after the paltry results of the last one. Nor does the summit's agenda justify holding it there. While Putin's policies could have been much worse – it is legitimate to give him credit where it is due – Russia should not be allowed to take the West for granted. Nothing would be gained by breaking with Russia and engaging in confrontation with it, but there is no reason not to respond to Realpolitik with Realpolitik.

Konstanty Gebert is a leading Polish security analyst and commentator. Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2006. www.project-syndicate.org

Sales and Marketing Director Pierre Imad

Marketing questions

By: Pierre Imad
Imadpi@yahoo.com

GSM has shown how its tried and true technology gives new PCS carriers a fast head start over competitors. GSM offers the widest availability of handsets and infrastructure equipment. GSM's feature-rich, mature digital technology and use of smart cards provide added security and flexibility to carriers in providing valuable customer service.

The GSM bandwagon leads the parade. GSM was the first and today remains the only digital PCS technology in widespread commercial use in the world. With time to market a key to success, GSM is a major plus.

In my work as director of sales, marketing and customer care in such a GSM company, it's very interesting to hear how people interchange the terms sales and marketing. It's very common for salespeople to refer to themselves as marketing representatives and for marketing managers to have no idea about the sales process and how it fits into their marketing efforts. I've noticed that more and more didn't discover the exact difference between sales and marketing.

I've been asked this question many times at marketing and sales seminars I've conducted. Succinctly, the marketer "parachutes" into a country, culture or economy that currently doesn't have the product or service; he or she creates the need, develops the requirements and salesmen follow to take orders. Having worked in many countries in the global marketplace, I've successfully used this definition worldwide. Some will disagree, but it works. Best regards and I wish you all success in the global marketplace.

Marketing is figuring out what the customer is going to need, finding a way to satisfy that need and making a profit doing it. A function within marketing, sales is responsible for managing customer interface and ensuring that it's easy for the customer to get and pay for the product or service. Sales sells what we have, whereas marketing looks for unmet needs - existing or emerging - and finds a way to satisfy those needs profitably. I'll briefly reply to confusing questions like:

What's the difference between marketing and sales?

Let's think about this question for a moment. Without marketing, you wouldn't have prospects or leads to follow up with, but yet without a good sales technique and strategy, your closing rate may depress you.

Marketing is everything you do to reach and persuade prospects. The sales process is everything you do to close the sale and get a signed contract or agreement. Both are necessary for a business's success and you can't do without either process. By strategically combining both efforts, you'll experience a successful amount of business growth. However, by the same token, if efforts are unbalanced, they can detour your growth.

Marketing consists of measures used to reach and persuade prospects that you're the company for them. It's the message that prepares them for sales and consists of advertising, public relations, brand marketing, viral marketing and direct mail.

The sales process consists of interpersonal interaction, often done via one-on-one meetings, cold calls and networking. It's anything that engages you with the prospect or customer on a personal level rather than at a distance.

Your marketing efforts begin the process of the eight contacts which studies show it takes to move a prospect or potential client to the close of the sale. If marketing is done effectively, you can begin to move that prospect from a cold to a warm lead. Once the prospect hits the "warm" level, it's much easier for the sales



Pierre Imad, Sales and Marketing Director.

professional to close the sale.

Which is correct: Marketing and Communications or Marketing Communications?

Marketing is everything you do to move your product or service, including research, branding, pricing, design, product placement, distribution channels, advertising, etc. In its broadest sense, communications is the design and delivery of messages, which can be anything from speeches to internal staff communications. So, Marketing Communications is that branch of communications dedicated to supporting marketing efforts.

If you label your department Marketing Communications, you're saying it handles ONLY that type of communications. If you call it Marketing AND Communications, you're saying it handles both the marketing and broader communications functions.

What is marketing?

Ask most people about marketing and they'll talk about advertising. Why? Because advertising is the end result of a long marketing process - and the only part the general public actually observes. Behind the scenes though are hundreds of individuals and thousands of hours of marketing work involved in every product you see advertised.

This becomes problematic when advertising consumers become marketing creators, as they assume they should begin with advertising. That's like assuming that building a house begins with selecting paint and wallpaper because that's the part that's most visible and with which you're most familiar.

So what is marketing?

Marketing is the study and practice of better, faster, cheaper and friendlier - "Making things go more smoothly," as I tell my agents. The product or service a company provides is the "what" of its existence, whereas marketing is the "how." In a business setting, our "what" is the spreading of the word of the director, manager, etc. We want to grow the company, heal the world and bring the good news to those that haven't heard it. Those are all answers to the question, "What should the business be doing?" The question, "How can we do those things better?" is one that marketing can help answer.

So, where do we start? Good marketing begins with some basic ideas that can help any organization - including your business - accomplish many objectives long before venturing into the realm of advertising.

Discuss the difference between sales and marketing orientations.

First, sales-oriented firms focus on their own needs; market-oriented firms focus on customers' needs and preferences. Second, sales-oriented companies consider themselves deliverers of goods and services, whereas market-oriented companies

view themselves as satisfiers of customers.

Third, sales-oriented firms direct their products to everyone; market-oriented firms aim at specific segments of the population. Fourth, although the primary goal of both types of firms is profit, sales-oriented businesses pursue maximum sales volume through intensive promotion, whereas market-oriented businesses pursue customer satisfaction through coordinated activities.

Marketing is what companies do to get sales. Marketing is part of the product today, what's chosen to sell and how it's promoted, displayed and advertised. Sales are the efforts or practices used to actually sell the item. Discounts and special stores sales are both selling and marketing.

Are you unsure of how to integrate your marketing and sales?

Try this. Take a few moments and divide your prospect lists and database into categories of cold, warm and hot leads. Then sit down and identify a strategy on how to proceed with each individual group.

For example, you could try the following contact methods:

- **Cold lead strategy** - Send out a direct mailing or offer them a special promotion.

- **Warm lead strategy** - Try a follow-up call, send out a sales letter or schedule a special seminar or training session to get all of your warm leads together.

Once you've moved your prospect to the "warm" level, it's time to proceed in closing the sale. This will be easier to do if you somehow engage the prospect. You can do this by conducting a one-on-one call, making a presentation or presenting a proposal, estimate or contract.

What's the difference between marketing, advertising and sales?

This is a common question and a lot of people confuse these various terms. First of all, marketing encompasses a wide range of both analysis and tactics. For example, marketing involves doing customer analysis, including market segmentation, market perceptions and market sizing, but also competitive analysis and reactions, target segment selection, positioning, branding, advertising, sales, promotions, channels of distribution arrangement and management, product line decisions, sales force management and more. You can see that marketing involves numerous activities

Advertising is a marketing tactic. It involves a number of activities to be sure, but it really focuses on communicating a message to the market (which it partly shares with Public Relations).

Sales also is a marketing tactic, as this typically is what the sales force does. But it's marketing's job to focus the entire marketing effort (of which the sales force is one part) toward providing what customers want and

gaining a sustainable strategic advantage.

How do sales and marketing complement each other?

Sales and marketing complement each other by making an association that facilitates both means. Good marketing leads to better sales, whereas better sales ensure that new marketing and promotional trends are introduced into the market. Much focus and planning is done in the business sector to boost sales and marketing productivity. New and innovative plans are introduced to ensure that the sales process is backed up with proper and professional marketing.

There are several ways and modus operandi through which sales and advertising efficiency can be enhanced. Smart planning and wise investment can ensure that sales and marketing trends are carried out in a professional manner.

The numerous ways sales and marketing complement each other include:

- Marketing trends exclusively determine the amount of sales a business or product will have. Most businesses work hard to make marketing plans and strategies that will impact the general and public sector. The marketing plan helps increase business sales and attract potential buyers to the product. Consequently, this results in sales increase.
- Marketing is the only means to represent sales in the public and corporate sector. If the marketing mechanism is inappropriate, then the business will not get the proper build-up in the market and will find it relatively difficult to propel sales in a competitive market where making a brand name is very necessary.
- An organization's marketing promotion plans new and innovative ways to promote new and improved marketing standards that will complement sales by consequently helping sales betterment and better marketing productivity.
- Revenues generated from sales complement investments made for building new marketing mechanisms and strategies. Marketing a product requires financial investments and sales help to generate those investments. If sales are insufficient, then this could adversely affect the marketing strategy.

The major difference between sales and marketing is that sales refers to conserving assets by advertising products, while marketing is a mechanism through which sales mechanisms are introduced to the general market and the way through which the product is introduced into the market to increase sales. Therefore, marketing can be considered an integral part of sales, as it directly influences the amount of sales a company processes and makes.

Goals and results:

Marketing/sales promotion essentially strives to entice prospective customers to come to the seller. Sales/personal salesmanship strives to locate and go to the buyer. Logic and common sense tell us that the former situation is preferable. A strong marketing/sales promotion program must have the overall effect of lowering a company's 'sales cost' and increasing lead and inquiry activity.

A balanced program now introduces an equally strong personal salesmanship effort to qualify the customer's need, offer the company's product in an attractive fashion and close the sale. Individual players in this effort ideally will have high product knowledge and application skills. Nothing puts a customer in the comfort zone or closes the sale faster than dealing with a salesperson who demonstrates a substantial depth of product knowledge combined with sincere prudence in making a good application. The net result of such an effort invariably will be a sales increase at lower sales cost and at better margins.

Earlier, I stressed the advisability of a balanced program in all sizes of organizations. The relative scope of activity may range from the independent "sales rep" maintaining and implementing a small monthly direct mail program to the larger manufacturer who utilizes every form of advertising, public relations, trade shows and media support activities.

If the need for strong sales promotional effort is demonstrated and justified by our peers in consumer product marketing - where every chimney represents a potential customer for a kitchen broom - then the same need is even more justified in industrial capital equipment. Not every smokestack is a qualified potential customer for an expensive, powered floor-sweeping machine.

Do an ongoing and thorough job of telling the whole industrial world about your unique product or capability and then when the need exists for your unique product, system or service, informed potential customers will seek you out. A capital equipment manufacturer with an effective and balanced program will have maintained a high level of public awareness and made his product "easy to find" and "less costly to sell." If it costs less, you sell more.

A strong promotional marketing program offers additional benefit of giving the sales force the advantage of a degree of choice in which inquiries they pursue the hardest. Obviously, the more leads or inquiries generated, the greater likelihood that there will exist a higher number of good matches between prospective customers and your company's product or service. The element of choice tends to improve your percentage of closed sales and improve margins on sales made. Once again, a picture emerges: lower sales cost, higher volume and increased profit.

There are pitfalls inherent to a pronounced imbalance in either direction. In rare cases where the marketing/sales promotional program is weighted more heavily than the sales capability, the problem is more apparent and thus may be diagnosed and remedied.

The more common pitfall is a lack of sufficient marketing/sales promotional activity. This shortcoming often is misdiagnosed as a sales/personal salesmanship problem, when the real culprit is an organization using expensive salespeople to do a job that can be done far better and at much lower cost by traditional marketing disciplines of advertising and public relations.

No capital equipment manufacturer can hope to realize maximum sales efficiency without a carefully planned and structured program drawing equally on the two principal distribution vehicles: sales and marketing.

Business In Brief

Mukalla city is hosting meetings of the 17th session of the Yemeni-Saudi Coordination Council, co-chaired by Yemeni Prime Minister Abdulqader Bajammal and Saudi crown prince Sultan Bin Abdulaziz, deputy premier, Defense and Aviation Minister and general inspector.

The meetings include signing six cooperation agreements, including building a road in Sa'ada, as well as major roads in various governorates, and a YR 100 million export supply line in the electrical power field. Other cooperation agreements to be signed are in social affairs and fish wealth.

Meetings also will discuss various cooperation aspects, especially regarding development, such as requesting new Saudi financing for roads, electricity and vocational training.

The French embassy in Sana'a and the UNDP organized a May 28-30 symposium on fighting corruption. According to a French embassy press release, five French experts, including two judges, a member of the corruption prevention department, a member of the accountability office and a legal counselor from the United Nations agreements section, explained the U.N. agreement on combating corruption and gave a brief account of France's experience in fighting corruption. Approximately 130 Yemeni trainees attended symposium workshops at the Central Apparatus for Monitoring and Audition.

Mohammed Omar Falhoom, Chairman of the Hadramout Chamber of Commerce and Industry's board of directors, revealed establishing a five square kilometer investment zone at Al-Wadecaa crossing for an industrial area for building economically feasible investment projects.

He pointed out that work is scheduled to be inaugurated in the coming days, affirming that the customs authority currently is completing supplies and arrangements for the crossing, including the operation's mechanisms, providing goods storage warehouses and other components.

Falhoom said the recommendation came to activate trade work at the crossing area, transforming it from just an ordinary travel crossing for individuals into an economic trade crossing, thereby meeting the existing state of development.

Yemen's Cabinet approved tender for an \$18.97 million Italian-funded project to build a coastal monitoring radar system.

The project, scheduled for implementation in two years, includes designing, importing, experimental operating, central training and controlling of radar systems in Sana'a and Aden, in addition to two mobile stations, six local control centers and several stations according to the need.

The aim is to form a monitoring system to cover the coastline from Khoukha to Shaqra, in addition to maintenance work for two years after first delivery of the project, which is part of developing Yemen's coast guard activity.

The joint Yemeni-Gulf preparatory committee for the conference on exploring investment opportunities in Yemen recently met in Riyadh to discuss, analyze and choose one of the offers by international firms for the conference's organization, scheduled for February 6-8, 2007.

Dr. Mohamed Al-Maitami, head of the committee's Yemeni side and director general of the Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, explained that the third meeting drew up referential conditions for investment opportunities to be reviewed at the conference, organized by Yemen and the GCC general secretariat.

Exchange rate of some currencies

Currency	Buying	Selling
US Dollar	196.6900	196.9300
Sterling Pound	366.4200	366.8700
Euro	250.9900	251.2900
Saudi Rial	52.4500	52.5100
Kuwaiti Dinar	680.1500	680.9800
UAE Dirhem	53.5600	53.6300
Egyptian Pound	34.1000	34.1400
Japanese Yen	1.752093	1.754231

Source: www.centralbank.gov.ye

Abdurrahman Sa'eed resigns football



Yemen's National Football Team

Yemen's National Football Team star Abdurrahman Sa'eed resigned the game last week. On the occasion, Al-Meraysi Stadium in Sana'a hosted a match between the national team and the UAE Al Ain Team Friday morning.

The meeting ended with the visiting team scoring a 3-2 victory over the national team, formed of players from Ahli Sana'a and Helal Al-Hodeida teams. Sa'eed played during the first half an hour of the meeting.

The resigned player received honors from Minister of Youth and

Sports Abdurrahman Al-Akwa'a, Minister of State and Secretary



General of the Capital Yahya Al-Shu'aibi, Head of the Yemeni Football Federation and Al Ain Club Chairman.

Also, he was granted around 4.3 million Yemeni Riyals from companies and personalities interested in sports.

Many football lovers took participated the resignation festival of the brilliant footballer, who reached good achievements in local and international participations throughout his career that lasted for nearly 20 years.

The 38-year old player has a record of glorious accomplishments in local and international participations and is considered one of the best players in the history of Yemeni football. He played for Ahli Al-Hodeida for a while and then transferred to Ahli Sana'a. Sa'eed represented the national team in 71 international participations.

Former team's coach back in Yemen



Rabeh Sadan

The former national football team's Coach Algerian Rabeh Sadan returned to Sana'a four days ago after a couple of months in his home country. Sadan made a surprise departure from Yemen quitting the responsibility of coaching Yemen's national team over an alleged lack of sports authorities' interaction with his coaching program.

The Algerian was engaged in a quarrel with the Temporary Committee of the Yemeni Football Federation (YFF) prior to YFF board elections. Until now there has been no confirmation whether Sadan will reassume duty to coach the team.

Sixth Bike Race Championship concludes

The Republic Sixth Bike Race Championship in Taiz, which involved 12 senior and junior teams, was organized from May 12-24 in Taiz. The participating teams represented the capital, Sana'a, Aden, Taiz, Ibb, Hodeida, Hadramout Al-Wadi, Hadramout Al-Sahel, Al-Dhale', Lahj, Abyan and Dhamar competed in four races ranging from 30-116 kilometers.

The 60-kilometer race per hour started from Hajda to Al-Barh Market and back to the start point with Al-Shurta team from the capital winning the title as it finished within an hour, 34 minutes and 55 seconds. AL-Sehha team from Taiz finished within one hour, 43 minutes and 12 seconds and Hassan Abyan within one hour and 49 minutes while Al-Wahdah from Hadramout hit the end point within 2 hours, 26 minutes and 12 seconds.

In the 116-kilometer race staged last Wednesday, racer Saleh Al-Reyashi from Al-Shurta finished first and Mohamed Abdullah Al-Faqih from the same team second while Walid Farid Qahawish from Al-Sehah team hit the end point third.

Top winners received honors at an awarding ceremony following the race in the presence of Abdulqader Hatem, Deputy Governor of Taiz for Technical and Environmental Affairs and Abdullah Al-Anmari, Manager of Taiz Youth and Sports Office.

Sha'ab Ibb restores Premier League's third position

By: Ismail Al-Ghabri

Scoring a 2-1 victory over its guest Al-Shu'alah in a home match Friday within the 17th round competitions, Sha'ab Ibb restores the third position in the Premier League. The winner increased its points to 30, keeping dreams of the season's title alive while the visiting team remained in the tenth place with 19 points.

At the International 22 May Stadium in Aden, titleholder Al-Telal defeated its guest Al-Yarmouk 2-0. Forward Qais Mohamed Saleh scored the first goal in minute 16 of the first half and fallback Ahmad Al-Wadi added the second in minute 26 of the second half. The former jumped to the sixth position in the premier league with 25 points while the latter retreated to rank No. 7 with 22 points.

Al-Rashid Team from Taiz won 1-0 over its guest Hassan from Abyan through striker Yousif Othman in minute 13 of the first half to advance to the fifth place with 25 points while the visiting team fell back to the position No. 8 with 22 points.

In Hodeida, Sha'ab Hadramout thwarted progress of Shabab Al-Jeel after the latter suffered a 1-0 defeat at home soil to remain in the 12th place with 18 points. The away win brought to 22 the number of Sha'ab Hadramout's points in the Premier League's tenth place.

The 17th round competitions concluded Saturday with a game pitting 22 May Team from Sana'a with Tadamun Shabwah. The match ended with Tadamun Shabwa scoring a 1-0 victory over the host team.

This round encounters kicked off last Thursday with Helal Al-Hodeida proving its capability to be the closest runner of Al-Saqr Team, who tops the Premier League, when it won 3-2 over Ahli Sana'a in an away battle. The visiting team increased its points to 32 in the second place while the host



Sha'ab Ibb team.

PHOTO BY NASHWAN DAMMAJ

retreated to the fourth rank with 28 points.

At Al-Shahid Al-Qibsi Stadium in Ibb, Al-Saqr from Taiz knocked Ta'awen Ba'adan 1-0 through its Ethiopian professional player Younandos in minute 44 of the first

half. With its points amounting to 37, Al-Saqr maintains top place in the league with a 5-point difference from its runner Helal Al-Hodeida.

The table below shows the ranks of teams along with their points after the 17th round was over.

The timetable showing the league's matches

Team	Plays	Win	Draw	Loss	Goals for	Goals against	Points
Al-Saqr	17	11	4	2	29	11	37
Helal Hodeida	17	9	5	3	29	15	31
Sha'ab Ibb	17	8	6	3	24	18	30
Ahli Sana'a	17	8	4	5	27	20	28
Al-Rashid	17	7	4	6	15	18	25
Al-Telal	17	8	1	8	19	24	25
Hassan	17	5	7	5	18	15	22
Al-Yarmouk	17	6	4	7	19	22	22
Sha'ab Hadramout	17	6	4	7	17	24	22
Tadamun Shabwa	17	7	-	10	21	27	21
Al-Shu'la	17	4	7	6	14	21	19
Shabab Al-Jeel	17	5	2	9	18	22	18
22 May	17	5	3	9	17	27	18
Ta'awen Ba'adan	17	4	2	11	21	32	14

بقلوب مؤمنة بقضاء الله وقدره نتقدم بخالص العزاء وأصدق المواساة إلى سعادة السيد/ علي سيف سلطان سفير دولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة في صنعاء في وفاة المغفور لها بإذن الله تعالى والدته الفاضلة سائلين المولى عز وجل أن يتغمد الفقيدة بواسع الرحمة والمغفرة ويسكنها فسيح جناته ويلهم أهلها ونوبها الصبر والسلوان إنا لله وإنا إليه راجعون

الأسيفون
د. صلاح الدين هداش، عادل جاوي
د. همدان دماج، الأستاذ/ محمد بن سلام

Job Announcement

Position: Administrative / Financial assistant
Report to: The Administrative / Finance Director

Job Summary:
The Administrative/Finance Assistant is responsible for providing the support to the Administrative/Finance Director to ensure the control of funds and the implementation of the financial procedures in compliance with Pathfinder policies and procedures, USAUD financial regulations and the Yemeni Laws on taxation and social security. The Administrative/finance Assistant is responsible for assisting in the implementation of all Financial and Administrative functions of Pathfinder for the BHS Project in Yemen.

Duties and Responsibilities:
Work closely with project staff to ensure that adequate internal control procedures are being followed at the BHS Project with respect to the management of cash resources, assets and compliance with Pathfinder guidelines.

- Assist in the preparation and the review of the Travel Expense Vouchers (TEVs) and Travel Authorizations.
- Assist in maintaining filing systems and other related documents for Finance & Administration to ensure an adequate control system for monitoring the fund's expenditure.
- Assist in coordinating consultancy agreements and relevant payments as needed.
- Monitor the expenditure and payments to the local sub-contracts for construction/renovation and training.
- Prepare and update the sub-contract's report prior to the process of any new payment.
- Reconcile the sub-contract's reports with the monthly expenditure report from HQ.
- Provide support to the program/technical staff in preparing for training activities, meetings and other similar events.
- Review the staff advance settlements.
- Review the request for Petty Cash reimbursement.
- Perform other duties as required.

Job Requirements:

- Degree in Accounting, Finance or similar discipline and minimum of three years work experience in general accounting and administration, preferably with USAID-assisted projects and/or health or social service NGOs like Pathfinder International.
- Experience in a non-profit environment, preferably international.
- Good command of English language.
- Excellent organizational skills, detail oriented and high degree of accuracy; strong analytical skills and sound judgment.
- Ability to work independently and as a member of a team.
- Solid computer skills in Windows, Microsoft Word and Excel.

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World No Tobacco Day

The World Health Organisation (WHO) estimates that about one third of the global adult population, or 1.1 billion people are smokers.

First held in 1988, and observed annually on May 31st, the World No Tobacco Day is the only event established to call attention to the impact of tobacco use on public health and reduce individual tobacco-dependence.

In 1987, the World Health Assembly of the World Health Organization (WHO) designated the 40th anniversary of the WHO, April 7, 1988, as World No-Tobacco Day. The objective was to encourage all tobacco users throughout the world to quit for at least 24 hours, recognizing the tremendous harm tobacco use causes to the health of people throughout the world. World No-Tobacco Day is now held annually on May 31.

Approximately 1.1 billion people around the world smoke. Of these 1.1 billion smokers, around 3.5 million die every year as a result of tobacco-related illnesses. This is equal to the entire population of Alberta, or 10,000 deaths per day. It is predicted that tobacco will be the leading cause of death and disability in the world by the year 2020.

A World Bank study, "The Economic Costs and Benefits of Investing in Tobacco," estimated that the health care costs associated with tobacco-related illnesses result in a global net loss of US \$200 billion per year, half of this occurring in developing countries.

The same World Bank study indicates that tobacco-use prevention programs rank among the most cost-effective of all health interventions.



risk factor for disease worldwide. The economic costs of tobacco use are equally devastating. In addition to the high public health costs of treating tobacco-caused diseases, tobacco kills people at the height of their productivity, depriving families of breadwinners and nations of a healthy workforce. Tobacco users are also less productive while they are alive due to increased sickness. A 1994 report estimated that the use of tobacco resulted in an annual global net loss of US\$ 200 thousand million, a third of this loss being in developing countries.

Tobacco and poverty are inextricably linked. Many studies have shown that in the poorest households in some low-income countries as much as 10% of total household expenditure is on tobacco. This means that these families have less money to spend on basic items such as food, education and health care. In addition to its direct

impact on tobacco consumption. The most cost-effective strategies are population-wide public policies, like bans on direct and indirect tobacco advertising, tobacco tax and price increases, smoke-free environments in all public and workplaces, and large clear graphic health messages on tobacco packaging. All these measures are discussed on the provisions of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control.

Last February, Countries around the world are taking effective measures to curb tobacco use, including strong legislation, graphic warning labels and advertising bans. These positive changes reinforce the commitment made by the more than 110 countries meeting this week to decide on the detailed implementation of the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC).

Many of the countries joining this first Conference of the Parties (COP) in Geneva have already implemented some of the measures in the convention. Ireland, Norway and Spain, for example, have recently banned smoking in indoor public places. India has comprehensive tobacco advertising bans. Brazil, Canada, Thailand and Singapore print graphic warnings on cigarette packages. These are just some of the examples of efforts which will contribute to a major reduction in tobacco deaths.

"This group has already changed history," said Dr LEE Jong-wook, Director-General of the World Health Organization. "The convention is something that we all committed to. Its provisions are bold. They are based on knowledge of what is effective. We will make it work."

Dr Lee made his comments to the first Conference of the Parties (COP) meeting this week in Geneva. The COP is the governing body of the Treaty. It serves as the authority to oversee, monitor and evaluate progress of the Treaty, in order to reduce tobacco consumption and tobacco-related deaths globally.

Concrete measures included in the Treaty could help save 200 million lives by the year 2050, if a progressive 50%

reduction in uptake and consumption rates is achieved. Many measures in the WHO FCTC have deadlines and clear guidelines. For example, from the Treaty's entry into force, countries have three years to enforce health warnings on tobacco products, and five years to implement comprehensive bans on tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship.

Other measures, such as those regarding illicit trade or cross-border advertising, have not yet been detailed in the Treaty. The COP could decide to develop protocols and specific guidelines and requirements for countries to implement these measures.

The COP will likely also consider other measures to ensure the effective implementation of the rest of the treaty provisions. These might include financial support for developing countries, or mechanisms to ensure that countries do not fall behind in their implementation progress.

In February 2007, the first Contracting Parties will submit to the COP initial reports on their progress, specifying what actions they have taken to implement the tobacco control measures established in the Treaty. "This is a crucial time for people suffering the consequences of tobacco use," said Dr Yumiko Mochizuki-Kobayashi, Director of the WHO Tobacco Free Initiative. "Tobacco is still the top preventable cause of death. The goal is to see it fall from that position in our lifetime. With continued commitment from Member States, we will achieve that goal."

Sources: WHO - Free Tobacco Initiative And World No Tobacco Day



Why is tobacco a public health priority?

Tobacco is the second major cause of death in the world. It is currently responsible for the death of one in ten adults worldwide (about 5 million deaths each year). If current smoking patterns continue, it will cause some 10 million deaths each year by 2020. Half the people that smoke today - that is about 650 million people - will eventually be killed by tobacco.

Tobacco is the fourth most common

health effects, tobacco leads to malnutrition, increased health care costs and premature death. It also contributes to a higher illiteracy rate, since money that could have been used for education is spent on tobacco instead. Tobacco's role in exacerbating poverty has been largely ignored by researchers in both fields.

Experience has shown that there are many cost-effective tobacco control measures that can be used in different settings and that can have a significant

Facts about tobacco

- Every year, tobacco kills 3.5 million people around the world. In other words, about 10,000 people around the world die from tobacco every day.
- One million of these deaths currently occur in developing countries

Although there are significant gender differences, women are unfortunately catching up

- Globally, nearly 47% of men and 12% of women smoke
- In developing countries, 48% of men and 7% of women smoke
- In developed countries, 42% of men smoke, as do 24% of women

Children are susceptible

- The global tobacco epidemic is predicted to prematurely claim the lives of some 250 million children and adolescents, a third of whom are in developing countries

The impact is long-term

- China predicts that of the 300 million males now aged 0-29, about

- 200 million will become smokers.
- Of these 200 million smokers, about 100 million will eventually die from tobacco-related diseases and half of these deaths will occur in middle-age and before age 70.
- It is predicted that by the year 2020, tobacco will become the leading cause of death and disability, killing more than 10 million people annually, thus causing more deaths than HIV, tuberculosis, maternal mortality, motor vehicle accidents, suicide, and homicide combined.

Financial toll

- A World Bank study, "The Economic Costs and Benefits of Investing in Tobacco," estimated that the health care costs associated with tobacco-related illnesses result in a global net loss of US\$ 200 billion per year, half of those occurring in developing countries.
- The same World Bank study indicates that tobacco-use prevention programs rank among the most cost-effective of all health interventions.

- In a developing country with a per capita gross domestic product of US\$ 2,000, effective smoking prevention costs approximately US\$ 20 to US\$ 40 per year of life gained. On the other hand, lung cancer treatment, which can prolong the lives of only about 10% of affected people, would cost US\$ 18,000 per year of life gained.
- It is predicted that for every additional 1,000 tons of tobacco consumption, there will be an additional 650 deaths, for a net cost to the world economy of US\$ 27.2 million dollars.
- Those who quit using tobacco make substantial savings through unbought tobacco products and lowered health care costs. For example, in the U.S., a 12-year old who invests the money he or she could spend in a lifetime pack-a-day habit in a money-market account (paying eight percent interest annually) instead, that person would save US\$ 100,000 by age 39 and US\$ 1 million by age 65.

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