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Inside:



Childhood discussed at Taiz University conference





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) 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?

- No - I don't know

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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 Rasae 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 nonvaccinated 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

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.

Activities

Besides professional trainings the

صنعاء ـ ش حدة ـ جوار عمارة الغراسي

The World on Time



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.

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 12.00-15.30.

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 Nieuwspoort, Lange Poten 10 in The Hague, the Netherlands between

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 Offenberg (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-inof the Yemen Times from Yemen. She is one of the rare, young female editor-in-chiefs from the ference on the 8th June starting at 14.00.

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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

• 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 Iournalists in Amman and one of the architects of the Investing in the Future Program.

The press is invited to assist at the con-

homes damaged by flooding

Socotra

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, Bedhaula, 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

عبرالعالم في الوقت تماماً 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 خدمات التخليص للعملاء مجانا LINE organization.



dom. Yemen Ecommerce Technology

Several participants spoke at the symposium, including former head of the journalists syndicate Abdulbari Tahir, who confirmed Yemeni press in particular and the democratic experience in general are undergoing transition from a The discussion panel. totalitarian peri-

od 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 free-

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



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 exunity totalitarian experience. Many political parties accepted the democratic margin under the pretext of protect-

Continued on page 2



Saudi Arabia returns 70 Yemeni children SANA'A, May 31 — Saudi Arabian authorities recently returned 70 Yemeni children who earlier had infil-

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

trated Saudi territories in search of

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.

toward Saudi border areas.

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

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 prob-

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 organiza-

Childhood discussed at Taiz University conference

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

leap in the context of the university's

"Taiz University sees that caring for childhood directly cares for higher education's future, which in turn cares for the country's future so that development is ensured," he

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.



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

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.

U.S. watercrafts intercept Yemeni fishing boats

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

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-

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

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.

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 mil-

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.

\$36 million granted annually for student scholarships abroad

SANA'A, May 31 — Official reports \$36 million annually, indicating that 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 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

Sa'ada police seize hashish traffickers

SA'ADA, May 30 — Sa'ada security authorities seized two hashish smugglers Monday morning near Razeh 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 Prosecution for investigation and

Hajjah 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 being held at Razeh Police Station there, it's shipped to numerous Gulf and due to be transferred to states, including Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar and other regional

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

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

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. AlJaradi 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

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 reha-

Amran Gov. Taha Hajir, U.S. Ambassador to Yemen Thomas Krajeski, 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 system and five hand-pumps enabling users

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 project. 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 man-

agement 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 willing-

ness to devote time and energy to cleanness 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,

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 natu-

Is local authority governance diminishing?

By: Mohamed Ragih

stablishing 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 ment 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 dating back to the days of the establish- councils should have monitored their executive institutions in their districts

and governorates and brought them to

Jobless councils

Six years elapsed with seemly 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

Failure of the fourth conference

The development plans sector in the ministry of planning and development, issued a report reviewing the third fifthplan of the local development of 2006-2010. It assessed the local councils' performance as lacking infrastructures with incompleted 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

Mohamed Ragih is a Yemeni journalist.

Spacetel Yemen launches Customer Self Service Project

n the occasion of the 16th Anniversary of Yemeni Reunification, Spacetel 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 Spacetel Yemen, stated the project includes advanced technology and modern information system for

customers' service. "It is a guiding system information technologies enabling customers to serve themselves easily by touching an electronic screen, which displays data

to services provided by Spacetel Yemen," Akkaoui added. The system facilitates the process

of obtaining detailed information very

The project's inauguration is part of a Spacetel 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 Spacetel Yemen's point-



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

By: Patrick Cockburn

raq 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

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 soldiers staying is presumably so the US a bit as some Sunni look for American 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

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

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 scuttle which would look like America's last days in Vietnam.

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- Applicants can check the status of their application online using the above URL.
- Please make sure that your Application contains all the needed **personal**, **contact** and **qualification** information.
- Faxed or Handed-In CV's will **NOT be considered**.



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

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 devel-

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.

"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

hile 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 itance 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

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

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' 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-yearold 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 about my mother's money because I 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

me to accept work as a servant to provide for my children," said 40-yearold Nabila Ahmed, who claims to have been deprived of her late father's rich-

women of their inheritance rights has 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 uments 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 knowl-

> "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 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 "My bad financial situation forced 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

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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.

Opinion 1 June, 2006

Questions & answers on the Arabs reality (1-3)

ity evolved into conundrums some try to decipher while others remain bewildered at finding a solution to them? Have our conditions become a crossword puzzle for which we no longer know how to find the proper words or even how to look



for them? Moreover, have we reached a day when all questions have piled up in our minds after all those ludicrous and grievous happenings we witness and

surprises and bizarre events that dragged us into labyrinths and a world of irrationalism and thus answers for them as part of a locked secret? These questions crowded my mind while deeply pondering situations of

to concentrate on finding answers to a limited number of them. Each answer involves a huge title for in-depth research containing the ailment and the

our Arab and Islamic nation and trying

cure, the problem and the solution. A satellite television channel recently raised 50 questions to be answered in one minute. From this hard task, I emerged with a heavy burden of woes which pushed me to communicate some of those questions to readers and researchers to answer

One question asked about the most prominent problem facing the

I think it's ignorance, resulting not only from the mechanism, but rather from reality - past, present and future events. It results from neglecting to face facts and learn lessons, lagging behind the procession and accepting reality as it is and by thinking it's the best attitude. Moreover, ignorance springs from misunderstanding the core of our ideology and failing to understand religious Sharia law, which God bestowed upon us and gave us the highest human position.

The second question was about the most embarrassing stages our nation

Most stages were critical since the beginning of history to wars and conflicts over power, disintegration, the terms of Andalusia and the Crusades. All are events leading to colonization periods, the Palestinian tragedy, the June 5, 1967 setback, the invasion of Kuwait, the 1994 secessionist war in Yemen, the fall of Baghdad and other defeats, setbacks, bloody events and uncountable mistakes.

However, I think our contemporary history's most critical stage is the one in which we are living because it will be a crucial one. Either we will emerge from it safely to resume the march and create a place for us on the new world map or get lost on the "road map" designed for us by others who are usurpers and become drowned in labyrinths of greed and humiliation, ending in cessation.

The first problem we must overcome is that of disputes that contributed to dismembering the nation. It has eased the task of those with suspicious schemes, concocted intentions and ambitions for our wealth and enmity toward our values and Sharia law. The beginning lies in abandoning singlehanded performance and using violence and terrorism to tackle our issues or express an opinion or stance. This approach has harmed Arabs as a nation and people and provided hostile forces with pretexts to implement their plots and achieve their purposes.

The most important issue that must be subjected to dialogue is that related to Arab youths' problems. It's an urgent issue whereupon it's inevitable to begin constructive dialogue and discuss its causes and means of treatment before it's too late. All statistics indicate that the majority of our nation's sons are youth below age 25, comprising 60 to 65 percent of the population, with four million young people annually entering the Arab market in search of job opportunities. The unemployment rate will rise to 20 percent of the Arab workforce's bulk volume.

Youth problems nowadays are too numerous, beginning from wrong education curricula, receding of correct guidance and the role of media and satellite channels and the spacious vacuum they experience in many countries. This leads us to two basic problems to which we must admit when youth reach a crossroads. They will face only two options: either deviation with all of its sins, firstly addiction and extremism, or falling victim to those encouraging terror and accusing family, society and homelands of being infi-

Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Tarb is an economist and a professor in Political Science. He is the head of a number of professional associations, such as the Arab Group for Investment and Development.

Attempting to walk a rough road

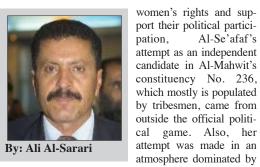
n an address before supporters, Mahfoudha Hassan Al-Se'afaf reviewed a list of demands she promised to fulfill if she won the election. Al-Se'afaf stated to the public, "We may fail, but we have to

Opposition and independent candidates who stood in April 2003's most

recent parliamentary elections behaved in a manner similar to Al-Se'afaf. Perceiving its difficulties and risks, all made the attempt but weren't surprised by their poor results after vote counts. Al-Se'afaf's attempt wasn't normal and any difficulties or risks associated with it were unfamiliar. When anyone recollects information relating to her attempt, he or she will be convinced that it was more complicated, unique and exciting.

Women's representation in the 301seat Parliament is confined to a single woman, who came from the most urban city of Aden via vote fraud by the General People's Congress (GPC) at the expense of the Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP) candidate. When international reports opposed her illegal win, the Supreme Commission for Elections and Referendum (SCER) unashamedly provided evidence that Inas Sultan is the sole woman and therefore, shouldn't be denied a Parliament post.

Contrary to such an attempt to help a woman win via vote fraud in a constituency mostly inhabited by educated individuals believed to have faith in



traditions that marginalize women, oppress them and deny them any right to participate in political life.

Al-Se'afaf's attempt came from outside the official political game which abides by a hollow form of democracy. When game players decided to have Sultan win, they pretended before donors that the government was interested in women's participation. This was the first reason. Secondly, they did so because the constituency's winner was a YSP candidate. The third reason was that none of the GPC's male members nominated themselves in the elections.

For Al-Se'afaf, the matter totally was different, since the public selected her to compete against the ruling party candidate, which is based on oppression, as well as criterion of selecting influential tribesmen to ensure state control of their areas in return for personal interests. Such tribesmen gain illegal interests via exploiting public and private property and denying citizens their right to free choice. They win elections only by vote fraud and use of power against their com-

Al-Se'afaf waited a long time for the

public to select a candidate to run against the ruling party's nominee, but nothing happened. As the election drew nearer and no independent candidate applied, she hurriedly submitted her documents and nominated herself a few minutes before the registration period ended. That day's sun set with a political and social battle erupting in Melhan district, involving those from different classes headed by a slim woman assuming the duty to lead her fellow local citizens. Al-Se'afaf assumed the duty to fulfill the expectations and hopes of angry locals, as well as organize them, direct them to break the hurdles restricting their movement and refusing to meet their demands. She nominated herself to put an end to illusion and outdated thoughts in the minds of men and liberate them under her leadership.

What often is said about talented leaders in different human experiences can be said about Al-Se'afaf. Her attempt left an example of well-defined goals, public awareness of supporters under female leadership, self-sacrifice for the nation's sake, integrity and dignity. Removing her veil before people was the first thing Al-Se'afaf did to prove to her fellow locals that women can lead their communities.

Male and female voters in constituency No. 236 were convinced that Al-Se'afaf would be in charge of their issues, since she had no personal interests likely to contradict her expected performance. She appeared as a leader granting trust and confidence to volunteers to join their fair battle. Visited by their female candidate, voters everywhere throughout the aforementioned constituency chanted her name, organized motorcades for her outings and promised to vote for her.

Rough roads in a rural constituency with a population scattered on mountain peaks were less risky than the rough policy placing Al-Se'afaf on the opposite side of the authority. Such policy waged wars on citizens and used various means of oppression against them, but their will was in favor of Al-Se'afaf. Thus, oppressive authorities and influential figures, who merely gain interests via illegal means, had no alternative but to employ fraud of voting results and deprive Al-Se'afaf of representing her locals and publicizing their issues and sufferings in Parliament.

All attempts at pressure failed to hinder Al-Se'afaf's determination, nor could they shake her self-confidence or the fair path she chose to walk, despite the fact that she experienced an assassination attempt. "Following the assassination attempt, I used to exert double effort to stand to my feet while meeting my supporters or opponents. Sometimes, I used to take painkillers in order not to appear weak before people," Al-Se'afaf recalled.

Al-Se'afaf's rivals won parliamentary elections by force, but the leading woman still has a strong determination to stand in upcoming local elections, never having submitted to what happened. She's now ready to make another attempt with the hope of overcoming any rough roads until her ambitions and her supporter's will are achieved.

Ali Al-Sarari is a Yemeni Journalist and a well-known politician. He is the head of the information department at the Yemeni

Yemeni-Egyptian relations seriously verified

Yemeni-Egyptian relations are now dealt with from a wider perspective, and in a different manner. However, the recent visit of Prime Minister Ahmed Nazif was not the only contribution to solidifying and



By: Atif Awad

verifying relations between these two brotherly nations. Minister Omer Suliman to Sana'a brief visit preceding this one, was of vital importance in this respect as well. Particular and general observers are predicting that some-

thing new is forming in the background between these two sides. Yet it could all mean a new and updated mechanism of cooperation between

Egypt and Yemen.

Assuming that the suppositions of sincerity observered from both sides are true, this would mean there has been serious reconsideration of the terms that originally led to the disruption of relations imposed by both sides. Arab and international developments have no doubt had their impact. Therefeore, national commitments to both Yemeni and Egyptian people may have provided enough motivation for reconsideration. If this assumption over the aim of the visits is true, it is hard to ignore the fact that these visits came too late. Likewise, it is logical to observe the proverb that says, "Better late, than never."

The Yemeni-Egyptian wish and need to put relations back on their right path and reinstate formal relations are now in earnest. While both sides are checking and reviewing the reasons for the long tepidity of relations, this does not diminish the urgent advice forward to both Egyptian guests and their Yemeni hosts. Historical facts show that Yemeni-Egyptian relations have never ceased, except when there was a lack of strategic vision from the political view point or the decision-making was not in the hands of the leaders of these two countries. The other unknown factor is the pact between the Red Sea gate of Egypt to the north and Yemen's southern gate of Bab-Almindub. The Yemeni-Egyptian deal at the time of President Sadat is worth mentioning. It was made during Egyptian preparations for the October 1973 war, where Yemen provided its commitment for the war. President Nasser of Egypt helped the Yemeni in the revolution of 1962, not for the sake of the Yemeni Copper and crude oil as some invented, but out of his deep consciousness of the role Yemeni people had in the world. This help would help rescue the Yemeni people of their binding In an interview with

one of the rebel officers, he mentioned being accompanied by another eleven republican leaders to Egypt, following the defeat of the Sana'a

blockade. They went there to report to Jamal Abdullnasir the story of their firm hold on the location until they were defeated by the besiegers. Following the withdrawal of the Egyptian troops to Sinai in 1967, the besiegers were encouraged and dreamt of taking Sana'a from the Republicans. The crisis of 1967 still pervaded over the Arab world and on Nasser in particular. The leader continued to say that they grasped the chance to communicate to Nasser their victory. He added that Nasser warmly received them and said "Sinai will be liberated sooner or later, but if Sana'a fell, the Arabs and the Yemeni will never rise." He was so affected that he shed tears of pleasure of the republican victory.

If the sincere ones considered Yemeni love for Egyptians and their culture, they will realize that the Yemenis are a system of love that can not be ignored. For generations the Yemenis have yearned for Egyptian thoughts, press, magazines, films songs, and anything of Egyptian Arabic aroma. They wouldl be distressed if Egypt stayed away from this Arab nation and ignored their fans.

Yemeni-Egyptian politicians both acknowledge the well-known tendencies of this period and the need for financial fusion in order to develop their countries. It will be irresponsible to neglect the economic cooperation between the two countries and Arabs as a whole. Cooperation and barter should be an endeavor for the country's leaders. The countries' doors should remain open for joint trade and investment. This requires an intellectual and conscientious inference with peer dealings free of legal complications. It will provide an alertness based solid grounds, endearing the two nations and their improvement. Politicians in both countries may win the support of the Yemeni and Egyptian nations, and who knows they may become a model for the rest of the Arab people. This unique Arabic fusion could be an attractive model as it is different from all other models.

Atif Awad is an Egyptian journalist and short story writer residing in Yemen.



the tourist capital of Yemen, Ibb has no gardens; except for one that can't even qualify as a garden. It is situated in the center of the city and it's surrounded with an endless number of cars and buses. The name: Sert Gulf By: Nashwan Dammaj

It's a relatively new name, attributed to those who immigrated to Libya instead of Saudi Arabia following Gulf War I. But these immigrants failed and came back to Yemen gathering at the park modeled after the Sert Gulf in Libva.

Garden or Khaleei Sert.

The garden with its limited area and humble components is considered the only resort for the inhabitants of this crowded Yemeni city.

The park as the kids call it, contains traditional games which compared to their counterparts elsewhere are considered nothing if not small. Yet this seems to suffice for these city children and even those coming from the countryside. Those children might find some sort of entertainment at the park as they haven't experienced such games elsewhere.

Children do in fact find some fancy there, especially when the garden's administration introduced a new game a few months ago. They can tower and circle air riding high above the ground

where things may seem different to them. The game catches adult attention as well.

The children seem to enjoy the thrill they get out of the game. Even though the machine runs on electricity, the owner of the game prefers to run or crank it manually by hand, a task that demands too much effort with each

cycle for the machine. Therefore the owner will let only three children tower it each time in order to make machine's rotation easy for him in spite of the fact that it can hold more and can be automated. Children after the first swing always want to make another round, but this is unattainable as each rotation costs fifty YR and it is too much for a child to afford. Thus, children resort to other games which are free of charge.

One of these games is sliding. It can be both boring and amusing, but one thing it definitely is: overcrowded. Children have the ability to get enjoyment their own way. They can make the game into a race where rivalry is a natural consequence. The one who makes more slides is the winner. The competition rises whenever children get the encouragement from their families, though this encouragement does not go beyond some whispering and winking. The place is very narrow and it is too close to a public bath, so family members don't feel

free and comfortable enough to actually voice their encouragement.

After spending time playing these two games, children will ask if there is more or not. They look around them, but they won't find much except for some games scraps, zinc, and iron frames all around them. At another spot in the park, children will find a door with a sign that reads "See the Hyena". Curiosity alone will push them to pay 10 YR in order to see this terrifying animal.

Before spotting the hyena, the kids ask themselves tons of questions: what kind of animal is it; is it a cat or a monkey? As soon as they enter questions are answered. To their surprise what they will find is contrary to what they have imagined. Lying calmly without moving, they find a hyena trembling out of hunger, fear and cold weather. Even when teased the hyena won't move or try to look at them. Frustrated the children become bored and decide to leave almost always with some sarcasm. The hyena isn't the fierce animal their mothers told

Once they leave the hyena the children realize there are no more games and they have to come back home with their families. They will probably feel their own toys and games at home are far better than those of the garden. It doesn't mean they will never come back: they don't have another option or substitutes

The park isn't just a children's playground. Adults can always find a place where they can spend some time playing "dominoes" and "Kirum", the only two portable and available games around. They'll sit around cement tables in groups of four to play these games with the avidity of addicts.

Khajeel Sert is also suitable place for having your picture taken. There is always a photographer at hand with his horse in tow. This creature has nothing to bond it with horse species, except perhaps the name. There is also the choice of taking your picture with a falcon or any other bird that's available. Then of course, you can have a photo taken with the dirty water of the fountain as a backdrop in case you do not want to have an actual background for the photo.

So, our commentary on the gardens of Ibb ends where it started since it isn't the only thing the city lacks. There are no garden projects in the civil planning layout and the concept seems entirely absent in the planners' mind. Projects for gardens are not available save in a piece of land that was supposed to have been a public garden 20 years ago. This place is two kilometers south of Ibb on Mount Al-Mahmol. This plan, at that time, was confined to walling that land and building a room for guardsmen. It is unknown whether this government-seized land will still be a garden in future plans or turned into an individual, private property as is the tradition.

Nashwan Dammaj is a Yemeni writer and a poet. He is Yemen Times correspondent in Ibb.

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

hen 164 governments adopted the 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

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 irrevocabl 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.

By: Samer

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 accumant

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.

social indicators, includpool enrolment. Nine counper 40% of their aid to subAustralia, New Zealand priority to East Asia and trikingly, only Norway, d the United Kingdom 20% of their aid to South the region facing the

Afghanistan

By: Brigitte Granville

rance'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

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.

International Economics and Economic Policy at the School of Business and Management, Queen Mary, University of London. Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2006. www.project-syndicate.org

Brigitte Granville is Professor of

The coming St. Putinsburg summit

By: Konstanty Gebert

t. 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 Alexandar Lukashenka 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 unshakeable.

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 consor-

tium 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.
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Sales and Marketing Director Pierre Imad

Marketing questions

Bv: Pierre Imad Imadpi@yahoo.com

SM has shown how its and 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

I'll briefly reply to confusing questions

What's the difference between marketing and sales:

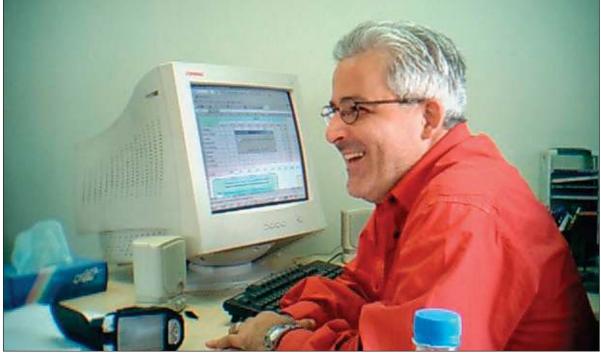
Let's think about this question for a moment. Without marketing, you wouldn't have prospects or leads to follow up with, but yet without a good sales technique and strategy, your closing rate may depress you.

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 broader and marketing 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

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 market 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; marketoriented 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 marketoriented businesses pursue customer satisfaction through coordinated

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
- Warm lead strategy Try a followup 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

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

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 rogram 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

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

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

ukalla city is hosting meetings of the 17th session of 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 train-

he 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

ohammed Omar Falhoum, Chairman of the Hadramout L Chamber of Commerce and Industry's board of directors, revealed establishing a five square kilometer investment zone at Al-Wadeeaa 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.

Falhoum 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.

Temen'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

he 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 Sterling Pound Saudi Rial Kuwaiti Dinar **UAE Dirhem** Egyptian Pound

196.6900 366.4200 250.9900 52.4500 680.1500 53.5600 34.1000

196.9300 366.8700 251.2900 52.5100 680.9800 53.6300 34.1400 1.754231

Selling

Japanese Yen 1.752093 Source: www.centralbank.gov.ye

Abdurrahman Sa'eed resigns football | Sha'ab Ibb restores Premier



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

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. Saeed 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



Former team's coach back in Yemen

Also, he was granted around 4.3 million Yemeni Riyals from compa-

nies and personalities interested in

Many football lovers took partici-

pated the resignation festival of the

brilliant footballer, who reached

good achievements in local and

international participations through-

out his career that lasted for nearly

The 38-year old player has a

record of glorious accomplishments

in local and international participa-

tions and is considered one of the

best players in the history of Yemeni

football. He played for Ahli Al-

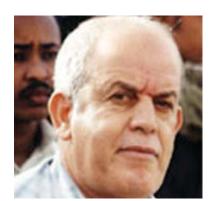
Hodeida for a while and then trans-

ferred to Ahli Sana'a. Sa'eed repre-

sented the national team in 71 inter-

national participations.

20 years.



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.

Job Announcement

بقلوب مؤمنة بقضاء الله وقدره نتقدم بخالص العزاء

وأصدق المواساة إلى سعادة

السيد/على 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 وذويها الصبر والسلوان

إنا لله وإنا إليه راجعون

الأسيفون

د. صلاح الدين هداش، عادل جاوى

د. همدان دماج، الأستاذ/ محمد بن سلام

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

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.

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

Excellent organizational skills, detail oriented and high degree of accuracy; strong

- Experience in a non-profit environment, preferably international. Good command of English language.
- analytical skills and sound judgment. Ability to work independently and as a member of a team.

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League's third position General of the Capital Yahya Al-Shu'aibi, Head of the Yemeni Football Federation and Al Ain Club

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 retracted 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 Tadhamun Shabwah. The match ended with Tadhamun 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.

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 Yournandos in minute 44 of the first

PHOTO BY NASHWAN DAMMAJ

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

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

The tim	etable	e show	ing th	e leagı	ıe's m	atches	
Team	Plays	Win	Draw	Loss	Goals	Goals	Points
					for	against	
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
Tadhamun 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



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-Shurtah team from the capital wining 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 Abvan 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-Shurtah 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 Abdulgader Hatem, Deputy Governor of Taiz for Technical and Environmental Affairs and Abdullah Al-Ammari, Manager of Taiz Youth and Sports Office.





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The Final Annual Report on Communication and Edification Programs for Procreation Health and Family Planning through T.V and Radio and Public Communication Channels in 2005

The Final Annual Report on Communication and Culturing Programs of Procreation Health and Family Planning through Public Communication Program in T.V and Radio for the year 2005

First: Program Topics

T.V and Radio programs dealt with the following procreation health issues: time span between deliveries, family planning tools, safe motherhood, secure child bearing, HIV, violence against woman, Islam's attitude toward family planning, procreation health components, the role of local authority in spreading and enhancing procreation health services, danger signs during pregnancy and delivery, girl's education and its effects on family's health and the protection and fight against

The opportunities for preparing and producing educational dialogues in radio stations of the first and second broadcast programs, and local broadcast stations in Al-Hodaidah, Taiz and Al-Mukalla have increased. The stations have shown noticeable progress in dealing with population issues in an innovative way. The technical Cadre have advanced consider ably at all levels, especially in preparing, producing, presenting, scenario writing and technical effects. The messages produced have had the following features:

a. Simplicity, they were clear and to the point in regard to the subjects approached. b. Good audio effects, there was a technical program on inputting and directing different audio effects which add to the clarity of mes-

c. Common message, the various stations succeeded in bringing out a unified media message regarding procreation health, family planning, woman's issues and HIV.

The different T.V and Radio communication channels approached these issues using unified terms with respect to the following:

Family planning tools

Time span between deliveries Safe motherhood

Safe delivery

Consultance Woman's issues (violence against woman

and girls education)

Islamic view toward family planning

Thus, such unity in media address has come as a reasonable outcome for the national media policy on one hand, and the media policy of the General Program for Information and Population Communication in the Ministry of Information on the other. Such items of the program have been defined in addition to the content of the directed media or behavioral messages and then identifying the targeted group for all annual T.V and Radio media activ-

The annual meeting discussed and displayed everything relating to media address with program coordinators in the concerned channels. This is in addition to training programs for the members of the public communication programs channels conducted under the support of Project of Media and Mobilization of Sources (PDS). This was done in a way that serves health and family planning project 2000-2005. It included the training of 766 men and women. Such training extended to include government, private, partisan and public communication channels in Lahi and Aden

Second: Target Groups

The groups targeted by the messages of communication and edification on procreation health and family planning have been defined as follows:

- 3. Youth of both genders
- 6. Development officers of the local authori-

The plan included producing, preparing and re-

telecasting 852 communication and cultural activities via both audio and visual media with total time of 10260 minutes i.e. 177 hours Thus, the implemented plan exceeded that of 2004, which was 99.7 hours in total. 2004 telecasting time was 64% of the 2005 plan. The percentage of TV and Radio broadcasting was

. Radio Telecasting (51.5%) 2. TV Telecasting (48.5%)

Program's new achievements:

The program achieved the following new successes in regard to the utilization of the contents of Radio and TV libraries

a. From Radio Library

The stored contents of dialogues had been retelecasted for six months during the year. At the rate of 15 messages per month every two days. The total number of the telecasted messages from the seven Radio stations was 630 radio dialogue programs. Other new productions were planned to be telecasted in the six following months.

The Minister of Information, the Chief **Executive of the General Program of population** communication and information, Mr. Hassan Ahmed Al-Lawzi, has given the program intensive personal attention to revive its activities

b. From TV Library

For the first time and through prior coordination with the TV Satellite Channel and TV Channel 2, use of the TV library was made. As a result creating 28 TV short movie clips concerning the procreation health. These clips were enlisted in the TV broadcasting map in both stations and were telecasted over a period of 470 days

Thus, year 2005 witnessed the maximal TV and radio broadcasting and the forthcoming progress us yet to be confined to the newly established radio stations of Lahj and Hajah

Fourth: Coordination

The coordination and cooperation was always there with the General Administration of Procreation health in two directions:

Training Programs

General Administration of procreation health participated at both centralized and decentralized levels, in training programs for media specialists in Lahj. Many topics relating to procreation health were integrated in a way that was beneficial to all participants governmental, partisan or private

Production of Radio and TV Procreation Health Programs

The team overcame the negative points faced in the previous years as for coordination. The coordination with managers of TV and Radio media plan activities in the concerned governorates made the task easy and smooth. This also enhanced the partnership between Ministry of Information on one hand and Ministry of Public Health and Population on the

Fifth: Overcoming lack of programs in the

first quarter of the year The balance of radio and TV Libraries was exploited in regard to the broadcasting of previous messages and dialogues available there during the first half of the year due to the delay for the emptiness within the radio programs

NO.	Period of Execution	Executed Media Activity	Total Number	Percentage in %	Total Time / Hour	Percentage to Broadcasting	Participants' Number	Callers' Number
1	2000 - 2005	TV and Radio: Dialogues Programs Flashes From the Library	3143	92% Radio 8% TV	804	76.3% Radio 23.7% TV		
2	2000 - 2005	Training Courses Symposiums, Courses, Workshops, Meetings	39	62% Men 38% Women			784	
3	2000 - 2005	Press: News, Edification	2460	65% News 35% Educative				
4	From 2 Dec 2002 To 12 July 2003 From 10 Sep To 7 Dec 2005	Hope and Future Line Knowledge competitions	55	60% Procreational 12.5% HIV 10% Population Policy 7.5% Islam and Family 5% Youth Issues 5% Social Gender	48224	100% Telephone calls		1.271.02
		Total	5697	100%	49028	100%	784	1.271.02

SUBJECT	No.	Activit y	Activity Shape	Their No.	Perfor ming Chann el	Time / Minute	Concrete Execution		Finance		Total	Participation	
							No.	Time / Minute	Foreign	Local	Total	n Percetage	
	ral, l		Dialogues	204	The First and the Second	First and 3-4 the minuets	204	10180 minutes				62.5%	
Population policy Economic, cultural, social and health		Radio	Programs	68	Program s and	30 minutes	68					37.5%	
population problem factors. 3 Annual increase of			From library	630	Local Radio Stations	3 minutes	630						
fertility rate. 4. Procreation health and its			Symposiu m	6		60 minutes	6		1			97% foreign	
service components 5. Spacing between	2 n	2	TV	Program	12	The Two TV Channel	15 minutes	12	6106 minutes				3% local
deliveries and its relation to baby and mother's			Programs	12	s mini 2 min	30 minutes	12	illillutes		468.780.000	483.024.738		
health (family planning) 6. The reasons for the			Flashes 6	60		2 minutes	60		14.244.738			32.5% fem	
increase of mothers' mortality rates and its	3	Trainin g	Meeting Course	3		1 – 3 days	55	interns				67.5% Mel	
treatment 7. The reasons for the increase of children's mortality rate (new-born babies and those under five years). 8. The effect of girl's education on decreasing fertility and population growth rate	asons for the se of children's lity rate (new-born and those under ears).			Reports, news	675	Al- Jumhori ah, Al- Balaj. Yemen Times		cation su ws subje					
	4	Press	Document ation Edificatio n	250	Official newspap ers		250					37% edification	
			Document ation News	425	Official newspap ers		425					63% news	
Fotal				1670			55 intern	16286 minutes = 271.4 hours	14.244.738	468.780.000	483.024.738	100%	

We herein assure the integrity of the important developing tendency in the General Program of Information and Population Communication and Ministry of Information in accordance with the first of the national prob lems of population and the assurances of the political leadership. This was performed through radio and TV communication channels as the broadcasting reached 177 hours as to procreation health in 2005. Thus exceeding the radio and TV broadcasting time for the year 2004 with percentage of 64% and this is for the welfare and growth of our home and for more prosperous life in all health, social, economic and cultural aspects.

Achievements in the field of General **Program of Information and Population** Communication in Ministry of Information concerning the Project of Developing Sources for the year 2005 (Yem/02/02)

First: The Annual Meeting

The annual meeting was held in the first part of May, 2005. The coordinators of the first and second program and local radio stations in Sayun, Abyan, the Satellite Channel and Channel 2 attended this meeting. It aimed to preparing, producing and broadcasting of 57 media activities and they include:

1. Preparation and production of 52 radio programs with total time of 30 minutes each and with total time of 3120 minutes a year.

2. Preparation and production of two TV symposiums of four serials with 30 minutes each with total time of 120 minutes.

3. Conducting two training courses for 37 male and female participants.

4. Preparation and publication of 25 reports regarding the highlighted issues in Project of Development Sources (PDS) for the fifth year in a way that fits with goals set. They should also realize the increasing interest of the political leadership as for population problems and their effects on all social, cultural, economic and social developments program for future. The meeting was supposed to come out with the following:

1-1 Surveying plan components

1-2 Action plans

1-3 Topics to be discussed in the media plan 1-4 Contents of behavioral and epistemo-

ogical messages of the program 1-5 Deciding upon the target groups

1-6 Period of implementation

1-7 The mechanism of communication with General Program during the performance of

The General Program of population communication and information expressed appreciation for Mr. Hans Obdeijn the representative of UNFPA in Yemen, who has instrumental in giving support for the various activities of the Program

With the above seven perspectives adopted for performing the plan, it was necessary to review the new things about health and population indicators. This was in addition to issues relating directly to those issues that helped unite the media address as to population probem and its different factors and the content of the directed messages. It was submitted as an integrated plan accompanied by the technical tables to Manager of Operations in the General Project within the General Secretariat of the National Board of Population at that time and previous to the following execution steps via

Second: TV and Radio Broadcasting

The plan aimed at executing 54 radio and TV activities with total time of 3285 minutes i.e. 55 hours. Thus, exceeding the achieved broadcasting of 2004 that was 82.5 hours and the percentage in 2005 was 70% and 190.8 hours and as the following:

1. Radio Broadcasting 60.3% 2. TV Broadcasting 39.7%

This improvement and development was accomplished through:

1. Inclusion of TV movie clips broadcasting

for the first time in both TV channels on four times a day along the year.

2. Re-telecasting of the private messages concerning procreation health via the first and the second programs and the five local radio stations and libraries (Lip) for the first six months and new broadcasting for the other

Third: General Results

The technical and production capacities of specialized programs had been enhanced in radio stations of Abyan and Sayun. 3.2 There had been an optimal utilization of

the library contents of the first and second program and local radio stations in Taiz, Abyan, Al-Hodidah, Sayun and Al-Mukalla.

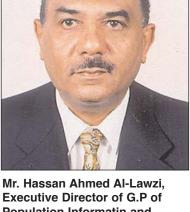
Fourth: Training Training included two modes:

a. An introductory and meeting relating to population problem, procreation health, family planning, social gender issues, youth and woman issues and protection and fighting against AIDS. The interns of both sexes were

b. Specialized media training- to have specialists in trying primary and final TV and radio messages and the participants were 11.

37 interns had got training according to the plan in Lahj and Aden governorates. This plan included those of government, private, partisan and media specialists. There had also been specialized training in Aden which was confined to media people in communication channels and those concerned about trying radio and TV messages produced to a targeted group.

The Targeted Group The targeted group was the members of the



Population Informatin and Communication



Mr. Hans Obdeijn, **UNFPA** Representative in Yemen



Hussain Omer Basaleem, **Executive Secretary General of G.P of Population Informatin** and Communication

public private and partisan communication channels in governorates mentioned in the

Conditions for Participating in Specialized **Training Activities**

a. The participant should be one of those interested in population problem, its news and its negative effects on the development pro-

b. He should not have participated in previous and similar training programs in the governorates or at the Secretariat

c. He should have interest in dealing with population problems, procreation health and mily planning in the future.

d. He should have participated in the course of TV and radio clips book on population problems, procreation health, family planning and social gender issues. This condition applies to participants in the specialized media course in

Objectives of Introductory Meeting

a. Introducing the population problem and its negative effect on future developments whether economic, social or cultural

 b. Introducing the procreation health and its service components and their role in decreasing the general fertility average and annual population growth rate.

c. Introducing woman's issues and her effective role in future development programs. d. Islam and family planning. e. Youth issues and their effect on popula-

f. Population problems and procreation health in press news, information stories,

reports and press columns. g. Uniting the media address and its technical terms in regard to family planning.

The Final Evaluation of Specialized Media Training in Aden and that of the affiliates of introductory meetings in regard to Population problems, procreation health, family planning and youth and woman's issue in addition to the effect of all these factors on the success of future developments programs at social, health, economic and cultural levels in Lahj and Aden

Ultimately, a questionnaire about training activities had been prepared and designed in order to extract participants' opinions on the executed activities with special reference to the

a. Participants' comprehension of training activities programs

b. Extent of fulfilling the aimed at objectives when conducting training activities.

c. The level of the cadre who conducted

d. The final evaluation of participants for the success of the activities through giving a grade

The participants also expressed their wish in conducting such activities and meetings, and broadening them in the future to have new participants from the members of governmental partisan and private media men as being found during our execution of training plans for the years 2004 and 2005.

Characteristics of Decentralized Training

This training was marked with two features: The first feature was having clear training goals when making the local training in the governorates as members of media and private, partisan and public communication in farthest governorates were able to take part. The participation of those cadres in those governorates was in itself a very important goal. The percentage of participation was:

a From Lahi and Abyan 96-97% b. From Al-Dhala, Sana'a and Abyan 3-4%

The Second feature included having a partnership with parties concerned with population problem, youth and woman's issues. And the influence of that on future development program in Lahj Governorate for the first time. We were keen to have a partnership of cooperation, coordination and integration with the concerned parties as they were given the chance to participate as both trainers and trainees.

The parties that participated in lectures or as participants:

1. Health and Population Affairs Bureau. 2. Women's National Committee

3. Endowments Bureau in the governorate

4. Sport and Youth Bureau 5. Officials of Development Program who participated in meetings only.

Fifth: Press Reports

As for the publication of press reports, we exceeded the plan by 19% during year 2005; for it was planned to publish 25 press reports in addition to the highlighted topics concerning population problems like (poverty, water crisis, woman's rights, child labor and development report) via the official and private newspapers Al-Jumhoriah, Al-Balai, Yemen Times and Family and Development Magazine.

Sixth: News covering and Published **Edifying Population Subjects**

The General Program on Information and

Populations Communication had covered the following activities:

a. Population World Day in Al-Mukalla as the celebration set up in Balfagih Cultural Center had been covered in the field in addition to the publication of figured reports with officials of the General Secretariat of the National Council of Population and United Nations fund in addition to the General Program of Ministry of Information. Two TV symposiums in the Satellite Channel were also telecasted with total time of 120 minutes.

b. Documentation of all audio, visual and print activities as well as media activities telecasted and published in the official newspapers during the year 2005 which reached 1669 activities. A considerable progress had been achieved in regard to population subjects and in all aspects as they reached 675 topics and news items were published in 2005; thus increasing to the percentage of 2% from the previous year and as follows:

1. News items with total number of 425 and the percentage of 63%

2. Edification topics with total number of 250 and the percentage of 37%

According to 2002 analysis, news activities had reached about 88% and this percentage has decreased to become 63% in 2005; while activities relating to edification, procreation and family planning behavior of people have increased over the last five years from 12% in 2000 to become 37% in 2005. Thus, it was a good evidence for the accuracy and safety of nedia policy of General Secretariat of Nationa

Program of Information and Population Communication in regard to the encouragement of woman's participation and develop-

The participants of both genders were nominated by the concerned authorities and

according to the following provisions: 1. The participant should be one of those interested in editing population problems news and their effect on future development pro-

2. He or she should not have participated in a similar activity regarding population problems

Second: Participants' attendance during the meeting

All participants had regularly attended the meeting right from the first day- from 8 am -1.30 pm during the first three days of the introductory meeting. This had a positive effect on participants' comprehension of the meeting program in addition to issues of procreation health, family planning and youth and woman. A questionnaire concerning the outcomes of this meeting had been prepared and conducted on the participants. The first part had dealt with the issues of meeting's success and participants' comprehension and the results were

as follows: 1. Very good with the percentage of 80.8%,

with total number of 21 participants 2. Good with the percentage of 19%, with total number of 5 participants



A workshop on public awareness in governorate of Lahaj.

Population Council and General Program of Information and Population Communication.

Seventh: Political Support

All media and communication activities had gained the political support and direct supervi sion of the Minister of Information and the head of the program Mr. Hussain Al-Awadi who himself participated in all periodic meetings of the program. He also followed the different steps of executing the plan throughout the year. He also visited the governorates performing the plan in regard to development sources. This was in addition to the daily and continual support rendered by the Executive Secretary General of the Program Hussain Omar Basalim- Assistant Deputy Minister. Such support had been positively reflected in reaching the new achievements of the program as the total time of broadcasting on development sources, procreation health, family planning social gender issues and protection and fight against AIDS disease was 271.4 hours for the

Eighth: Hurdles and negative points

The postponement of sending the budget of the first quarter to around the half of the year had caused actual confusion for us in the General Program of Information and Population Communication and the public channels of communication especially audio and visual ones. Because their activities are bond to TV and radio program cycles set each three months. Such annual deferring of budget has caused real problems and we wish we could pass over them in the year 2006.

The final report on work running and the results of the introductory meeting of population problem, procreation health. family planning, youth and woman's issues and Islam attitude of family plan-

ning held in Lahj from 2 - 4 May, 2005.

First: Participants:

The number of participants was 26 of both genders and they belonged to partisan, national and private newspapers and public relations and media department, local council, national committee of woman, Yemeni Women Union, Ministry of Public Health and Population in Lahj and Lahi Radio and Media and Public Relations Department in Al-Dhala Govenorate. The female participants were 9 in number that is equal to 34.6% and it was a reasonable percentage in case we consider Lahj's social and cultural backgrounds. This percentage also came along with the general and national policy of the General Secretariat of National Council of Population in addition to the General Third: Selected movie clips

total number of 7 participants

The participants reviewed during the meeting the produced clips with total number of 29 and the participants' opinions, as for clips produced and displayed, were matching with the objectives of the introductory meeting and as

1. Very good with the percentage of 37% and with total number 19 participants. 2. Good with the percentage of 27% and

Forth: Aims of the Introductory Meeting The goals of the introductory meeting had

been accomplished according to participants' 1. Very good with the percentage of 73%

and total number of 19 participants. 2. Good with the percentage of 27% and total number of 7 participants

Fifth: Technical and Scientific Level of the Cadre Executing the Activity The General Program of Information and Population Communication in the Ministry of Information had prepared and executed the two programs of the meeting along with the assistance of national and local experienced cadre from Lahi and Aden University Thus

experts and cadre executing the program had 1. Very good with the percentage of 80.8%

knowing participants' opinions was very impor-

tant. The results show that the level of national

and with total number of 21 participants. 2. Good with the percentage of 19.2% and with total number of 5 participants.

Sixth: The Final Evaluation of Participants for Meeting Functions

Participants were asked in the questionnaire to give a mark whose amount and percentage will be decided upon the answers. The participants think that we deserve full mark and as follows:

Seventh: Written Suggestions of the Meeting Results on the Following Issues: 1. Conducting such meetings for media staff

once more 2. Making such meetings for other sectors like education, youth and sport, preaching and guidance and other parties.

3. Asking Ministry of Health to improve services of procreation health and family planning. 4. Making use of feed back in regard to meeting results.

Notice: The number of participants was 26 and the number of those who answered question number 6 was 25





Yemen's first and most widely-read English-language newspaper

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.

irst 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 tobaccodependence.

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

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 costeffective of all health interventions.



risk factor for disease worldwide. The 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 lowincome 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

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

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

"This group has already changed

by the year 2050, if a progressive 50%

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

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

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
- 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 Financial toll
- 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

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

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

- 100 million will eventually die from tobacco-related diseases and half of these deaths will occur in middleage 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.

- 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 costeffective 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 dol-
- 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.





Headquarters:

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

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.

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

In February 2007, the first

Contracting Parties will submit to the

COP initial reports on their progress,

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."

Initiative

Sources: WHO – Free Tobacco

And World No Tobacco Day

specifying what actions they have taken

implementation progress.

The COP will likely also consider

sponsorship.

Zubairi St. Opposite of the International Bank of Yemen, Telefax: 208065

Sana'a, Iran St., branching from Haddah St. In front of Al-Jandool Supermarket, Tel: 425945

