



Report of the Second WANA Forum

**Pursuing Supranational Solutions to
the Challenges of Carrying Capacity**



16 - 18 MAY 2010
AMMAN, JORDAN

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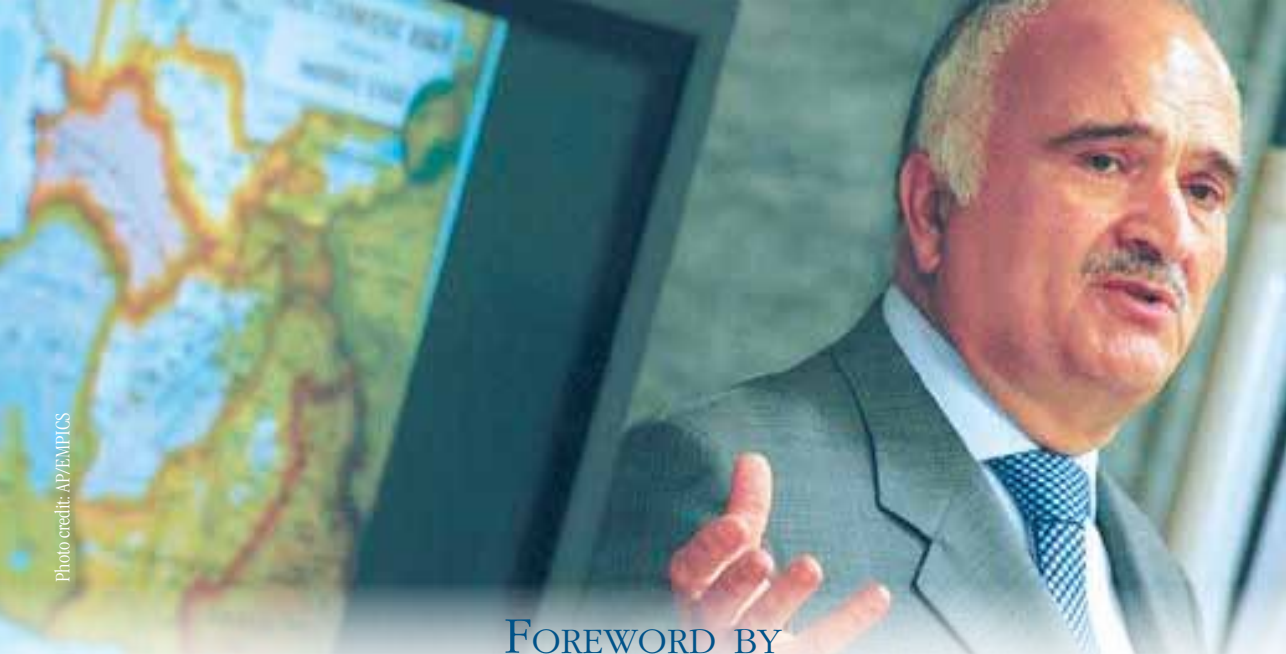
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

FOREWORD	5
POST-FORUM REFLECTIONS	8
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	11
1. Overview of the WANA Forum	15
2. Opening Remarks	18
3. Transcending Regional Carrying Capacity	21
4. Regional Themes and Priorities of the WANA Forum	24
5. Launch of the Arabic Report of the Legal Empowerment of the Poor: Making the Law Work for Everyone	29
6. Displacement and Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Recovery	32
7. Social Cohesion in the WANA Region	39
8. Our Common Future: Water, Environment and Energy Community	43
9. Environment and Green Economy	47
10. Mobilising the Third Sphere for Collective Action	51
11. Dinner Remarks by Surin Pitsuwan, Secretary-General of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)	55
12. Break-Out Groups	56
12.1 Social Cohesion	56
12.2 Green Economy	62
12.3 Environment	64
12.4 Reconstruction and Recovery	70
13. Conclusions of WANA Forum 2010	73
Annexes	77
A1. Agenda	79
A2. Participants	89
A3. Speaker Bios	95
A4. Break-Out Session Participants	115
A5. Background Paper: Beyond WANA Forum 2010	117
A6. WANA Forum Secretariat	127



FOREWORD BY HRH PRINCE EL HASSAN BIN TALAL, CHAIRMAN OF THE WANA FORUM

The West Asia-North Africa (WANA) region continues to face many challenges, some of them untold; most of them tragic and sadly, man-made. After taking part in three days of discussions and deliberations during WANA Forum 2010 I remain optimistic. This optimism is not 'rose-tinted' nor does it jar with the reality of these ongoing tragedies; rather, listening to the stories of those WANA participants who have lived through such adversity, gives me hope and faith in the possibility of greater things to come for the peoples of this region.

These participants from all over the WANA region come together to form a community of individuals comprised of the Third Sphere – government, private sector and civil society – of WANA and beyond. These concerned WANA citizens – some of them 'witnesses' from crisis areas – are motivated by a sense of responsibility to combat the structures of injustice wherever they exist.

Inspired by the Helsinki Process of 1975, which is based on three 'baskets' – economy, security and humanitarian issues, the WANA Forum in 2009 identified priority issues

where regional cooperation could bring added value: reconstruction and recovery, green economy, water and energy, education for sustainable development (ESD), the revival of *hima* and social cohesion.

This year, poverty as one source of social fragmentation, was one of the areas addressed with the launch of the Arabic version of the Report of the Commission on Legal Empowerment of the Poor (LEP), in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Arab Thought Forum (ATF). The Report, *Making the Law Work for Everyone*, states that poverty is not merely about a lack of material resources, but also about a lack of property rights, labour and business rights as well as access to justice and the rule of law. Seventy per cent of the world's population is unable to improve their livelihood regardless of how hard they work because of blatant exclusion. What seems yet to be understood by many in our society is that all of humanity stands to lose if four billion human beings remain outside an inclusive societal structure.

We are now only five years away from 2015 – the year in which the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are supposed to be realised. Yet, in the LEP session, I was reminded of how much we have to do in order to get there. Did we set the benchmark too high? Or did we fail as a community to do our best and try our hardest to make the MDGs a reality? The UNDP gently

“ Until uprooted communities are afforded autonomy over their lives, regional and global human security will be threatened by a growing hatred industry borne of human suffering and our collective failure to act ”

warned us that with regard to the MDGs, there are three on which the WANA region is failing: (1) Poverty, Employment and Hunger; (3) Women’s Empowerment and (7) Environmental Sustainability. This is an opportunity for the WANA community to mobilise and to look at the underlying reasons as to why we are not on track to meet these Goals.

One of the highlights of this year’s Forum was the Strategic Foresight Group’s session on water, ‘Our Common Future: Water, Environment and Energy Community’ where the concept of concentric circles of cooperation to break political deadlocks and generate ideas that can be implemented at the policy level was discussed. Water must be treated as an instrument of partnership, or there is every chance it will reach a critical impasse which will threaten our security and survival in the coming decades, such as we have seen with Weapons of Mass Destruction. Of the 15 most water-poor countries in the world, ten are in the WANA region. All states must take responsibility for finding regional solutions to water

scarcity and drought, as no single state can effectively achieve this on its own. This is where the concept of a Community of Water and Energy for the Human Environment, a concept I have been advocating for many years, comes into its own. It takes a regional approach to water, hunger, climate, health and poverty which is encompassing and consultative, with a view to averting future conflict or as we have recently seen in some media reports, ‘water wars’.

During the WANA Forum 2010 we discussed the notion of the ‘uprooted’ (a term originally introduced by the Independent Commission on International Humanitarian Affairs in the early 1980s) in the context of Territoriality, Identity and Movement/Migration (TIM), a concept that challenges the current discourse around mandates – mandates for Palestinians; mandates for Iraqis and so on. The theory behind the uprooted is that all peoples who have been forced to leave their homeland are equally vulnerable and their needs are often grossly misunderstood. People uprooted by war, violence, environmental devastation and persecution do not just need bags of flour and rice, or cement to rebuild houses, albeit these items are important in themselves. Retaining dignity in their lives is what lies at the root of all human aspiration and identity, and until uprooted communities, irrespective of labels are afforded autonomy over their lives, regional (and global) human security will be threatened by a growing hatred industry borne of human suffering and our collective failure to act.

The WANA Forum is here to ask the difficult questions and to suggest alternatives that are sustainable and situated in the context of the WANA region. As our resources continue to dwindle, it is evident that we should invest more in a resource of

which we have plenty – people. We have to conserve our physical resources and develop our social and human capital with respect to human dignity because the true wealth of nations relies on social cohesion, not just on indicators such as GDP. A Regional Cohesion Fund would be an important step toward establishing a more productive mechanism for enabling inter-regional and intra-independent action to enhance regional social cohesion. This will need to be based on a ‘code of conduct’ outlined in a social charter and informed by a cohesion index that is developed with the help of constructive consultations across WANA. An empirical, apolitical database which can be easily accessed by policymakers, community leaders, advocates, the public and the media will be an important tool in this process.

The WANA region would also do well to listen and learn from the rest of Asia. As was clear from the presentations by our speakers from China, Japan and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Asian states have proved they can adjust to the challenges of development (and in some cases thrive) in an era of volatile global markets and continued Western domination. Since WANA is, after all, part of Asia, it should complement its cooperation with Europe and North America with stronger links to these Asian nations whose ‘Roadmap for an ASEAN Community 2009 - 2015’ comprises the three pillars of a Political-Security Community, an Economic Community and a Socio-Cultural Community to ensure durable peace, stability and shared prosperity in the region.

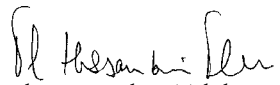
This second annual WANA meeting has built on the work of the past year and now I trust that you, based on the summary of themes, conclusions and recommendations outlined in this report, will continue the ‘WANA conversation’ either virtually or when your paths cross again.

This brings me to another satisfying

moment during the Forum, when I was told that the sessions were being simultaneously webcast to viewers all over the globe. Given the high number of young people who use the Internet to access information, I can only hope we reached some of them, as it is this group we most need to engage, listen to and encourage.

This is not *my* Forum or *your* Forum. It is a shared, inclusive space where we can all come together to consolidate our efforts and resources, through regional multidisciplinary, multi-sectoral approaches, to legitimate and motivate collective action to influence decision-makers and change agents. The challenge now is to turn ideas into a practical framework which is inclusive and accessible, bridging the gaps between theory and practice; between the local, regional and global; and to devise strategies to influence political structures in ways that are meaningful and relevant to the communities on which we ultimately want to have an impact. We now have an opportunity to infuse the entire policy debate (a debate where our voices need to be heard) with solid research that will undoubtedly improve the quality and effectiveness of policy actions.

I hope you will join me and the greater WANA Forum community, with the continued support of The Nippon Foundation, in building partnerships for regional cooperation around thematic priorities in the pursuit of a strong, stable and sustainable WANA.



El Hassan bin Talal
Amman, August 2010

POST-FORUM REFLECTIONS

It was truly encouraging to see so many prominent individuals from across and beyond the WANA region come together again in Amman this year with the shared commitment of working towards a better future for the region. I was particularly impressed at how the members of the Forum were taking concrete steps towards addressing urgent challenges facing the region through their participation in the various working groups. I have no doubt that this Forum of likeminded individuals will continue to grow and play a vital role, not only in helping policymakers across the region develop policies, but also in aiding civil society organisations in their work. I consider it a true privilege to be a member of this community and very much look forward to taking part in future meetings.

Mr. Yohei Sasakawa, Chairman of The Nippon Foundation, Japan

Under the banner of Pursuing Supranational Solutions to the Challenges of Carrying Capacity, we shared our knowledge and our experience at WANA Forum 2010 and have taken a commitment to act on the issues we raised. I believe that we left the Forum enriched by the thoughtful presentations and

discussions, which demonstrated participants' profound commitment to the welfare of the entire human family. From climate change to water consumption, from freedom of expression to social solidarity, from food security to education and health, all these topics require committed action based on common purpose. We can build the kind of societies we want for our children when we dare to dream and dare to be bold. There is so much we can do for a whole generation and for the whole world.

Dr. Ismail Serageldin, Director of Bibliotheca Alexandrina, Egypt

At every stage in the evolution of world economy, certain drivers determine the future. In this century, water, environment, and human intellect are the most significant driving forces. Therefore, it must be our priority to transform water and environment from potential risks to instruments of peace and progress.

In the entire landmass from Vietnam and Cambodia in East Asia to Turkey in West Asia and from Egypt in North Africa to Republic of South Africa, a mega arch of hydro insecurity exists. West Asia is at the epicentre of this mega-arch. Experts have been debating for years the problems of water security but always from short-term

and nationalistic perspectives. HRH Prince El Hassan made a conceptual breakthrough at the WANA Forum 2010 plenary on Our Common Future: Water, Environment and Energy by proposing Concentric Circles of Cooperation. This idea makes it possible for countries facing similar challenges to come together to develop a shared vision of a water and environment community, without being hampered by protracted conflicts. Peace and cooperation need to be built carefully and gradually. At this year's WANA Forum in Amman, we saw the first building block of our common future.

Mr. Sundeep Waslekar, President of the Strategic Foresight Group, India

The second WANA Forum clearly indicated that the WANA Process is shaping up and motivating relevant individuals and through them institutions in the region to participate and contribute to the preparation of policy proposals as well as concrete action steps in the areas of the selected process themes.

I have had the privilege to witness the active and committed participation and guidance of His Royal Highness over the past years in the Helsinki Process on Globalisation and Democracy. His inspirational leadership and establishment of the capable WANA Secretariat are already yielding results in mobilising necessary partnerships and linkages to enhance desired and much needed collaboration and actions among and by different stakeholders for the benefit of the WANA region and beyond.

As I have had the opportunity to follow the work on Social Cohesion, I would like to commend the initial preparation and commitments made in the Forum. This would suggest that the work will continue and advance significantly through the established working groups and partnerships.

It is only natural that many important issues would deserve to be included in this kind of process. However, as tangible results

are expected to be achieved by 2013, it would be necessary and wise to concentrate only on the few already selected themes. Therefore, the challenge remains as to how best to ensure that the next Forum may focus and deepen the discussion on those themes in order to give guidance and direction for the remaining period.

Wishing all WANA Forum participants a great deal of enthusiasm and success in this noble endeavour!

Ambassador Ilari Rantakari, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland

The region of WANA is a strategic area of energy resources, about half of the world's population resides here and the young population, to the degree that it is educated and cultivated, can act as a vessel of development and progress.

I am happy to learn of Prince El Hassan and other participants' positive reaction to Turkey's recent regional policy of 'zero problems with its neighbours', understanding the importance of unity and friendship.

The WANA initiative is still in its beginning stages – like a seed that falls to the ground, a baby who takes his or her first steps or the first stages of a joyous voyage. Seeds develop, babies grow up and joyous voyages reach their destination. Just as the European Coal and Steel Community formed the beginnings of the European Union, the WANA region, if it can emerge from today's short-sighted politics, has as much potential.

Mr. Cemal Usak, Vice President of the Journalists and Writers Foundation, Turkey

I am inspired by Prince El Hassan who, after having listened to the adverse stories narrated by individuals at WANA Forum 2010, could derive hope and faith in the future rather than hopelessness and despair. His Royal Highness' opening remarks at the Forum boosted my usually optimistic disposition so much that I see light beyond

the cumulus that has engulfed our region for nearly three decades.

I reiterate Prince El Hassan's statement that poverty doesn't mean only the lack of material resources. Now it is time we all find the faith and commitment to take actionable steps toward fighting poverty and creating social justice in the region. Men, women and children should be afforded their rightful place in society with full legal protection.

I thank the WANA Forum for inviting me to participate in this commendable initiative.

**Ms. Khadija Hussein, Founding
Chairperson, Sudanese Mothers for Peace
and UNESCO's Specialist in Community
Development in the Arab World**

One of the demands of civil society in the WANA region has, for years, been the call to create a new working space to rise above two kinds of unfavourable divisions.

The first separates the three main agents of development (government, private sector, civil society) so they operate in isolation from one another, hence depriving the reform movement of the extraordinary opportunity that mutual cooperation brings.

The second division concerns the various dimensions of development. Each area of expertise focuses on its own specialty: women's rights, environment, the fight against poverty, democracy and so forth whereas all of these are interrelated.

The most important value added of the WANA Forum is that it is built upon the idea of rethinking and unifying the divided components of development as inter-dependent, multi-disciplinary and interconnected.

At WANA Forum 2010, I had the privilege of moderating the Social Cohesion sessions where I saw considerable headway made in progressing the Social Cohesion Index, Social Charter and Regional Cohesion Fund. I look forward to joining the WANA Forum in moving from dialogue to action, for as HRH

Prince El Hassan said, we need "to devise strategies to influence political structures in ways that are meaningful and relevant to the communities on which we ultimately want to have an impact."

**Mr. Mohsen Marzouk, Secretary-General of
the Arab Democracy Foundation, Qatar**

I deeply admire HRH Prince El Hassan for his visionary initiative – the WANA Forum recognises the fundamental role of education in personal and social development and its principle means of fostering human development as a tool for poverty alleviation and social inclusion and a cornerstone in building a culture of peace.

International education embodies the priorities of the WANA Forum as it has the potential to contribute to reconstruction and peace-building in conflict-affected parts of the region, to the enhancement of social cohesion and to sustainable environmental, social, economic and cultural development.

I encourage the Forum to consider setting up a WANA Chapter or Society of UNESCO-APNIEVE, to develop WANA networks in international education in partnership with China-based UNESCO International Institute of Education for Rural Development (INRULED), to facilitate curriculum innovation and teacher/student exchange for learning to live together in conflict-affected parts of the region, and to promote joint projects in international education for sustainable development in the region with links between WANA's and East Asian universities' high-tech parks and education-business partnerships.

**Dr. Zhou Nan-Zhao, President of UNESCO
Asia-Pacific Network for International
Education and Values Education (APNIEVE)
and President of Chinese Council of Private
Higher Education, China**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

BY PROFESSOR SULTAN BARAKAT, WANA FORUM MODERATOR

The West Asia-North Africa Forum 2010 gathered 130 individuals in Amman, from the region and elsewhere, in order to address the theme of Pursuing Supranational Solutions to the Challenges of Carrying Capacity.

Building on the work of the First Annual WANA Forum in April of 2009, the 2010 Forum focused on advancing the priority issues of reconstruction and recovery, green economy, water and energy, education for sustainable development, the revival of *hima*, and social cohesion, including the legal empowerment of the poor. The principle aim of the three-day meeting was to create partnerships for collaboration towards concrete policy proposals by 2011.

WANA Forum 2010 recognised the need for people across the region to begin to transcend national carrying capacity through regional thinking and a regional policy framework that overcomes the multi-layered choke-points within WANA. The establishment of regional entities of governance for the various cross-cutting priorities of the WANA Forum could serve to monitor, oversee and implement regional cooperation. The Forum also welcomed exploring linkages between West Asia and North Africa to the rest of Asia as a wake-up call to stimulate multilateralism within

WANA and to complement Euro-Mediterranean and Atlantic initiatives. Countries in WANA are beginning to recognise that nations are empowered through regional cooperation. Progress on

cooperation and integration within WANA and across Asia would enhance connectivity, the leveraging of resources and the region's bargaining power on the world stage so that WANA's cultural diversity could become a source of strength rather than an obstacle to progress. After all, the true wealth of nations lies in their human and social capital. For WANA to build upon this capital, regional cooperation is needed to mobilise resources, exchange lessons and best practices, promote knowledge production and dissemination, educate for citizenship and sustainable development and produce home-grown solutions to the region's challenges.

The WANA region, a mosaic of ethnic, religious and cultural diversity, stretches from Morocco to Pakistan and is home to some



of the world's earliest and most advanced civilisations. Yet, it is also a region that faces monumental challenges, marred with conflict, war and the intense movement of people who flee their countries by force or in the pursuit of a better life. The gradual 'brain drain' that has ensued is exacerbated by a lack of effective policies and an absence of incentives for people to stay and enhance the region's carrying capacity.

Millions of people across WANA today experience multi-faceted poverty, extending beyond material needs to include infringement on basic human rights. They live on the outskirts of society under multiple forms of exclusion and marginalisation, without any access to legal protection. Following the First Annual WANA Forum in 2009, a working group of Forum members embarked on an attempt to create a Social Cohesion Index that measures cohesion and factors that contribute to it in WANA countries, such as security and state capacity, equality, participation and engagement, displacement, civic culture, mutual trust, social networks, tolerance to diversity and inclusion, material and emotional wellbeing, health and social security. The Index could offer state and non-state actors an analytical tool to guide the establishment of developmental priorities. WANA Forum 2010 agreed to pursue qualitative and quantitative research in select WANA countries to validate

“Progress on cooperation and integration within WANA and across Asia would enhance connectivity, the leveraging of resources and the region's bargaining power on the world stage so that WANA's cultural diversity could become a source of strength rather than an obstacle to progress”

the Index or refine the dimensions selected to measure social cohesion. Partnering with research institutions, think tanks, universities and UN agencies from across the region would be helpful in the data collection phase as well as in developing the Index.

The need for a social contract was also proposed by Forum participants last year. A charter has the potential to further the aims of advancing social development by promoting the concept of citizenship and equity, stimulating a process of dialogue within civil society groups and between civil society and governments. The current draft of the WANA Social Charter should, therefore, be widely disseminated to garner feedback, and be made available in the form of an executive summary (in Arabic, Farsi, Turkish and Urdu) as well as a full draft on the WANA Forum website. Media and advocacy strategies will also need to be developed for different target audiences.

Finally, a Regional Cohesion Fund rooted in a code of conduct outlined in the Social Charter and informed by data from the Social Cohesion Index, would advance social, environmental and economic development in the region. The nature of the governing body, eligibility criteria for the allocation of funds, management structures, monitoring and evaluation processes, and sources of funding and partners, will be addressed in the policy proposal that will be developed.

The challenges posed by demographic pressures, environmental stresses, widespread inequalities, entrenched pockets of poverty, chronic unemployment, deeply rooted division and numerous political, sectarian and religious conflicts present a serious threat to local, national and regional stability. Those who suffer the consequences are most often women, children and the

“Those who suffer the consequences are most often women, children and the uprooted, the silenced majority in urgent need of a coherent regional voice to raise its status in international relations”

the establishment of an electronic public forum for the sharing of lessons and good practices on all of the WANA Forum priority issues. A comparative research project detailing the relationship between reconstruction, reconciliation

and peace building is needed to produce models and methodologies or tool kits for countries in the region. The Forum also agreed to draft a concept paper that would examine five key sectors: energy, water, transport, waste and cities. New initiatives for renewable power generation and water management must be carried out soon, informed by best practices. Lastly, a working report on water security by the Forum members will be finalised to propose the establishment of a WANA water scarcity and drought information system, highlight the need to facilitate relevant training sessions across the region by WANA experts and promote a region-wide television and Internet campaign to push governments and the general public to consider WANA's high rate of water consumption and respond to the challenges of carrying capacity. One of these challenges include the effects of climate change, which will also be addressed in a WANA report, in the context of uprooted populations, food security, biodiversity, water, energy and education.

uprooted, the silenced majority in urgent need of a coherent regional voice to raise its status in international relations. To this end, WANA Forum 2010 agreed on a regional donorship consultation in the near future and to advocate for full WANA participation in global conventions on aid effectiveness, such as the Paris Declaration and the Accra Agenda for Action.

A regional voluntary organisation similar to the United States Peace Corps could help instil a sense of service and civic responsibility to the cause of peace with volunteers living in conflict affected or socially fragmented communities of WANA and working on issues ranging from food security, education and health to environment, business and information and communication technology.

The Forum also agreed to develop a proposal for a regional reconstruction training institute which could foster a generation of leaders from within WANA who could tackle issues from conflict management and prevention to post-conflict reconstruction and economic development. Rather than reconstructing the status-quo-ante, the Forum highlighted the potential of green housing developments, which are affordable and environmentally sound, as well as the creation of a green modern industrial base and mass transport infrastructure – all central to developing state systems, revitalising economies and promoting social cohesion.

Capacity building requires solid research, the consolidation of data and

Members of the WANA Forum agree that instruments of regional cooperation must be grounded in the principles of sustainability – of both natural and human resources – while the human element must be placed at the centre of efforts to advance supranational solutions to shared regional concerns. All-inclusive sustainable development embraces freedom, justice, participation and respect for human dignity.

Hima is one example of an indigenous system of conservation management

that empowers local communities. The establishment of a *bima* revolving fund for the legal empowerment of the poor would help build the capacities of local communities to manage, monitor and conserve sustainable use of natural resources. The Forum agreed to compile a database of existing traditional himas, create a Wikipedia web-page for *bima* where scholars from around the world would be invited to contribute, and to document through film the oral history of tribal men and women whose knowledge of *bima* was acquired and maintained for over 1400 years. This would not only contribute to regional knowledge of WANA history, but would also raise the profile of the region among both academic and non-academic circles elsewhere in the world.

Integrating indigenous knowledge, on *bima* for example, into the school curriculum is also integral in altering regional resource consumption patterns through education for sustainable development (ESD). Interactive courses, extracurricular activities and community service learning are effective tools for emphasising the connection between people and their environment and encouraging lifelong civic engagement for the common good. The Forum aims to promote a community of practice around ESD with government, private sector and media partnerships in

setting the groundwork for a WANA model of ESD in select pilot schools. It would focus on administrators and teachers to ensure that they are trained in providing children with the needed tools and skills for experiential, interactive learning and would also engage university students from WANA and other regions in the process of developing and assessing ESD, thereby translating research into practical applications.

In an era where technology plays an important role in connecting people across the globe, e-learning, institutional twinning, cyber media and virtual communities provide opportunities for WANA to galvanise the Third Sphere of partnership into concerted action. Progressing from dialogue to action requires increased collaboration with civil society, business partners, media and government actors around thematic issues. It also requires outreach to youth, who comprise up to 60 per cent of the population in many WANA countries, and the involvement of local communities as genuine stakeholders.

The following report attempts to provide a comprehensive overview of these regional themes and recommendations for concerted action.

For full-text presentations, reports and updates, visit www.wanaforum.org.

“In an era where technology plays an important role in connecting people across the globe, e-learning, institutional twinning, cyber media and virtual communities provide opportunities for WANA to galvanise the Third Sphere of partnership into concerted action”



OVERVIEW OF THE WANA FORUM

Sultan Barakat, WANA Forum Moderator, Advisor to Prince El Hassan bin Talal and Director of the Post-war Reconstruction and Development Unit, University of York, welcomed participants to the second annual meeting of the West Asia - North Africa Forum, entitled Pursuing Supranational Solutions to the Challenges of Carrying Capacity.

He noted that the discussions initiated at the first annual meeting in April 2009 have continued, not only through numerous thematic consultations, but also within each of the members' home countries, and highlighted that such discussion is at the core of the WANA Forum process and represents its greatest tool. Every movement and great historical change begins with a conversation in which those involved realise that they are facing the same challenges, and that they have the will and the capacity to address them effectively.

Over the three days of the second annual meeting, participants were presented the opportunity to continue the dialogue, with the added responsibility of determining

how this discussion could be brought to the people, leaders and institutions of the WANA region, both independently and through the mobilisation of partnerships.

Professor Barakat reminded participants of the motivations that led to the launch of the WANA Forum. It emerged, in part, from the recognition that, despite the increasing global movement towards supranational solutions, many countries in the WANA region remain focused solely on national agendas. As a result, they are less able to advocate for their shared interests upon the global stage. Rather than a unified WANA, with a regional voice on the world stage, they have tended to view themselves as Gulf States, Arab countries, Central Asian republics and so on.

Despite similar priorities – from economic growth to conflict and ecologically sustainable development – WANA countries far too often define themselves by their cultural, historical, linguistic and ideological differences. Paradoxically, the WANA Forum itself, which tries to overcome such divisions, may be viewed as creating another

exclusionary framework by separating the WANA region from its neighbours. This is not the intention.

In fact, it may be better not to project the WANA region as a geographical area but rather as a conceptual meeting place for those peoples and places which are perceived as “in between” and at times on the margins of international dialogue and progress. As such, WANA is not a map, and the WANA Forum also includes voices and perspectives from Europe, Africa, Asia and beyond, including if not particularly from India and China, two countries with which the WANA region has a long history.

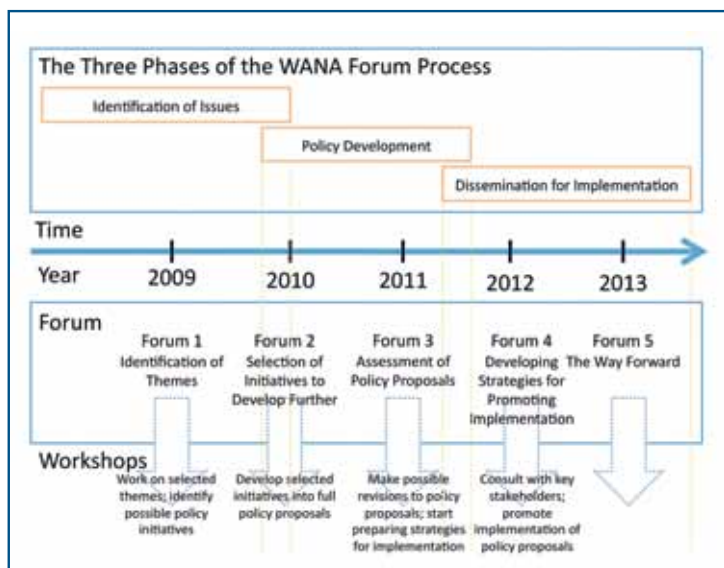
The WANA Forum is a demonstration of the saying that ‘only the tent pitched by one’s own hands will stand’. The Forum is thus motivated by a keen desire for the people of the region to pitch their own tents or, more literally, to drive their own processes of growth, development and change, whether these changes relate to the recovery of war-torn societies, the conjoining of prosperity and environmental responsibility or the strengthening of ties and bonds between all peoples and cultures of the region.

The work of the WANA Forum is guided by a three-phase process. The first annual meeting in April 2009 launched the first phase, which focused on the identification of priorities and issues. Informed by the technical expertise and experience of all those involved, the process began by identifying a number of cross-cutting themes around which a series of expert consultations took place throughout the year: a) the reconstruction and recovery of war-torn or conflict-affected parts of the region; b) the enhancement of social cohesion between the region’s diverse peoples, c) the promotion of environmental education for sustainable development and d) the development of ‘green’ industries and infrastructure. Concept papers were later revised and accompanied by more focused research agendas and draft policy proposals for presentation at the second annual meeting for Forum members to consider, refine and approve.

During the remainder of 2010 and the beginning of 2011, the challenge will be to ensure that these ideas are presented in a manner which lends itself to policy debate within major international bodies and national institutions throughout and beyond

WANA. By the WANA Forum’s third annual meeting, again following a series of technical consultations and meetings of working groups, participants will be presented a set of tangible policy proposals which they will be able to finalise before preparing for a process of advocacy to last through the following years of the WANA Forum process.

Professor Barakat noted that a range of key priorities emerged from the social, economic and environmental ‘tracks’ of the first meeting of the WANA Forum. Social



cohesion – defined as the intangible bond that holds members of society together and facilitates coexistence, development, progress and prosperity – was identified as a major cross-cutting concern. Within the social cohesion group, the emphasis has been on the development of an index, which would allow for rigorous monitoring of social cohesion levels in order to identify problems before they turn destructive and to support evidence-based policies. The group also suggested the development of a social charter to guide region-wide efforts aimed at promoting social cohesion. Finally, the social cohesion working group, building upon the foundational guidance of Prince El Hassan, proposed the establishment of a cohesion fund to enable resources to be pooled from across the region and distributed in such a manner as to diminish material inequalities and attitudinal hostilities through humanitarian and developmental interventions, the creation of key regional infrastructure, and the promotion of dialogue as well as political and technical cooperation.

The economic working group developed synergies with all tracks and has particularly focused upon the development of regional green industries and green infrastructure. In doing so, members of the track highlighted the need for WANA to “leapfrog” development and bypass “old” industries in favour of those which are environmentally sustainable and represent the economy of tomorrow rather than the economy of yesterday.

The environmental working group emphasised the need for environmental education for sustainable development as a means to build an appreciation for and commitment to ecologically responsible practices across the WANA region. Through education and advocacy, the knowledge, skills and attitudinal shift necessary for the development of green industries can emerge. Progress in this area will support

and give rise to governmental as well as private-sector-led initiatives that will foster sustainable models of economic growth which could restore the quality of land and water while diminishing the negative effects of climate change.

Finally, reconstruction and recovery, particularly in the aftermath of conflict and violence, were identified as cross-cutting issues. Reconstruction and recovery are, at their core, concerned with the development of social cohesion as a means to prevent future conflict, build peace and foster greater levels of justice and equity. A key means of doing so is economic growth, from small-scale livelihoods and micro-finance entrepreneurs to macro-economic reforms and large-scale investments driven by institutions such as the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, the Saudi Fund for Development and the Asia Development Bank. Reconstruction and recovery also requires greater attention to environmentally conscientious approaches.

The reconstruction and recovery working group proposed a mapping of regional reconstruction initiatives and developing a statement of principles for post-conflict recovery and international development efforts within the WANA region. Such a statement could guide international actors with a presence in the region. The group also emphasised the need to engage more fully with donor institutions from within WANA, which are increasingly becoming the driving forces in war-torn contexts, in order to ensure that they continue to engage effectively and in a manner which fosters region-wide cohesion.

While not yet a formal policy proposal, the reconstruction and recovery group noted the need for a regional training centre on conflict and recovery that could ensure the creation of a cadre of national and regional experts in order to foster more appropriate and effective means of assistance.



OPENING REMARKS

In his opening remarks, **El Hassan bin Talal, Chairman of the WANA Forum**, spoke of the importance of carrying capacity in the context of human, natural and economic resources and called for a regional voice from WANA at the United Nations General Assembly and the Millennium Development Goals Summit in 2010. He stressed the importance of building bridges between the haves and have nots, since exclusion both in terms of the state and good governance has been exacerbated by the deteriorating situation of the uprooted in the region.

Prince El Hassan also spoke of human and social chokepoints within the nexus of territoriality, identity and migration/movement (TIM) as well as the rich and very rich and the poor and very poor. The vast resources of the WANA region are not up to meeting the challenges of carrying capacity. The changing nature of war and conflict are impacting TIM in the opposite direction to what is happening in other parts of Asia.

His Royal Highness stressed the need to learn from the experiences of the rest of Asia

since WANA is part of Asia. An important development is the Roadmap for an ASEAN Community 2009 - 2015 adopted in March 2009. It sets the goal to build a community of Southeast Asian nations by 2015, comprising the three pillars of a Political-Security Community, an Economic Community and a Socio-Cultural Community to ensure durable peace, stability and shared prosperity in the region. The Chiang Mai Initiative among ASEAN +3 is another concept for the WANA Forum to study. Some consider this US\$120 billion swap facility a first step towards an Asian Monetary Fund. A stable South Asia and East Asia could be complemented by stability in West Asia and North Africa.

Building on the historic silk route, His Royal Highness noted that it would be necessary to develop a Pan-Asian route of ideas and intra-regional policies. Today, unlike during ancient periods of prosperity, the Middle East is not part of the vision of an interconnected Asia and Europe. Through a coordinated research agenda with partners from East and South East Asia and elsewhere, the WANA Forum could contribute to

existing studies and research to provide an impulse to reshape the territorial expanses in the hinterlands of WANA. In short, to rethink WANA from within.

Prince El Hassan spoke about businesses needing to focus on building human dignity as a response to the alienation of the majority of people in WANA from their societies. He cited the World Bank estimate that in order to keep up with the growing population, the WANA region would have to create 55 to 70 million new jobs by 2020 – 55 million just to keep up and 70 million to bring the employment rate up to the global norm. If the region fails to achieve this, it will only fuel the hatred industry.

One purpose of the WANA Forum is to sow the seeds of a semi permanent conference that recognises the importance

of investing dwindling income from energy into social cohesion and collaborative efforts for human security, developing an economy with a human face and emphasising cultural affinity, which should not be seen merely as an afterthought. Throughout, Prince El Hassan highlighted that the WANA Forum has no hidden agenda. Rather, it is a partnership based on ad hominem participation.

His Royal Highness concluded that God helps those who help themselves. It is time that people in the WANA region start considering changing themselves, their perceptions, shouldering their responsibilities, and stop considering themselves as a positional elite. The people who count are the future generations. Efforts should be taken to make their world a better place.

Territoriality, Identity and Movement (TIM)

Prince El Hassan said that a trans-disciplinary conversation is needed that looks at WANA as if people matter. The transformation in security goes well beyond technological change. It involves a transformation of the social relations of warfare. These 'new wars', where battles are rare and where violence is mostly aimed at civilians, construct new sectarian identities at the religious, ethical and tribal levels to undermine the sense of shared political community*. Through the creation of memories of hate and fear, they produce divisive sectarian identities in mixed urban settings. These trends are seen in Iraq, Afghanistan, the West Bank and Gaza, Lebanon and Sudan. The link between identity formation and memory is assuming new proportions.

This perspective of interrogating TIM requires a focus on two different, but interconnected issues: what is new and who is rewriting history. Over 600 years ago, Ibn Khaldun defined government as the institution which prevents injustice other than such as it commits itself. Ibn Khaldun understood the need in the new cities that were being established for a

new form of social cohesion among diverse groups to replace tribal solidarity. He considered the values of Islam as a basis for the solidarity to form a new civil society. The new wars in WANA aim at the opposite.

There is an urgent need to understand the social relations that have been nurtured by the extended conflicts and injustices in WANA, to examine the fabric of what appears as the disorder in the region and to discover images of alternative orders and break-out from the binary relations constraining WANA.

Epistemological Tensions		
Conditionality of territorial framing of politics	vs	Inclusion & Exclusion
Coherence of order and disorder	vs	Inconclusive change
Movement as progress	vs	Ethnic persistence
Binary Relations		
Inclusion/Exclusion	↔	The State
Deterritorialisation/Reterritorialisation	↔	Sovereignty
Territory, Identity and Conflict	↔	Politics of Social Relations
Movements of People Broadly Defined	↔	Nexus of Identity and Territory
Mass Movement of Population	↔	State Carrying Capacity
Memory	↔	Identity Formation
New Wars	↔	Transformation of Society
Injustice	↔	Privatisation of War

* Mary Kaldor, *Human Security*, Polity Press, Cambridge, 2008

“Lack of access to education and healthcare means that children are not able to stay in school or get the treatment they need when they are ill. The economic divide means that parents are not able to provide for their families. Environmental problems mean they will not have access to energy for heating or cooling their homes, and their children will not have access to safe drinking water”

Yohei Sasakawa, Chairman of The Nippon Foundation and member of the WANA Forum International Senior Advisory Board, began by noting that, like any part of the world, the WANA region faces many challenges, ranging from education, health and the economy to the environment and security. In today’s complex, interdependent world, most of these challenges cannot be addressed effectively by one nation, institution or individual acting alone. They require a long-term, collective vision.

A framework for bringing different voices together is needed, but this framework must also allow participants to transcend individual, local, and national interests, and embrace a larger goal. It must allow those

voices to share a collective vision for the region and provide them with the means to identify their most important challenges and address them effectively.

Something needs to be done in the WANA region, Mr. Sasakawa said, about the lack of access to quality education and healthcare, the economic divide, and environmental degradation. In addressing these issues, it is important to keep in

mind that lack of access to education and healthcare means that children are not able to stay in school or get the treatment they need when they are ill. The economic divide means that fathers and mothers are not able to provide for their families. Environmental problems mean they will not have access to energy for heating or cooling their homes, and that their children will not have access to safe drinking water.

What makes the WANA Forum truly unique is its focus on the human element. Mr. Sasakawa stressed that he has no doubt that the Forum can make real contributions toward encouraging policymaking that will put the future of the people in the region first.



Pan-Asia and Europe Framework

HRH Prince El Hassan explained how the current Pan-Asian network to Europe bypasses WANA and the Euro-Mediterranean network covers only part of WANA. The red and green lines represent the transportation linkages of ESCAP map. The blue highlights European Union member states while the green shows the Non-EU member states of Union for the Mediterranean. The yellow and green illustrates the missing link between Europe and Asia.



TRANSCENDING REGIONAL CARRYING CAPACITY

In his presentation, **Ismail Serageldin**, member of the WANA Forum International Senior Advisory Board and Director of the Library of Alexandria, gave an in depth comprehensive overview of carrying capacity.

He noted that historically, while Malthus predicted that the population growth rate would exceed the growth of the food supply, Marquis de Condorcet saw the human mind as capable of removing all obstacles to human progress, and that human ingenuity would devise the means of feeding growing populations. Amartya Sen, however, realised that famines still occur even when food is plentiful. Development is much more about freedom, justice and participation than about physical resources.

Dr. Serageldin demonstrated to participants the “human face” of suffering in the region with the aid of numerous slides – ranging from images of devastation caused by war to the effects of water scarcity and food insecurity. He proposed solutions to ending this suffering, rooted in the interconnections of security, peace, justice,

equity and inclusion, participation and empowerment.

With regard to tackling climate change, he stressed the need to work simultaneously on mitigation and adaptation strategies to address the threat of climate change to economic stability, ecological sustainability, health and social cohesion. Humankind’s failure to prevent excessive greenhouse gas emissions in the 20th century has resulted in today’s need to prepare for inevitable climate change. By extension, today’s ongoing failure to cease excessive greenhouse gas emissions will necessitate more extensive adaptation to even greater climate change in the future.

Developing adaptation strategies to deal with impending climate change will be vital, and Dr. Serageldin offered the example of the Nile Delta as one of the most heavily populated and intensely cultivated areas on Earth. Despite covering only 2.5 per cent of Egypt’s total land area, the Nile Delta harbours over one-third of the national population and nearly half of all crops. Standing less than two metres above sea level, however, it is also extremely

“The wars of the 21st century will be fought over water. People are out on the knife’s edge of starvation and there is likely to be a significant number of environmental refugees, particularly in the WANA region and in Sub-Sahara Africa. In many cases, rural women walk four hours a day in search of water for their families”

or pass through plants and thus are not captured as surface water. Of the 41,000 cubic kilometres that are potentially available to people as surface water – lakes, rivers, melting glaciers – some 20 per cent are in areas too remote for people. That leaves about 33,000 cubic kilometres, of which nearly three-quarters come in monsoons and floods.

This is counted in the

vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

The population of the Arab world constitutes five per cent of the world’s population, but its share of the world’s water is only one per cent. This small fraction is threatened by population growth that is the highest in the world, as well as pollution and the failure of the region to establish proper water management.

Dr. Serageldin highlighted how food eaten daily in the region consumes about 2,700 litres a day, per person, which amounts to almost a litre per calorie. He connected water scarcity with food security: for many people, access to water is as important as access to oil in more advanced economies. He predicted that the wars of the 21st century will be fought over water.

According to UNDP estimates, Arab countries will be home to some 385 million people in 2015. However, there have been few indications that Arab governments are developing the means to better manage the region’s precious one per cent share of the world’s water resources.

Freshwater, however, makes up only 2.5 per cent of the Earth’s total water available, while 97.5 per cent is saltwater. Of that 2.5 per cent, two-thirds are locked in the glaciers and ice caps which are currently melting into the ocean. Of the remaining two-thirds, another two-thirds are lost as they evaporate

total amount of water available, but only a fraction of that is collected by dams and thus useful. People can now sustainably access 12,500 cubic kilometres.

The main issue in the future will be how to better manage the flow of freshwater. Climate change is making rainfall more erratic, bringing periods of drought and flood. Meanwhile, poor farmers in developing countries are the least capable of withstanding years of drought. People are out on the knife’s edge of starvation and there is likely to be a significant number of environmental refugees, particular in the WANA region and in Sub-Sahara Africa. In many cases, rural women walk four hours a day in search of water for their families.

Coupled with this, the global population is growing and incomes are rising, which in turn leads to changing diets. Livestock is becoming more important because animal proteins are increasingly a part of the global diet, but growing livestock requires much more grain and hence much more water, thus impacting water resources as the world strives to provide the diets of 21st century populations.

To address these challenges, Dr. Serageldin stressed the need to rethink current paradigms. When talking about a knowledge based society, knowledge has to be understood as more than mere

information – information does not necessarily lead to wisdom. The true wealth of nations relies on social cohesion and human capital, not just macroeconomic indicators. Japan and Korea, for example, are not endowed with natural resources, but their cohesion has succeeded in generating great wealth.

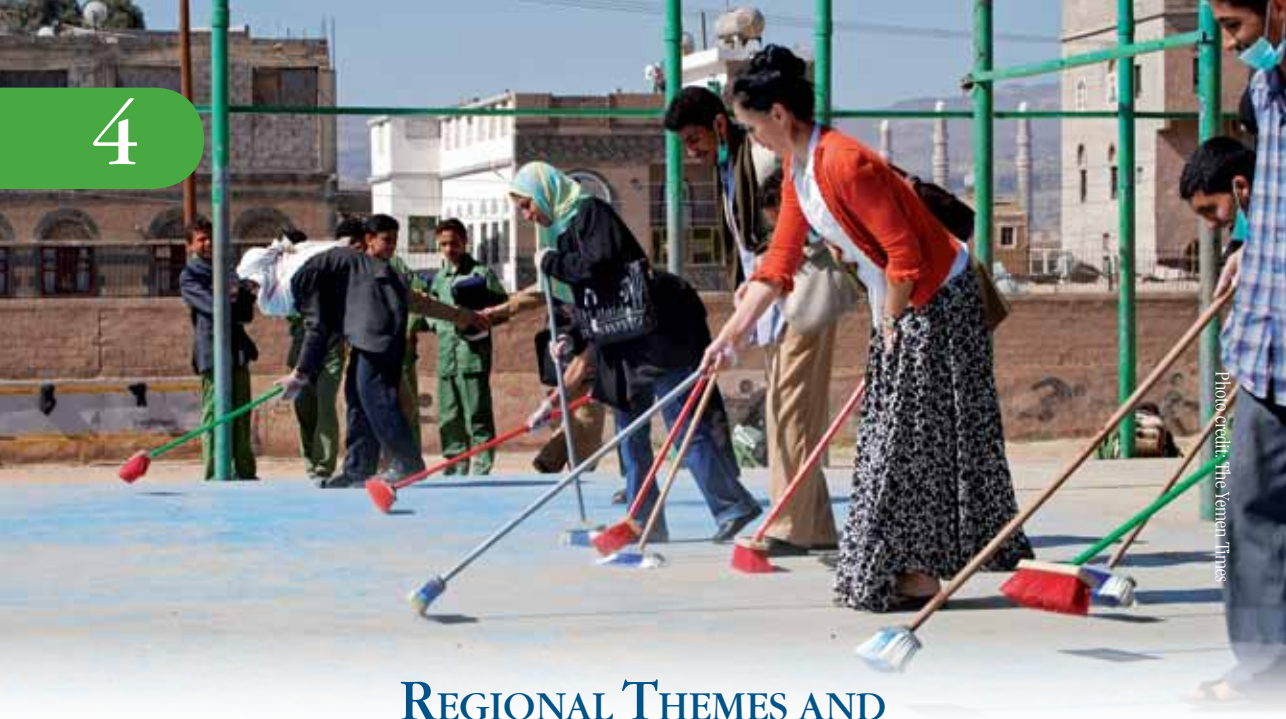
Dr. Serageldin spoke of the difficulty of confronting situations where there is no right answer, and quoted Amartya Sen who showed that the issue of justice is very much at the heart of development. The dilemma is summed up in a story told by Sen in which he suggests that we meet three children, and between them, they have but one flute. The flute can justifiably be given to the one with the greatest need, the one who produced it, or the one who can put it to best use. These three perceptions of the issue of fairness touch upon the principles of equity, utility, and entitlement, within certain capability domains. But whatever the case, whether or not a definitive answer can be found is less important than recognising that these problems need to be engaged with; they cannot be ignored.

People have a strong sense of identity and solidarity which is of considerable value.

Tackling such problems requires dialogue, an open exchange of views and strategies to manage social risks, such as employment and systematic marginalisation. In his last years of exile, even Napoleon Bonaparte came to the conclusion that in the long run, the sword is always beaten by the mind. Social and human capital is the glue that holds societies together.



Photo credit: Women Deliver



REGIONAL THEMES AND PRIORITIES OF THE WANA FORUM

Lakhdar Brahimi, Former Special Advisor to the UN Secretary General and Foreign Minister of Algeria, opened the session by noting that the previous session had been very substantive and given all participants plenty of food for thought. Participants were challenged to wake up not only to the serious problems faced by the region, but also to the opportunities that exist, as long as people in the region are determined to work together sooner rather than later. He expressed his hope that the panelists in this second session would take the morning's discussions one step further by considering the regional priorities for WANA in their respective fields.

Ann Pettifor, Director of Advocacy International and Fellow of the Economics Foundation (NEF), opened her presentation by noting she will try to answer Ismail Serageldin's earlier question as to where the region would get the money from to address several of the challenges identified. She stressed that the region can afford to tackle economic and environmental

vulnerabilities, and issues such as unemployment and poverty, food security and nutrition, as well as health and human security. This is because there is a prevalent misunderstanding regarding the nature of money and credit in the world. The prevalent idea is that markets provide the funding needed and that money or credit is subject to market forces of supply and demand like a commodity. However, it is not the result of market exchange. In fact it is the very existence of credit prior to having money that makes it possible to engage in market activity: credit creates economic activity.

Ms. Pettifor explained how "fountain pen money" – some US\$160 billion of it – were created by the Federal Reserve to bail out the American International Group (AIG). Money in banks is not tangible or visible, it is not a commodity like gold, tulips or oil, and there is no limit to the availability of bank money due to the unlimited ability to create credit. People already use less and less tangible money, such as coins and notes, in their daily transactions: only two per cent of total money used is cash.

It has been said that the purpose of banks is to allow people to save money, which others can then borrow, whereas in fact there has for a long time already been a negative correlation between net saving and net borrowing. John Maynard Keynes once said, “We can afford what we can create.” In other words, economic activity generates saving; it is not constrained by savings. There is no constraint on finance; the only constraint is potential economic activity. This is because inflation would result in the event of more finance than potential economic activity. Money is a social construct, invented to make transactions easier, and the money system is created on a foundation of trust in the banking system.

Dennis Meadows, President of the Laboratory for Interactive learning and Professor Emeritus for Policy Systems, University of New Hampshire and co-author of *The Limits to Growth*, noted that, put simplistically, solving problems in the WANA region is dependent on the ability of governments in the region to meet people’s demands. He argued that there are two solutions: either people need to get more of what they want, or they need to want less. There is a need to think about the relationship between politics and physical reality: global society is using energy and raw materials at above the sustainable levels, in particular in the WANA region. There is a need to make a transition back below the level of sustainability, which in turn requires different goals, new technologies and revised ethics. The ecological footprint is a way to measure the impact of people on the environment: in 1972, the average human footprint was roughly 80 per cent of what can be sustainably used, whereas today it is at about 140 per cent. The only way in which it is possible to go above 100 per cent

is by effectively borrowing from the future.

WANA countries will require above-average level policy changes to bring their ecological footprint to a sustainable level, whilst keeping in mind that in the long term, physical laws always prevail over political goals. As an example, Professor Meadows cited the growing Carbon Dioxide emissions. The basic formula for calculating the volume of those emissions in terms of natural capital is multiplying the number of people by their capital and by the energy required per capital unit by the fraction of energy used from fossil fuels. This basically shows that as long as the size of a population and their ambition to a higher standard of living continue, emissions will grow since improved efficiency and alternative fuels alone will not be able to balance out those increases. He argued that the time of greatest stress for the world will be between the years 2000 and 2030, and that the coming 15 years will see more changes in all aspects of human life than have been seen in the past 100 years. In conclusion, Professor Meadows noted that actions are much more important than words.

Zafar Adeel, Director of the United Nations University Institute for Water, Environment and Health in Canada, made a case for using water as a development lever to bring about some of the changes called for by previous speakers. The entire WANA region suffers from water scarcity. An examination of water consumption in the region clearly

“ WANA countries will require above-average level policy changes to bring their ecological footprint to a sustainable level. In the long term, physical laws always prevail over political goals ”

“People are over-exploiting the capacity of their natural systems to provide water. People are behaving like teenagers with credit cards, spending money they do not have and expecting someone to pay the bill”

shows that people are over-exploiting the capacity of their natural systems to provide water. People are behaving like teenagers with credit cards, spending money they do not have and expecting someone to pay the bill. He also noted that climate change will make the situation in the WANA region even worse. By the end of the 21st century, parts of WANA will be up to 40 per cent drier than they are today, which will have a significant impact on sustainability. Dr. Adeel argued that the main drivers in the region are: 1) population growth – almost all countries in the region will experience significant growth in size of population (up to double or triple current levels); 2) demographic problems – a young population with some 50 per cent of the population under 20; and 3) unemployment – persistent unemployment levels of up to 25 per cent. The reason that water is an important factor in addressing these drivers is due to the interrelationship between water security, food security and energy security: a large part of food consists of water, and water is also an important source of energy. Biofuels are a particularly important concern, because of the way they impact food security and water security.

Investment in better management of water resources and the provision of safe water and adequate sanitation is needed. The economic development lever of water is threefold: 1) mobilising the economic empowerment of communities; 2) demand management; and 3) enabling policies. The links of water security to human wellbeing

in the broadest sense are in the fields of maternal and childcare, school attendance and education, and poverty elimination. None of the Millennium Development Goals can be met without water.

Habiba Al-Marashi, Chairperson of the Emirates Environmental Group, presented the work of the Emirates Environmental Group, which is

a civil society organisation, established in 1991, with the aim of raising environmental awareness through education for sustainable development. She noted that education for sustainable development includes learning about what is needed to maintain and improve the quality of life for generations to come, equipping stakeholders to live and act sustainably and understanding the environmental, social and economic issues involved.

Education for sustainable development has become a well known and widely accepted concept, and is considered an important way to guarantee the wellbeing of humankind and nature alike. Although the WANA region faces challenges, such as conflicts, scarce resources, infertile land, low water quality and supply, population growth, climate change and loss of biodiversity, engaging the region's youth, which constitute a large percentage of the population, poses an opportunity to address these challenges. Education that nurtures a strong sense of environmental awareness can facilitate the transition to a low-carbon economy.

Ms. Al-Marashi stressed that creating a new green generation will not transpire overnight, but that sustained efforts are required. The Emirates Environmental Group is taking several steps to promote education for sustainable development, but involving educational institutions and promoting the environment as a fundamental subject in both academic and extra-curricular activities

are a top priority. The Group runs numerous educational projects, such as workshops for teachers, students, inter-school and inter-college public speaking competitions, and environmental drawing competitions. Future WANA needs not only the collective synergy of smart and wise people, but also people with a strong sense of social and environmental responsibility.

Salma Abbasi, Chairperson and CEO of e Worldwide Group, emphasised the importance of engaging youth, the digital community and innovative strategic partnerships with business communities while also creating integrated and interlocked policies.

She suggested that one aim of the WANA Forum is to benefit and address the issues, concerns and frustrations of youth in the region. Therefore, the youth need to be engaged in designing solutions and building the roadmap for WANA as they are the drivers of change.

Ms. Abbasi noted that youth are spending more and more time on the Internet and on

social networking sites in particular, leaving them vulnerable to extreme and negative elements. They are exposed to the struggles, abuse and injustices that exist around the world. They also see their parents, and society at large, deal with injustices at home, class divides, persecution, discrimination, corruption, hypocrisy, and most of all, non-action' by leaders. This leaves many of them disillusioned, desperately looking for hope, and searching for a shared identity and sense of belonging for a common cause. Through the Internet, they find role models, making friends with people in the digital world, which often leaves them vulnerable and susceptible to unknown risks.

Ms. Abbasi stressed the importance of providing youth access to positive role models and leaders who are actively engaged in turning around the injustices of the world. She suggested that work needs to be done to create a united borderless global digital community that promotes understanding, ethics, respect, peace, harmony and humanity across the WANA region and beyond.



Photo credit: Martin Marston

“They see their parents deal with injustices at home, class divides, persecution, discrimination, corruption, hypocrisy and non-action by leaders. This leaves many of them disillusioned, desperately looking for hope and searching for a shared identity and sense of belonging for a common cause”

The digital community is a vehicle for mobilising social cohesion. It gives access to the excluded and a voice to the voiceless and marginalised. It can also be used to mobilise the next generation in a positive manner to give them hope, inspiration and motivation that will help foster a global behavioural change. Thus, she emphasised the need to join forces across the globe on common issues and grievances by engaging women and youth as part of the solution, since they are currently untapped.

Technology today supports the knowledge economy and leverages best practices to allow for the creation of a fair and better society that can build the foundation for sustainable social cohesion.

Ms. Abbasi concluded by emphasising the importance of strategic partnerships with business communities for out-of-the-box thinking for job creation and innovation. She also stressed the need for a holistic framework of policy development to help translate rhetoric into action. To do so, she said, policy development needs to be strategic, practical and inter-linked, inter-locked and interwoven with the economy, environment and society and continuously measured and monitored. She also highlighted the need to create achievable targets that yield progress and provide a sense of accomplishment.

Comments and Recommendations

It was noted that there are already many technologies that could be employed to address carbon footprint; it is not necessary

to wait for new solutions to be developed. It would be important to start developing policies now and make best use of existing technologies.

Participants also noted that technology alone would not be sufficient for addressing environmental degradation in the region, and that the environment should be seen as a cross-cutting theme that affects all areas of development.

Social workers are responsible for bringing about change in people's behaviour, and it was suggested that the WANA Forum develop a strategy for empowering social workers to teach new generations to behave more responsibly.

The potential of employing nuclear technology for addressing energy and water problems in the WANA region was discussed. It was noted that realising projects such as employing nuclear power to desalinate sea water at the coast and pumping it further inland would require the resolution of conflicts in the region.

Pricing water was identified as a politically sensitive issue: it would be important to come to grips with the real cost of water but access to water for the poor would need to be guaranteed.

Finally, the need for society to reclaim the system for creating credit from the private sector was acknowledged as a way to ensure it would be used to promote sustainable development, such as developing decent urban living environments instead of just large urban construction projects.

LAUNCH OF THE ARABIC REPORT OF THE LEGAL EMPOWERMENT OF THE POOR: MAKING THE LAW WORK FOR EVERYONE

E I Hassan bin Talal, Chairman of the WANA Forum and Commissioner on Legal Empowerment of the Poor, chaired the launch of the Arabic Report of the Legal Empowerment of the Poor (LEP): *Making the Law Work for Everyone*. In his opening remarks, he confirmed that human capital is the most important pillar on which countries depend for their continuity and survival. If this human capital is grounded or depleted, it will be reflected in the advancement of society or render any development an illusion.

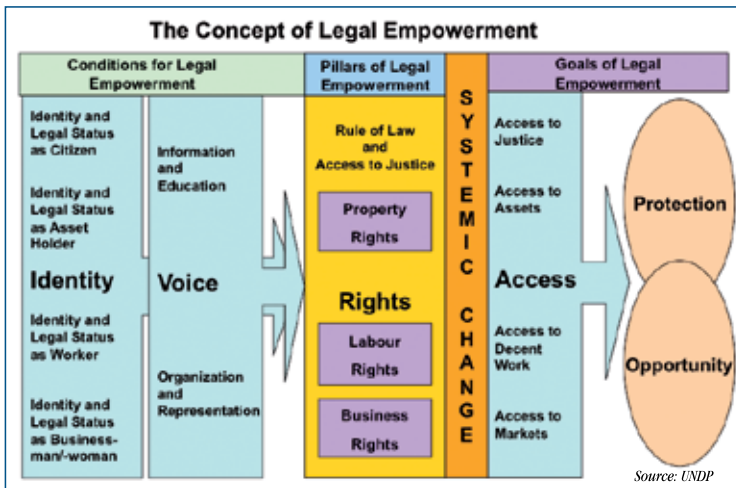
His Royal Highness also stated that poverty does not only mean material poverty. Everything that limits the power of humanity – psychologically, physically and spiritually – is part of poverty. Any infringement on anyone's rights by restraint, oppression and denial is poverty. It extends beyond hunger, thirst, famine, epidemics, desertification and so on.

The uprooted (refugees, displaced persons, migrants and people uprooted from their land due to climate change, wars, conflicts and different forms of tyranny) are

often the greatest victims of poverty. Surely, *zakat*, in its broader understanding could help, but solutions are needed that empower people to break the cycle of poverty and all forms of exclusion that come with it.

Four billion inhabitants of today's world are statistically poor. They have been left out from any economic scheme and development agenda, rendering them without any contribution to their societies. The effect of such exclusion and its implications on the stability and security of societies is very clear. All of humanity stands to lose if four billion human beings remain outside any inclusive formula. No society can prosper, or even progress, if people are not effective stakeholders of their own futures. It is the essence of citizenship.

Only practical considerations will allow society to move from words to actions and this is the core of the principle of *Making the Law Work for Everyone*, and the concept of the Legal Empowerment of the Poor. The report contains practical and implementable mechanisms, tables and strategies that could lead to access to justice, property rights,



and policies governing the economic, social and political affairs in many countries prevent sufficient access to a large part of the community. The rules of the game themselves are not fair. This, of course, is not only morally unacceptable but also impedes economic development and can lead to instability and insecurity.

The LEP report focuses on the process of changing the methodology through which the poor are

labour and business rights. A bottom up approach coupled with unconventional innovative approaches is the solution to this dilemma. Prince El Hassan concluded that our challenges are supranational and so should the solutions be.

Medhat Hassenein, Professor of Finance and Banking at the American University of Cairo, stressed that in this day and age, the available body of knowledge should be able to provide the opportunities of economic growth for everyone. The fortunes generated globally over the past few years are unprecedented. Yet, the overwhelming majority of the world's population is still deprived, and lack of income is only one dimension of the problem. Poverty-stricken communities have been excluded outside the scope of the rule of law. Whether they live below the poverty line or slightly above it, they are men, women and children who lack access to any rights or protection under the law. Although they are considered citizens of their countries, the modest resources they have – at best – cannot be protected or increased appropriately.

The report places the greatest responsibility of widespread poverty on society and proves that laws, institutions

excluded and marginalised so they may benefit from the rule of law and the legal system and services to protect their rights and interests and increase economic activity in their capacity as citizens and actors in their communities. Rights protected by law include the right to vote, the right to freedom of expression and the right to trial in accordance with due legal process. The report found that when the poor are protected and have access to opportunities through the legal system, the practical benefits become a reality. When the informal economy becomes legalised, the tax base will expand and widen, and the state revenues for national development will result in further economic gains, which lead to the expansion of domestic markets and increase financial activity at all levels.

Based on the four essential pillars of the Legal Empowerment of the Poor (access to justice and the rule of law; property rights; labour rights and business rights), citizens and grassroots organisations are able to create momentum for significant change, through public awareness and mobilisation to support the main themes in the process of legal empowerment.

The report identifies those who could be in a position to assist governments,

such as the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and the Habitat Agenda of the United Nations as well as regional political organisations, banks and institutions and civil society organisations, social workers, the business community, professional associations, religious groups, particularly in their contributions to empowering the poor on the ground.

A number of personalities heavily involved with social work and human rights in WANA were invited to comment on the LEP report.

Adnan Badran, Chairman of the Board of the National Centre for Human Rights in Jordan, stressed the importance of the international Declaration of Human Rights and the role of the Third Sphere (government, private sector and civil society), creating an environment for creative thinking and innovation.

Nuha al-Mikkawi, Governance Practice Leader at the UNDP Regional Centre for Arab States, stressed the need for the active participation of civil society, including religious institutions, in achieving the priorities of the third millennium. By 2015, the Arab region will have achieved some of the Millennium Development Goals, but human development is a long-term process. The region is currently struggling to achieve the right balance between human ambition and the use of natural resources. She emphasised that the UNDP will work in collaboration with other bodies and forums on legal empowerment to achieve progress on the ground.

Khadija Hussein, Founder and Chairperson of the Sudanese Mothers for Peace, explained the impact of war and conflict on mothers and children, as they often suffer the most

from isolation and exclusion and called for peaceful solutions to armed conflict and displacement.

Amal Basha, Chairperson of Sisters Arab Forum for Human Rights in Yemen, pointed out that the laws currently in place need to be reviewed, so as not to crush women under the mirage of customs, traditions and laws. She also called for a focus on political and economic reforms to ensure that the marginalised, including women, do not remain victims.

Hummam Ghassib, Secretary General of the Arab Thought Forum, emphasised the need to make the content of the report available to the public on a large scale, particularly among young people and simplifying the content in a way that does not jeopardise its integrity. He also called for the utilisation of different media and publication tools in disseminating the message.

In his concluding remarks, **Prince El Hassan** noted that the current era of globalisation and privatisation should not mean the end of planning and priority setting. Priorities must stem from the needs of the region, and should not be held captive by imported agendas from foreign capitals. He stressed that poverty eradication cannot be achieved without an increase in productivity; just as preventive medicine must come before curative medicine. The WANA region must re-examine its priorities and the ethics of professions, concentrate on rights, not on numbers, and change the behaviour of young people, thus linking the future of the region with their legitimate aspirations. His Royal Highness warned of the spread of the hatred industry in the world, stressing the importance of 'normalisation' of relations between Arabs and Muslims toward meaningful cooperation for the sake of future generations.



DISPLACEMENT AND POST-CONFLICT RECONSTRUCTION AND RECOVERY

Mohammed Al-Arifi, Technical Department Manager of the Saudi Fund for Development, introduced the panel and reiterated the need for a supranational mechanism rooted in WANA to address conflict and its aftermath. He also cited the ‘Cost of Conflict in the Middle East’ Strategic Foresight Group (SFG) 2009 report, which argues that conflict has cost the region around US\$12 trillion in missed economic growth and development over the last two decades.

Imran Riza, Jordan Representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), gave an overview of the total registered refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced persons and returnees in the WANA region, which includes 11,807,611 people.

He stressed the need not to just mitigate against displacement but make constructive use of displacement when it occurs. Yet the politics of the region often means a reluctance to recognise the ‘refugeeness’ of refugees, which underlies the unwillingness

of some states in the region to become signatories of the 1951 UN Refugee Convention and 1967 Protocol.

Yet the region has a rich culture of taking in persons at risk and needing refuge. A UNHCR-sponsored book by Cairo University law professor and dean of the law faculty, Ahmed Abu Al-Wafa (*The Right to Asylum Between Islamic Shari’ah and International Refugee Law: A Comparative Study*, 2009) describes the influence of Islam and Arab tradition on modern-day international refugee law. Protection of refugees, their property and families, non-refoulement, the civilian character of asylum, voluntary repatriation are all referenced in the Quran.

Mr. Riza spoke about the ‘brain drain’ in the context of the uprooted, noting that some of the most educated and talented individuals are being resettled abroad rather than helping in the reconstruction of their communities. WANA lacks policies and incentives for people to stay and enhance the region’s carrying capacity. One recent and promising trend is cross-border migration to allow Iraqi refugees, for

example, to go back and forth between Iraq and Jordan in order to access resources they have at home.

Lily Habash, Deputy Chief Technical Advisor for the Capacity Development Initiative of the UNDP Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People (PAPP), presented the situation of Palestinians today, speaking in her personal capacity independent of her official position in UNDP/PAPP.

She noted that Palestinians have undergone 62 years of continuous suffering, a denial of their right of return to the land from which they were displaced, institutionalised violations of basic human rights and freedoms, and still there is no just resolution in sight. Refugees in the Occupied Palestinian Territories constitute 45 per cent of the total population. The records of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) in mid 2009 show that the number of registered refugees totalled 4.7 million, constituting 43.4 per cent of the total Palestinian population. Of these, 41.7 per cent are in Jordan, 9.9 per cent in Syria, 9 per cent in Lebanon, 16.3 per cent in the West Bank and 23 per cent in Gaza.

United Nations data shows that Palestinian refugees are still vulnerable because of continued conflict, their relation to the labour market in general and the degree to which their social and political rights are on par with other inhabitants of the host countries. Ms. Habash added that this leads to disempowerment and a continued dependence on aid from UNRWA whose focus is not necessarily development but rather humanitarian. Palestinians face a future absent of human security and stability for generations to come.

Ms. Habash noted that in the midst of all the challenges facing the institutionalisation and financial stability of humanitarian institutions that serve refugees around the world, it is crucial to continuously work

toward resolving the refugee problem, thus allowing, in accordance with international law, the dignified return of refugees to their homeland. She highlighted the need for the international community to continuously recognise the right of return, as well as demand that Israel apologise to Palestinians for the moral and historic damage they have incurred as a result of Israeli occupation. As a third generation refugee herself, Ms. Habash said that she and her family accepted their fate and moved on in life, but that, for the sake of her own dignity, she requires this apology and recognition of responsibility. It is essential, she said, for future reconciliation between Palestinians and Israelis.

In her capacity as member on the advisory board of the Palestinian UNDP Palestinian Human Development Report 2009/10, Ms. Habash shared the report's main findings. The widespread absence of human security in the Occupied Palestinian Territories has greatly impeded Palestinian progress, and until Palestinians are afforded economic and environmental control – specifically control over macro-economic policy, trade, livelihoods, water resources and borders – sustained development will remain elusive.

The report also explores different facets of human security, economy, food, health, environment, politics and community from the perspective of establishing freedom from want and fear, freedom to live in dignity and reframing the concept of security, so that the security of the individual is placed on par with the security of the state.

Ms. Habash supported the Report's argument that the crisis of poverty in Palestine is not about a poverty of insufficiency or lack of capacity, but a poverty of disempowerment in terms of the extent of control over borders and micro as well as macro level policy. Israel's systematic segregation of Palestinian communities into a series of fragmented archipelagos has had

far reaching implications for Palestinian economic, social and cultural cohesion. Fragmentation has also severely weakened the central authority and central institutions of governance of the Palestinian Authority and intensified internal Palestinian political polarisation. A pragmatic approach to promoting human security whilst under, or emerging from, occupation would be needed, and could be based on a participatory state-building strategy to promote territorial continuity, economic integration, social cohesion, sovereignty and political reconciliation.

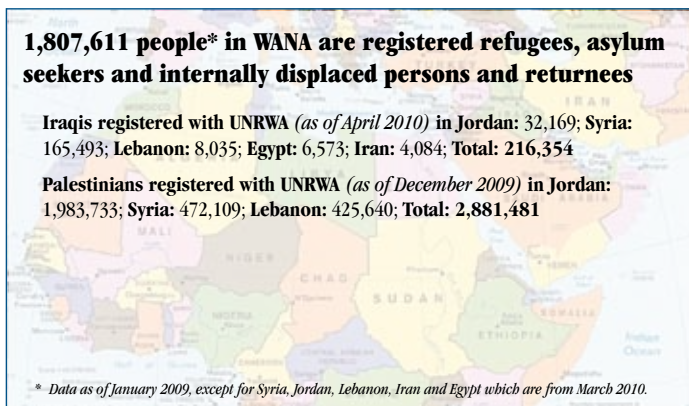
In conclusion, Ms. Habash reiterated the Report's recommendations for the establishment of a Commission for Representative Governance to monitor the implementation of the suggested state-building strategy to ensure transparency of the Palestinian Authority and build accountability and credibility. She also stressed the Report's call for de-linking aid from the political process so that institutional arrangements can be established to ensure that the rights of Palestinians are protected and their needs addressed in accordance with international law. Finally, Ms. Habash noted that WANA could take on efforts to promote education, empowerment and equal human rights for Palestinian refugees in host countries and provide neutral support to

developing Palestinian internal cohesion.

Ahmed Hassan, President of the Somali Red Crescent Society, began his presentation by noting that for over two decades, Somalia has been without a Central Government and is characterised by lawlessness and insecurity, especially in the south and central regions. Since 1991 conflict, recurrent drought and occasional floods have affected Somalia in general and in particular the south and central regions. These disasters have killed thousands of people and rendered millions displaced. However, Somaliland and Puntland experience a general good level of peace and stability and a fairly functioning administration.

At the end of 2008, a significant political change took place in Somalia. In December 2008, Abdullahi Yusuf resigned as president of the Transitional Federal Government (TFG), and in January 2009, Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Ahmed, the leader of the Islamic Courts Union who vowed to end the conflict in Somalia, was elected as the new president of the country. In anticipation of this political change, Ethiopian troops, present in Somalia since December 2006, withdrew from Mogadishu and Baidoa. This new political development in Somalia, which initially brought hope for a political solution to Somalia's long-standing crisis,

was short lived. It rather soon resulted in serious divisions between the Islamic Courts Union and triggered armed conflict between TFG on one side and the Harakat Al-Shabaab and Hizbul Islam on the other. Fighting broke out in Mogadishu between the TFG in May 2009, supported by African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) on one side and Harakat Al-Shabaab Mujahideen, Hizbul Islam and other militia groups



on the other side. Since then, fighting has been ongoing, causing loss of life, mass displacement of people and the destruction of infrastructure.

Dr. Hassan noted that since 2009, the humanitarian landscape of Somalia has been characterised by the following factors and developments:

- In Mogadishu, escalating conflict, violence and indiscriminate mortar attacks and shelling are resulting in high civilian casualties. In 2009, Keysaney Hospital (founded by International Committee of the Red Cross together with the Somalia Red Crescent Society) has treated 2357 war-wounded persons.
- Massive internal displacement in the southern and central regions of the country, particularly in and around Mogadishu. An estimated number of 1.55 million people are displaced across the country.
- Drought, food insecurity and malnutrition throughout the whole country, including Somaliland and Puntland, affecting urban poor, pastoral and agro-pastoral communities.

According to the 2009 FAO/the Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU) assessment, 3.64 million Somalis are in need of livelihood support and humanitarian assistance.

- Despite functioning administration in place in Somaliland and Puntland, due to the lack of resources and basic infrastructure (health,

education, water/sanitation, veterinary services, roads, etc.) both Somaliland and Puntland need humanitarian and development assistance.

Dr. Hassan stressed that according to the World Human Development Report in 2009, Somalia is one of the world's poorest countries. Food insecurity affects an estimated 17 million people in Ethiopia, Somalia, Djibouti, Sudan, Eritrea and parts of Kenya and Uganda. There is also a high level of global acute malnutrition (GAM) in large parts of Somalia, Ethiopia, Djibouti and Sudan. The affected populations are those who already live on the margins of survival due to conflict, displacement and chronic poverty. Conflict and political instability are serious challenges in Somalia, Ethiopia, Sudan and Yemen, and have led to high numbers of refugees as well as internally displaced people.

Bakhtiar Amin, Founder of the International Alliance for Justice and Former Minister of Human Rights of Iraq, addressed the plight of the uprooted in the historical and present-day context of Iraq. The Iraqi refugees and IDPs are estimated to be between four - four



Photo credit: Nigel Green

“Some of the most educated and talented individuals are being resettled abroad rather than helping in the reconstruction of their communities. WANA lacks policies and incentives for people to stay and enhance the region’s carrying capacity”

of population and its restitution might cause it again. Yet, there are IDPs and refugees who have not regained their houses and properties. The drainage of Marsh Arab Lands (used to be called the Venice of the Middle East and the Garden of Eden) in

and a half million today. He noted that Iraq is one of the biggest producers of refugees and displaced people in the WANA region and in the world; although to a much lesser extent it has also received refugees from its neighbouring countries and the region.

the South, which constitutes a human and environmental catastrophe, has also led to massive displacement of the population of the South of Iraq in the 1990s towards other areas of Iraq and Iran.

For several decades in Iraq, millions of persons have been internally displaced, deported or forced into exile. The exact figure of uprooted Iraqis, both during and post Saddam Hussein’s regime, is problematic and inaccurate. Various sources decrease or increase the number due to their various political interests. Multiple sources estimate the number of Iraqi refugees, before the fall of the Baathist regime in 2003, to be three to five million people. UN-HABITAT estimate IDPs to be 805,000 in the North (Kurdistan region) and 100,000 to 300,000 in the southern and central parts of Iraq. Most of the refugees and IDPs during Saddam’s time were Kurds and Shiaa. Today, the IDPs are of all communities and most of the refugees, in particular in the neighbouring Arab countries, are Sunnis.

The Iraq-Iran War, the Gulf Wars, sanctions, repressive policies of the regime, forced enrolment in the armed forces, popular militia, Al Quds Army, Fedayeen Saddam and Ashbal Saddam and other security, militia and para-military entities were all decisive push factors behind the displacement and migratory waves of Iraqis. The exodus of over 60,000 Iraqi Kurds from Duhok province to Turkey in 1988 occurred right after the end of the Iraq-Iran war as a result of chemical attacks by the Iraqi government. The refugees were placed in three camps in Diyarbakir, Mush and Marin in Turkey. The failure of the uprising of 1991 following the Gulf War after the Kuwait invasion led to massive exodus of Iraqi refugees to neighbouring countries, a time period characterised by many in the international community and media as the largest human exodus after the Second World War. Iraqis from the South, Central Euphrates and Eastern parts of the country, including the entire population of Iraqi Kurdistan – over four million people, were in movement towards the Iranian and Turkish borders in cold, snowy, rugged mountainous and mined areas, dying by the hundreds.

Mr. Amin noted that the first wave of refugees from Iraq were opponents of the Baathist coup d’état of 1968, then the Jews of Iraq in the 1970s. The policy of demographic changes targeted mainly the Shiaa population of Iraq and the Kurdish community. The administrative decapitation policy of the provinces of Karbala, Diyala, Salahaddin, Kirkuk, Erbil, Mossul and Amara and the capital Baghdad caused some movements

This human tragedy was televised, shocked international public opinion and,

as a result, a no fly zone in the North and the South was created and the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) issued its first human rights resolution. Resolution 688 (issued in April 1991) condemned the repression of the Iraqi civilian population and demanded that Iraq immediately put an end to it. Many refugees were able to return to their homes, but many others were displaced across the region and beyond.

In the post-conflict period of 2003, the push factors for new displacement and refugees were not a systematic centralised state or a ruling authority's policy. Rather, it was due to multiple factors and challenges such as insecurity, flight from fear and want, terrorism, Al Qaeda, remnants of Saddam's regime, obscurantist forces, outlaws, sectarian violence (its apogee was after the attack on the Samara Holy Shrines in 2006 and continued until 2008), militias, occupation, resistance, economic instability, cross-border operations, sabotage activities, lack of services and good governance, electricity and water problems, social injustices, restricted social freedom by multiple actors, nepotism, clientelism, corruption, organised crime groups, intimidations, harassments, kidnappings, human rights violations, the occupation, military operations, the dire economic situation and unemployment.

The Iraqi refugee situation in the aftermath of the 2003 conflict is characterised by the presence of various observers and human rights organisations in some countries of the region as the open door policy in Syria, a semi tolerant host in Jordan, a totally indifferent host in Egypt, and a host of rejection and detention in Lebanon. Although the situation of Iraqi refugees and IDPs in the post 2003 era has received more regional and international attention and support, more assistance and understanding is needed.

Despite the improved security situation and the support and facilities provided by

the Iraqi government, such as the Ministry of Migration and Displaced, most refugees have not returned to Iraq.

Mr. Amin noted that the security situation in Iraq remains fragile with differences from province to province. It is not advisable to refoule or force Iraqi refugees or IDPs back. Repatriation by foreign countries – be they European, Middle Eastern or other – should be based on free choice with necessary facilities and financial assistance. Iraqi authorities have also made some support available through the Ministry of Migration and Displaced, the Prime Minister's Office, local authorities, the Iraqi Red Crescent, the Kurdistan Regional Government and civil society organisations.

In conclusion, Mr. Amin noted that the best help from neighbours and the international community would be to contribute to the stability of Iraq, the national reconciliation process and the success of the democratic and political process in the country in order for these refugees and IDPs to return back to their homes.

Mohammad Ehsan Zia, CEO of TADBEEN Consulting Inc. and former Minister of Rural Development of Afghanistan, began his presentation with a quote from a senior NATO commander he thought accurately sums up the challenge faced by Afghanistan today:

“A successful counterinsurgency strategy needs three pillars: an effective military/security campaign; an effective local development/governance campaign; and an exit strategy of [international forces]. Today's Afghanistan counterinsurgency (COIN) strategy has the first, a start to the second and almost none of the third. The COIN strategy has shortcomings that can be fixed by linking development and governance work to ongoing Afghan national and international development programmes.”

Mr. Zia argued that this statement reveals

one major challenge: the lack of unity of purpose in every aspect within and between all stakeholders, between military operations, civilian and aid efforts, among and within the international community, between the international community and the government of Afghanistan, and finally and most visibly, the lack of unity of purpose within the Afghan government itself.

Unity of purpose is fundamental to the success of efforts in Afghanistan. The cause of unity of purpose is not served when different actors in the international community are not on the same page and envision different endgames to the situation. Mr. Zia noted that counterinsurgency cannot be successfully achieved in isolation and without state building. If state institutions in Afghanistan are not sufficiently built, and the international forces leave the county, all of the hard-won gains will be lost.

What is worrying is that the international community and the government of Afghanistan, in their search for quick solutions and a rapid exit strategy in the shortest possible timeframe, revert to the same old solutions which have already been condemned by history.

These solutions include the continued co-optation and legitimisation of the forces of warlordism, ill-conceived efforts such as the Afghanistan Social Outreach Programme, formation of tribal militias, the Community Defence Initiatives, and so on. All these attempts at crafting quick-impact, short-term, and cheap solutions to problems which are fundamentally neither short-term nor easy to fix, end up diverting attention, resources and time from the kind of long-term serious investments that are needed to extend the rule of law and build up the institutions of the state.

The Taliban are not the only threat or the single source of all of Afghanistan's problems. The rule of law is equally undermined by a number of other actors within the country who pose an imminent threat to peace and security, especially if the international focus and presence should draw down.

To meet the deadlines set by the international community, NATO commanders and the Afghan National Security Forces have rapidly expanded the first pillar of the COIN operations. But the other equally important pillars of development and governance are lagging far behind. Development programmes of the government of Afghanistan are buried under multiple layers of donor and government bureaucracies, absurd conditionalities and opposing interests and priorities.

People are disappointed with the slow pace of development and the lack of government leadership. No one is thinking out of the box. A one-size fits all solution is being applied, regardless of the unique circumstances in the different areas of the country. There is a general consensus that poverty is one of the motivators for the growing insurgency. The most recent national study reveals that disparities between rich and poor are rapidly growing in Afghanistan, despite the billions of dollars of development investment by donors in the country.

“Attempts at crafting quick-impact, short-term and cheap solutions to problems which are fundamentally neither short-term nor easy to fix, end up diverting attention, resources and time from the kind of long-term serious investments that are needed to extend the rule of law and build up the institutions of the state”



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SOCIAL COHESION IN THE WANA REGION

Maha Yahya, Regional Advisor on Social Policy at the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), introduced the panel and noted that it will address several of the challenges identified in previous sessions. The main issues will be the mechanisms for fostering social cohesion, the roles of different stakeholders – such as governments, civil society, the private sector and donor organisations – in so doing, and how their efforts can complement each other.

Hu Shaocong, Director of the Department for the Developing Countries Studies, China Institute of International Studies, stressed the importance of social cohesion for development in all countries, and highlighted three key elements of social cohesion from China's experience. First, social cohesion under the consensus of development has provided a solid basis for economic growth – a generally stable society also creates an enabling environment for economic development. China has 56 ethnic groups,

and every ethnic group has its own culture, but as a result of a thousand years of common history, there is also a common Chinese culture which links these groups together.

Second, addressing the new challenges affecting social cohesion – such as an unsustainable investment-driven growth pattern, an unbalanced industrial structure, unbalanced development between urban and rural areas as well as different regions, and growing income disparity – is crucial both for maintaining social cohesion and sustaining economic development. The new approach adopted by the Chinese government is based on putting development first, but also introduces harmony and balance to promote comprehensive, coordinated and sustainable development. This involves changing growth patterns, accelerating the development of the rural and western region of China, reforming the wealth distribution system and increasing the income of poor people. The real challenge still remains in implementing this new approach to development.

Third, every country has to find its own

way to achieve social cohesion, because every society has its own circumstances, special conditions, priorities, context of consensus and its own way to achieve it. While learning from the experiences of other countries can help, ultimately, every society knows how to solve its own problems and only that society itself can solve them.

Amal Basha, Chairperson of the Sisters Arab Forum for Human Rights in Yemen, reflected on the challenges to fostering social cohesion in Yemen. She noted that development in Yemen has been affected by conflicts in Somalia, Iraq and Palestine. Yemen has suffered from wars in the North, which in turn have led to a problem of internally displaced people and refugees. The Yemeni president has remained in office for 20 years, and religious forces have all but silenced political debate in the country. Political pluralism is no longer tolerated, religious diversity is constrained and women's rights are ignored. In recent years, Yemen has also suffered from the emergence of terrorist organisations and Somali pirates on its territory. There is a growing division between the North and the South, which seriously hinders economic development and social cohesion.

Hossein Godazgar, Reader and Deputy Head of Department for the Study of Islam and Muslims at Al-Maktoum Institute, identified three main approaches to social cohesion and exclusion: the redistributionist discourse, which emphasises economic inequalities; the moral underclass discourse, which emphasises cultural differences and exclusion; and the social integrationist discourse, which emphasises paid work. He noted that none of the three touch upon the social scientific meaning of social cohesion.

In WANA, it would be necessary to distinguish between difference – which draws and maintains boundaries via the

assertion of distinctiveness and ascription of a special function – and diversity – which maintains boundaries and is aware of self-identity, but is socially relevant and harmonious. It would also be important to focus on equality, acknowledge that social cohesion is a two-way process, always contextualised and addresses both the social and cultural dimensions.

It is easy to acknowledge the potential of equality to contribute to social cohesion, but is difficult to translate it into policy. The acceptance of a two-way process involves an acceptance of diversity on the part of existing elites. The media and the State have a key role to play in adopting “myth busting” strategies in order to pave the way for improving social cohesion. The way in which social cohesion is understood is always context-sensitive – it differs based on time and place. Therefore, it would be important to acknowledge that Islam as a context for pluralism has both a theoretical and practical part to play, going beyond the public-private divides.

In conclusion, Dr. Godazgar noted that promoting social cohesion requires addressing both economic and cultural issues. Improving economic equality is a necessary but not a sufficient condition for the promotion of social cohesion – intercultural understanding is also a critical part of a positive change towards social cohesion.

Jan Sadlak, Vice-Rector for International Cooperation at the Warsaw School of Social Psychology and Humanities, defined social cohesion as the glue that brings people together in society, particularly in conditions of social diversity. Even some credit rating agencies look at social cohesion as a variable when setting credit ratings for governments.

Dr. Sadlak focused on the role of higher education in social cohesion because he sees knowledge-sharing as the most

effective instrument of social cohesion; every educational institution is a stakeholder and partner in fostering it. Universities are responsible for education, research and societal development. They develop creative solutions and they can also better anticipate their own optimal role in society. Universities are not only creators and custodians of knowledge, but also values. They should no longer be thought of as ivory towers but rather, as vital elements of social, economic and cultural development.

In Europe, the Bologna process is an important element of the development of a regional identity because knowledge does not stop at geographical borders. The WANA region would also benefit from an exchange programme at university levels. Study programmes would need to reflect multiculturalism, developing a global perspective and firm values. The interplay between global and local knowledge is essential for innovation; mono-cultures do not innovate.

Dr. Sadlak concluded that people are driven by short-term concerns and it is finally time to start seeing the urgency of what is going on.

Zhou Nan-Zhao, President of the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Network for International Education and Values Education (APNIEVE) and President of the Chinese Council on Private Higher Education, quoted a Chinese proverb: “If you are planning for a year, sow rice. If you are planning for a decade, plant trees. If you are planning for a lifetime, educate people.” Education is, therefore, a powerful tool for social cohesion and poverty alleviation. There is, for example, a strong correlation between poverty, social exclusion and illiteracy. China has been one of the very few countries to achieve the Millennium Development Goals on halving poverty and reducing illiteracy.

In the experience of China, secondary

“Universities are not only creators and custodians of knowledge, but also values. They should no longer be thought of as ivory towers but rather, as vital elements of social, economic and cultural development”

education is a fundamental tool for improving the situation of women in society and achieving gender equality. Further education is an indispensable tool for promoting economic growth. In China, the secondary vocational education now includes more than 86 per cent of the population, because the development of skills of workers is extremely important; it is the driving force of a knowledge-based economy.

The three goals of fostering social cohesion in China are sustainable development, eliminating conflicts and instable environments and social, economic, environmental and cultural development. Essential elements in China’s development have been learning from the experiences of other countries and reversing the brain drain. International education is necessary for deriving benefits from educational innovations and working together in a globalised world. They are essential for building pillars of education for the 21st century, learning to live together and appreciate diversity. International education has three main dimensions: globalised problems, the transitional flow of teachers, and aid and trade flows. The cooperation of the International Research and Training Centre for Rural Education (INRULED) is China’s contribution to supporting teacher training.

Dr. Zhou outlined a path for moving

from ideas to action: developing a long-term vision for social cohesion and sustainable development; highlighting the significance of education, developing multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder approaches to initiatives; placing international education higher on the agenda, setting up a UNESCO sub-regional taskforce; expanding inter-regional cooperation on education, and mobilising educational and cultural resources through cross-cultural learning.

Daoud Kuttab, Founding Director of Community Media Network and Media Activist in Palestine and Jordan, stressed the importance of media. He noted the zenith of the radio coinciding with uprisings against rulers in the WANA region which had an adverse effect on the development of media in the region in the 20th century. There has always been a connection between political rulers and local radio, which has effectively become a mouthpiece of the government – this phenomenon has prevented the use of the radio as an educational tool. It would be important for social cohesion to introduce community radios to the WANA region. Licensing radio stations is commonly considered a national treasure, but governments in WANA are not tapping into this treasure as they are not granting licenses and providing opportunities for people to develop their own media structures. Mr. Kuttab noted that in 2000, when he established an Internet radio station, there

“There is a strong correlation between poverty, social exclusion and illiteracy. According to a Chinese Proverb, if you are planning for a year, sow rice. If you are planning for a decade, plant trees. If you are planning for a lifetime, educate people”

was no licensing for private radio in Jordan. Therefore, he connected with private radio stations in Palestine, to which his station broadcast on the Internet and which then broadcast the same programme on radio waves. Some years later, the airwaves were deregulated and more private radio stations emerged. At the moment, radio in the WANA region is very centralised and would need to be decentralised in order to promote social cohesion.

Comments and Recommendations

In the ensuing discussions it was noted that promoting social cohesion would need a holistic approach, with top-down and bottom-up support. Culture was highlighted as a key priority for promoting social cohesion and regional cooperation.

With regard to community media, it was noted that community media could help people in the peripheries to be better aware of what happens in centres. Radios do not require much power and could even be operated by solar energy in rural areas, which would serve to promote inclusion, education and capacity-building. The WANA region could draw on lessons learned from Africa, where community radios have played an important role. It was also noted that public-private partnerships could be explored to promote community radios. Media reform could be selected as a priority for promoting development in WANA.

The need for developing media to promote thinking and understanding was highlighted to fill the gap between commercial media and educational institutions. The establishment of an Arab Portal for the dissemination of ideas that emerge from the WANA Forum was suggested.



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OUR COMMON FUTURE: WATER, ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY COMMUNITY

This guest session was organised by the Strategic Foresight Group (SFG) and consisted of five components. The first component was a Vision Conversation between **El Hassan bin Talal, Chairman of the WANA Forum**, and **Sundeep Waslekar, President of SFG**.

The second component was a Strategic Dialogue on Concrete Policy Initiatives, which included the following panelists:

- **Karim Nashashibi**, Economic Advisor to the Prime Minister of the Palestine Authority;
- **Saban Disli**, Member of Parliament, Economic Advisor to the Prime Minister of Turkey;
- **Dureid Mahasnah**, Former Water Negotiator, Jordan Valley Secretary General and Co-Chair, Jordan-Water Community with Israel and Syria;
- **Kamal Field Al-Basri**, Chairman and Member of the Board of Trustees, Iraq Institute for Economic Reform, Iraq;
- **Selim Catafaco**, President of the National Authority of the Litani River, Lebanon;

- **Emin Onen**, Member of Parliament, Deputy Chairman for Foreign Affairs of AK Party, Turkey.

The Third component was Strategic Dialogue on International Cooperation with senior diplomats from Sweden and Switzerland, including:

- **Jean-Daniel Ruch**, Special Envoy for the Middle East, Government of Switzerland;
- **Francois Muenger**, Head of Water Initiatives, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation;
- **Dag Juhlin-Dannfelt**, Deputy Head of the Middle East Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sweden;
- **Annika Johansson**, Regional Water Coordinator, Swedish International Development Agency.

The fourth component was a presentation on water scarcity and drought in the WANA region by WANA Forum Environment Working Group member **Jauad El-Kharraz, Information Manager of the Technical Unit at the Euro-Mediterranean Information System on Know-how in the Water Sector (EMWIS)**.

He gave an overview of the working group's assessment of current environmental, social and economic impacts of water scarcity and drought in WANA. He shared examples of water demand and supply management measures and drought and risk management implemented or planned in the WANA region in order to mitigate the impacts of water scarcity and drought. The expected impacts of climate change on the region and the concept of virtual water were also addressed. Dr. El-Kharraz acknowledged that data gaps remain and listed his recommendations for ways forward, discussed in the Environment Break-Out Session (page 69), which include the establishment of an effective WANA drought information system. The fifth component of the plenary was an open discussion with WANA Forum participants.

The plenary, organised as part of the SFG's initiative for water security in the Middle East, aimed to advance policy deliberations that began in Montreux, Switzerland in February 2010, with two workshops engaging 60 senior opinion makers from the Middle East. The Montreux Workshops resulted in an Agenda for Action, with several ideas presented for consideration by the policymaking community in the region and the international donor community interested in peace and cooperation in the Middle East. In Amman, the discussion progressed to develop some of the broad ideas into realisable aspirations.

Prince El Hassan lamented the transformation of the Fertile Crescent into the Futile Crescent and introduced the concept of concentric circles of cooperation as an innovative approach to break the political deadlocks in the region, which have made a collaborative response to humanitarian problems very difficult. His Royal Highness proposed that the region develop concentric circles of cooperation, where each circle consists of countries that

are part of the same political dynamic; the first such circle of cooperation could be formed by Turkey, Syria, Iraq, Lebanon and Jordan for sustainable management of water and the environment. In order for such a circle to translate into a reality, Prince El Hassan recommended the establishment of an independent regional entity with a mandate to introduce practical measures for cooperation. This idea was supported by opinion makers from the region, as well as international diplomats who participated in the Strategic Dialogue of the plenary.

Other concrete ideas were also presented to enable the region to move ahead, breaking the cycle of conflict that has undermined the ability to harness human potential and allowed crisis of water scarcity to loom on the horizon. The plenary emphasised that concentric circles of cooperation should be based on a shared conceptual premise, and that:

- Water should be treated as a cornerstone of cooperation. In the same way as the coal and steel community provided a foundation for regional cooperation in Europe in the 1950s, water and environment are at the core of the current stage of technological development in the world.
- If water is not treated as an instrument of cooperation, crises are inevitable. In the same way as the nuclear arms race threatened destruction of humankind half a century ago, water scarcity threatens human survival in the coming decades.
- Water scarcity is closely linked to food security and health security. Therefore, cooperation in water should be seen in the context of agriculture and sanitation. Food is already perceived as a basic human right. In a similar way, sanitation should be treated as a human right.

“ Trans-boundary problems need to be resolved but they cannot provide an alibi for ignoring domestic actions for improving sustainability ”

- While not ignoring water rights, water should be treated as an instrument of partnership driven by needs and sustainability of the entire population in a given geography.
- Experience from around the world proves that good ideas need sound institutional mechanisms to transform into actions, and therefore a real concentric circle of cooperation would only evolve with an institutional architecture.

The plenary also realised that for the first circle to become a reality, the concerned countries would need to create an independent regional entity with the following objectives:

1. To undertake an independent assessment of water resources in the first circle countries and to examine emerging trends with regards to availability, needs and environmental implications of alternative water scenarios;
2. To create regional protocols and practical measures for standardising measurements of water flows and environmental indicators;
3. To harmonise water laws for sustainable environment in the countries forming the first circle;
4. To enable projects of a regional nature, which by their very characteristic cannot be undertaken at the national level, including the development of a regional climate change model and using satellites and remote sensing for mapping underground water, arid land and other phenomena;

5. To prepare for integrated water resource management on a sustainable basis at the basin level.

The proponents of the regional entity were clear that such a mechanism should not be a negotiating platform, a

task performed by inter-governmental committees, nor should it undertake studies and organise conferences, a task undertaken by established regional research centres.

They proposed a multiple-layer structure for such a regional entity:

- A regional concept group of high level political leaders or their representatives;
- A regional technical group of representatives of concerned ministries and water authorities;
- A regional advisory group of experts and civil society representatives;
- An international group of donor countries and relevant international organisations;
- An independent secretariat.

The speakers from outside the region indicated that such a regional entity could potentially attract international support, provided stakeholders in the region take initiative and ownership to create its foundation. Such an endeavour should be seen as the possibility of a partnership between regional and international actors.

Once a successful beginning is made in the first circle, stakeholders from other countries could form similar concentric circles of cooperation. Eventually, it might be possible for different circles to explore intersecting linkages. Such a phased approach could free cooperation in such essential human issues as water security, which is closely linked to food and health security, from protracted conflicts.

The High Level Plenary articulated aspirations for countries outside the first circle. One way to break the deadlock in

Israel-Palestine negotiations could be to agree on a special fast track for negotiations on water. The importance of water in the peace process was recognised by the Oslo Process, which created a Joint Water Committee. Unfortunately, at present, it does not function as a joint forum, as the Palestinians complain about their proposals being rejected by the Israeli authorities and unfair exploitation of aquifers by Israeli nationals, while the Israeli side has expressed reservations about the Palestinian water management practices.

In order to break the deadlock, it is necessary to revive and reorganise the Joint Water Committee in such a way that:

- It facilitates discussion on equitable basis between Israeli and Palestinian counterparts, where they discuss their grievances and expectations with a common vision to save and sustain water resources;
- It brings in representatives of international donor governments as observers to ensure fairness in the management of water sector.

Participants recognised water security as an important component of human security and, therefore, recommended that parties agree to treat water as a problem to be jointly solved on a fast track basis, without being subjected to the long and protracted process of negotiations on other contentious issues. It is for the opinion makers in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories to recognise their common future in sustainable water management. If they agree to create such a fast track, it will automatically create the second concentric circle of cooperation in the region.

Participants also recognised that water is not merely an issue of discussion between parties across borders and territorial jurisdiction, but is also an issue of sound management within the jurisdiction of each country. Trans-boundary problems need to

be resolved but they cannot provide an alibi for ignoring domestic actions for improving sustainability.

Experts have outlined a long list of measures for sustainable water management. The plenary identified some priority areas where action cannot wait any longer. While these desired measures are well known, they need to be repeated until they are implemented on a wide scale. These include:

- Mitigating conveyance losses which amount to 50 per cent or more in several countries in West Asia;
- Introduction of efficient irrigation practices and drought-resistant crops given that agriculture accounts for more than 80 per cent of water needs in several countries;
- Use of small, particularly solar-powered, waste water treatment plants and desalination plants, which can be deployed at the household level, on a large scale;
- Partnership with private sector to exploit technology and modern management practices;
- Involvement of the Third Sphere to spread awareness and education about sound demand management practices, including the use of the Internet to publicise maps and facts, and public hearings to express concerns and aspirations of the marginalised sections of population.

The Plenary put a special emphasis on solutions that benefit the poorest of the poor. Small waste water treatment plants and desalination plants, which cost US\$2000 to US\$3000 per unit, can be used by a household or a small cluster of households to produce water for some households needs and also for supporting small home gardens to produce vegetables, which can create additional income.



ENVIRONMENT AND GREEN ECONOMY

Abdul Aziz bin Ali Al Nuaimi, CEO of Al-Ihsan Charity Centre in the United Arab Emirates, introduced the panel and noted that developing a green economy also generates employment opportunities and enhances the wellbeing of society. Sheikh Al Nuaimi suggested the discussants consider the potential benefits of transitioning to the green economy with respect to health, poverty reduction and public participation, and to identify the agents of change (NGOs, government or the private sector) best equipped to turn ideas into action on the ground.

Hussein Abaza, Former Chief of Trade and Economics at the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), gave a brief overview of UNEP's Green Economy Initiative, launched amid the financial crisis, and the Arab Green Economy Initiative. He noted that despite the efforts of governments, sustainable development has largely not gained traction because many people still view the environment as a problem rather than as an opportunity for job creation and

trade. This also leads to a general tendency to treat it in isolation from economic, social and political dimensions. Integration and a holistic approach to planning that demonstrates the linkages are important. Thus, a communications strategy that reaches a cross-section of stakeholders (politicians, private sector, industry, etc.) is paramount. Many decision makers are entrenched in the status quo and it would be important to address the political economy and highlight the opportunity for developing new jobs and improving equity.

The Green Economy Initiative provides an opportunity for leapfrogging and avoiding the loopholes and negative impacts of current development paradigms of the West. Mr. Abaza recommended the WANA Forum partner with the Arab Forum for Environment and Development, which is already assessing current policies in seven sectors and is engaged in capacity building efforts.

Walid Saleh, Regional Coordinator of the United Nations University International Network on Water, Environment and Health,

explained how a great deal of people, companies, cities and nations have started to calculate their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions (carbon footprints), having acknowledged that it is only possible to reduce those emissions if they can be measured. He presented the latest in carbon footprint software that measures consumption (by sectors) to ultimately produce per city measurements as part of a transition to a low carbon, resource efficient, 21st century Green Economy.

The Greenhouse Gases Calculation and Reduction Portal (GHG CRP) includes components such as electricity, heating and industrial fuels, ground transportation fuels, aviation and marine transportation fuels, emissions from industrial processes and product use and waste. It is a simple process that involves inventory, calculations, analysis and a reduction plan. The objectives are to: 1) educate cities and organisations on GHG inventory process and calculation; 2) provide an easy to use interface to capture GHG inventory data; 3) implement a GHG calculation methodology based on agreed upon and proven standards; 4) assist cities in determining their GHG footprints; 5) collaborate with other cities to compare and contrast; and 6) link cities to networks of international professionals and training courses on GHG calculations and reduction plans.

Asaad Serhal, Director General of the Society for the Protection of Nature in Lebanon (SPNL), introduced the concept of *bima*, which he defined as a community based system of conservation. Its historical roots are in the Islamic concept of stewardship, of sustainable use of resources. He cited faith, morality and law as the basics of environmental ethics, but also said that because people have become alienated from these, the result has been poverty, exclusiveness and violence. Instead of

always assuming that progress means looking to the future, Mr. Serhal advocated taking a step back, learning from the past what is needed to meet the challenges of this generation and the next. He mentioned the Hima Fund, which aims to help NGOs across the region work with local communities to revive a hybrid *bima*.

Kazi Jalal, Special Programme Instructor for Environmental Studies at the Harvard University Extension School, outlined five recommendations for moving forward in a green economy era:

- Establishing peace and security in the region is a prerequisite for sustainable development. Lack of equitable peace and security has been a major constraint to achieving sustainable development.
- Initiating a study on WANA is important for data collection and dissemination. In 1995, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) initiated a programme to promote regional cooperation on sustainable development in Asia and soon realised the need for a comprehensive study on economic, social and environmental profiles and priorities of its member countries. ADB and Harvard Institute for International Development (HIID) initiated a large-scale two year study titled “Emerging Asia: Changes and Challenges” which formed the basis for a Regional Cooperation Framework (RCF) on sustainable development. Thematic works such as “Water in the Arab World” exist but a broad study in WANA is needed.
- Jumpstarting a new production revolution (industrial and agricultural). Current industrial production has five basic problems which should be avoided or minimised in the

“Many people still view the environment as a problem rather than as an opportunity for job creation and trade”

WANA region: 1) use of materials and processes that cause health hazards; 2) system loss that cause wastage and environmental hazards; 3) failure to reflect negative externalities in product cost; 4) subsidies on energy and water that mostly benefit those better off rather than the poorest and cause environmental hazards; 5) transaction costs are higher for small-scale operators. With regard to agriculture, Dr. Jalal suggested adopting redistributive policies that favour access of the poor to land and modern inputs and microcredit, increasing public expenditure in less favoured agricultural land, increasing investment in rain-fed agricultural areas and introducing drip irrigation, sand-dune stabilisation, controlled grazing, rodent control, etc.

- Ensuring that development assistance is effective. Ineffective development assistance, both from multilateral financing institutions and bilateral agencies, in the past, has been a cause of unsustainable development. Terms of lending from these financing institutions have to be carefully negotiated and in some cases even avoided.
- Widening geographical coverage of WANA to include Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan as they share geographic proximity, socio-cultural similarity and already have experience in regional cooperation.

Soubhi Abdulkarim, Chairman and CEO of SOUTER Group, explained that although many people think of technology as rocket science, technology for sustainable development is already available, with some companies comprised of just a few people working on solutions to today's challenges regarding water, food, energy and waste.

What is needed is to bring these existing elements, these building blocks, together in a way that addresses the needs of WANA. He stressed that more participation is needed from the private sector – people who bring technologies to the market. The WANA Forum could be the portal to make this happen – for identifying, connecting and activating small and medium sized enterprises, integrating technologies.

He added that waste is a huge problem in the region that needs to be tackled, and various technologies are available and should be further implemented. Mr. Abdulkarim also highlighted the need for new 'green' housing developments – not waterfront properties but basic, simple and affordable for the average family in the WANA region.

Raouf Dabbas, Senior Advisor at the Ministry of Environment in Jordan, spoke about inclusive development and of identifying and tapping into the strengths of different countries in WANA – some may be leaders in tourism, others in technology and so forth. Bringing the different variables together is important to bring about significant change.

Since 80 per cent of natural resources are consumed in cities, and with the rise of urban migration, he highlighted the importance of eco-cities. He cited Jordan as a case study since the municipality of Amman partnered with the UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). He stressed the cross-cutting nature of sustainable development which encompasses green construction, waste management, mobility, energy, air and water and requires

collaboration across sectors (education, finance, legislation and so on).

Liu Baolai, Council Member of Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs, shared

China's experience in combating climate change and greening the economy. First, China accelerated economic and industrial restructuring and increased research and development to curb climate change. Measures are taken to save energy in industry, transportation and construction, promote energy-saving and environment-friendly cars, and encourage use of energy-saving products with government subsidies, close down backward production facilities that are highly energy consuming and heavily polluting and expand forestation to increase forest carbon sink.

Second, despite its continued dependence on coal, China's forward-thinking strategy involves optimising its energy structure. China is now leading the way in installed hydro power capacity, nuclear power capacity, solar water heating panels and photovoltaic power capacity.

Third, China is working to educate the public about making environmentally sound choices. To meet this aim, the country has improved its urban public transportation (bus, rail and subway) and has adopted economic and legal measures.

Lastly, China actively engages in international exchange and cooperation, realising that environmental security is transnational and transregional, involving environmental, economic, social and political dimensions.

Comments and Recommendations

It was questioned whether it is realistic to set peace and security as a prerequisite for sustainable development, since it was suggested that solutions to conflicts in the region are

far from reach while efforts to establish a green economy, for example, are much more feasible today. In response, it was suggested that too often people miss the larger picture by focusing only on one element.

The wisdom of "sustainable development" was challenged as lacking on both scientific and moral grounds. Although millions of people lack clean air and water, and are plagued by deteriorating ecosystems, these problems are caused not by "unsustainable development" but by poverty, poorly defined property rights and lack of freedom of opportunity. Thus, the most important contribution that can be made to human welfare is an extension of human rights and democratic liberties, it was argued. The only development that is truly sustainable is development accompanied by greater respect for basic human rights throughout the world.

Another issue raised was whether companies in the region working on green technology could collaborate with governments and NGOs for customised projects for those who cannot afford a pricey fee. It was explained that many companies provide feasibility studies for free.

It was recommended that more 'twinning' partnerships should be established, where local universities and institutions partner with academic programmes abroad. This could work well for eco-city initiatives as well as for the exchange of information, experiences and creating enthusiasm.

Finally, it was suggested that the WANA Forum develop the concept of a water footprint and virtual water to complement carbon footprint.

“The Green Economy Initiative provides an opportunity for leapfrogging and avoiding the loopholes and negative impacts of current development paradigms of the West”



Photo credit: Ya Libman

MOBILISING THE THIRD SPHERE FOR COLLECTIVE ACTION

Salma Abbasi, Chairperson and CEO of e Worldwide Group and Associate Fellow at King's College London, Conflict, Security and Development Group, encouraged panelists to reflect on how best to streamline the work of multiple sectors (public, private, civil society, academia) in a cohesive manner and to leverage resources for maximum impact. She also emphasised the need to embrace latest technologies in creating a 'living network' and highlighted the importance of adopting international marketing and awareness campaigns. In order to move from conversation to action, she said that specific success indicators need to be developed to monitor progress and measure the impact of each initiative.

Nabila Hamza, President of the Foundation of the Future, began her presentation by noting that the involvement of civil society actors is key for change and reform at the political level as well as at the economic level, since they are central not only to democracy but also in bringing about change for sustainable economic development. It would

be important for governments to establish strategic partnerships with civil society organisations (CSOs). She also noted that CSOs have been recognised by the United Nations and governments as real actors for change. She stressed that CSOs cannot replace the state, but rather the combination of a strong state and a strong and active civil society can create the dynamics essential for change.

In the WANA region, very few countries are working in partnership with CSOs or involving them in the decision making processes. Ms. Hamza further stressed that there are several limitations and constraints, both external and internal, for moving towards closer partnerships. Regional instability, the legal framework and geographical location are among the key external constraints, whereas weak governments, lack of transparency and weak credibility are the key internal constraints.

In order to improve the situation in the WANA region, she suggested adapting new legislation on fiscal or economic incentives in order to promote philanthropy and

consultations between governments and CSOs, improving access to information for CSOs and promoting a culture of civic education by adding civic awareness to curricula.

Naseem Tarawnah, General Manager of 7iber Inc. and Social Media Enthusiast, presented 7iber Inc.com, which is a virtual online citizen journalism space where citizens can submit comments and express their views without censorship. The content of this website is created by the people for the people. In the WANA region, the relationship between the Third Sphere and governments is usually only understood to include governments, civil society organisations and the private sector, leaving communities out of the equation. Although the three other actors should work for the wellbeing and service of the community, the views of communities tend to be marginalised in the process.

Mr. Tarawnah noted that the emergence of social media has allowed decentralisation in the sense that it is possible for individuals and communities to express their views. Fortunately, the costs of the technology tools required to make use of social media have diminished recently, allowing for more people to make use of them. He stressed the importance of civic engagement, of civil society empowering people and bringing them together through the Internet. However, due to fear of being subjugated to one another, different actors are largely working in isolation from each other, and the key question that remains is how to engage the people.

He argued that a major problem of development and reform agencies in the region is that civil society tends to be interested in raising funds more than helping people in need – one could say that in the WANA region the train of reform is leaving the station without passengers. Communities

and citizens need to feel that they are engaged and part of the process. The potential of technology to correct this has largely been ignored.

Savas Sahin, Urban and Regional Planner at the Department of Politics and Public Administration in Atılım University in Turkey, noted that, as everywhere, people in the WANA region have very different desires or needs. Whereas some want to mainly improve their material wellbeing, others want to learn, have a voice and change existing conditions. The question then becomes how to provide people with the possibilities of pursuing their desires and needs. Participation is an essential element.

He noted that there are several preconceived notions against participation, because it is usually a lengthy and time-consuming process, and often difficult to get practical solutions. This in turn leads to a tendency of organising small-scale consultations and then continuing with initially planned developments despite the outcomes of those consultations. However, this need not be the only course. Social dynamics can be mobilised in several ways: orally, in writing and through facilitation. All of these modalities allow for the aggregation of ideas of a large number of people and balancing conventions with creative ideas.

Dr. Sahin presented a recent participatory initiative in Turkish Public Administration, which sought to balance out economic-spatial-institutional planning through participation in large cities. In Ankara, an in-depth stakeholder analysis was realised and a database involving 11,000 public, private and NGO stakeholders in Ankara was produced. Detailed information for each stakeholder was gathered and a communication and interaction strategy for consulting each group was developed. Out of the large group of stakeholders initially mapped, a focus group of 1000

key stakeholders of strategic importance, influence and potential for contribution was selected for a wave of communication through official letters, e-mails and text messages in order to collect information about their perception of the process as well as their recommendations and ideas about strategic planning of Ankara.

After an analysis of the responses received, facilitation and moderation strategies and methods were finalised. A new tool called “stakeholder expectation meeting” was created. One thousand stakeholders were gathered, where they produced ideas about developments in the Ankara Province, using special innovative and creative facilitation techniques. The whole process was completed in one week. A group of 500 stakeholders was then identified for an institutional strategic planning process of the Special Provincial Administration of Ankara.

Out of the different stakeholders, universities and specialty associations, 11 separate expert groups were created, involving 500 experts in over 30 meetings. Together with decision-makers, they defined strategic aims, performance criteria and action plans in 11 priority areas to complete the Provincial Strategic Plan of Ankara. An implementation, communication, and follow up strategy and programme was also launched, disseminating 5000 copies of the plan to stakeholders and other institutions who may wish to replicate the process. All stakeholders were informed in each state and participants were given honours and certificates.

The Ankara Strategic Planning Process

“In the WANA region, the train of reform is leaving the station without passengers. Communities and citizens need to feel that they are engaged and part of the process”

was realised as one of the most successful participatory planning processes completed within only six months with nearly no cost. None of the stakeholders disputed the plan or went to court to object it, and official authorities widely appreciated the plan. The Turkish Prime Ministry and The Turkish Ministry of Internal Affairs accepted it as the national best practice. Universities also accepted the plan as a best practice and lectures were given about it, and the Turkish Quality Association, a reference NGO for total quality management, selected it as the Best Practice in Sustainable Development.

In conclusion, Dr. Sahin noted that the biggest obstacle for participatory government and participatory processes is prejudice. Innovation and creativity are of utmost importance for realising participation to its full extent. A holistic and continued process with the right degree of firmness is needed.

Ali Rabi, President of the International University of Iran, Farabi Institute of Higher Education and Co-Chair of Middle East Citizens Assembly (MECA), noted that WANA

is the richest region in the world not only in terms of gas and oil resources, but also in terms of challenges. There are missing links between different actors in the region with very few connections. There is also large-scale flight of capital and brains in the region. What is needed is a region with the free movement of people, products and capital – essentially a WANA passport similar to that of the European Union. In order to realise that vision, however, a legitimate managing body for regional cooperation would be needed.

In order to bring about a mental paradigm shift, Dr. Rabi stressed two key elements: utilising the power of the Internet age and establishing a network of intellectuals in the region through virtual connectivity.

Mohsen Marzouk, Secretary General of the Arab Democracy Foundation, highlighted key issues for mobilising the Third Sphere.

Firstly, the objectives of the WANA Social Charter cannot be achieved without partnerships. Secondly, genuine dialogue between different stakeholders is needed – not just “cosmetic” consultations. Thirdly, cooperation needs to be broad-based since even civil society organisations only represent the interest of some persons or parties. Fourthly, it would be important to restore the concept of citizenship in terms of both rights and duties.

In conclusion, Mr. Marzouk noted that a possible contribution the WANA Forum could make would be to activate the Social Charter as a framework for balanced cooperation between the three sectors of society. Internal mobilisation would be needed to transform ideas into action.

Comments and Recommendations

It was noted that engagement of the Third Sphere has to start with a willingness to engage all stakeholders, be they government, private sector, civil society or communities, including faith-based organisations. Online spaces are working and evolving, where people come together because they are concerned and want to participate. The fact that a greater number of people in the WANA region now have access to the Internet means that online spaces are becoming a more viable forum for engaging these different actors.

Participants felt that the potential of participative democracy has not been fully explored in the WANA region.

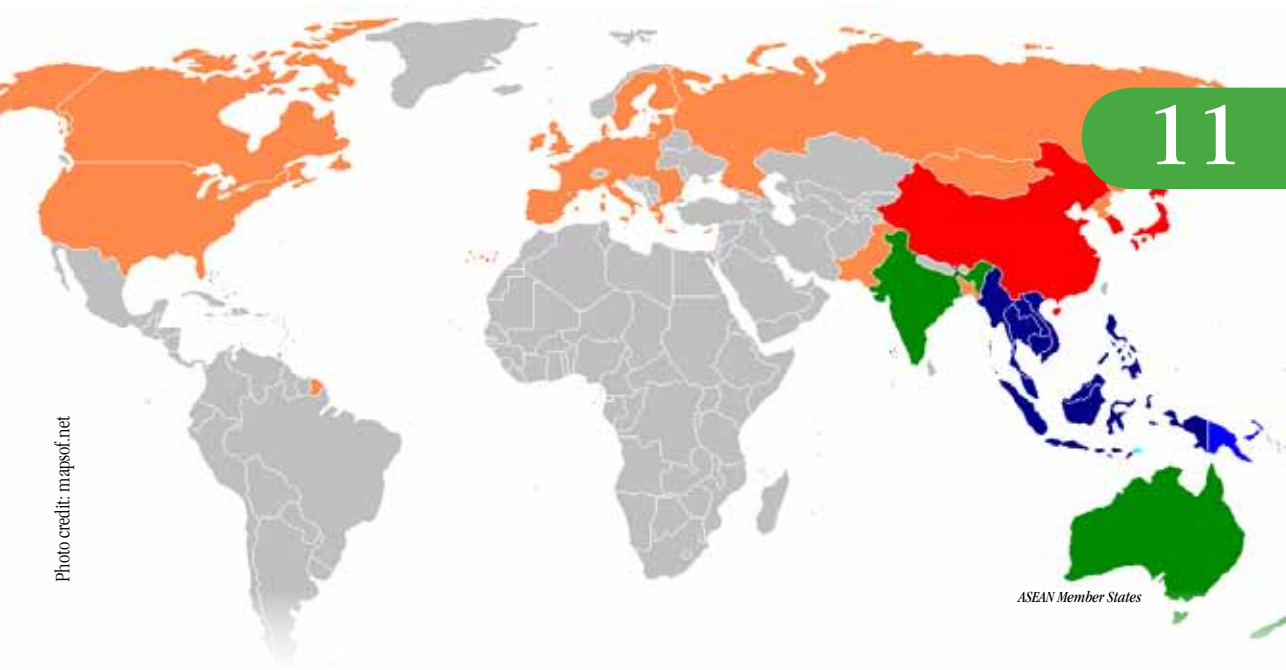
“The involvement of civil society actors is key for change and reform at the political level as well as at the economic level, since they are central not only to democracy but also in bringing about change for sustainable economic development”

A key to mobilising the Third Sphere in WANA would be for states in the region to move towards recognising civil society organisations as social institutions relevant for national decision making processes. Civic education and awareness-raising were seen as important, but not sufficient, for leading to change on the ground.

It was suggested that the WANA Forum develop a platform and space for mobilising different stakeholders since the WANA region has few successful examples of partnerships between the various sectors of society.



Photo credit: Laura Hatdad



ASEAN Member States

DINNER REMARKS BY DR. SURIN PITSUWAN, SECRETARY-GENERAL OF ASEAN

Surin Pitsuwan, Secretary-General of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), shared the experience of ASEAN, which was founded in the midst of political turmoil, and has now, with 10-member states representing 592 million people, evolved as a key player in the global economy.

Indeed, Southeast Asia has been home to some of the most vibrant economic growth and has ably addressed heterogeneous societies while building social cohesion and averting the sorts of conflicts which have recently affected other parts of the world.

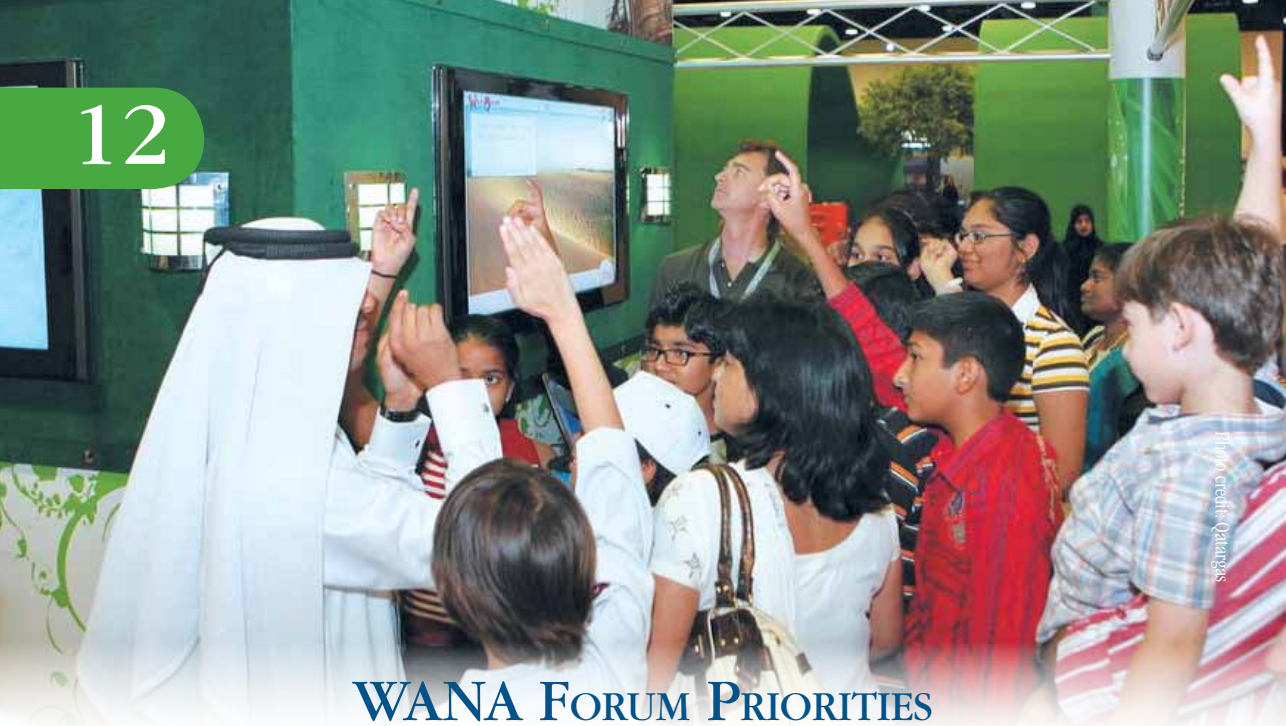
Dr. Pitsuwan stressed the importance of regional cooperation. He quoted John Donne who a few centuries ago said, “no man [or woman] is an island”. He added that we are all part of this global network of lives, of societies, of communities, of nations and that human beings are the most important resource a society has and can claim to have.

Yet regional cooperation is predicated upon people’s perceptions that they are part of a single region. Doing so is not about a map or acronym but about identity and ensuring that the so-called ‘person on the street’ feels that he or she is a citizen of

WANA as well as a citizen of his or her own country.

As we continue this experiment that is WANA, such a lesson will be integral in driving progress on regional cooperation and integration in West Asia and North Africa, which will enhance connectivity, the leveraging of resources and the region’s bargaining power on the world stage. To do so, however, Dr. Pitsuwan drew on the experience of ASEAN to argue that the historical baggage of the past has to be put aside to work for a common future. Diversity does not have to be an obstacle to cooperation – WANA can draw on its rich diversity to become a source of strength.

Dr. Pitsuwan concluded with reference to Persian Sufi poet and theologian Jalal ad-Din Rumi. Six centuries ago, he surveyed the terrain of the Middle East and observed that vendors of all goods are gone; people of all ideas have receded into history. He called for a new beginning and said we are the new vendors. Dr. Pitsuwan urged participants to come up with new merchandise, of ideas and approaches, as part of the 21st century bazaar of WANA and the new silk route of peoples, goods and ideas.



WANA FORUM PRIORITIES BREAK-OUT GROUPS

WANA Forum 2010 participants divided into four sub-groups in order to progress the work of the priority issues: Social Cohesion, Green Economy, Environment and Reconstruction and Recovery.

12.1 SOCIAL COHESION BREAK-OUT SESSIONS

Nour Qabba'ah, WANA Forum Researcher, together with Juho Saari, Professor of Welfare Sociology at the University of Eastern Finland, presented a summary of the work achieved on social cohesion since the First Annual WANA Forum. Social cohesion can be defined as the intangible bond that holds members of society together and facilitates coexistence, development, progress and prosperity.

Ms. Qabba'ah explained that social cohesion is not a foreign concept to WANA; known formerly as *asabiyya*, the concept dates back to the pre-Islamic era where it was seen in the context of "clanism" and

"tribalism". Ibn Khaldun, one of the most versatile thinkers and philosophers of Islam in the late Middle Ages, portrayed social cohesion as a prerequisite for civilisational progress and development of society and defined it as "the force binding people together through a common language, culture and social behaviour".

Despite the WANA region's rich historical and cultural roots, its social fabric is weakening in the wake of demographic pressures, widespread inequalities, entrenched pockets of poverty, deeply rooted divisions, numerous political, sectarian and religious conflicts and chronic unemployment. These challenges do not only put social cohesion at risk and leave the region trapped in a form of 'development in reverse', but they also pose a serious threat to societal and regional stability in the WANA region and beyond.

Participants at the First Annual WANA Forum in 2009 recognised that social cohesion is a prerequisite for WANA's development and agreed to initiate a multi-year collaborative study on the topic.

Ms. Qabba'ah pointed out that although social cohesion as a conceptual framework is largely an ideal to strive toward, the study could help explain the numerous forces at work in the region. Amongst these forces, based on preliminarily theoretical assumptions, include security and state capacity, equality, participation and engagement, displacement, civic culture, mutual trust, social networks, inclusion, tolerance as well as material and emotional wellbeing.

The WANA Forum has embarked on creating a Social Cohesion Index (SCI) to measure the degree of social cohesion within WANA countries to capture the variations for monitoring progress. Measuring progress toward social cohesion (which can be seen as an evolving desired status) makes it more tangible and thus more attainable.

Professor Saari, one of the experts who worked on creating the Index, explained that the process of updating the Index in itself could, in the future, offer state and non-state actors an analytical tool to guide the establishment of developmental priorities.

To construct this Index, a number of indicators were identified under each social cohesion dimension and those that were the most technically, statistically and theoretically sound were selected to construct the SCI. The following dimensions were finally reflected: material wellbeing; access to knowledge; gender equality (income); internal security; external security; forced displacement; degree of democracy; political instability; health; emotional wellbeing; trust in the state and its institutions (civic culture) and solidarity. Based on these dimensions, the SCI assigned a score to each country studied.

Before presenting the results of the SCI, Professor Saari reminded participants that the Index is by no means perfect. Due to lack of data, some of the WANA countries, namely Comoros, Djibouti, Libya, Oman, Palestine

and Somalia, could not be included in the measurement. Furthermore, more or less satisfactory proxies were used to measure social cohesion given the lack of direct variables, which in turn affects the results and the reliability of the measurement. Attempting to measure the subjective, attitudinal component of social cohesion also poses challenges, i.e. elements like social networks, tolerance and inclusion could not be measured. Those usually require micro-level data on individuals' subjective opinions.

The weighing of dimensions was another challenge when constructing the SCI; additive indices risk oversimplifying issues. Lastly, the current Index is state-centric in that it neglects the role of civil society which can play a very important role in the field of social welfare in the WANA region. He reminded participants that social cohesion, after all, is a formula to which different stakeholders contribute.

Ms. Qabba'ah pointed out that one way this Index could be further developed is through gathering more data on the intangibles by partnering with different research institutions who are known to have carried out surveys of this kind. A number of representative and interesting country cases could be selected for closer quantitative and qualitative in depth analysis on the basis of the preliminary Index findings. The cases selected need to be similar in scope and objective with the aim of finding out why some models of action are more effective than others in promoting social development and enhancing social cohesion.

The SCI, through statistical evidence, may identify problems of social cohesion, but a framework to effectively address these challenges, between governments, civil society and the private sector, would be needed. A social charter is one instrument toward that goal; it would stimulate a process of dialogue within the Third Sphere in the WANA region to enhance the degree



of social cohesion and advance social development by promoting the concept of equity and citizenship beyond locality, national identity, political borders, religion and ethnicity. It would also reflect the region's shared values, and consequently foster a region-wide sense of belonging that could strengthen the invisible bond of social cohesion. Most importantly, it has the potential to inspire a new sense of social responsibility by highlighting the need to participate in civic duties, and creating a process of ownership and participation.

A Draft Charter already exists for WANA, developed by individuals from civil society as an instrument to facilitate and give substance to a debate within civil societies and between civil societies and governments. This Charter can be presented to Civil Society Organisations (SCOs) for feedback and revision. But how will those SCOs be identified and how can the Charter be advocated are two important questions for consideration in presenting the Social Charter as a policy tool for social cohesion in the WANA region.

Finally, in order to ensure concrete action on the challenges facing the region, Ms. Qabba'ah explained that a fund, to which all the WANA nations can contribute, is important to enable supranational action to increase the degree of regional cohesion and solidarity.

Rooted in a code of conduct outlined in the Social Charter and informed by data from the Social Cohesion Index, the Cohesion Fund would provide non-returnable allocations to advance social, environmental and economic development under the framework of sustainability. Ideally, it would aim to reduce

inequalities in terms of per capita incomes between the different WANA countries. More specifically, such a Fund could develop regional infrastructure and forge regional cooperation and finance activities in the areas of water, energy, social security and environmental protection. Most importantly, the Cohesion Fund would aim to benefit the entire region and not only in times of conflict.

The Cohesion Fund can partially follow the example of the World Zakat Fund (WZF) which allocates a certain percentage of its funding to investments that generate new capital, thus managing its funds in a sustainable way to ensure growth and continuity.

The following will need to be addressed when developing the Fund proposal: source of funding, management of the fund, eligibility criteria, monitoring and evaluation and transparency.

Omar Al-Basheer, Executive Director for the Outreach Sector at the Royal Scientific Society of Jordan, shared his recent work on the Drivers of Change initiative launched

recently by the Royal Scientific Society (RSS). He described the drivers of change as demographics, climate change, water, energy, water, urbanisation and waste, and these can be seen within societal, economic, environmental and political domains. In the wake of globalisation, technological changes and demographic pressures, issues such as migration, material wellbeing, health, displacement, poverty and access to water are all deemed important when attempting to measure social cohesion and address environmental sustainability and carrying capacity.

In line with the need to explore case studies within the WANA region under WANA's social cohesion initiative, Dr. Al-Basheer proposed Jordan as a case study. He presented the National Campaign on Public Awareness for the Drivers of Change as an innovative mechanism to do so. The National Campaign is an initiative that was recently launched in Jordan to understand the factors that drive change in the country, their implications and what the government and local communities can do to build a sustainable, positive future for the country. The campaign, which plans to run up to a hundred workshops with local communities across all levels of Jordanian society, seeks to increase the involvement of citizens in the decision-making process and start a nation-wide debate on priority issues.

Dr. Al-Basheer concluded that this local initiative would not only address issues that are in line with social cohesion (state capacity, civic culture, mutual trust, shared values and solidarity), but it will also

stimulate thinking and empower people in the country.

Participants stressed the need for an understanding of social cohesion that is rooted in the WANA region and reflects its identity, local realities and conditions. They suggested reworking the social cohesion definition to include respect for social diversity and tolerance.

The Social Cohesion Index, in particular, elicited a great deal of discussion by participants who suggested revisiting the methodology, including the criteria on which the index was based. Some concern was expressed with regards to making this Index available to the public at this stage since social cohesion is a sensitive topic for many people.

Participants regarded the Social Charter as a platform for advocacy and action. As for the Cohesion Fund, participants noted that it will be important to prove how such a Fund would be different from others in the region.

The social cohesion working group divided itself into three sub-groups, each of which addressed one of the three policy tools proposed for enhancing social cohesion.



Photo credit: Dubai Women Association

“ Social cohesion is not a foreign concept to WANA; known formerly as *asabiyya*, it was seen as a prerequisite for civilisational progress ”

Social Cohesion Index

Looking at the way social cohesion was defined, as well as its identified constituent elements, some participants felt that it lacked contextualisation within the region and that it was largely based on Western literature. The idea of the Index, on the other hand, was praised by everyone and there was a great deal of discussion about the potential it could play particularly if it was converted into a live Index that can be updated regularly. However, some participants questioned certain elements of the Index and more specifically the weight accorded to the social cohesion dimensions, an issue that is still open for discussion. In order to address these issues, the following ways forward were suggested:

Development of the Index: Provide feedback on the elements preliminarily chosen to measure social cohesion, and suggest alternative variables where relevant. It was suggested that the Social Cohesion Index needs to reflect access to knowledge through Internet as well as labour migration, another element that is largely influential. Verifying the possibility of finding data for any suggested variable is important, as well as experimenting with possible social cohesion variables using sensitivity analysis to check their suitability for inclusion in the SCI. Discussion is needed on the weighing of the different dimensions i.e. which element should be accorded more importance when measuring social cohesion, keeping in mind what is feasible, not what is optimal.

Case Studies: Conduct in-depth research in select WANA countries to validate the Index or refine the dimensions selected and to contextualise a WANA understanding of social

cohesion. Up to three WANA countries should be selected and a selection criterion to select the relevant case studies needs to be agreed. Some participants argued that the countries selected should be as representative of the WANA region as possible. Others suggested selecting them based on the findings of the Index, i.e. one which is low, another which is high and another that ranks medium in social cohesion. Some participants recommended that the country selection not be based on the preliminary findings of the Social Cohesion Index, but on a different criterion. The difficulty of accessing data is an important factor to be considered.

Partnerships: Partner with research institutions, think tanks, universities and UN agencies from across the region for the purpose of data collection and for developing the Index.

Social Charter

A draft Social Charter was developed in an effort to bridge diversity and difference, both within and among WANA countries, by identifying common values and principles. Participants agreed that this Charter should be focused on creating supranational social cohesion through regional cooperation and consequently made the following suggestions:

Development of the Charter: Circulate the Draft Social Charter first among intellectuals and academics (e.g. non-profit private universities) that can carry out threaded

conceptual discussions as well as contribute to formulating/revising the goals of the Charter and its guiding principles. These intellectuals can then start a national debate in every country across the WANA region about the Charter. The role of the media can be explored for this purpose.

Feedback: Disseminate the Charter simultaneously to as many civil society organisations as possible for feedback and make it available in two formats: an executive summary and a full draft. These should be made available online at the WANA Forum website.

Dissemination: Translate the Social Charter into Arabic, as it is the official language in most WANA countries. At a later stage it can be translated into other languages (Farsi, Turkish, Urdu, etc.). Manuals can be produced to address the different target audiences of the Charter if the language in which it was written seems abstract. Devising a media and advocacy strategy for the Social Charter was also recommended.

Cohesion Fund

It was agreed that the main purpose of the Cohesion Fund is to strengthen and promote social cohesion at all levels of the WANA region. Some of the participants from the social cohesion working group, however, suggested that in the earlier phases, the Fund should focus on smaller size projects at grassroot levels, and can later evolve into financing intraregional larger-scale projects.

Participants agreed to develop a detailed proposal (based on the existing draft social cohesion study) for the creation of a Cohesion Fund. Such a proposal would clearly state the value-added and niche to be filled by the Fund as well as identify the priority areas and sectors which the Fund would target. Participants added the following recommendations:

Nature of the Governing Body: The Cohesion Fund should be an organisation that specialises in funding projects rather than implementing them since the latter is difficult and many actors are already involved in implementing projects.

Criteria for Allocating Funds: All those who sign the Social Charter should be eligible, whether they are governments or official bodies, civil society organisations, municipalities, private entrepreneurs or even individuals.

Management Structure: In order to ensure the legitimacy of the Fund, transparency and accountability would be important principles. The establishment of the Fund would highly benefit from Prince El Hassan bin Talal's support as a regional and international figure of moral authority.

Monitoring and Evaluation: The Social Cohesion Index could be possibly used in the monitoring and evaluation of the Fund.

Source of Funding: Funds should come from the region (private sector and/or governments). WANA Forum members may be able to help in fundraising. Voluntary contributions and investing part of the money to generate capital would be a good way to start (although the capital generation should be independent of the management of funds).

Partnerships: Organisations such as the World Zakat Fund, the Fund for the Poor in Bahrain, Fair Africa Solidarity and the Pakistani Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF) could be helpful contact points for fleshing out the Fund in detail. It could also be helpful to partner with some implementing organisations in the region to gather their views.

12.2 GREEN ECONOMY BREAK-OUT SESSIONS

Zafar Iqbal, Senior Economist at the Islamic Development Bank, presented the work of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) in Indonesia to identify critical constraints to infrastructure development. Before investing, an investor usually wants to know what the critical constraints are and how they will be addressed. Through long consultations with stakeholders, the IDB developed a questionnaire to ask a number of questions from people who really know the constraints. They combined the questionnaires and identified a number of constraints which would need to be addressed in order to create incentives for infrastructure investments in Indonesia. Infrastructure investment in Indonesia was seven to eight per cent of GDP but declined to about two per cent as a result of the Asian Financial Crisis. Neighbouring countries have recovered from the crisis, but Indonesia is still facing challenges. The first issue to consider in order to rectify this would be the problem of land acquisition. The second is institutional capacity at the governmental level – starting with capacity to develop funding proposals. The third is governance, including addressing corruption. The fourth and final issue is how to secure long-term financing. The study was recently finalised and launched with the Asian Development Bank and the International Labour Organization.

Najib Saab, Secretary General of the Arab Forum for Environment and Development (AFED), noted that the AFED has a broad range of members, both from civil society and from government bodies as observers. The first activity undertaken by the Forum came up with a pledge to reduce energy consumption by 20 per cent by 2012, and

progress in implementing this pledge is now being monitored. The Arab Green Economy Initiative has held eight workshops in an effort to identify priorities for greening WANA. The AFED also regularly produces a report on the state of the Arab environment and has developed a corporate environmental responsibility programme. He stressed that it would be important not to duplicate work. Mr. Saab noted that it could be interesting to pursue cooperation between the AFED and the WANA Forum to promote mutual objectives – the AFED could, for example, present the policy proposals that emerge from their Arab Green Economy Initiative that are in line with the WANA Forum at the third annual WANA meeting.

Ahmad Mango, Co-Moderator of the WANA Forum and Advisor to HRH Prince El Hassan bin Talal, noted that historically, since the Second World War, there has been a “vertical Asia” – inherited colonial trade routes designed to deliver resources to ports and then on to colonial masters. Now there is talk of a horizontal Asia – the “hinterlands” have opened up and Asia is no longer a series of ports. Asia reaches out to Europe, but not into the Middle East. It would be important for WANA to develop from being a vertical WANA to a horizontal WANA and to link with the world around it.

Discussion and Recommendations

In the discussion, group members noted that the Economy Break-Out group should have the passion of a non-governmental organisation but with the mindset of a corporation – with clear goals, objectives and milestones. It was recognised that the group includes a number of pragmatic individuals who can come up with actionable ideas. At the same time, it was also highlighted that the group should be cognisant of what it can do and what it cannot; quick wins were seen as important for setting examples for

others to follow. It would also be important to involve the business community in the region.

Participants stressed the need to keep in mind the important objective of improving the livelihoods of people in the region and, therefore, it would make sense to focus on the basics of what the region needs. At the same time, it was noted that joint concrete projects would also be needed to encourage cross-border cooperation in the region. Power generation and water could be potential public or governmental initiatives, but electric motor vehicle production and a high-speed train could be carried out by private entrepreneurs. A combination of long-term and short-term visions would be needed.

It was suggested that the group develop a concept paper examining how to transition to a green economy in five key sectors: Energy, Water, Transport, Waste, and Cities. The paper could examine what the current policies are in each sector and their impact, in addition to highlighting impediments and proposing policies for moving forward towards a green economy in these sectors. The concept paper would also need to highlight the costs and benefits of implementing such policies in order to demonstrate their effectiveness.

In addition to the concept paper, the group also stressed the need to identify short, medium and long-term actions in order to have concrete initiatives to move towards a green economy.

On the basis of these discussions, the following areas for future work were identified:

- Producing a concept paper to explore

the possibilities and constraints for developing infrastructure and green industry within WANA. The key elements of the concept paper would include: 1) mapping of existing policies that are constraining “greening” and identification of policies that would be needed to promote it – focus on five key sectors: energy, water, transport, cities and waste; 2) proposals for transforming the trend of exporting raw materials and importing finished goods by identifying how industries could best make use of the resources available in the region and adding value to them, so that WANA could export finished goods within the region and around the world; 3) drawing a transportation and infrastructure map based on today’s needs; and 4) an in-depth assessment of the fiscal, social, political and cultural feasibility of implementing the policies and proposals developed in the above areas.

- Establishing a WANA Research and Development Centre (Basra was suggested as a location in line with



the proposal that emerged from the Reconstruction and Recovery working group) to conduct studies on potential innovations, such as electric vehicle manufacturing or an inter-WANA High-Speed Train for transporting people and goods;

- Initiatives for renewable power generation (at micro and inter-WANA levels);
- Initiatives for WANA water management (collection and recycling at micro, inter-WANA and macro levels).

The group highlighted the need to divide these initiatives into short, medium and long-term initiatives. The criteria for the three categories could be: within 0 - 5 years, 5 - 10 and over 10 years.

Participants identified the following key steps in moving forward towards WANA Forum 2011: 1) developing the Draft Concept Paper further (by working group members); 2) linking with Asian, African and European networks and partners to share knowledge and experiences of greening; and 3) holding a consultation in Tokyo to facilitate opportunities for sharing best practices and lessons learnt, translate these into a model that is applicable and feasible for WANA, provide input for the work on Green Industry and Infrastructure, and network with organisations and individuals in Japan and elsewhere who can contribute to the WANA Forum objectives.

12.3 ENVIRONMENT BREAK-OUT SESSIONS

Walid Saleh, Regional Coordinator of the United Nations University International Network on Water, Environment and Health, outlined the challenges of Education for Sustainable Development in the WANA region, which include:

- Non availability of resource materials in Arabic (policy development, curricula development and teacher training);
- Lack of integration in the values and traditions of WANA countries in the planning and implementation of ESD, particularly in using them to inform the development of ESD curricula and teaching materials;
- Understanding the broad and inclusive concept of ESD and its inter-linkages with other cross-cutting themes and initiatives in order to integrate it into school curricula, educational material and activities;
- Lack of sufficient financial support;
- Lack of coordination between countries and institutions on ESD;
- Concept of ESD is not easily understood;
- Lack of regional cooperation (South-South Cooperation and North-South Cooperation);
- Role of NGOs vis-à-vis ESD promotion is not well defined;
- Absence of cooperation with international organisations and bodies in ESD development and implementation.
- Absence of a regional road map to promote ESD.

Dr. Saleh proposed for the WANA Forum to launch a three year joint initiative of the WANA Forum environment working group with ministries of education, ministries of environment, media (i.e. MBC3) and other partner institutions, such as the United Nations University and UNESCO, aimed at incorporating topics of sustainable development into formal education, one that would promote more participatory, problem-solving, community oriented and cross curricular forms of learning.

Ten pilot schools would be selected based on their readiness to innovate.

Teachers and headmasters would then take part in a mandatory preparatory meeting where they would participate in the design of a practice-oriented model for the inclusion of sustainable development into their schools, with a focus on waste management, renewable energy and water efficiency. Teachers and students would together generate a plan of action, gather information, reflect, report and evaluate their progress on each stage of the process.

Ibrahim Al-Khader, Regional Director of the Middle East Division of Birdlife International, reiterated the challenges in WANA and the need for all sectors to be fully and equally committed in order for sustainable development to be achieved. The WANA region, with all its political, economic, social and environmental diversity, is bound to face challenges in collectively putting ESD into action, particularly when there is no “one-size fits all” approach. Each cultural/societal group can consequently choose to address ESD in the context of its own aspirations for sustainable development.

Dr. Al-Khader proposed developing an extracurricular modular training and teaching kit, drawing on local practices and contexts to illustrate wider concerns of sustainable development. Such a programme would develop effective and relevant content that meets local needs whilst satisfying wider general policy issues. To be effective, they must key in to local priorities, link with core parts of the curriculum and have the following outcomes:

- Develop the first multi-country, multi-language education and training for sustainable development materials;
- Develop a better understanding of the factors linked to sustainable development and the management of natural resources;
- Ensure local relevance on sustainable development issues by engaging

professional editors, writers and artists, and by forming close partnerships with governments, schools, and NGOs in each country. It is important to acquire the written support of each ministry of education and ensure the close involvement of the environment ministries in each WANA country. Similarly, this proposed programme would need to be tested in local schools to ensure the content is applicable to local conditions and to ensure usage by teachers;

- Promote action for the environment and support indigenous-led change by empowering people to take action, improving the quality of their lives and society;
- Enhance teaching techniques in primary and secondary schools by providing relevant, interactive materials, with emphasis on e-learning tools.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf, Editor-in-Chief of the Yemen Times, provided a brief overview of what she has gathered from the state of ESD in Yemen. She cited over a dozen NGOs, government agencies and voluntary groups working on environmental sustainable development. Despite promising developments in Yemen concerning ESD, the following challenges remain:

- Absence of built-in mechanisms in the educational system;
- Limited environmental exercises in schools;
- Scattered initiatives with no coordination;
- Loss of enthusiasm from experts;
- Lack of an overall mechanism for sustainable development.

Ms. Al-Sakkaf proposed facilitating short courses on the environment by utilising already established environmental civil society and creating success stories from schools to share and implement best



Hima Anjar in Lebanon, a breeding area for the Syrian Serin, a threatened bird species



For over 200 years the Bili tribe in Saudi Arabia has managed Jabal Ral as a reserve for ibex

Photo credit: SPNL.org and NWCWD.gov.sa

practices in the region. The challenge, according to Ms. Al-Sakkaf, still remains: how can practitioners in WANA consolidate their work and move from individual learning to regional learning?

Asaad Serhal, Director General of the Society for the Protection of Nature in Lebanon (SPNL), presented the work of SPNL in reviving *bima*, a community based traditional system of management and conservation of human and natural resources practiced in the WANA region for more than 1500 years and a source of empowerment for rural communities.

Mr. Serhal explained that governments across the region have been following the trend of legally declaring protected areas as Nature Reserves, a transfer from local management to management by governmental agencies. Yet restricted management has created tension and resentment on the part of local communities toward the concept of Nature Reserves. Research on other management options led to the rediscovery of *bima*, documented on the old maps of Lebanon. During the last 30 to 50 years, most countries in WANA have neglected the traditional *bima* system.

Mr. Serhal stressed that both *bimas* and Nature Reserves are important for conservation and protected area management. He suggested that Important Bird Areas

(IBAs) located on government lands be conserved through strict IUCN categories such as Nature Reserves while IBAs located on municipal, tribal, private or religious lands be conserved through the *bima*-community based approach. IBAs are about birds and biodiversity, he said, while *bimas* are about people and sustainability. Due to the participatory nature of *bima* management, which requires human and financial resources, the experience of SPNL has proved that residing with the local community is essential in order to understand the community structure, norms and traditions.

Aishah Abdallah, Member of the IUCN Commission on Education and Communication, proposed a process for legal recognition of traditional *bimas* as Community Conserved Areas, using Saudi Arabia as a case study and touching on some WANA Forum themes, particularly living within environmentally sustainable limits, legal empowerment of the poor and government by discussion.

In Saudi Arabia, although the stated official policy is to promote community participation in protected area management, Community Conserved Areas are yet to be recognised by law. However, Saudi Arabia is the birthplace of one of the greatest heritages of community conserved areas on Earth: the traditional *bima*. In the 1960s, there were

approximately 3,000 traditional *bimas* in the country. They were small individually but altogether made up a vast area of land and were managed by and for particular villages or tribes. Because people benefited directly, they had an incentive to invest in and conserve their natural resources. Since they were managed locally, individuals in the community were able to influence management decisions.

Ms. Abdallah said that the move away from the traditional *bima* system resulted in what is known as the Tragedy of the Commons: when everyone has equal access to natural resources and the rights to use them are not linked to accountability for maintaining them in good condition, no one has an incentive to conserve them for future generations.

Without legal recognition, the few traditional *bimas* that remain are struggling. They will need to continue to adapt to new socio-economic realities to fulfil the changing needs of the local communities, Ms. Abdallah said. As social organisation shifts from tribal to geographic units, the management of traditional *bimas* needs to shift from tribal to geographic objectives. Ms. Abdallah's recommendations for the process of recognising traditional *bimas* include:

- Provisions to ensure that traditional *bimas* do not lead to inequities or tribal conflicts, such as management boards that represent the local people across the divides of power, ethnicity, tribal lineage, gender and age;
- Training of local community managers in principles of conservation planning and protected area management;
- Fair and transparent processes for resolving conflicts of interest and disputes, including principled negotiation and sometimes mediation between stakeholders and between the local communities and relevant authorities;

- Effective governance, management plans and law enforcement that will enable *bimas* to meet international standards and criteria for protected areas.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The Revival of Hima

- Develop a Wikipedia for *bima* and invite scholars worldwide to contribute;
- Research and compile a database of existing traditional *bimas* by local tribes and communities in WANA;
- Document and film tribal men and women's verbal and written indigenous knowledge acquired and maintained for over 1400 years;
- List the numerous ecosystem goods and services, often contributing significantly to human livelihoods (e.g. fishermen/ women, grazers, farmers, etc.);
- Document examples embedded in the roots of environmental ethics, faith, morality and law relating to *bima*;
- Test, monitor and document the evolution of the new hybrid *bimas* of cross-cultural 21st century art and science;
- Partner and activate local, national and regional stakeholders from the Third Sphere;
- Build up the capacities of local communities on the management, monitoring, conservation and the sustainable use of natural resources in *bimas*;
- Encourage exchange of traditional knowledge and experiences between the traditional *bimas* and the evolving new hybrid *bimas*;
- Identify the local and regional financial linkages between *bimas* and Arab and Islamic banks, funds and endowments; and

- Establish a *hima* revolving fund for the legal empowerment of the poor.

Education for Sustainable Development

- Map regional initiatives of selected good practices in extra-curricular, experiential learning.
- Identify a criteria for the selection of pilot schools (WANA countries and schools).
- Build up Communities of Practice (CoPs) and expand to include private sector and media partnerships. While extra-curricular activities are more easily implementable than curriculum reform, it was recommended that governments be part of the process from the onset and that a bridge be built between various stakeholders who should include the private sector as well as NGOs and governments in partnership.
- Consider integrating extra-curricular activities as part of the curriculum – find areas where the curriculum can be enriched by extra-curricular activities so that students can tie in theory and practice.
- Adopt service-learning as an

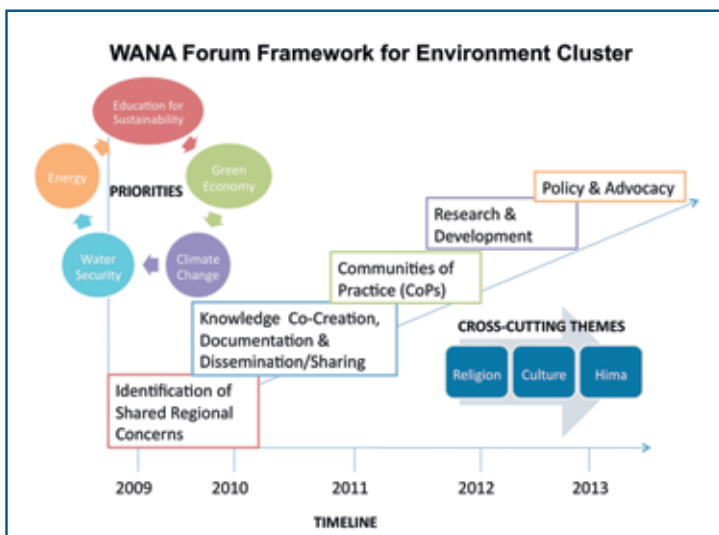
experiential education method of teaching, learning and reflecting that combines academic classroom curriculum with meaningful service, illustrating the connection between people and the environment, encouraging lifelong civic engagement and strengthening communities for the common good.

- Integrate indigenous knowledge into the school curriculum. *Hima* may be the vehicle to do so. Local communities would get an opportunity to participate in curriculum development and students (through community service learning) could go out into the communities and exchange in mutual learning. Typically, the dominant discourse centres on rural communities needing to be educated, but in many ways, they may have more to teach. One example from the UAE was cited: Filmmakers teamed up with educators to make a documentary for students, connecting environment and culture through the eyes of the elderly. It depicted, for example, five indigenous species of trees in Ras Al Khaimah,

and illustrated how these trees bear relevance to the culture and livelihood of Emirates and capturing its social, medicinal and economic value.

■ Focus needs to also be on administrators and teachers to ensure that they are trained in providing children with the needed tools and skills for experiential, interactive learning of this kind.

■ Engage university students (from the country but also virtually with universities abroad) in the process of developing and assessing



ESD thereby translating research into practical applications.

Participants reflected on the outcome of the First Annual WANA Forum as well as this year's joint session of the Strategic Foresight Group on water security and the common theme running throughout on climate change. They made the following recommendations:

Water Scarcity and Drought

- Finalise the Report (a first draft is available) with contributions in the form of chapters from WANA Forum members and other experts;
- Identify the steps and financial and human resources needed to establish an effective WANA water scarcity and drought information system since the region lacks a drought management prediction centre and direction on water availability;
- Set the groundwork for creating a website on which mapping of regional initiatives, experts and resources in water (and possibly other themes) could be displayed to avoid duplicating efforts and to establish focused partnerships.
- Establish linkages and coordinate training sessions in pilot countries on topics relating to water to be facilitated by experts from across WANA. Learning about desalination practices in Algeria, for example, could benefit other countries.
- Launch a region-wide creative televised and Internet campaign, in partnership with NGOs, the private sector and governments. This would have the double aim of promoting regional thinking on meeting the challenges of carrying capacity. Water consumption in WANA is so high. In the UAE for example, it exceeds 378.5 litres per person every day, compared

to the international standard of 715 to 1000 litres daily.

- Since so many families in WANA depend on agriculture, proposed solutions should include Green Water (rainfall that infiltrates and remains in the soil, the basis of rain-fed agriculture), which also has an implication on the legal empowerment of the poor. Green water is a very important resource for global food production; about 60 per cent of the world staple food production relies on it. Farmers already know how to improve rain-use efficiency but lack the resources to do so. As an investment in local knowledge, green water credits leverage existing social capital to bring rural farmers out of poverty and reduce the negative externalities of poor land management.

Climate Change

- Map regional initiatives working to address the challenges posed by climate change in WANA and formulate Communities of Practice (CoPs);
- Produce a report that addresses these challenges in the context of uprooted populations, food security, biodiversity, water, energy and education;
- Assess why past initiatives have failed to produce concrete results and present recommendations in light of these findings.

Other Recommendations

- Formulate a logical framework matrix to identify benchmark indicators to access the activities and progress of the environment working group(s) and devise a mechanism for engaging it/them virtually;

- Activate networks of WANA Forum members to promote a WANA Forum regional presence at international meetings and forums (i.e. World Water Forum, UN Compact Group, Gulf Research Foundation's annual meeting at Cambridge University in the UK);
- Conduct a literature review that captures the contributions of religion (Islam, Christianity and other religions and traditions) to environmental/human ethics. A literature review and database of regional religious figures, influential in their communities, could support and promote a "Drivers of Change" concept in the region rooted in the histories, cultures and religions of the people of WANA;
- Explore a framework of 'environmental culture' or 'environmentalism'.

12.4 RECONSTRUCTION AND RECOVERY BREAK-OUT SESSIONS

The break-out group on Reconstruction and Recovery began with an update on the progress made during the 'WANA-Led Expert Consultation on Reconstruction and Recovery' in October 2009. A presentation was delivered by **Karen Janjua, Head of the Reconstruction Cluster at the Regional Human Security Centre (RHSC) in Amman**, which focused upon the following themes:

The Costs Of Conflict: It was noted, based on research conducted by the Strategic Foresight Group of India, that conflict had cost the Middle East as much as US\$12 trillion as a result of direct damage, including loss of life, and indirect ramifications (e.g. opportunity costs, inflated military expenditure, etc.).

Causes Of Conflict: These were discussed as resulting from (a) rational grievances and

deprivation of rights and legal protection as well as from (b) distribution inequalities. These causes were noted as involving governance, poverty and inequity among other factors. It was noted that reconstruction and recovery efforts after conflict must be based on an understanding of these factors and should attempt to ameliorate them as a means of conflict prevention.

Following this presentation, participants engaged in a discussion of the emerging findings which Dr. Janjua had addressed. Participants identified several challenges to post-conflict reconstruction and recovery, which are summarised as follows:

- Limited integration of the full range of actors – including civil society, governments, donors, international organisations, the private sector, military institutions and so on – which are involved;
- Few opportunities for actors from within the WANA region to share experiences on effective and ineffective strategies for rebuilding the institutions, capacities, economies and societies of conflict-affected contexts;
- Limited opportunities (and, to a lesser extent, capacities) for WANA actors in public institutions, civil society and the private sector to lead reconstruction;
- Dominance of Western models of stabilisation and reconstruction which have tended to emphasise "global" stability or security concerns to the detriment of effective state building and meaningful socio-economic recovery in conflict-affected state institutions, thus resulting in the rise of insurgencies and entrenchment of fragility in several war-torn environments; and
- Limited understanding of reconstruction, particularly since the late 1990s, as an opportunity to foster reconciliation between groups or build peace.

Members of this working group then discussed their aspirations for the WANA Forum's work on reconstruction and recovery. "What, specifically, had the WANA Forum hoped to achieve with regard to post-conflict reconstruction and recovery, and how will we turn these hopes into a reality?" the moderator of the session, Professor Sultan Barakat, asked. The following topics received particular attention as the Forum members attempted to answer this question:

Capacity Building: It was noted that a lack of capacity among government institutions in conflict-affected countries is often used to justify international leadership of reconstruction and recovery efforts. As a result of national governments' limited access to resources, which are commonly provided to NGOs, UN agencies and, increasingly, private firms, they face challenges in demonstrating their relevance, legitimacy and abilities. Furthermore, the costs associated with international organisations of all varieties has diminished aid effectiveness. To address this challenge, participants discussed the need to develop a regional reconstruction training institute which could foster a generation of leaders from within WANA who could tackle issues ranging from conflict management to post-conflict reconstruction and international development. A proposal for such an institute comprises a key recommendation of the Reconstruction and Recovery group. After its development, this proposal will be utilised to build support and mobilise resources for such a centre.

National Governmental Ownership: Aligned with the discussion of capacity building, concerns were also raised about the potential for national authorities in conflict-affected countries to "own" reconstruction. It was felt that the unnecessarily complex and fragmented nature of international aid financing had further marginalised the state, and participants implied that such a theme

could be included within the Reconstruction and Recovery group's focus upon effective donorship. Improving the manner in which financial assistance is provided to post-conflict contexts could help to ensure that external resources are, for instance, allocated to support the government and its reconstruction priorities.

Reconciliation: Participants felt that reconstruction often focused upon material considerations such as infrastructure and economic growth while not paying sufficient attention to promoting reconciliation within and between formerly warring parties. The Reconstruction and Recovery group felt that research must be conducted into good practices for using reconstruction assistance as a tool for reconciliation. Such research may feed into a "collective statement" from the WANA Forum in the future on reconstruction and recovery and will comprise a portion of the WANA Forum's broader advocacy strategy.

Discussion of the issues and needs above led to the formulation of the following policy proposals to take forward.

- Mapping of reconstruction initiatives: what is happening and what are good practices and lessons learnt.



Information on reconstruction initiatives throughout the region will be consolidated through this “mapping”. The information from this stock-taking will inform all other aspects of the Group’s work.

- An e-forum for sharing lessons learnt and good practices for reconstruction will be established by the WANA Forum.
- Design of a regional training institute. A proposal for a regional training institute – which focuses upon conflict management, reconstruction and development – must be developed for public dissemination and advocacy with key regional stakeholders.
- Organisation of a regional donorship consultation. Powerful regional actors, particularly bi- and multi-lateral donors, should be coordinated to foster a shared vision and lessons learning.
- Launch of a research project on use of reconstruction to promote reconciliation and peace building. A comparative research project on the relationship between reconstruction, reconciliation and peace building will result in the development of models and methodologies (toolkits) which may be adapted by each country in the region (and perhaps beyond); “peace education”, “peace journalism” etc. may be included as well as the monitoring of peace and conflict vulnerability.
- Basra reconstruction study (Allied Project) of Basra is led by the London School of Economics with the Post-war Reconstruction and Development Unit, University of York.

All projects have been designed such that additional outputs will be ready for presentation and discussion or evaluation at WANA Forum 2011 and 2012. Additional

outputs – or earlier drafts of outputs – will be ready for dissemination at consultations to be held in the autumn of this year.

A range of other ideas were raised and will potentially be followed upon by WANA Forum members during the remainder of the WANA Forum process. These include:

- Studying obstructions to the Greater Arab Free Trade Agreement, which may foster greater regional economic recovery, including for countries emerging from conflict.
- Developing evidence-based regional policies on refugees and migrants, which are commonly created by (and exist long after) armed conflict in WANA;
- Advocating for full WANA participation in global conventions on aid effectiveness such as the Paris Declaration and the Accra Agenda for Action;
- Building momentum towards a regional, voluntary organisation within WANA along the lines of the US Peace Corps, which would help build bonds across the region and, hence, prevent conflict; and
- Articulating the need for a Regional Fund for Reconstruction and Recovery which could consolidate inputs and resources from actors within the WANA region.



CONCLUSIONS OF WANA FORUM 2010

Spokespersons from the Break-Out Sessions were invited to share the conclusions and next steps as agreed upon by the working groups. Following their presentations, Prince El Hassan asked panelists to share their reflections.

Rehman Sobhan, Chairman of the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) in Bangladesh and member of the WANA Forum International Senior Advisory Board, offered some reflections on the Social Cohesion Index, Charter and Fund. He said that the Index should capture not only the outcomes of social deprivation but also the underlying sources. He focused on employment, education and health. What are the levels of inequality in income discrepancy and scope of upward mobility (the opportunity structures being created for people to move up in the social ladder and bridge the gaps that exist)? He said the Index should also capture the disparities in the quality of education and the inequalities in the access to health services and the quality of care.

Regarding the Charter, he shared

examples from the South Asian experience and recommended broad level consultations among citizen groups in getting their input and having them play an active role in advocating national governments to adopt it and oversee its implementation. One aspect of the implementation phase would be to explore areas in the constitutions of countries where aspects of the Charter could be implemented through the application of the rule of law (legally enforceable rights).

Dr. Sobhan warned against the Social Cohesion Fund becoming solely another source of welfare funding. It would be more productive and sustainable to address problems relating to structural change and to ensure that assets are put at the disposal of resourceful people – not just through microcredit programmes but broader access to land ownership and management of corporate assets that promote collective access for purposes of community action.

Lakhdar Brahimi, Former Special Advisor to the UN Secretary General and Foreign Minister of Algeria, observed that far too

“The Arab world often looks to the North, but not enough to the East although there are perhaps more adaptive lessons from Asia. ASEAN was founded in the midst of regional strife and internal conflicts, juxtaposed against the background of a raging Cold War and a backdrop of failed attempts at creating regional coalitions”

often, meetings take place, people share important and interesting ideas but then they leave and there is no follow up. He invited all participants to be part of the larger WANA community and encouraged them to remain engaged and committed between annual meetings and for years to come.

He addressed representation of Forum participants, observing that more balance is needed with more participation from North Africa. He also noted that while people spoke of the importance of getting civil society, private sector and governments together, there was little representation at the Forum of the private sector and even less so of government. He stressed that the importance of governments cannot be overestimated, that the role of the government is indispensable. Since education is one of the priority themes of the WANA Forum, more attention needs to be given to governments, to get them interested and involved, since they play the largest role in educating society. The greatest challenge is not only to get them interested but also get them to work together. He suggested attracting governments and the private sector with the publication of a report more ambitious than the Arab Human Development Report and one that addresses environment, development and education

with an integrated approach, not in isolation.

Mr. Brahimi concluded his remarks by highlighting the importance of linkages between WANA and the rest of Asia. He said that the Arab world often looks to the North, but not enough to the East although there are perhaps more adaptive lessons from Asia. As ASEAN Secretary-General Surin Pitsuwan shared in his keynote speech, ASEAN was founded in the midst of regional strife

and internal conflicts, juxtaposed against the background of a raging Cold War and a backdrop of failed attempts at creating regional coalitions.

Muchkund Dubey, President of the Council for Social Development (CSD) in India, reiterated the connection between WANA and the rest of Asia, citing current development taking place, particularly with the Gulf's eastward shifting economic engagements and trade, investment and institutional linkages with Asia. At present, Asia is the largest trading partner for the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), accounting for 51 per cent. He also cited the shared religious landscape as another link: around 62 per cent of the world's Muslims live in Asia, with over 683 million adherents in such countries as Indonesia, Pakistan, India and Bangladesh. He recommends WANA take advantage of a growing Asia with supranational linkages, especially in the areas of water, energy and green industry. He also calls for the “de-commercialisation of education” and a return to its philosophical, holistic purpose – to comprehend, to contest and to transform.

Habiba Al Marashi, Chairperson of the Emirates Environmental Group, emphasised the greatest asset the region has at its disposal: its human

capital, especially the large and dynamic population of youth between the ages of 18 and 35. WANA, she said, should learn how to nurture and harvest it as an effective element of development in the region. Part of the equation, in this era of fast-paced technological change, involves activating the World Wide Web for a regional hub in knowledge production and dissemination. She also suggested inviting more women's organisations, business groups, chambers of commerce, rotary clubs and publishing houses to contribute to the process of looking holistically and comprehensively at what sustainable development means in this region.

Mutsuyoshi Nishimura, Special Advisor to the Cabinet of the Government of Japan and former Ambassador in Charge of Global Environmental Issues, noted the difficulties the WANA region has faced in making progress on many mainstream issues, requiring third party participation or intervention. Asian countries can be more active in partnerships built on solidarity, friendship and commitment to work together to address these challenges.

Ambassador Nishimura added that social cohesion cannot be achieved manually or manipulatively in the form of social engineering. He spoke of the relatively equal income distribution in Japan as a positive factor in social cohesion. Agricultural policy, social welfare policy, the tax system, trends in earnings differentials and the role of the Japanese family are among the many factors that have shaped Japan's income distribution.

He recommends WANA capitalise on its valuable experiences in water-saving technologies and solar and wind power to form partnerships with governments, enterprises and NGOs in other parts of Asia, such as China, who are leading the green revolution.

Khadija Hussein, Founder and Chairperson of the Sudanese Mothers for Peace, urged participants to exercise their hearts, not only their minds, in their individual and collective work. She spoke of the power of love to transform lives and added that although participants may face resistance in what they aim to accomplish, they should not underestimate their influence to inspire change through the positive energy that love yields.

She reminded participants of the conflicts plaguing many parts of the region, including Sudan where thousands of women are widowed and children are orphaned by war. She said that poverty means much more than the lack of material resources – anyone who lacks the right to enjoy his or her full freedom is poor. She shed light on Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), what she calls a crime against girls, a cultural practice still common in some parts of WANA. She urged the Forum to take on women's rights issues as part of human rights, social cohesion and legal empowerment of the poor.

Ann Pettifor, Director of Advocacy International and Fellow of the New Economics Foundation (NEF) in the United Kingdom, spoke of the dearth of leadership in the world and argued that finance should be a servant to the economy, not its master. When we fail to pay debts, we have to fish more fish from the sea, extract more of Earth's assets. When we fail to connect our

“Finance should be a servant to the economy, not its master. When we fail to connect our financial system with the limits to growth, when we fail to live within our ecological and financial budgets, we fail to act in the interest of all people”

“Poverty means much more than the lack of material resources – anyone who lacks the right to enjoy his or her full freedom is poor”

financial system with the limits to growth, when we fail to live within our ecological and financial budgets, we fail to act in the interest of all people.

Liu Baolai, Council Member of Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs, emphasised the importance of regional cooperation to the long-term security needs of the region and the world, adding that no problem can be effectively solved by force. He also spoke of the need for the free market to serve the people of the region as it provides added opportunities to enhance regional cooperation. Ambassador Baolai concluded with the famous hadith: “Seek knowledge even in China” and commented that his participation in the Forum suggests to “seek knowledge even in Amman.”

Ahmed al-Mukhaini, Consultant in Human Rights and Inter-Faith Cooperation and Vice Principal of SASLO Legal Training Centre in Oman, said more youth should be involved in the Forum. He reminded participants of their achievements and of the potential that lies ahead. Encouraging full ownership and active participation will help keep the momentum, he added.

Sawsan Hanish, Professor of Social Work at Alfatah University in Libya and Executive Director of Libya's Public Union for Social Work and Psychology Experts, commented on the supranational characteristic of all these issues the Forum has taken on – they have no single religion, identity or age; they transcend

labels, categorisations and arbitrary lines.

Prince El Hassan bin Talal, WANA Forum Chairman, reminded participants of the need to approach *zakat* in the broader context of social

cohesion and legal empowerment of the poor. He called on all religious leaders to move from pulpit to action as partners and drivers for change.

He mentioned the points that participants raised throughout the Forum, including human capital and the importance of the Internet and referred to the word capital in Arabic, *raas el mal* (head and wealth) and the need for both intellectual and financial generosity.

The true worth of this meeting is not Internet, he said, but Inner-net and warned against coming away from this meeting when more is said and less is done. He reminded participants that youth is not a question of age – many people have given up hope at a young age and many others keep on going despite their advancing years.

He outlined his hopes for WANA Forum 2011, which includes developing thematic proposals and advocacy strategies that encompass the Third Sphere. Part of this effort should include the creation of an empirical index to capture realities on the ground and document best practices for knowledge sharing. He added that *istikblaf* – stewardship – requires people of all communities to take responsibility of their own destinies and initiatives should focus on facilitating this process.

Prince El Hassan concluded that he is deeply humbled to be part of this regional initiative and called on participants to build on the trust they have established in working together for a better tomorrow.

ANNEXES

WANA FORUM 2010

Pursuing Supranational Solutions to the Challenges of Carrying Capacity

16 - 18 May 2010
Kempinski Hotel
Amman, Jordan

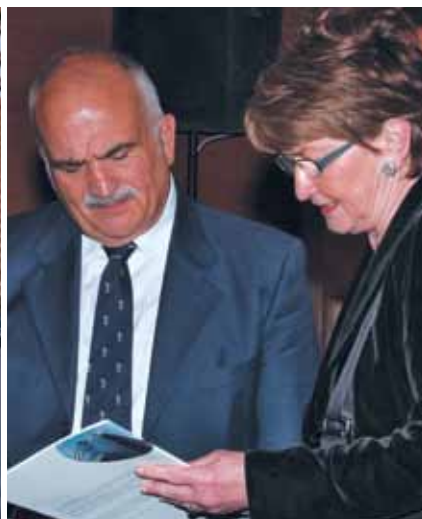
This year's meeting of the WANA Forum convenes under a multifaceted framework for transcending national carrying capacity through regional thinking. In partnership with the Strategic Foresight Group (SFG) of India and the United Nations Development Programme's Commission on Legal Empowerment of the Poor (LEP), the Forum will:

1. Update members on the WANA Forum's progress since April 2009;
2. Consider priority themes identified by WANA Forum participants;
3. Review and agree upon future courses of action for the WANA Forum.

The WANA Forum also wishes to acknowledge the contributions of the Regional Human Security Centre (RHSC), the Arab Thought Forum (ATF), International Union for the Conservation of Nature - Regional Office for West Asia (IUCN-ROWA) and the Badia Research and Development Centre (BRDC) as well as the contributions of WANA Forum Members.



Yohei Sasakawa



El Hassan bin Talal and Ann Pettifor



Ismail Serageldin

SUNDAY, 16 MAY 2010

09:00-10:00 **Registration** (*meet in Al Reem Ballroom, venue for all plenary sessions*)
10:00-12:00 **Overview of the WANA Forum** by Sultan Barakat, WANA Forum

Moderator

Opening Remarks

- El Hassan bin Talal, Chairman of the WANA Forum
- Yohei Sasakawa, Chairman of The Nippon Foundation, Japan and WANA Forum International Senior Advisory Board Member

Transcending Regional Carrying Capacity Overview by Ismail Serageldin, Director, Library of Alexandria, Egypt and WANA Forum International Senior Advisory Board Member

12:00-12:30

Coffee Break

12:30-14:00

Regional Themes and Priorities of the WANA Forum

This plenary is designed to inspire regional thinking around the priorities of the WANA Forum, which encompass the broader themes of economy and environment as well as the focused initiatives of social cohesion, reconstruction and recovery, water security and environmental education for sustainable development – none of which exist or operate in isolation. Leading individuals in their fields share their unique experiences as practitioners working to advance these pillars in the WANA region and across the globe.

- **Lakhdar Brahimi (Chair)**, Former Special Advisor to the UN Secretary-General and Foreign Minister of Algeria
- **Ann Pettifor**, Director of Advocacy International and Fellow of the New Economics Foundation (NEF), United Kingdom
- **Dennis Meadows**, President, Laboratory for Interactive Learning and Professor Emeritus for Policy Systems, University of New Hampshire and co-author of the *The Limits to Growth*, United States
- **Zafar Adeel**, Director of United Nations University Institute for Water, Environment and Health (UNU-INWEH) and Chair of UN-Water, Canada
- **Habiba Al Marashi**, Chairperson of Emirates Environmental Group, UAE and Board Member of UN Global Compact
- **Salma Abbasi**, Chairperson and CEO, e Worldwide Group and Associate Fellow, King's College London, Conflict, Security and Development Group, UK/UAE

14:00-15:30

Lunch

15:30-17:00

Break-out Groups: Review of WANA Forum Priorities

These focus group sessions of the first day are devoted to presentations of proposals for advancing the priorities of the WANA Forum.

G1: Social Cohesion (*Pluto Room*)

- **Mohsen Marzouk (Chair)**, Secretary-General of Arab Democracy Foundation, Qatar
- **Nour Qabba'ah**, WANA Forum Researcher, Jordan
- **Juho Saari**, Professor of Welfare Sociology at the University of Eastern Finland
- **Omar Al Basheer**, Executive Director for the Outreach Sector at the Royal Scientific Society (RSS), Jordan

G2: Green Industry & Infrastructure (*Venus Room*)

G3: Environmental Education for Sustainable Development & Revival of Hima* in WANA (*Jupiter Room*)

- **Odeh Al Jayyousi (Chair)**, Director, International Union for the Conservation of Nature - Regional Office for West Asia (IUCN-ROWA), Jordan
- **Walid Saleh**, Regional Coordinator, MENA, United Nations University, International Network on Water, Environment and Health, UAE
- **Ibrahim Al-Khader**, Regional Director, Middle East Division at BirdLife International, Jordan
- **Nadia Al-Sakkaf**, Editor-in-Chief of The Yemen Times, Yemen
- **Asaad Serhal**, Director General of the Society for the Protection of Nature in Lebanon (SPNL), Lebanon
- **Aishah Abdallah**, Member, International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Commission on Education and Communication, Saudi Arabia

** The Arabic word hima (literally translated 'protected area') is a traditional system of management and conservation of human and natural resources practised in the WANA region for more than 1400 years.*

G4: Reconstruction & Recovery (*Meeting Room 5, Mezzanine floor*)

- **Sultan Barakat (Chair)**, WANA Forum Moderator and Professor of Politics and Director of the Post-war Reconstruction & Development Unit, University of York, UK
- **Karen Janjua**, Research Fellow, Head of Reconstruction Cluster at the Regional Human Security Centre, Jordan

17:00-17:30

Coffee Break

17:30-18:30

Launch of the Arabic Report of the Legal Empowerment of the Poor, *Making the Law Work for Everyone*

Seventy per cent of the world's population is unable to improve their livelihoods – regardless of how hard they work – due to multiple forms of exclusion. Poverty is not merely the lack of material resources. It extends to lack of power and choice. Without addressing policies and institutions that exclude the poor and marginalised,

poverty will continue, along with increased dependency on the physical environment which further reduces the natural resources base and impedes sustainable development. A call to make legal empowerment a key pillar of the anti-poverty agenda in WANA, this session is organised in collaboration with the Arab Thought Forum and the United Nations Development Programme.

- **El Hassan bin Talal**, Commissioner on Legal Empowerment of the Poor and Chairperson of the WANA Forum
- **Medhat Hassanein**, Professor of Finance and Banking at the American University in Cairo and former Minister of Finance, Egypt

20:30-22:00

Gala Dinner with keynote speaker Surin Pitsuwan, Secretary General of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)



Gala Dinner with Keynote Speaker Surin Pitsuwan (left of Prince El Hassan)



Launch of the Arabic Report of Legal Empowerment of the Poor:
El Hassan bin Talal; Ahmed Hassan; Khadija Hussein; Amal Basha



Regional Priorities Plenary: Habiba Al Marashi; Dennis Meadows;
Lakhdar Brahimi; Ann Pettifor; Zafar Adeel; Salma Abbasi

MONDAY, 17 MAY 2010

09:00-10:30

Displacement and Post-Conflict Reconstruction & Recovery

Approximately 70 per cent of the world refugee and uprooted population is in Africa and the Middle East. Growing populations, declining access to resources (particularly water), increased consumption and demand on energy and repeated conflicts all add to the magnitude of stretching the limits of carrying capacity. In this plenary, speakers will provide an overview of where the region stands today and the areas for which regional cooperation is needed for closing the human dignity deficit.

WANA-led approaches to reconstruction and recovery have the potential to create a supranational mechanism for addressing conflict and its aftermath. Conflict has cost the region around US\$12 trillion in missed economic growth and development over the last two decades, according to the 'Cost of Conflict in the Middle East' SFG 2009 report. The negative social, environmental and economic effects of conflict could present an opportunity to reconstruct communities based on good governance, green industry and infrastructure, socially cohesive policies and an understanding of carrying capacity.

- **Mohammed Al-Arifi (Chair)**, Technical Department Manager of the Saudi Fund for Development, Saudi Arabia
- **Imran Riza**, Representative, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Jordan
- **Lily Habash**, Deputy Chief Technical Advisor, Capacity Development Initiative, United Nations Development Programme, Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People (UNDP-PAPP), Palestine
- **Ahmed Hassan**, President of Somali Red Crescent Society
- **Bakhtiar Amin**, Founder of the International Alliance for Justice and Former Minister for Human Rights, Iraq
- **Mohammad Ehsan Zia**, Chief Executive Officer, TADBEER Consulting Inc. and Former Minister of Rural Development, Afghanistan

10:30-10:45

Coffee Break

10:45-12:00

Social Cohesion in the WANA Region

The WANA region faces increasing social fragmentation, which is exacerbated by poverty, increased conflict and exceeding the environment's carrying capacity. How can the WANA region effectively deal with the divisions that weaken its social fabric in a multidimensional way? What are the mechanisms for fostering cohesion and inclusion as opposed to division and exclusion? What are the roles of the state, civil society and social networks? Speakers in this session will put forth some answers and provide examples of networks, instruments and tools for enhancing social cohesion.

- **Maha Yahya (Chair)**, Regional Advisor on Social Policy, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, Lebanon
- **Amal Basha**, Chairperson for Sisters Arab Forum for Human Rights, Yemen
- **Hu Shaocong**, Director of the Department for Developing Countries Studies of China Institute of International Studies, China
- **Hossein Godazgar**, Reader and Deputy Head of Department for the Study of Islam and Muslims, Al-Maktoum Institute, United Kingdom/Iran
- **Jan Sadlak**, Vice-Rector for International Cooperation, Warsaw School of Social Sciences and Humanities, Poland
- **Zhou Nan-Zhao**, President of UNESCO Asia-Pacific Network for International Education and Values Education and President, Chinese Council of Private Higher Education, China
- **Daoud Kuttab**, Founding Director of Community Media Network and Media Activist, Palestine and Jordan

12:00-13:30

Break-out Groups: Strategies for Engaging Partnerships

The focus groups for social cohesion, green industry and infrastructure, environmental education for sustainable development and Hima and reconstruction and recovery resume to provide constructive input on the proposals and put forth an outline for creating and engaging in targeted strategic partnerships.

13:30-14:30

Lunch

14:30-18:30

Our Common Future: Water, Environment and Energy Community

Following its recent report on the 'Cost of Conflict in the Middle East', the India-based think-tank Strategic Foresight Group (SFG) launched a study on water security for preventing future conflicts through collaborative regional solutions for peace and shared challenges. Organised by the SFG, this session is part of an ongoing series of consultations, with the first international workshop taking place in Montreux earlier this year.

14:30-15:15

Vision Conversation with El Hassan bin Talal, WANA Forum Chairperson
Chaired by **Sundeep Waslekar**, President of Strategic Foresight Group

15:15-16:15

Strategic Dialogue on Concrete Policy Initiatives

- **Karim Nashashibi**, Economic Advisor to the Prime Minister of the Palestine Authority, Palestine
- **Saban Disli**, Member of Parliament, Economic Advisor to the Prime Minister of Turkey, Turkey
- **Dureid Mahasnah**, Former Water Negotiator, Jordan Valley Secretary General and Co-Chair, Jordan-Water Community with Israel and Syria, Jordan
- **Kamal Field Al-Basri**, Chairman and Member of the Board of

- Trustees, Iraq Institute for Economic Reform, Iraq
- **Selim Catafaco**, President of the National Authority of the Litani River, Lebanon
- **Emin Onen**, Member of Parliament, Deputy Chairman for Foreign Affairs of AK Party, Turkey

16:15-16:45

Coffee Break

16:45-17:15

Strategic Dialogue on International Cooperation

- **Jean-Daniel Ruch**, Special Envoy for the Middle East, Government of Switzerland, Switzerland
- **Francois Muenger**, Head of Water Initiatives, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, Switzerland
- **Dag Juhlin-Dannfelt**, Deputy Head of the Middle East Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sweden
- **Annika Johansson**, Regional Water Coordinator, Swedish International Development Agency, Sweden

17:15-17:30

Presentation of Report on Water Scarcity & Drought in WANA

- **Jauad El Kharraz**, Information Manager of the Technical Unit at the Euro-Mediterranean Information System on the know-how in the water sector, France

17:30-18:30

Open Forum on 'Our Common Future' Plenary

After 19:30

Free Time



Social Cohesion Plenary: Amal Basha; Daoud Kuttab; Zhou Nan-Zhao; Maha Yahya; Hu Shaocong; Jan Sadlak; Hossein Godazgar



Strategic Foresight Group joint session on Our Common Future: Dureid Mahasnah; Karim Nashashibi; Kamal Field Al-Basri; El Hassan bin Talal; Sundeep Waslekar; Saban Disli, Emin Onen; Selim Catafaco

TUESDAY, 18 MAY 2010

09:00-10:45

Environment and Green Economy

As the WANA region confronts the challenges of climate change, it is more apparent that the days of infinite growth on a finite planet are over. Peaking oil production, growing food insecurity, water scarcity, jobless recoveries and a myriad of social, environmental and economic ills continue to further degrade carrying capacity. Is the WANA region repeating the mistakes of the industrialised world, leading us to further economic difficulties and ecological hazards? What are the prospects for a Pan Asian framework that includes WANA? In this panel discussion, speakers will be asked about the opportunities for WANA to adopt sustainable approaches to meet these challenges, move from consumption to production and leapfrog into the third industrial revolution of the post carbon economy.

- **Abdul Aziz bin Ali Al Nuaimi (Chair)**, CEO of Al Ihsan Charity Centre and Chairman of the International Steering Committee for the Global Initiative Towards a Sustainable Iraq, UAE
- **Hussein Abaza**, Former Chief of Trade and Economics at the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in Switzerland, Egypt
- **Kazi Jalal**, Special Program Instructor, Environmental Studies at Harvard University Extension School, USA
- **Raouf Dabbas**, Senior Advisor at the Ministry of Environment, Jordan
- **Soubhi Abdulkarim**, Chairman and CEO, SOUTER Group, UK/UAE
- **Walid Saleh**, Regional Coordinator, MENA, United Nations University, International Network on Water, Environment and Health, UAE
- **Asaad Serhal**, Director General of the Society for the Protection of Nature in Lebanon (SPNL), Lebanon
- **Liu Baolai**, Council Member of Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs and Special Researcher for China Institute of International Studies, China

10:45-11:00

Coffee Break

11:00-13:00

Break-out Groups: Formulating Action Plans

This is the third meeting of the focus groups to agree on a way forward and to formulate a concrete action-oriented plan with timelines, proposed partnerships and benchmarks.

13:00-14:30

Lunch

14:30-16:00

Mobilising the Third Sphere for Collective Action

El Hassan bin Talal has long called for the engagement of the third sphere of partnership between governments, the private sector and civil society in becoming shareholders of their future. What is

the Third Sphere in the context of WANA? How can civil society be strengthened to enable them to be a real force and partner in influencing policy and change? What is the role of the Third Sphere in civic engagement and education for citizenship? In this panel discussion, speakers will address these questions and present their recommendations on how the Third Sphere can be activated to partner with the WANA Forum in working toward mutual objectives.

- **Salma Abbasi (Chair)**, Chairperson and CEO, e Worldwide Group and Associate Fellow, King's College London, Conflict, Security and Development Group, UK/UAE
- **Nabila Hamza**, President of the Foundation For the Future (FFF), Jordan/Tunisia
- **Naseem Tarawnah**, General Manager of 7iber Inc, blogger and social media enthusiast, Jordan
- **Savas Sahin**, Urban and Regional Planner, Department of Politics and Public Administration, Atılım University, Turkey
- **Ali Rabi**, President of the International University of Iran, Farabi Institute of Higher Education and Co-Chair of the Middle East Citizens Assembly (MECA), Iran
- **Mohsen Marzouk**, Secretary-General, Arab Democracy Foundation, Qatar

16:00-16:30

Coffee Break

16:30-18:00

Conclusions of WANA Forum 2010 by Sultan Barakat, *Forum Moderator*

Response to Conclusions of WANA Forum 2010:

- **Liu Baolai**, Council Member of Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs and Special Researcher for China Institute of International Studies
- **Lakhdar Brahimi**, Former Special Advisor to the UN Secretary-General and Foreign Minister of Algeria
- **Muchkund Dubey**, President of the Council for Social Development (CSD), India
- **Sawsan Hanish**, Professor of Social Work at Alfatah University and Executive Director of Libya's Public Union for Social Work and Psychology Experts, Libya
- **Khadija Hussein**, Founder and Chairperson of Sudanese Mothers for Peace, Sudan
- **Habiba Al Marashi**, Chairperson of Emirates Environmental Group, UAE and Board Member of UN Global Compact
- **Ahmed al-Mukhaini**, Independent Researcher and Consultant in Human Rights and Interfaith Cooperation and Vice Principal of SASLO Legal Training Centre, Oman
- **Mutsuyoshi Nishimura**, Special Advisor to the Cabinet of the government of Japan and former Ambassador in charge of global environment issues, Japan

- **Ann Pettifor**, Director of Advocacy International and Fellow of the New Economics Foundation (NEF), UK
- **Rehman Sobhan**, Chairman, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), and Member on the International Senior Advisory Board of the WANA Forum, Bangladesh

Closing Remarks by El Hassan bin Talal, WANA Forum Chairperson

After 18:00

Free Time

WEDNESDAY, 19 MAY 2010

*Meet at 8:00
in hotel lobby*

Field Visit to the Badia Region (Optional)

In collaboration with the Badia Research & Development Centre (BRDC), this optional field visit is open to all. Pre-registration is required. Participants will get first-hand insight into the BRDC work of providing integrated solutions for resource management, community development and environmental conservation and management in Jordan's Badia region.



Environment and Green Economy Plenary: Hussein Abaza; Liu Baolai; Kazi Jalal; Abdul Aziz bin Ali Al Nuaimi; Raouf Dabbas; Soubhi Abdulkarim; Asaad Serhal; Walid Saleh



Savas Sahin; Nabila Hamza; Naseem Tarawnah



Salma Abbasi; Mohsen Marzouk; Ali Rabi

ANNEX 2: PARTICIPANTS

Hussein Abaza, Former Chief of Trade and Economics at the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in Switzerland, Egypt

Salma Abbasi, Chairperson and CEO, e Worldwide Group and Associate Fellow, King's College London, Conflict, Security and Development Group, United Kingdom and United Arab Emirates

Elsadig Abdalla, Political Expert, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Qatar

Aishah Abdallah, Member, IUCN Commission on Education and Communication, Saudi Arabia

Soubhi Abdulkarim, Chairman and CEO, SOUTER Group, United Kingdom and United Arab Emirates

Sadoun Rashid Abdul Latif, Consultant in planning and development at the Qatar Foundation for Combating Human Trafficking, Qatar

Chaled Abu-Gharbieh, General Manager, EJAB Business and Investments L.L.C., Jordan

Hasan Abu Nimah, Director, Regional Human Security Centre (RHSC), Jordan

Zafar Adeel, Director, United Nations University, Institute for Water, Environment and Health (UNU-INWEH), Canada

Aysha Alkusayer, Assistant Executive Manager, Strategic Studies Department, Alwaleed bin Talal Foundation, Saudi Arabia

Ayad Altaai, General Coordinator, Global Initiative Towards a Sustainable Iraq, United Arab Emirates

Bakhtiar Amin, Founder of the International Alliance for Justice and Former Minister for Human Rights, Iraq

Mohammed Al-Arifi, Technical Department Manager of the Saudi Fund for Development, Saudi Arabia

Ahmed Al-Atrash, Professor of International Relations and Peace and Security Analyst at Al-Fateh University, Libya

Khalid bin Mohammed Al-Attayah, Minister of State for International Cooperation and Acting Minister of Business and Trade and Member on the Board of Trustees, Silatech, Qatar

Rasem Badran, International Expert and Consultant for Architecture Design and Urban Planning in Muslim Communities, Jordan

Liu Baolai, Council Member of Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs (CPIFA) and Special Researcher of China Institute of International Studies, China

Sultan Barakat, WANA Forum Moderator and Advisor to Prince El Hassan bin Talal, Jordan and Professor of Politics and Director of the Post-war Reconstruction & Development Unit, University of York, United Kingdom

Amal Basha, Chairperson of Sisters Arab Forum for Human Rights, Yemen

Omar Al Basheer, Executive Director for the Outreach Sector at the Royal Scientific Society (RSS), Jordan

Kamal Field Al-Basri, Chairman and Member on the Board of Trustees, Iraq Institute for Economic Reform, Iraq

Sara Bazoobandi, Doctoral student at the Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies, Exeter University, United Kingdom and Iran

Martin Beck, Resident Representative of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, Jordan

El Hassan bin Talal, Chairperson of the WANA Forum, Jordan

Murad Bino, Executive Director, The Inter-Islamic Network on Water Resources Development and Management (INWRDAM), Jordan

Selin Bolme, Researcher at SETA Foundation, Turkey

Lakhdar Brahimi, Former Special Advisor to the UN Secretary-General and Foreign Minister of Algeria

Alia Brahimi, Research Fellow in Global Security at the London School of Economics and Senior Research Associate at the University of Oxford's Department of Politics and International Relations, United Kingdom

Zeinab Burma, Executive Manager of Sudanese Mothers for Peace, Sudan

Raghda Butros, Founder of Hamzet Wasel and Ashoka Fellow, Jordan

Salim Catafaco, President of the National Authority of the Litani River, Lebanon

Kristian Coates-Ulrichsen, Kuwait Research Fellow at the London School of Economics and Political Science, United Kingdom

Raouf Dabbas, Senior Advisor at the Ministry of Environment, Jordan

Jessica Dheere, Co-founder/Director of Social Media Exchange, Lebanon

Saban Disli, Member of Parliament and Economic Advisor to the Prime Minister of Turkey, Turkey

Muchkund Dubey, President of the Council for Social Development (CSD), India

Ilmas Futehally, Executive Director and Vice President of Strategic Foresight Group, India

Johan Gely, Senior Water Specialist, Water

Initiatives Division at the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, Switzerland

Noreddine Ghaffour, Research and Development and Capacity Building Project Manager at the Middle East Desalination Research Centre (MEDRC), Oman

Humam Ghassib, Secretary-General, Arab Thought Forum (ATF), Jordan

Rafia Ghubash, President of the Arab Network for Women in Science and Technology, United Arab Emirates

Hossein Godazgar, Reader and Deputy Head of Department for the Study of Islam and Muslims, Al-Maktoum Institute, United Kingdom and Iran

Bekir Gür, Coordinator of Educational Studies, SETA Foundation, Turkey

Lily Habash, Deputy Chief Technical Advisor, Capacity Development Initiative, United Nations Development Programme, Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People (UNDP-PAPP), Palestine

Mohammad al-Hamad, Director, Civil Society Development Center, Jordan University of Science and Technology, Jordan

Omar Hamarneh, Chief Executive Officer of El Hassan Science City (EHSC), Jordan

Habiba Hamid, Manager, Zayed International Humanitarian Awards, United Arab Emirates

Ali Hamoud, Director General, General Commission for Al Badia Management and Development, Syria

Nabila Hamza, President of the Foundation For the Future (FFF), Jordan and Tunisia

Sawsan Hanish, Professor of Social Work at Alfatah University and Executive Director of Libya's Public Union for Social Work and Psychology Experts, Libya

Ahmed Hassan, President, Somali Red Crescent Society, Somalia

Medhat Hassanein, Professor of Finance and Banking at the American University in Cairo and Former Minister of Finance, Egypt

Baker al-Hiyari, WANA Forum Team Leader, Jordan

Khadija Hussein, Founder and Chairperson of Sudanese Mothers for Peace, Sudan

Zafar Iqbal, Senior Economist, Islamic Development Bank, Saudi Arabia

Jehad Jaafar, Head of Environmental Citizenship Programme, Bahrain

Kazi Jalal, Special Program Instructor, Environmental Studies, Harvard University Extension School, United States

Arafat Jamal, Deputy Representative, UNHCR Representation in Jordan

Karen Janjua, Research Fellow, Head of Reconstruction Cluster at the Regional Human Security Centre (RHSC), Jordan

Odeh Al-Jayyousi, Regional Director, International Union for Conservation of Nature, Regional Office for West Asia (IUCN-ROWA), Jordan

Annika Johansson, Regional Water Coordinator, Swedish International Development Agency, Sweden

Dag Juhlin-Dannfelt, Deputy Head of the Middle East Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sweden

Khaled Kahhaleh, Advisor, Royal Scientific Society, Jordan

Taher Kanaan, Managing Director, Jordan Center for Public Policy Research and Dialogue (JCPRD), Jordan

Hamed Kazim, CEO of HK Consulting, United Arab Emirates

Musa Keilani, Editor-in-Chief, *Al-Urdon* newspaper, Jordan

Ibrahim Al-Khader, Regional Director, Middle East Division at BirdLife International, Jordan

Yehya Khaled, Director General of the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature, Jordan

Jauad El-Kharraz, Information Manager of the Technical Unit at the Euro-Mediterranean Information System on Know-how in the Water Sector (EMWIS), France and Researcher at the Global Change Unit, University of Valencia, Spain



Alaa El Sadek; Rafia Ghubash; Jauad El-Kharraz



Lahib Al-Khraisha; Omar Al Basheer; Ilari Rantakari

Hisham Khatib, Honorary Vice Chairman of World Energy Council, Jordan

Nayim Khemaies, Private Equity Investment Associate and Ashoka Arab World Support Network Member, Kuwait

Riad Al Khouri, Dean of Business School, Lebanese French University at Erbil, Iraq

Lahib Al-Khraisha, Programme Officer, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Iraq Operations Unit, Jordan

Daoud Kuttab, Founding Director of Community Media Network and Media Activist, Palestine and Jordan

Robin MacGregor, Regional Manager (Gulf & Middle East), International Programme, Charity Commission for England and Wales, United Kingdom

Dureid Mahasnah, Former Water Negotiator, Jordan Valley Secretary General and Co-Chair, Jordan-Water Community with Israel and Syria, Jordan

Ahmad Mango, WANA Forum Moderator and Advisor to Prince El Hassan bin Talal, Jordan

Habiba Al Marashi, Chairperson of Emirates Environmental Group, United Arab Emirates and Board Member of UN Global Compact

Mohsen Marzouk, Secretary-General of the Arab Democracy Foundation, Qatar

Paul Mazza, Communication and Information Officer, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Jordan

Dennis Meadows, President, Laboratory for Interactive Learning and Professor Emeritus for Policy Systems, University of New Hampshire, United States

Noha El-Mikawy, Practice Leader - Governance, UNDP, Regional Centre for Arab States, Egypt

Francois Muenger, Head of Water Initiatives, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, Switzerland

Ahmed al-Mukhaini, Independent Researcher and Consultant in Human Rights and Interfaith Cooperation and Vice Principal of SASLO Legal Training Centre, Oman

Zhou Nan-Zhao, President of UNESCO Asia-Pacific Network for International Education and Values Education and President, Chinese Council of Private Higher Education, China

Karim Nashashibi, Economic Advisor to the Prime Minister of the Palestinian Authority, Palestine



Jihad Jaafar and Fatima Shawqi



Alia Brahimi and Zafar Iqbal

Mutsuyoshi Nishimura, Special Advisor to the Cabinet of the government of Japan and former Ambassador in charge of global environment issues, Japan

Abdul Aziz bin Ali Al Nuaimi, CEO of Al Ihsan Charity Centre and Chairman of International Steering Committee of the Global Initiative Towards a Sustainable Iraq, United Arab Emirates

Wafa Omar, Deputy Director of Programs, Arab Democracy Foundation, Qatar

Khaldoun Al Omari, Protected Areas Programme Officer, International Union for Conservation of Nature, Regional Office for West Asia (IUCN-ROWA), Jordan

Emin Onen, Deputy Chairman of Foreign Affairs of AK Party, Turkey

Ann Pettifor, Director of Advocacy International and Fellow of the New Economics Foundation (NEF), United Kingdom

Surin Pitsuwan, Secretary General of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Indonesia

Nour Qabba'ah, WANA Forum Researcher, Jordan

Wissam Rabadi, Executive Director of the Arab Science and Technology Foundation, Amman Office and Acting Director of iPark Technology Incubator at the Higher Council for Science and Technology, Jordan

Ali Rabi, President of the International University of Iran, Farabi Institute of Higher Education and Co-Chair of Middle East Citizens Assembly (MECA), Iran

Ilari Rantakari, Ambassador, Helsinki Process on Globalization and Democracy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Finland

Mohamed Raouf, Program Manager,

Environment Research at the Gulf Research Center, United Arab Emirates

Imran Riza, Representative, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Jordan

Jean-Daniel Ruch, Special Envoy for the Middle East, Government of Switzerland, Switzerland

Najib Saab, Secretary-General of Arab Forum for Environment and Development (AFED), Lebanon

Juho Saari, Professor of Welfare Sociology at the University of Eastern Finland, Finland

Alaa El Sadek, President of the Arab World Academy of Young Scientists, Bahrain

Jan Sadlak, Vice-Rector for International Cooperation, Warsaw School of Social Psychology and Humanities/SWPS, Poland

Savas Zafer Sahin, Urban and Regional Planner, Department of Politics and Public Administration, Atılım University, Turkey

Motasem Saidan, Director, Environmental Management Department at Princess Sumaya University for Technology and Director of Consultation Cluster at the Royal Scientific Society, Jordan

Nadia Al-Sakkaf, Editor-in-Chief of *The Yemen Times*, Yemen

Walid Saleh, Regional Coordinator, MENA, United National University International Network on Water, Environment and Health, United Arab Emirates

Yohei Sasakawa, Chairman of The Nippon Foundation and Member of the International Senior Advisory Board of the WANA Forum, Japan

Yoshiaki Sasaki, Advisor to the Sasakawa Peace Foundation, Japan

Ismail Serageldin, Director, Library of Alexandria and Member of the International Senior Advisory Board of the WANA Forum, Egypt

Asaad Serhal, Director General of the Society for the Protection of Nature in Lebanon (SPNL), Lebanon

Mohammad Shahbaz, Director of Badia Research & Development Centre and WANA Forum Environment Working Group Facilitator, Jordan

Saeed Shami, Regional Programme Coordinator for Biodiversity Management, International Union for the Conservation of Nature - Regional Office for West Asia (IUCN-ROWA), Jordan

Hu Shaocong, Director of the Department for Developing Countries Studies, China Institute of International Studies (CIIS), China

Fatima Shawqi, Researcher at Al Tajdeed Cultural & Social Society and Member of the Environmental Citizenship Program and Women's Association for Human Development, Bahrain

Mohammed Shiyab, Director General, Cooperative Monitoring Centre (CMC), Jordan

Muhammad Siddiqi, Assistant Editor of *Dawn*, Pakistan

Rehman Sobhan, Chairman, Centre for Policy Dialogue, and Member on the International Senior Advisory Board of the WANA Forum, Bangladesh

Tatsuya Tanami, Executive Director of The Nippon Foundation, and Member on the International Senior Advisory Board of the WANA Forum, Japan

Naseem Tarawnah, General Manager of 7iber Inc, blogger and social media enthusiast, Jordan

Adel Tweissi, Secretary-General of the Higher Council for Science and Technology (HCST), Jordan

Cemal Usak, Vice President of the Journalists and Writers Foundation, Turkey

Masoumeh Velayati, Fundraiser, United Nations Association International Service, United Kingdom and Iran

Sundeeep Waslekar, President of Strategic Foresight Group, India

Maha Yahya, Regional Advisor on Social Policy, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN-ESCWA), Lebanon

Seiichiro Yonekura, Professor at the Institute of Innovation Research at Hitotsubashi University, Japan

Mohammad Ehsan Zia, Chief Executive Officer, TADBEER Consulting Inc. and Former Minister of Rural Development, Afghanistan

Steve Zyck, Research Fellow at the Post-war Reconstruction and Development Unit (PRDU), United Kingdom



Murad Bino and Mohammad Siddiqi

Hussein Abaza, *Former Chief of Trade and Economics at the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in Switzerland, Egypt*

As Chief of Trade and Economics at UNEP for 12 years, Mr. Abaza assisted countries, particularly developing countries and countries with economies in transition, enhance their capacities to integrate environmental considerations in development planning and decision-making. In addition to the many positions he held in UNEP since 1980, he worked as the Financial and Administrative Manager of a United Nations Physical and Urban Planning project in Saudi Arabia, Managing Director of the Center of Planning and Architecture in Cairo in Egypt, and Manager of the Islamic Investment Company, Central and Northern Region in Saudi Arabia.

Salma Abbasi, *Chairperson and CEO, e Worldwide Group and Associate Fellow, King's College London, Conflict, Security and Development Group, UK/UAE*

Ms. Abbasi is chairperson and founder of eWorldwide Group, a consortium of 37 companies and universities focused on providing multiple services and solutions in the key areas of security and resilience, sustainable development and empowerment, alternative energy, recycling and environment and management consultancy. Ms. Abbasi actively works with multiple governments in an advisory capacity, promoting interfaith harmony, understanding and social-economic development.

Ms. Abbasi also works with multiple UN agencies to promote cultural diversity at the international level and, through eWorldwide Group, has recently sponsored UNESCO's 'Power of Peace' (PPN) initiative, championing the creation of young 'global

ambassadors of peace' and engaging university students and school children around the world to embrace the concept of understanding, tolerance and respect.

With nearly 30 years experience in the field of technology and business process reengineering, Ms. Abbasi is linking ICT companies in developing economies with international corporations and organisations to promote knowledge transfer and drive interfaith understanding, dialogue and awareness. She joined the High Level Adviser's Panel of the United Nations Global Alliance for Information Communication Technologies and Development (UN GAID).

Ms. Abbasi was awarded a Senior Research Associate Fellowship in the International Policy Department at King's College London and has recently been awarded the Ibn Khaldun Award for Excellence for promoting understanding between global cultures.

Aishah Abdallah, *Member, International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Commission on Education and Communication, Saudi Arabia*

Ms. Abdallah is a member of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Commission on Education and Communication and works in Saudi Arabia as a wilderness leader and environmental educator with the Girl Scouts, schools and government agencies to introduce women and girls to the wonders and beauties of the natural world. Her most recent contribution is a proposal involving the official recognition for traditional *bimas* as Community Conserved Areas (CCAs), the criteria proposed for selecting pilot *bimas*, which involves negotiations between local communities and stakeholders such as the Ministry of Agriculture and others.



Soubhi Abdulkarim and Lily Habash

Soubhi Abdulkarim, *Chairman and CEO, SOUTER Group, UK/UAE*

Mr. Abdulkarim has over 25 years of experience in environmentally sound technologies, alternative energy, high-end computing, communication, network infrastructure, medical technologies and automation.

He founded SOUTER Group as a consultancy company specialising in Technology Solutions within the framework of sustainable development and maintains a diverse clientele that includes governments, NGOs and private companies. SOUTER Group works closely with international organisations such as the UNDP and is involved in large-scale projects in Iraq, Jordan, Syria, Qatar and Saudi Arabia.

Mr. Abdulkarim's former positions include Chief Operating Officer of Hydra Trading and Senior Vice President and CTO with Abraaj Capital, two of the largest investment firms in the region.

Zafar Adeel, *Director of United Nations University Institute for Water, Environment and Health (UNU-INWEH) and Chair of UN-Water, Canada*

Dr. Adeel served as Senior Engineer at GeoTrans Inc., an environmental services and consulting firm in the United States, before joining the United Nations University in 1998 where he has played a key role in

the strategic development of the UN's overall water agenda.

He has extensive experience in a variety of water and environmental issues, including monitoring and control of water pollution, water management in dry areas, solutions to industrial environmental problems, modelling of environmental systems and environmental policy formulation.

Dr. Adeel has led the development of a network of scientists working in water-scarce countries, particularly those in Africa, the Middle East and Asia. Through his editorial lead, this network has published eight books in the UNU Desertification Series. He also co-chaired the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment team that produced the global desertification synthesis.

Dr. Adeel has also studied the formulation of environmental policy and governance at several levels; his book on this topic is *East Asian Perspectives in Environmental Governance – Response in a Rapidly Developing Region*.

Bakhtiar Amin, *Founder of the International Alliance for Justice and Former Minister for Human Rights, Iraq*

Mr. Amin has more than 20 years experience in the field of international human rights and humanitarian work. He has worked extensively on issues involving minorities, refugees and the uprooted, release of prisoners, women's rights and human rights in general, conflict resolution, elimination of landmines and freedom of expression. He has participated in fact-finding missions in Iraq, Iran, Turkey, Syria, Kurdistan, Lebanon, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and India, among others.

Mr. Amin has served as Minister of Human Rights of Iraq, Advisor for the Department of Migration and Refugee Affairs in Sweden and NGO Representative of the UN Human Rights Commission in Switzerland and Executive Director of the

International Alliance for Justice (IAJ), which coordinates a network of 275 international non-governmental organisations from more than 120 countries. The IAJ called for the establishment of an International Ad Hoc Tribunal to investigate the Iraqi leadership's crimes against humanity, crimes of war and genocide.

Mr. Amin's recent work involves organising educational seminars and training programmes all over the world for Iraqi journalists, academics, lawyers, politicians, human rights activists. He travels extensively to participate in conferences and meet with various heads of state, government officials and others to shed light on human rights issues in Iraq and across the WANA region.

Mohammed Al-Arifi, *Technical Department Manager of the Saudi Fund for Development, Saudi Arabia*

For the past 30 years, Mr. Al-Arifi has handled all technical aspects of the Saudi Fund for Development, including supervising and overseeing infrastructure projects and evaluation and management of resources during implementation.

The Saudi Fund for Development participates in the financing of projects in developing countries through the provision of soft loans with an emphasis on projects that promote the social and economic wellbeing in low income countries. It supports infrastructure, social and development projects all over the world, including more recently its continued support of funding reconstruction efforts in Palestine, funding the construction of hospitals in Indonesia and Cuba, the financing of the third phase of an expansion project in Jordan to establish two power generation units run by natural gas and diesel and contributing to the Enhanced Integrated Framework Trust Fund aimed at helping least-developed countries to better integrate into the multilateral trading system.

Sultan Barakat, *Moderator of the WANA Forum, Professor of Politics and Director of the Post-war Reconstruction and Development Unit at the University of York in the United Kingdom*

Professor Barakat is the author of *Reconstructing Post-Saddam Iraq and After the Conflict: Reconstruction and Development in the Aftermath of War* in addition to numerous journal articles and reports on international affairs and development. Professor Barakat's research, which has consistently challenged the hitherto unimpressive work of the Western-led international community, has focused upon the means of intervening in post-conflict societies with a particular emphasis on ensuring local ownership, promoting recipient state sovereignty and legitimacy and protecting human security.

In addition to his scholarly work, Professor Barakat serves as a senior advisor for several major international organisations, including the United Nations Development Programme, UNICEF, the World Bank, the UK Department for International Development, the Global Peace Index, the Overseas Development Institute and many others. In these roles, he conducts original research while also helping to bridge the divide between the scholarly, policy and practitioner communities.

Professor Barakat, who has been proud to collaborate on His Royal Highness's initiatives for many years, has been closely involved in the WANA Forum from its inception. He also serves as a senior academic advisor to the Regional Human Security Centre in Amman.

Liu Baolai, *Council Member of Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs (CPIFA) and Special Researcher for China Institute of International Studies*

Ambassador Baolai has served as a diplomat in Chinese embassies in Morocco, Sudan



Liu Baolai

and Kuwait, been Counselor and Deputy Director-General of the Department of West Asian and North African Affairs, as well as Director-General of the Department of Foreign Affairs Management, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and served as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of China to both the United Arab Emirates and Jordan. He has been with the CPIFA since 2007, first as Secretary-General and Vice President and now as Council Member.

Amal Basha, *Chairperson of Sisters Arab Forum for Human Rights, Yemen*

Ms. Basha is a human rights activist and a trainer in the fields of gender, development and human rights. In addition to her work with Sisters Arab Forum for Human Rights (SAF), she is a regional coordinator for the International Coalition for the International Criminal Court (CICC) and an advisor to the Yemen Ministry of Human Rights.

She is a board member of the Foundation for the Future and coordinates several of the Foundation's programmes, including Legal Protections of Prisoners, Legal Rights for Refugees, and a Lawyers Training Programme on Human Rights and Violence against Women. She is also a member on the

Advisory Committee of the Cairo Institute of Human Rights Studies in Egypt.

In previous years, Ms. Basha was actively involved with countless Yemeni NGOs and various United Nations programmes, such as the UNDP Civil Society Advisory Committee to Administrator and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) programme on women in development and population as well as the European Union and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

Omar Al Basheer, *Executive Director for the Outreach Sector at the Royal Science Society (RSS), Jordan*

Dr. Al Basheer is an expert engineer with 28 years experience in design and implementation in the fields of telecommunication, IT, renewable energy, electricity and power machinery. While working for NASA, Dr. Al Basheer developed a power management and distribution system for more efficient use of energy onboard the International Space Station, as well as other satellites powered by solar energy. As founder and managing partner of Applied Solutions & Knowledge Management Experts (ASK ME), Dr. Al Basheer worked as a business and projects development advisor for many international, regional and local institutions and corporations.



Amal Basha

Dr. Al Basheer was a vice dean and faculty member in computer science at the Amman Arab University for Graduate Studies. As an associate professor, he lectured in many local and international universities and educational institutions in the fields of engineering, computer science and management.

Dr. Al Basheer frequently serves as a board member in many governmental institutions, non-profit organisations and NGOs. Some of these include the Energy/Water/Environment Infrastructure Taskforce, EDAMA Initiative Jordan's Leadership in Renewable Energy, the National Fund for Enterprise Support (NAFES), the National Agenda/Vocational Training and Employment, and government entities performance evaluator for the King Abdullah II Center for Excellence.

El Hassan bin Talal, *Chairman of the WANA Forum*

Prince Hassan has devoted his life to building bridges across existing political and religious divides and has shown a long standing commitment to promoting human security across the WANA region. He advocates the adoption of international standards and supranational thinking that transcends labels and 'brand names'.

Internationally, he proposed the establishment of a New International Humanitarian Order at the United Nations and is the Founding Member and President of the Foundation for Interreligious and Intercultural Research and Dialogue. He is also a Commissioner on the Legal Empowerment of the Poor and an active Board Member of the Nuclear Threat Initiative.

Regionally, Prince Hassan has founded and chaired a number of committees and initiatives including the Higher Council for Science and Technology, the Royal Scientific Society, the Arab Thought Forum and the



Lakhdar Brahimi and Taher Kanaan

Royal Institute for Inter-Faith Studies.

Prince Hassan has long called for the creation of a Community of Water and Energy for the Human Environment and the engagement of the third sphere of partnership between governments, the private sector and civil society in becoming shareholders of their future.

Lakhdar Brahimi, *Former Special Advisor to the UN Secretary-General and Foreign Minister of Algeria*

A veteran United Nations envoy and advisor, Ambassador Brahimi has played a central role in world events for the past 40 years. He lectures regularly around the world on issues relating to security, conflict prevention and resolution and peace. He is presently Senior Visiting Fellow at the Centre for the Study of Global Government at The London School of Economics and a member of "The Elders," an independent group of global leaders created in 2007 at the initiative of Nelson Mandela to "offer their collective influence and experience to support peace building, help address major causes of human suffering and promote the shared interest of humanity."

In addition to his extensive service to the United Nations, Ambassador Brahimi held numerous positions, including Minister of Foreign Affairs of Algeria, Under-Secretary-General of the League of Arab States and Ambassador to the United Kingdom, Egypt and Sudan.

Raouf Dabbas, *Senior Advisor at the Ministry of Environment, Jordan*

Mr. Dabbas is currently advising the Ministry of Environment on a number of cutting edge approaches to sustainable developing, such as the launch of ecological and sustainable cities, working in partnership with those in the private sector whom he believes are instrumental stakeholders and drivers of change.

Prior to his current role, Mr. Dabbas was an advisor to the Prime Minister on environmental issues and served as president of Friends of Environment Society for 10 years. He was also country coordinator with GLOBE (Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment).

He is a founding member of several NGOs, including the Jordanian Network for Environmentally Friendly Industries, the first of its kind in Jordan. Mr. Dabbas is currently on the Executive Board of the Environmental Liaison Centre International based in Kenya.

Muchkund Dubey, *President of the Council for Social Development (CSD), India*

Prof. Muchkund Dubey is a Former Ambassador and Former Indian Foreign Secretary, the administrative head of the Indian Foreign Service, Government of India. He is also President of the Council for Social Development, and Chairman of the Asian Development Research Institute, Patna. He is also a Professor in International Relations at the Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi and Professor Emeritus at the Foreign Service Institute.

He is researching a wide array of issues



Muchkund Dubey

related to world economy, international monetary and trading systems, security and disarmament, South Asian cooperation and international relations. Currently teaches as faculty in course Post Graduate Diploma Programme in Development Studies and would be the first module for a Masters in Development Studies, under newly formed Ambedkar University, Delhi (AUD), which is mandated to focus on teaching and research in social sciences and the humanities both at the under graduate as well as post graduate level.

Hossein Godazgar, *Reader and Deputy Head of Department for the Study of Islam and Muslims, Al-Maktoum Institute, United Kingdom/Iran*

Dr. Godazgar's background is in religions, Islam, social science and education, political philosophy and practical ethics, with special emphasis on bioethics, the environment and the foundations of law. One core aspect of his research involves religion and Islam in relation to various aspects of everyday life, such as education, ethics, social cohesion, the environment, and peace/conflict issues. He is the author of *The Impact of Religious Factors on Educational Change in Iran: Islam in Policy and Islam in Practise*. He has also published several articles and chapters in

English and Farsi in peer-reviewed journals and edited books. Dr. Godazgar is an editorial member of *Totalitarian Movements and Political Religions* and field editor of *Edwin Mellen Press*. He is also guest editor of *Social Compass*, Special issue on Iran. He is a regular reviewer for publishers worldwide and has lectured in the UK, U.S., Spain, Italy, Mexico, Australia, Sweden, Norway, Turkey, Armenia and Iran.

Lily Habash, *Deputy Chief Technical Advisor, Capacity Development Initiative, United Nations Development Programme, Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People (UNDP-PAPP), Palestine*

Before recently joining UNDP/PAPP, Ms. Habash spent 15 years as a professional civil servant and advisor to many Palestinian ministers and pioneered the establishment of key Palestinian institutions including the Technical Support Unit for the Palestinian economic negotiating team and the Negotiations Support Unit in the Negotiations Affairs Department of the PLO. She also served on the Advisory Board of the Palestinian Human Development Report for 2009/2010.

Ms. Habash is a civil society activist and was instrumental in founding several youth and women's organisations, including PARTNERS: Women & Men for the Empowerment of Palestinian Women, which focuses on enhancing women's leadership skills through qualitative education, mentorship and lifelong training. She is also the Deputy Head of the Board of Directors of the Palestinian Association of Contemporary Arts.

Ms. Habash was twice recognised by the World Economic Forum – Davos, selected as a Global Leader for Tomorrow. She currently serves as a Board Member in the Palestine Chapter of the Young Arab Leaders and was recognised for her efforts in peacemaking by the Women for World Peace Circle.

She has long held the conviction that building state institutions based on good governance and investing in people and their education, even under adverse political circumstances, are the best examples of resilience and the most effective tools of resistance in the face of Israeli occupation.

Nabila Hamza, *President of the Foundation For the Future (FFF), Jordan and Tunisia*

Foundation For the Future is a multilateral institution aiming to promote democracy, human rights, active citizenship and good governance through support and assistance to civil society organisations in the region. For her role in FFF, Ms. Hamza was honoured with an award by the Arab Pioneer and Innovators Forum.

Ms. Hamza is former Executive Director of the Arab Women Center for Training and Research (CAWTAR), a regional centre based in Tunisia and funded by UNDP, UNFPA and IPPF. She also worked as Expert in the League of Arab States for 10 years.

She holds various leading positions in the Public Sector in Tunisia and worked as a consultant for UNDP, UNFPA, the European Commission, the Economic and Social Commission for Eastern Asia (ESCWA) and has been the Coordinator of many regional programmes.

She has been nominated as member of the High National Commission in charge of elimination of all forms of discrimination against women and Member of the National Commission for equal opportunities in Tunisia.

Ms. Hamza has published and contributed to a wide range of books and articles on public policies, social development, good governance, gender issues, poverty alleviation and employment in the Arab region.

Sawsan Hanish, *Professor of Social Work at Alfatab University and Executive Director*

of Libya's Public Union for Social Work and Psychology Experts, Libya

Prof. Hanish is the executive director of Libya's National Society for Social Development and the assistant secretary of its Environment Friends Society. She is also active in Libyan women's rights organisations, and participated in the United Nations Development Programme's National Consultation Committee on Women. She also works as an education inspector.

Ahmed Hassan, *President of Somali Red Crescent Society, Somalia*

Dr. Hassan has spent 20 years with the Somali Red Crescent Society, the only national entity still functioning in the country. He works in the complex Somali landscape toward improving the livelihood of Somalis who suffer the effects of conflict, drought and floods.

Dr. Hassan began his career as a medical doctor, department head and later hospital director before joining the World Health Organization (WHO) as Consultant and Member of the Executive Board and the Ministry of Health as Director General.

Medhat Hassanein, *Professor of Finance and Banking at the American University in Cairo and former Minister of Finance, Egypt*

Dr. Hassanein is a member of the UN High Level Commission on the Legal Empowerment of the Poor. He also served as Governor of the World Bank and as a member of the G7 Expanded Committee for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA).

Dr. Hassanein was the senior economist of the Projects Department of the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development in Kuwait. During his term with the Fund he participated in the financing of infrastructural, agro-industrial, industrial and agricultural projects. He later was promoted to lead the Fund's Technical Assistance Department.



Medhat Hassanein

During his term as Minister of Finance, Dr. Hassanein developed and instituted a set of fiscal public policy reforms for the Government of Egypt. Dr. Hassanein served with the Arab Investment Bank in Egypt as the head of the Investment Sector in charge of projects finance, assets management and private equity transactions of the bank. After his service with the Arab Investment Bank he was named president and CEO of the Egyptian Gulf Bank in Egypt.

Khadija Hussein, *Founder and Chairperson of Sudanese Mothers for Peace, Sudan*

Ms. Hussein was State Minister for the Ministry of Peace in Sudan until the ministry was dissolved in 1989 after the coup. She is a specialist in community development in the Arab world and has been campaigning for genuine peace and human rights for the last 30 years. She worked for the Ministry of Education in Sudan and was delegated to the UNESCO centre in Egypt.

She currently serves as the Vice Chair and Coordinator of the international offices of the Sudanese Women Forum for Darfur, organised by Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS), which establishes and supports a wide range of networks on women and peace across the continent.

She is also Member of the National Foundation to Unite Sudanese People chaired by the former President Abdel Rahman Suwar al-Dahab. As Member of Women International for Peace and Freedom, she worked on the successful and ongoing 'Voice of African Women' Programme.

Ms. Hussein was awarded Community Champion status by the British Government and Ambassador of Peace by the World Association of Non-Governmental Organizations (WANGO).

Kazi Jalal, *Special Program Instructor, Environmental Studies at Harvard University Extension School, United States*

Dr. Jalal teaches courses on sustainable development and corporate sustainability at the Harvard University Extension School. He is also a freelance consultant on environmental management and sustainable development working for international organisations such as the United Nations, United Nations Development Programme, World Health Organization, Asian Development Bank, World Water Forum, International Water Management Institute, International Union for Conservation of Nature and the Global Initiative Towards a Sustainable Iraq.

As Chief of the Office of Environment and Social Development (OESD) of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Dr. Jalal led the formulation of the ADB's policies and guidelines on environment and sustainable development, including water, poverty reduction, involuntary resettlement, indigenous people, gender and NGO cooperation.

Dr. Jalal also worked for over 15 years with the United Nations-Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (UN-ESCAP) initially as Chief of the Environmental Coordinating Unit and later as Director of the Division of Industry, Human Settlements and Environment providing technical

assistance, supporting capacity building and creating better understanding and enhanced cooperation among the member countries of the United Nations.

Odeh Al Jayyousi, *Director, International Union for the Conservation of Nature - Regional Office for West Asia (IUCN-ROWA), Jordan*

Prior to joining IUCN, Dr. Al Jayyousi was a university professor in water resources and environment and dean of scientific research at the Applied Science University in Jordan. He has over 15 years experience in various planning activities in Chicago at the Department of Planning and at the University of Illinois, Center of Urban Economic Development. He also worked as a consultant with the European Union, ESCWA, the World Bank and other leading international organisations.

Ibrahim Al-Khader, *Regional Director, Middle East Division at BirdLife International, Jordan*

Dr. Al-Khader has over ten years of national, regional and international work experience in the areas of environmental science and project implementation with the General Cooperation for Environment



Odeh Al Jayyousi

Protection (GCEP), the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) as assistant national coordinator and regional water programme coordinator.

Daoud Kuttab, *Founding Director of Community Media Network and Media Activist, Palestine and Jordan*

Mr. Kuttab is Founder Director of Community Media Network which operates the community based Radio Al Balad, AmmanNet and PEN Media, a media NGO contracted to produce 52 episodes of Shara'a Simsim, the Palestinian version of Sesame Street.

Mr. Kuttab is a former Ferris Professor of Journalism at Princeton University where he taught a seminar on new media in the Arab world. He helped establish the Aabic Media Internet Network (AMIN), a censorship free Arab website and also established and presided over the Jerusalem Film Institute and the Institute of Modern Media at Al Quds University.

Mr. Kuttab has won numerous international awards, including the CPJ International Press Freedom Awards, the PEN/Barbara Goldsmith Freedom to Write Award and the Leipzig Media Institute award. He is also on the International Press Institute's list of 50 Press Freedom Heroes and on the list of The 500 Most Influential Muslims in the World (2009) by The Royal Islamic Strategic Studies Centre in Jordan and Georgetown University in the United States. His columns appear regularly in Arab and international newspapers.

Habiba Al Marashi, *Chairperson of Emirates Environmental Group, UAE and Board Member of UN Global Compact*

Ms. Al Marashi is a Founding Member and Chairperson of the Emirates Environmental Group (EEG) which began in 1991 with



Habiba Al Marashi

only 12 members. The EEG is a professional working group devoted to protecting the environment through means of education, action programs and community involvement and is open to people of all ages and nationalities. EEG maintains a diverse membership list consisting of individuals, corporations, schools and universities, government sectors and private organisations.

EEG has become a large network of likeminded, environment-conscious individuals and organisations working together towards sustainable development in the UAE and abroad. Under Ms. Al Marashi's guidance EEG is the first environmental NGO in the world to be ISO 14001 certified and the only organisation of its kind in the UAE with accredited status to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)'s Governing Council, and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

In 2006, Ms. Al Marashi became a board member of the UN Global Compact (UNGC), the world's largest voluntary corporate citizenship initiative. Ms. Al Marashi is now successfully serving her second term in this position and is also President of the UNGC Local Network for the GCC Region.

She is one of the Founding Members of the Emirates Green Building Council (EGBC) and Founder and President of the Arabia CSR Network which is a unique platform for building a sustainable future for the economy, environment and society.

Ahmed al-Mukhaini, *Independent Researcher and Consultant in Human Rights and Interfaith Cooperation and Vice Principal of SASLO Legal Training Centre, Oman*

Mr. Al-Mukhaini served as Political Assistant and Advisor to two American Ambassadors in Oman and Assistant Secretary General for Information at Majlis a'Shura (elected chamber of the bicameral parliament of Oman). In this capacity, Ahmed provided policy advice on several draft laws, specialising in social, health, environmental and women's issues and undertook assignments in drafting laws. He also served as Chief Clerk for Permanent Committees and Director of the International and Inter-parliamentary Affairs Bureau, as well as co-ordinating all capacity building programmes for members and staff, and delivering translation and interpretation services.

Mr. Al-Mukhaini has delivered lectures, talks and courses for several national, regional and international organisations, as well as being an interlocutor with several international think tanks. He has delivered courses on Islamic ethics and jurisprudence, the history of humankind, the political history of Oman and interfaith co-operation. In addition, he acts as an external examiner and supervises research on political practices in Oman and legal and technical implications of traditional healing.

Mohsen Marzouk, *Secretary-General, Arab Democracy Foundation, Qatar*

Mr. Marzouk has a 25-year professional experience in human development, mainly as a Human Rights expert and activist. He

has held several executive and managerial positions in a number of regional and international organisations: he was the Regional Coordinator at El Taller Foundation, the Regional Programs Coordinator at the International Labor Organization, and the Freedom House Regional Director. He also founded and directed Al-Kawakibi Democracy Transition Center.

Mr. Marzouk participated in founding a number of the most important regional and international human rights and democracy networks and is a member of several of their directorial committees such as the Council for a Community of Democracies. He holds a higher degree in Political Sociology and International Relations and is a contributor to many collective publications. Mr. Marzouk, a poet and a playwright, also worked as a freelance journalist.

Dennis Meadows, *President, Laboratory for Interactive Learning and Professor Emeritus for Policy Systems, University of New Hampshire and co-author of the groundbreaking book The Limits to Growth, United States*

Dr. Meadows is one of the key figures in the environmental movement over the last 50 years. His ten books have been



Dennis Meadows

translated into more than 30 languages. His Club of Rome report, "The Limits to Growth" (1972), sold over three million copies and was awarded the German Peace Prize. It was selected as one of the ten most influential environmental texts of the 20th century. His most recent book *Limits to Growth - The 30-Year-Update* has been translated into 12 languages.

Dr. Meadows designs sophisticated management-training simulations on issues related to energy, environment and sustainable development, which are used in training programmes around the world. He also serves on the management boards of companies in Europe and the United States with firms active in renewable energy, software development and public health insurance and has lectured or consulted to corporate and government groups in over 40 countries.

His interest in environment and economics arose during his 1969-70 automobile trip taking photographs and recording music from London to Sri Lanka - 100,000 kilometres over 12 months.

Zhou Nan-Zhao, *President of UNESCO Asia-Pacific Network for International Education and Values Education (APNIEVE) and President, Chinese Council of Private Higher Education, China*

With an academic background in educational sciences, Dr. Zhou is the author of over 120 publications on education and is a globally recognised expert on teaching methods, curriculum and the globalisation of education.

Dr. Zhou's extensive resume includes Co-Director for International Programmes of UNESCO-INRULED (International Research



Kazi Jalal, Abdul Aziz bin Ali Al Nuaimi and Raouf Dabbas

and Training Center for Rural Education), Director and Professor at East-China Normal University International Centre of Teacher Education, President of China Chapter of State University of New York (SUNY) and Director of Beijing APEC Centre for International Education and Training. He is also acting as Advisor to the Chinese National Commission for UNESCO and to China-UNICEF Cooperative Education Project and Senior Advisor with International Education and Network (iEARN).

Dr. Zhou has consulted for the European Union, UNDP, UNICEF, World Bank, Asian Development Bank and the African Development Bank.

Abdul Aziz bin Ali Al Nuaimi, *CEO of Al Ihsan Charity Centre and Chairman of the International Steering Committee for the Global Initiative Towards a Sustainable Iraq, UAE*

Sheikh Al Nuaimi, famously known as the "Green Sheikh", is taking his message of 'holistic living' to the world, activating his networks worldwide and inspiring people of all ages, religions and backgrounds.

He has coordinated the formation of environmentally and socially responsible non-governmental organisations and is creating partnerships between public, private and local communities, advising decision makers, participating in steering

committees for strategic sustainability across sectors, and through the media, advocating environmentally-friendly approaches to development, guided by Quranic teachings on *tawhid* (unity), *khalifa* (stewardship) and *amana* (trust).

Sheikh Al Nuaimi is currently serving as environmental advisor to the Ajman Government, where he is also chairman of Green Base Environmental Services and the founder of the Majlis for Holistic Knowledge and Holistic Health.

Ann Pettifor, Director of Advocacy International and Fellow of the New Economics Foundation (NEF), United Kingdom

Ms. Pettifor is a fellow of the New Economics Foundation and co-author of The Green New Deal. She lectures widely on international finance and sovereign debt, and on the need to devise new economic policies to deal with the ‘triple crunch’ of the financial crisis, peak oil and climate change. She is also Executive Director of Advocacy International Ltd.

She blogs on her website (www.debtnotation.org) and the Huffington Post (www.huffingtonpost.com) and has contributed articles to the Guardian, the New Statesman and others.

Ms. Pettifor has served on the board of the United Nations Human Development Report on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and was member of the



Jan Sadlak, El Hassan bin Talal and Zhou Nan-Zhao

high level group of the Helsinki Process on Globalisation and Democracy, sponsored by the Finnish and Tanzanian governments.

Ms. Pettifor is Editor of the Real World Economic Outlook which in 2003 accurately predicted “a seismic crisis” - the bursting of the credit bubble “in America, not Argentina” (Cover of the New Statesman, 1st September, 2003). She authored The Coming First World Debt Crisis in 2006.

Ms. Pettifor has worked for more than 14 years in the field of international debt and finance and led the global ‘Drop the Debt’ campaign, Jubilee 2000, which succeeded in persuading a large swathe of world public opinion, as well as world leaders, to cancel US\$100bn of debt owed by 42 of the poorest countries.

Surin Pitsuwan, Secretary General of Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Indonesia

Dr. Pitsuwan, a native of Thailand, is Secretary General of ASEAN – an organisation of ten countries in Southeast Asia that works to accelerate the economic growth, social progress and cultural development of the region. Early in his career, Dr. Pitsuwan taught Political Science at Thammasat University, and in 1984 ran for a Parliamentary seat from his home town. Dr. Pitsuwan had been returned to



Surin Pitsuwan

Parliament eight times since 1986 and as an MP was appointed Secretary to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Secretary to the Deputy Minister of the Interior, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Minister of Foreign Affairs. Currently, Dr. Pitsuwan is on the Advisory Boards of the UN Human Security Trust Fund, the International Crisis Group, the Council on Foreign Relations and the Rockefeller Foundation.

Nour Qabba'ah, WANA Forum Researcher, Jordan

With a BA in modern languages (French and Spanish) and an MA in diplomatic studies, Ms. Qabba'ah has acquired great knowledge in the field of international relations, politics, economy and law, and has fortified a latent interest in global affairs in general. She developed a love for research while writing her thesis, in which she addressed China's status as a global power.

Before joining the WANA Forum, Ms. Qabba'ah worked at *Al-Ghad* newspaper as a journalistic translator. Ms. Qabba'ah also translated Johan Norberg's *In Defence of Global Capitalism* from English into Arabic – the first book to rebut, systematically and thoroughly, the claims of the anti-globalisation movement.

Ali Rabi, President of the International University of Iran, Farabi Institute of Higher Education and Co-Chair of the Middle East Citizens Assembly (MECA), Iran

Dr. Rabi started his career teaching at the University of Tehran, School of Architecture while practicing regional planning at the Plan and Budget Organisation. He also served as the senior advisor in the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development.

After the revolution in Iran, he served at the Vice Chancellor and Dean of Education at Farabi University but went t to the United States where he established his own business.

He later returned to Iran and initiated the International University of Iran as the platform for bridging the divide between the Iranian specialists and academics abroad with the scientific communities in Iran. Dr. Rabi has been working on the Virtual University project during the past 10 years in Iran, Middle East, Europe and the Unites States. He currently heads Farabi Institute of Higher Education, Online Graduate School of Management.

His current areas of interests include: Information Society, Information Technology and International Development, e-Learning, and Political Economy. He is also the founder and co-chair of MECA.



Salma Abbasi



Aishah Abdallah



Ahmed Hassan



Imran Riza

Imran Riza, Representative, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Jordan

Mr. Riza has followed a long and varied career in the United Nations, where he has dealt primarily with issues of displacement, humanitarianism and politics. He has served in a variety of duty stations, both in the field (including Sudan, Vietnam, China and Lebanon) and at Headquarters (Geneva and Rome). Mr. Riza has worked with several UN agencies, including the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, the Office of the Personal Representative of the Secretary-General for Lebanon and the World Food Programme. He is currently UNHCR

Representative to Jordan, where he oversees a programme dedicated to protecting, assisting and finding solutions for mainly Iraqi refugees.

Juho Saari, Professor of Welfare Sociology at the University of Eastern Finland, Finland

Dr. Saari has worked as docent at the Universities of Turku, Kuopio, Jyväskylä and Helsinki in Finland, as a Professor of Sociology at the University of Jyväskylä, and currently holds a Professorship in Sociology at the University of Kuopio. He has also worked as a researcher at the Academy of Finland, a Special Researcher and later Officer at the Ministry for Social Affairs and Health.

His research interests include the Finnish social political system, welfare and social divisions and European integration. He has written and edited some 25 publications in these fields. Currently he is doing research in altruism, justice and insecurity.

Jan Sadlak, Vice-Rector for International Cooperation, Warsaw School of Social Sciences and Humanities, Poland

Dr. Sadlak has more than 25 years of experience in the field of higher education, international relations and economics. He had a number of high level positions in international organisations as well as teaching and research positions in leading universities and research institutions, with an extensive record of publications. He has been Director of UNESCO-European Centre for Higher Education (UNESCO-CEPES) and Representative of UNESCO in Romania and was Chief of Section for Higher Education Policy at UNESCO in Paris. He is also a Visiting Professor at the Faculty of European Studies of the Babes-Bolyai University in Romania. Dr. Sadlak was recently elected President of the International Ranking Expert Group (IREG) Observatory on Academic Ranking and Excellence.



Mohammed Al-Arifi



Lily Habash



Bakhtiar Amin



Ahmed al-Mukhaini



Maha Yahya and Savas Zafer Sahin

Savas Sahin, *Urban and Regional Planner, Department of Politics and Public Administration, Atılım University, Turkey*

Dr. Sahin is a lecturer, practitioner and NGO activist in the field of Urban Planning and Urban Management for 15 years. He managed and developed some very important urban projects in Turkey and wrote influential papers and articles in the field. He has also been an influential NGO activist promoting sustainable development and planned urban development for livable cities. For his achievements, he was awarded the Most Successful Young Person of Turkey award in 2006 by Junior Chamber International. He was recently nominated

for the Lee Kuan Yew World City Prize for his achievements in participatory practices and urban management.

Walid Saleh, *Regional Coordinator, MENA, United Nations University, International Network on Water, Environment and Health (UNU-INWEH), UAE*

Dr. Saleh is a water expert and regional coordinator at the United Nations University in Dubai, and is responsible for managing the International Cooperating Office in Amman. He develops, implements and evaluates UNU-INWEH capacity-building projects in the region and communicates frequently and systematically with various project partners and donor agencies.

In addition, Dr. Saleh employs the resources available through the network to develop and organise programs and projects that address water problems in the MENA region, adopting a multi-disciplinary, ecosystem approach to water and watershed management.

Dr. Saleh's recent work revolves around his new software to calculate carbon footprint with a view of Arab cities. He has also put forth a proposal to members of



Walid Saleh and Ali Rabi



Nadia Al-Sakkaf

the WANA Forum for a pilot extra-curricular programme in schools across the WANA region.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf, *Publisher and Editor-in-Chief of The Yemen Times, Yemen*

Ms. Al-Sakkaf has been an instrumental figure in media since she joined the Yemen Times ten years ago as first a translator and reporter.

The Yemen Times covers many social, environmental and economic issues that have a direct bearing on people's lives. It is also influential in reflecting public opinion and influencing government.

Ms. Al-Sakkaf received the first Gebran Tueni Award in Lebanon, which honours an editor or publisher from the Arab region who has shown courage in defending press freedom and demonstrated excellence in leadership, managerial and professional standards.

Ms. Al-Sakkaf is a member of the board of World Editors Forum and Yemeni Journalists Syndicate and the International Journalists Syndicate.

Yohei Sasakawa, *Chairman of The Nippon Foundation, Japan and WANA Forum International Senior Advisory Board Member*

Mr. Sasakawa has from a young age been deeply moved by the fact that the world is full of injustice and pain, influenced by an early experience which brought him directly into contact with the hardship faced by those affected by leprosy. It was this exposure that bolstered his conviction to devote his life to this cause and, in a broader sense, to social justice.

As Chairman of The Nippon Foundation, Mr. Sasakawa has committed himself to work for social development around the world, striving to improve public health and education, to alleviate poverty, eliminate hunger and to help people with disabilities.

Both within Japan and in countless

countries overseas, Mr. Sasakawa works on the front lines of humanitarian aid, believing that effective support for public interest activities demands not only funding, but personal commitment and participation.

He has continually stressed that modern problems demand collaborative solutions, and to this end has built wide-ranging networks encompassing the political, governmental, academic and private sectors.

Ismail Serageldin, *Director, Library of Alexandria, Egypt and WANA Forum International Senior Advisory Board Member*

Dr. Serageldin is known worldwide as an inspiring humanist, social scientist and leading authority on the role of education and of science and technology in promoting developing societies.

He serves as Chair and Member of a number of advisory committees for academic, research, scientific and international institutions and civil society efforts, including the Egyptian Academy of Science, Academy of Sciences for the Developing World (TWAS), the Indian National Academy of Agricultural Sciences and the European Academy of Sciences and Arts.

Dr. Serageldin has also served in



**Khalid bin Mohammed Al-Attayah
and Ismail Serageldin**



Asaad Serhal

a number of capacities at the World Bank, including as Vice President for Environmentally and Socially Sustainable Development.

He is former Chairman of Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), Founder and former Chairman of the Global Water Partnership (GWP) and the Consultative Group to Assist the Poorest (CGAP), a microfinance programme, and was Distinguished Professor at Wageningen University in the Netherlands.

Educated at Cairo University and Harvard University, Dr. Serageldin is an internationally published author of over 60 books and 200 papers on economic development, biotechnology, human resource issues, the environment, architecture, urbanism, the Arab world, Islam and culture. He has received numerous international awards and honors for his work and civil society efforts.

Asaad Serhal, *Director General of the Society for the Protection of Nature in Lebanon (SPNL), Lebanon*

Mr. Serhal, through his work with the Society for the Protection of Nature in Lebanon, has been spearheading regional efforts to revive himas which, according to him, means "sustainable use of resources by and for

the local community." The revival of this ancient practice in Lebanon began when Mr. Serhal and his colleagues came across old maps of the country, which featured hundreds of areas marked 'himas'. He is the Founding Member and Board Member of the Hima Fund, based in Qatar.

Mr. Serhal initiated the first Lebanese project for Protected Areas with the Lebanese Ministry of Environment and the IUCN in 1993 and became Manager and Founding Member of the Al Shouf Cedars Nature Reserve and Al Shouf Cedars Society.

He coordinated the IUCN Sailing to Barcelona Project for West Asia in 2009 and has served as both Global Councilor and Chairperson of BirdLife International for the Middle East.

Hu Shaocong, *Director of the Department for Developing Countries Studies of China Institute of International Studies (CIIS), China*

The China Institute of International Studies is the think tank of China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It conducts research and analysis on a wide range of foreign policy issues. Mr. Hu Shaocong oversees research on the status and role of developing countries in world affairs and provides policy analysis and recommendations. Over the years, he has served as Second Secretary and First Secretary and Director of Political Section at the Chinese Embassy in Turkey, Deputy Director of Asia-Pacific Security and Cooperation Department of CIIS and Vice-Consul of Chinese Consulate-General in Vietnam.

Rehman Sobhan, *Chairman, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), and Member on the International Senior Advisory Board of the WANA Forum, Bangladesh*

The Centre for Policy Dialogue is a public policy think-tank in Bangladesh considered to be one of the top thirty non-governmental



Rehman Sobhan

research organisations in the world.

Prof. Sobhan is a leading intellectual and economist and plays an active role in the civil society movement in South Asia. He played a major role in the Bengali nationalist movement in the 1960s, served as Member in the first Bangladesh Planning Commission, and Member of the Advisory Council of the President of Bangladesh in charge of the Ministry of Planning and the Economic Relations Division.

Prof. Sobhan began his working career at the faculty of Economics of Dhaka University. He then worked variously as the Chairman, Research Director, Director General and Emeritus Fellow of the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies, the Executive Director of the South Asian Centre for Policy Studies and as a Visiting Fellow at Oxford, Columbia and Harvard Universities.

He has worked as President of the Bangladesh Economic Association and has served as a Member of numerous distinguished bodies and committees, including the UN Committee for Development Planning, the Board of the United Nations University, Tokyo, the Commission for a New Asia and the Executive Committee of the

International Economic Association. He has also served as Chairman of the Board of Grameen Bank. He is currently Chairman of the Pratichi Trust set up by Nobel Laureate Amartya Sen. Prof. Sobhan has published 27 books, 15 research monographs and 140 articles in professional journals. His latest work, *Challenging the Injustice of Poverty: Agendas for Inclusive Development in South Asia*, is under publication.

Naseem Tarawnah, *General Manager of 7iber Inc, blogger and social media enthusiast, Jordan*

Mr. Tarawnah is co-founder of 7iber.com, an independent Jordanian online platform for citizen-generated content founded in 2007. 7iber ('ink') offers an alternative to mainstream media, seeking to better inform its audience on unreported issues as well as providing local perspectives and first-hand accounts of news, politics, arts and culture. 7iber is a community-driven civic platform where stories are told by the people, for the people. Naseem is also the General Manager of the organisation's business arm, 7iber Inc., a company focusing on Arabic content development, as well as social media training of NGOs, community leaders, journalists, Arab youth and any other entity that is able



Naseem Tarawnah

to wield the power of social media for social good. Naseem also runs one of Jordan's most prominent blogs, black-iris.com, which garnered a Brass Crescent award as the best Middle East blog two years in a row.

Maha Yahya, *Regional Advisor on Social Policy, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN-ESCWA), Lebanon*

Dr. Yahya is a socio-urban specialist with 15 years of academic and professional experience. In her current role, she addresses social and urban policies and development issues in the 14 member countries of ESCWA. Prior to joining UN-ESCWA she was the director and principle author of the National Human Development Report at UNDP entitled Toward a Citizen's State and of two supplementary works, Education and Citizenship and One Hundred and One Stories to Tell. She is also the founder and editor of the MIT Electronic Journal of Middle East Studies (MIT-EJMES). Dr. Yahya worked as a consultant in Lebanon, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Iran and others on a variety of issues such as region-wide social policy



Mohammad Ehsan Zia

analysis, socio-urban evaluations, cultural heritage, poverty reduction, housing and community development and post-conflict reconstruction. She is a board member of several organisations including LCPS and the MIT-Enterprise Forum for the Arab region. Among other publications, she is the author of Towards Integrated Social Development Policies in ESCWA Countries: A Conceptual Analysis (ESCWA) and the co-editor of Secular Publicities: Visual practices and the transformation of national publics in the Middle East and South Asia.

Mohammad Ehsan Zia, *Chief Executive Officer, TADBEER Consulting Inc. and Former Minister of Rural Development, Afghanistan*

Mr. Zia's has devoted his life's work to rural development and post-conflict reconstruction, with an in-depth knowledge of development theory, policymaking and practice. He continues to advise public and non-governmental institutions in strategic planning, capacity building, participatory community development, poverty reduction interventions and conflict resolution and peace building. Under his leadership, the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) expanded five national programmes through increased focus on community based approaches and increased Afghan leadership and ownership of development at all levels.

WORKING GROUP PARTICIPANTS



Reconstruction Working Group

Ayad Altaai; Bakhtiar Amin; Ahmed Al-Atrash; Sultan Barakat; Alia Brahimi; Kristian Coates-Ulrichsen; Stephanie Elizondo; Habiba Hamid; Karen Janjua; Robin MacGregor; Sam Milton; Ahmed al-Mukhaini; Zhou Nan-Zhao; Ehsan Zia; Steve Zyck



Green Economy Working Group

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BEYOND WANA FORUM 2010: FROM CONVERSATION TO PARTNERSHIP

“The West Asia - North Africa (WANA) Forum was initiated in response to the fact that nature abhors a vacuum. In our region, this vacuum represents the gradual loss of the noble art of conversation and the increased marginalisation of human beings who are the most important asset to stability and the most dangerous contributors to instability and violence.”

HRH Prince El Hassan bin Talal,
WANA Forum Chairman

Introduction

This brief provides a framework for the work that lies ahead in progressing the WANA Forum initiatives. It can offer direction, promote a common understanding, inspire partnerships and set the groundwork for collective action and in-depth research to move from ideas to concrete policy proposals.

The summary outline of the Forum Strategy is followed by a description of the three phases of the process that were agreed upon by Forum Members in the First Annual Forum in April 2009.

The matrix highlights the interdisciplinary nature of the activities undertaken and the tasks ahead. The main platform of a regional conversation leading to a regional voice

is depicted as standing on the four pillars of society, environment, economy and reconstruction identified by Forum Members as issues of shared human concern in WANA.

The final section looks ahead to the efforts and partnerships needed to evolve links within WANA and between WANA and the emerging Pan-Asian framework of cooperation.

As Chairman HRH Prince El Hassan bin Talal says to Members of the WANA Forum, “The region is not short of conference. The real work is in between the annual forums, moving beyond rhetoric that focuses on what is wrong in the world to produce concrete results aimed at realising opportunities that will make a genuine difference in people’s lives.”

1. Revisiting the Strategy Outline

The Strategy Outline¹ of the West Asia – North Africa (WANA) Forum, presented to members in the First Annual Forum, lays the foundation for the working methodology of the WANA Forum process.

The WANA Forum is a non-governmental, non-partisan volunteer driven civil society initiative consisting of individuals from across West Asia and North Africa and partners from other parts of the world.

The facilitator and guardian of the WANA Forum is His Royal Highness Prince El Hassan bin Talal who, as Chairman, participates in his personal capacity, not representing a state, political agenda or set ideology. The WANA Forum is sponsored by The Nippon Foundation in Japan.

The participatory nature of the WANA Forum is meant to create ownership by Forum Members who are invited to take part at every stage, providing a space for participants to shape the process and its outcome. Stakeholders are encouraged to bridge geographical and ideological boundaries to build on each other's work, adopt and contribute to the development of international standards and encourage synergies instead of duplicate efforts.

The objectives of the WANA Forum, as described in the Strategy Outline, are as follows:

- 1) To strengthen regional multilateral dialogue between decision-makers and civil society actors on shared human concerns.
- 2) To work together on furthering ideas and initiatives where regional cooperation would bring added value.

In meeting its objectives, the WANA Forum aims to:

- Generate concrete policy proposals for cooperative regional instruments,

moving beyond policies confined to national agendas.

- Advocate these initiatives and proposals at local, national and regional levels.
- Strengthen links with existing regional initiatives.
- Be participatory, incorporating stakeholder contributions and empowering civil society.

2. The Three Phases: Identification, Development and Dissemination

During the First Annual WANA Forum, an outline of the three phases of the WANA Forum was presented to Members. The first phase (2009-2010) involves the identification of issues to focus on selected themes, from which initiatives are selected. Participants in the First Annual Forum selected themes under the social, environmental and economic dimensions. Five consultations were held over the course of a year to consider inter-disciplinary approaches to these issues².

Under the theme of “Pursuing Supranational Solutions to the Challenges of Carrying Capacity”, the outcomes of the consultations since last April will be presented in May for further development into concrete policy proposals. In pursuing supranational solutions, people across the region are beginning to address the carrying capacity at the national level. WANA Forum 2010 will offer a multifaceted framework of analysis for transcending national carrying capacity through regional thinking in the context of population and displacement, poverty, social cohesion, environment, water security, green economy and reconstruction and recovery in West Asia and North Africa.

Beyond May, the working groups propose collaborating with partners and

1- “Strategy Outline: Framework for a Participatory Process”, WANA Forum, 2009 (www.wanaforum.org)

2- All WANA Forum consultation reports can be found online at (www.wanaforum.org)

think-tanks within WANA as well as those in other parts of Asia. This vision from within WANA must be articulated at the highest technical and professional levels to ensure a successful transition to the third phase of dissemination and implementation. Decision-makers in WANA often complain that no concrete alternatives or policy proposals are provided by grassroots or civil society movements. Their work is seen as mere rhetoric or inspired by agendas that do not provide concrete and feasible policy proposals. The WANA Forum can contribute by filling this void.

3. Towards a Process for Regional Cooperation

At the First Annual WANA Forum in April 2009, President Martti Ahtisaari, former president of Finland and Noble Peace Prize Laureate, said “Evidence of the benefits of regional cooperation is not hard to find. Rather, it is political will which can be hard to find as long as states do not recognise their interdependence and mutual interest. In the world we are living in today, interdependence shapes our reality more than competition does.”

Previous external initiatives to promote security and cooperation in the region have not yet achieved their objectives. Being Arab-Israeli centric, they failed to address the other numerous fault lines in WANA, between its different sub-regions and within its states. The region’s continued inability to discuss, let alone create, a regional process for security and cooperation is one of the major destabilising forces in WANA today³.

Many strategists, especially in the post-September 11 era, suggest that the cold

war frontiers have shifted from Europe to what they define as the Greater Middle East. Redeployment to the new frontline in the Islamic world has become their priority.

The alternative course is to create a platform for a regional approach to developing solutions while promoting supra-nationalism, with a continuing respect for state sovereignty.

The WANA Forum aims to turn regional challenges into opportunities and provide a new coherent regional policy framework. Progress in the consultations since the launch of the First Annual Forum in April 2009 has provided a sense of direction towards such a process for regional cooperation, outlined in the matrix on the following page.

These pillars do not exist or operate in isolation; if one is present in a society or state, then there is every chance the other three are present as well. Consumption based political, social and economic structures (pillar three), for example, not only have a bearing on poverty and unemployment, but social fragmentation as well (pillar one). Likewise, environmental degradation, climate change and water scarcity (pillar two) are often instigators of conflict (pillar four).

Is a participatory process toward regional conversation even possible in WANA? Professor Amartya Sen, in his book *The Idea of Justice*⁴, describes democracy as “government by discussion”. Rather than mere elections, he says, “Democracy has to be judged not just by the institutions that formally exist, but by the extent to which different voices from diverse sections of the people can actually be heard.” According to Sen, justice must be free from the domination

3- HRH Prince El Hassan bin Talal often refers to the Crisis Ellipse, which includes the regional oil transit chokepoints of the Suez Canal, Bab-el-Mandeb, Strait of Hormuz and the Straits of Malacca. He warns, “The Strait of Hormuz leading out to the Gulf of Arabia and the Straits of Malacca linking the Indian and Pacific oceans could be threatened by war [in the next decade].” (WANA Forum, WANA-Led Reconstruction & Recovery Expert Consultation Report, p51-52)

4- Sen, Amartya. *The Idea of Justice*. London: Allen Lane, 2009.

WANA Forum: Towards a Process for Regional Cooperation

		Regional Challenges	Opportunities	Policy Framework
Main Platform		Absence of Multilateralism	Regional Conversation	Regional Voice
Pillars	1	Social Fragmentation	Social Cohesion	Carrying Capacity/ Recovery, Human Security, LEOP, Social Charter, Cohesion Fund & Index
	2	Environmental degradation, climate change and water scarcity	Community of water and energy for the human environment	Education and leapfrogging to post-carbon industrial revolution
	3	Consumption-based political, social and economic structures: rentierism, poverty and unemployment	Production based structures	Pan Asian infrastructure and green industry
	4	Conflict, war and destruction	Integrating the above pillars: achieving equity and social justice	Post-conflict green reconstruction

of the will of majority and touch on the lives that people actually live. In the process, it takes global concerns into account.

Countering the argument that Islam or the “Middle East” is not compatible with democracy, Sen depicts how Middle Eastern history and the history of the Muslim people include many accounts of public discussion and political participation through dialogue. The extent of toleration and openness to diversity of views was often exceptional in comparison with Europe. “In Muslim

kingdoms centred around Cairo, Baghdad and Istanbul, or in Iran, India or for that matter Spain, there were many champions of public discussion.” One example cited by Sen dates back to the 1590s when the inquisitions were still raging in Europe. The Mughal Emperor Akbar advocated religious and political dialogue between holders of different faiths, including Hindus, Muslims, Christians, Parsees, Jains, Jews and even Atheists.

4. The Pillars

The First Annual WANA Forum in April 2009 gathered 70 individuals, from WANA and partners from outside the region, to identify regional challenges and discuss possible opportunities and approaches for addressing these concerns and advancing regional cooperation. Two overarching themes arose:

1. Cross-cultural exchange in WANA to learn more about each other, break down stereotypes and share knowledge of best practices.
2. Greening WANA – seeing the ‘green lining’ in the global economic crisis and making ‘green’ thinking a lucrative part of the social, economic and environmental recovery strategy.

Since April 2009, WANA Forum participants, with the support of the Secretariat, linked with regional experts and conducted a series of consultations to advance initiatives believed to embody the above overarching themes. The WANA Forum advocates a regional policy framework that overcomes the multi-layered choke-points within WANA, seen as the (dis)connection and (dis)location in the social, environmental and economic spheres. The roadmap of the four pillars can be summarised as follows:

4.1 Society

The WANA region is home to some of the earliest and most prosperous civilisations, but is also a region with a marred history of conflicts and displaced peoples. The challenges posed by demographic pressures, widespread inequalities, entrenched pockets of poverty, chronic unemployment, deeply rooted division and numerous political, sectarian and religious conflicts present a serious threat to local, national and regional stability.

Social cohesion is the intangible bond

that holds members of society together and facilitates coexistence, development, progress and prosperity. It should be understood as an integral part of socio-economic development that empowers everyone. Poverty, one aspect of social fragmentation, is not merely the lack of material resources – it extends to lack of power and choice. To address the dimensions of equality and inclusion in social cohesion, the Arabic version of the Legal Empowerment of the Poor (LEP) Report will be launched at WANA Forum 2010.

Employment and social cohesion are considered as the bottom line in the current global economic crisis. Premature declarations of victory through the trillions of dollars thrown at the World Economy have been dismissed by more sober assessments of the ten per cent level of unemployment in wealthy nations. Within WANA, the Arab region has suffered a chronic level of unemployment of about 12 per cent. The Arab region has to create at least 70 million new jobs in the next two decades, according to a recent study by Mr. Abdlatif Al-Hamad, Director General and Chairman of the Board of the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development.⁵

What are the mechanisms for fostering cohesion and inclusion as opposed to division and exclusion? What is the role of the state, civil society and social networks? In the upcoming meeting in May, participants will provide examples of networks, tools and policy suggestions for enhancing social cohesion.

The WANA Forum has embarked on an attempt to create a Social Cohesion Index that measures cohesion and factors that contribute to it in WANA countries, such as state capacity and security, equality, participation and engagement, displacement, social order, social networks, inclusion, as

5- Al-Hamad, Abdlatif. “Economic Crisis and Investments in the Arab Region”. *Mediterranean* (2010)

well as material and emotional wellbeing. Updated annually, the Social Cohesion Index could offer state and non-state actors an analytical tool to guide the establishment of developmental priorities.

Diagnosing the problem is only the first step to solving it. For WANA to enhance social cohesion, the need for a social contract was also proposed by WANA Forum participants. A Charter has the potential to further the aims of advancing social development by promoting the concept of citizenship and equity, stimulating a process of dialogue within civil society groups and between civil society and governments.

Finally, a Regional Cohesion Fund is an important step toward establishing a more productive and forward-thinking mechanism for enabling supranational action to enhance social cohesion. Rooted in a code of conduct outlined in the Social Charter and informed by data from the Cohesion Index, the Cohesion fund would advance Social, environmental and economic development under the framework of sustainability.

Existing financial flows that are currently used on an ad hoc basis could be supplemented with an understanding of public policy that promotes social cohesion in all its facets. Such a regional fund, for example, can be a major financing vehicle for linking WANA to the European and Pan-Asian infrastructure networks and leapfrogging into the third industrial revolution by developing a modern green industrial base. Just as in the framework of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), social cohesion, employment, environment and economic recovery form, in reality, one cluster.

4.2 Environment

The region's environment is drastically effected by water scarcity and drought, pollution and resource degradation⁶. Effective management of water resources within WANA requires a transnational framework. Energy-rich countries tend to have very limited natural water supplies, while areas with an abundance of water tend to be poor in energy resources. Thus, water and energy have the potential to create a positive mutual dependency similar to coal and steel in Europe after the Cold War. The quest for redistribution of these resources can create more cooperation than conflict with effective dialogue and cooperation. The environmental concerns related to these resources also necessitate cooperation. Climate change, environmental degradation and water scarcity can be best addressed by a vision for a community of water and energy that promotes and safeguards the human environment in WANA.

HRH Prince El Hassan bin Talal addressed the workshop on Water Security in the Middle East in Montreux, Switzerland⁷ where he stressed the need for a supra-national concept, such as the coal and steel community out of which the European Economic Community grew. His Royal Highness hopes that such a concept may initiate regional cooperation in WANA that could lead to an outcome comparable to European integration. HRH Prince Hassan also warned that the world's dry areas will be severely affected by climate change, putting at high risk agricultural production, food security and human livelihoods in these already vulnerable areas and stressed that urgent coordinated efforts are

6- For background reading: Meadows, Donella H., Dennis L. Meadows, Jørgen Randers, and W.W. Behrens III. 1972. *The Limits to Growth*. New York: Universe Books (Second Edition, 1974)

7- "Water Security in the Middle East" report of Montreux, Switzerland workshop, Strategic Foresight Group (February 2010)

essential to both develop effective climate change adaptation strategies and mitigation measures.

The workshop was organised by the Strategic Foresight Group (SFG), based in India, in cooperation with the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) and with the support of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs. In collaboration with the WANA Forum, SFG is organising a session in the May Forum on “Our Common Future: Water, Environment and Energy Community”. A report on water scarcity and drought in the WANA region will also be presented by WANA Forum members.

Environmental Education for Sustainable Development (EESD) is another initiative that the WANA Forum is taking forward. One of the most effective ways to foster and consolidate change is to facilitate increased awareness concerning the value of a sound, safe and ecologically balanced environment, one that involves the transformation of social, economic and cultural models.

In spite of the recent achievements in EESD, the development process of environmental education in the region has its challenges. Some of these include the lack of sufficient and sustained economic support, contradictions and gaps in the usage of concepts and methods, insufficient teaching capacity, scarcity in the production and distribution of teaching materials, and the lack of evaluation mechanisms and continuity of initiatives.

At the upcoming meeting in May, WANA Forum participants will present a proposal for an experiential learning pilot programme

that involves a cross-section of countries in the region, linking with existing initiatives of extra-curricular education and establishing a WANA EESD network that is open to and accessible by people of all ages and backgrounds.

A proposal will also be presented to develop a three-part modular training kit linked to sustainable development in WANA.

4.3 Economy

The WANA region has the world's lowest employment rate, with an estimated unemployment rate among young people standing at 25 per cent, double the world average. The likelihood of being unemployed is ten times as high for a new college graduate as for someone with a primary education. The Arab region is expected to experience labor force growth of three and a half to four per cent over the next 10 to 15 years. The World Bank estimates that to keep up with that growth, the region will have to create 55 to 70 million new jobs by 2020 – 55 million just to keep up and 70 million to bring the employment rate up to the global norm.⁸

The high level of unemployment in the Arab world is explained in HRH Prince El Hassan bin Talal's article in *Europe's World*⁹: “In a rentier economy¹⁰, huge revenues from oil or external financial transfers actually create a disincentive to work. A de-linking occurs between wealth and work, and this de-linking applies to most industrial and agricultural activities. Social and political mobility become extremely limited, and societies turn from production to consumption.”

Prince Hassan also wrote, “Rent-seeking

8- World Bank, Middle East and North Africa Region, 2007 Economic Developments and Prospects (2007).

9- bin Talal, Prince El Hassan. “Policy options for modernizing the Middle East's industrial base”. *Europe's World* (Summer 2009)

10- An economy that depends on oil or foreign aid. For further reading, Kaldor, Mary; Karl, Terry Lyn; Said, Yahia. *Oil Wars*. Pluto Press: London (2007)

tends to lead to policy failure in the form of an intense political competition aimed at gaining short-term access to revenues and benefits, as opposed to political competition over what policies might be in the long-term public interest.”

With no modern industrial base, and rentier economic structures based on oil and aid, investment is usually limited to real estate and service sectors – non-traded goods sectors, which do not confer the same effects as a more diversified pattern of investment that other more industrial countries have, in terms of upgrading technology and productivity.

In *Europe's World*, Prince Hassan suggested that a regional industrial policy to develop a modern industrial base in the next generation is a top priority for WANA. “WANA missed the first industrial revolution based on coal and the steam engine, and then the second industrial revolution based on oil and the internal combustion engine. The silver lining now is that the absence of a modern industrial base means that WANA has no ailing industries to rescue.”

Can working groups of the WANA consultations together with partners and think-tanks in Asia provide a vision for WANA to link with European and pan-Asian infrastructural networks and leapfrog into the third industrial revolution of the post carbon economy? In *Europe's World*, HRH Prince El Hassan called for a change in policy orientation from the national to the regional: “Without this sort of regional focus, WANA countries risk sleepwalking into a new phase of conflict and economic decline.”

4.4 Reconstruction

Conflict has cost the region around US\$12 trillion in missed economic growth and development over the last two decades, according to the *Cost of Conflict in the Middle East 2009* report by the Strategic Foresight Group¹¹. WANA-led approaches to reconstruction and recovery have the potential to create a supranational mechanism for addressing conflict and its aftermath in the context of territory, identity and movement (TIM).¹²

The primary objective of the Reconstruction and Recovery Expert Consultation in October 2009¹³ was to extract key lessons from previous experiences in the region and beyond in order to identify barriers to and opportunities for innovative, WANA-led approaches to reconstruction, integrating multidimensional thinking and planning into reconstruction strategies. The three pivotal areas of focus were (i) social and economic reconstruction and development, (ii) green reconstruction and (iii) effective donorship and accountability. Lessons revolved around the importance of state sovereignty, ownership of reconstruction efforts, local participation, capacity building and regional cooperation.

In his opening remarks, Ambassador Lakhdar Brahimi, former Under-Secretary General of the United Nations, spoke of “looking a little bit more to the East and a little bit less to the West” and called for developing “home-grown” solutions to the region’s problems. “Although some of us are contributing significantly to the work of managing conflict and reconstruction, the contribution of our region as a whole is not sufficient and not visible enough,” he said.

11- Strategic Foresight Group. *Cost of Conflict in the Middle East* (2009)

12- Agnew, John. “Mapping Political Power Beyond State Boundaries: Territory, Identity, and Movement in World Politics”. *Millennium: Journal of International Studies*, Vol.28, No. 3, 1999. For further reading: John Agnew, *Globalization and Sovereignty*. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc. (2009)

13- WANA-Led Reconstruction & Recovery Expert Consultation Report. WANA Forum (October 2009) www.wanaforum.org

Placing the people and capacities of the WANA region at the centre of efforts to prevent conflict and rebuild war-torn societies has the potential to transform some of the deep and inter-connected challenges facing WANA and provides an opportunity for building a new reality.

The “reconstruction” of the status-quo ante that in the first place led to conflict is futile and counterproductive. The endless string of “donor conferences” for the region is witness to that. Participants in past consultations drew upon lessons from post-war reconstruction in Japan and Finland as they did not merely rebuild what was destroyed but rather focused on the construction of their production base. In Finland, integration of alienated trade unions was achieved by making them stakeholders in the new industries which were partly financed by social security funds. In Japan, the moral hazard of the “Dodge Line”¹⁴ of foreign exchange allocations was overcome to rebuild a modern industrial base and infrastructure.

In this sense, post-war reconstruction in WANA can spearhead the transformation of affected communities based on good governance, green industry and infrastructure, socially cohesive policies and an understanding of how to enhance carrying capacity.

At the recent United Nations donors conference (April 2010) for the reconstruction of Haiti, where the international community pledged a total of US\$9.9bn, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said that reconstruction efforts should meet the long-term development priorities of Haiti and not just rebuild the damage caused by the earthquake. This contrasts with the experience of WANA where

donors tend to separate reconstruction from development, focusing on the rebuilding of destroyed infrastructure rather than on a comprehensive long-term development strategy. As U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon reiterated in his opening remarks at the International Donors’ Conference Towards a New Future for Haiti: “Our goal is not just to rebuild. It is to build back better. It is a plan to create a new Haiti.”

5. Looking Ahead: Pan-Asian Framework

A main outcome of the various consultations was the recognition that a Pan-Asian framework of cooperation is necessary for regional prosperity and progress in WANA. The four pillars are intimately intertwined under such a framework. Infrastructure development, for example, can be important for poverty alleviation if it means increasing local trade opportunities for areas that have the potential for surplus production and increasing access to health care and education.

The Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI) working paper on “Restoring the Asian Silk Route: Towards an Integrated Asia”¹⁵ invokes the symbolism of the ancient Silk Route of Asia which was, until the 13th century, the world’s most important cross-border artery at a time when Asia was a major trade and economic centre of the world. It connected Eastern, Southern, Central and Western Asia with the Mediterranean, including North Africa and Europe. In the ADBI report, however, the vision of an Asian Highway (AH) and Trans-Asian Railway (TAR) networks connecting Asia to Europe only reaches as far as Iran and Turkey in West Asia. The rest of WANA is a blank. No reference is made to the preliminary work by the Economic and

14- The Dodge Line, announced in 1949, was a financial and monetary policy provided for Japan to gain economic independence after World War II.

15- “Restoring the Asian Silk Route: Towards an Integrated Asia”. Asian Development Bank Institute, 2009.

Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) on developing interregional land transport linkages in WANA.¹⁶ From a European perspective, the Euro-Mediterranean stops at the Jordan-Iraq border. The EU and Pan-Asian visions seem to end at the Western border and eastern border of Iraq respectively.

(Dis) locations in WANA can be perceived as starting with the term “Middle East” – it is only east from the perspective of Europe, describing a geographical position in relation to Europe rather than its location within Asia. Today, unlike ancient periods of prosperity, the “Middle East” is not part of an interconnected Asia and Europe. A framework that links WANA with Euro-Asian developments complements Euro-Mediterranean and Atlantic initiatives for cooperation that have yet to achieve their desired goals.

Regional infrastructure and other linkages rooted in Pan-Asian thinking do not serve as objectives in themselves but as instruments for meeting the larger goal of addressing shared human concerns. A United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) study¹⁷ on infrastructure in developing Asian countries illustrates how infrastructure development (in transport, information and communication technologies and energy) plays a key role in social development.

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) has begun to expand poverty reduction programmes and is laying the groundwork for a system to provide social security for its citizens, which is in line with the WANA Forum’s social

cohesion initiative. The ASEAN Regional Forum, and other regional forums, such as the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Forum, are also potential networks for sharing best practices and spearheading areas for Pan-Asian cooperation. The “Roadmap for an ASEAN Community, 2009-2015”¹⁸ highlights themes compatible with the WANA Forum initiatives, mainly:

1. Infrastructure development
2. Poverty alleviation
3. Social safety net
4. Responding to climate change
5. Environmental education for sustainable development

Another example from Asia includes the Chiang Mai Initiative involving ASEAN+3 nations, which provides a US\$120 billion currency swap facility.

As the “power shift” moves eastward, WANA and the rest of Asia share a complementary interest to evolve a Pan-Asian framework for cooperation that is inclusive of the WANA region and outward looking to Europe and the Atlantic. This could serve to promote cohesion and enhance the regional commons by opening communication lines and facilitating trans-boundary movement of people, ideas, capital and goods.

16- EuroMed Transport Project. Proposal for a Methodology for the Elaboration of the Trans-Mediterranean Transport Network. Document presented at the Euro-Mediterranean Transport Forum (Brussels, 12 December 2008)

17- UNESCAP. Toward an Asian integrated transport network (2007)

18- ASEAN Secretariat. “Roadmap for an ASEAN Community 2009-2015” (Jakarta, April 2009)

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“Until uprooted communities, irrespective of labels are afforded autonomy over their lives, regional and global human security will be threatened by a growing hatred borne of human suffering and our collective failure to act.”

***El Hassan bin Talal,
WANA Forum Chairman***

“What makes the WANA Forum unique is its focus on the human element.”

***Yobei Sasakawa,
Chairman of The Nippon Foundation***

“The Arab world often looks to the North, but not enough to the East although there are perhaps more adaptive lessons to learn from Asia.”

***Lakhdar Brahimi,
Former Special Advisor to the
UN Secretary-General and
Foreign Minister of Algeria***

“We are all part of this global network of lives, of societies, of communities and of nations. Yet regional cooperation is predicated upon people’s perceptions that they are part of a single region. It is not about a map or acronym but about ensuring that the so-called ‘person on the street’ feels that he or she is a citizen of WANA.”

***Surin Pitsuwan,
Secretary General of the Association of
Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)***

“It is about time we find the faith and commitment to take actionable steps to fight poverty and work toward social justice for the men, women and children of WANA.”

***Khadija Hussein,
Founding Chairperson of
Sudanese Mothers for Peace***

“Development is much more about freedom, justice and participation than about physical resources.”

***Ismail Serageldin,
Director, Library of Alexandria***

“Finance should be a servant to the economy, not its master. When we fail to connect our financial system with the limits to growth and when we fail to live within our ecological and financial budgets, we fail to act in the interest of all people.”

***Ann Pettifor,
Director of Advocacy International and
Fellow of the New Economics Foundation***

“WANA countries will require above-average level policy changes to bring their ecological footprint to a sustainable level. Physical laws always prevail over political goals.”

***Dennis Meadows,
President of the Laboratory for Interactive
Learning and co-author of The Limits to Growth***