



### UNIC Receives A Blue Trunk from WHO

UNIC received a recently from World Health Organization (WHO) collection of important books (**Blue Trunk**) on health issues. The Blue Trunk which is worth \$5000 was given to UNIC as a gift from WHO Representative in Yemen. The blue trunk contains 167 books in both English and Arabic. The cabinet will be kept at UNIC's library for the benefit of students and researchers in the area of Medicine. UNIC Staff on behalf of medical researchers and students extend their thanks and gratitude to WHO Representative for the useful gift.

### Editorial

As a **OIC of the** Information Center for the United Nations, I would like to **mention** that one of our main functions is to work with and through the **local** media and journalists. Communication and coordination with our colleagues **working** in the media **field** are carried out regularly through press releases, news reports and articles included in the Center's monthly newsletter, UNIC's, website and other means. Towards this objective we are seeking to create other areas of technological communication by using the Internet corner (at UNIC's premises), which was opened officially a couple of days ago for the use of journalists and researchers.

I hope this Corner will encourage journalists, students and researchers to visit our center and get an access to all documents related to the Security Council and General Assembly. Once again, I invite all of you to get the benefit of the technological facilities to search for the information you are interested in.

## Bio-History of the Minister of Information

Mr. Hassan Ahmed Al-Lawzi

-Date of Birth: 1952  
-Got his bachelor degree from the faculty of Law/Al-Azhar university, Cairo 1974. He joined. He attended a number of seminars and courses on Journalism and Media.

### Functions Undertaken:

- An employee at Monitoring and Accounting Org.
- Deputy Minister of Information and Culture 1980-1990
- Minister of Culture 1990. One year after merging the Ministries of Tourism and Culture in one entity, he became the Minister of Culture and Tourism.
- Minister of Information 1993
- Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary for the Republic of Yemen to Jordan late 1994
- A member of Al-Shoura Council 2001
- Participated in establishing the political regulation of People General Council (PGC) 1982
- Founded Al-Mithag newspaper the mouth piece of PGC and became the chairman of the newspaper August 1982 till Aug. 1990
- Founded Moain Monthly magazine and became its editor-in-chief in 1979 - Participated in establishing the Yemeni Syndicate for Journalists and acted as the first head of Yemeni Authors & Writers Federation branch in the capital Sana'a. Who is currently a member in the federation.



حسن احمد اللوزي  
وزير الاعلام

## Training Courses for Journalists and Govt. Officials

### 44th Graduate Study Programme (3-21 July 2006): "The United Nations: A time for renewal"

the Information Service at Geneva will organize this summer, the 44th Geneva Graduate Study Programme that will be held at the Palais des Nations from **Monday, 3 July to Friday, 21 July 2006**.

### Distinguished Journalists Fellowship

The Dag Hammarskjold Memorial Scholarship Fund announced the accepting applications for its 2006 Dag Hammarskjold Fellowships, which will be awarded to 4 journalists from developing countries in Asia, Africa, Latin America and Eastern Europe.

### Training Course on Environmental Law

United Nations For Training & Research organize a training course on Environment Law for 3 weeks. The course will be held in Hungary and the deadline is 15 April 2006.

For more details please visit [www.unicyem.org](http://www.unicyem.org)

## An Interview with WHO Representative

Dr. Hashim El-Zain, Representative of World Health Organization in Yemen. was interviewed by the newsletter. In the Interview Dr. El-Zain talked about a number of important issues, such as the disease of FLU Bird, the organization's support in the area of health in addition to other issues.



# An Interview with WHO Representative

**Q1: As A Representative of WHO in Yemen, what are the main objective and the mandate of your esteemed organization?**

WHO Objective as set out in its Constitution is the attainment by all peoples the highest possible level of health. Health is defined in WHO's Constitution as a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity. The main functions of WHO at country level, in support to and in collaboration with the Government, include:

- (a) Formulation and implementation of National health policy;
- (b) Planning and management of national health programmes;
- (c) Planning and management of WHO collaborative activities in the country;
- (d) Mobilization and rationalization of the use of available resources;
- (e) Coordination within the country and with External partners;

**Q2: We are confident that WHO organization plays a key role in providing health services to Yemeni people; can you tell us briefly about health programs that were implemented in the past? and what about your plans and activities in the futures?**

The current and future WHO support covers the following areas:

- Strengthening national capacity for analytical tools, such as burden of diseases assessment, national health accounts and cost analysis.
- International consultants and local expertise are provided for priorities such as Malaria, EPI, Polio Eradication, health sector reform, reproductive health and other communicable and non-communicable diseases, e.g., to develop policies, strategies, manuals and training modules. Special support is given to medical allied science institutes in updating community oriented medical curricula and upgrading education skills of the medical teaching staff.
- WHO supports the upgrading of skills of MoPHP, health institutes and faculties of medicine staff in order to assume the changing roles of their institutions as regulators, policy makers and leaders. Support is also given for local training of specialists in different medical fields by the Yemeni Medical Board for



Specialization. A substantial number of WHO fellowships for overseas training are offered to MoPHP personnel.

- WHO, in collaboration with MoPHP is promoting the concept of integrating health in development to ensure sustainability and effectiveness of health care, especially in poor and deprived communities. This approach, called Basic Development Needs (BDN) is meant to support communities to assume greater responsibilities in defining needs and taking appropriate action.
- WHO is providing guidance for prevention and control of communicable and non-communicable diseases, including establishment of a disease surveillance system and ensuring availability of supplies and equipment needed for these activities.
- WHO supports a mix of health promotion programmes, including change of lifestyle, and preventive services, helps develop strategies that will promote healthy lifestyles and avert trends in lifestyles which have a negative impact on health.

**Q3: Flu bird epidemic constitutes a threat in all levels, locally, regionally and internationally, Is Yemen free of that disease and what is the organization's role in facing it and preventing its spread.**

So far, according to information provided by Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Puplic Health and population there are no reports on Avian Influenza among birds in Yemen. So, far the disease worldwide is considered

WHO role is to protect health of human beings by preventing Avian Influenza infection and in case there are human cases to prevent further spread and minimize health and economic impact..

**Q4: How do you evaluate the cooperation process between your organization and the Yemeni government in the area of Health?**

Despite the huge challenges facing the Health Sector in Yemen the cooperation between WHO and Yemen is very successful especially in areas of prevention and control of communicable disease, particularly vaccine preventable diseases and in health systems development.

**Q5: We were informed that your organization has implemented together with the Yemeni Government and UNICEF the polio campaign successfully, how many people were targeted and is this the last round or there is another one to come in the future?**

As known Yemen was free from Polio for 4 years until February 2005 when the Wild Poliovirus reintroduced to Yemen resulting in paralyzing 478 children almost all of them are under 5 years of age. WHO and UNICEF in collaboration with the Ministry of Health implemented 8 national immunization rounds and about 4 million under 5 years children were vaccinated in each round with Polio vaccine. The success rate of these campaigns was above 95%. The last reported case of paralysis was in November 2005. At least another 2 rounds are planned for 2006 during October and November.

**Q6: Regarding the 8 millennium development goals, do you think that Yemen will be able to achieve those goals by the year of 2015?**

If we progress with the current pace in health then it would be very difficult to achieve the MDGs especially the goals which are directly related to

health. Health programmes need to be escalated to combat diseases and to develop capable health systems to cope with changes required to achieve the goals. Also this depends on availability of huge financial resources required to develop and implement the health needs for achieving the MDGs.

**Q7: What is your opinion and comments of the Newsletter?**

Let me first congratulate all those who are behind the issuance of the Newsletter, especially we were waiting for it for 5 yrs to be materialized. I hope the scope of coverage of the UN news expand and cover all UN agencies. As much as possible, each issue should at least have something on each UN organization working in Yemen. This will at least give a comprehensive picture on what UN is doing in Yemen. I hope also the newsletter widely distributed to our counterparts, international agencies and the academia. I wish for the group who is working in preparing and producing the Newsletter all the success.



## “Year in Review” in Action

UNIC Sana'a organized today 28 February, a briefing session for journalists at its premises. In the session, UN humanitarian efforts, World Summit and other issues were reviewed.

To support the role of UN practically, the program of Year in Review was presented on the wall screen. It is worth mentioning that the program has been aired by Yemeni Satellite Channel on 25 January, but many journalists could not have the chance to watch it.

In the session, UN materials and publications were distributed to the journalists such as the text of year in review, UNIC Newsletter, 60 ways UN make difference and UN calendars.

The session was attended by number of journalists representing the main Yemeni newspapers, electronic news, as well as the Yemeni Radio.



## THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

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## STATEMENT AT THE OPENING SESSION OF THE SECOND MEETING OF THE HIGH-LEVEL GROUP FOR THE ALLIANCE OF CIVILIZATIONS



Doha , 26 February 2006

Your Highness, [ *Abdallah al-Thani, Prime Minister of Qatar* ]  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

First let me thank Your Highness for hosting this meeting and providing an environment conducive to its very important task

I am very grateful to you all for being here today.

When we set up the Alliance of Civilizations last year, we said that it was ?intended to respond to the need for a committed effort by the international community ? both at the institutional and civil society levels ? to bridge divides and overcome prejudice, misconceptions and polarization?. We should all be grateful to the Prime Ministers of Spain and Turkey for being prescient in anticipating a vital issue in today?s world.

We also said that the Alliance would ?aim to address emerging threats emanating from hostile perceptions that foment violence?; and we specifically mentioned ?the sense of a widening gap and lack of mutual understanding between Islamic and Western societies?.

The passions aroused by the recent publication of insulting cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad, and the reaction to it, show only too clearly that such threats are real, and that the need for a committed effort by the international community is acute.

Of course, the Alliance was not launched to deal with immediate crises like this. But the intensity of feeling that we have witnessed in the last few weeks comes from a deep reservoir of mistrust and resentment, which was there long before the offensive cartoons were first printed. In fact, this present crisis can be considered an expression of a much deeper and longer-standing crisis, which is precisely the one that the Alliance was intended to address.

At the heart of this crisis is a trend towards extremism in many societies. We should beware of overemphasizing it, because extremism in one group is almost always fed by the perception of extremism in another group. Few people think of them selves as extremists, but many can be pushed towards an extreme point of view, almost without noticing it, when they feel that the behaviour or language of others is extreme.

So let us always remember that those who shout loudest, or act in the most provocative ways, are not necessarily typical of the group on whose behalf they claim to speak. I think one can safely say that most non-Muslims in western societies have no desire to offend the Muslim community, and that most Muslims, even when offended, do not believe that violence or destruction is the right way to react.

Let us also remember that neither ?Islamic? nor ?Western? societies are homogeneous or monolithic. In fact, there is a great deal of overlap between the two.

In past centuries one could speak of clearly distinct Islamic and Western (or Christian) civilizations, but many modern societies embody the heritage of both those civilizations, and many individuals today see no contradiction between their Muslim religion and their membership of Western societies.