

An aerial photograph of a village built on a large, flat-topped rock formation or cliff. The village consists of numerous small, light-colored buildings with flat roofs. The surrounding landscape is rugged and rocky, with some green vegetation visible in the lower parts of the image. In the background, a river or stream flows through a valley, and the sky is filled with a warm, golden light, suggesting sunrise or sunset. The entire image is framed by a decorative border with a repeating geometric pattern.

# *Sunrise Over* Yemen

Magazine of the Embassy of the Republic of Yemen in Canada • ISSUE 1



# YEMEN

One country... Many destinations...



Yemen will hold you spellbound – it encompasses at once the vitality of youth and the wisdom of age; it is like a flower blooming after a lengthy germination, as a desert plant unfolding its stunning blooms, following a rainstorm. Yemen cannot be explained in a few words...it is a touristic novel offering a glimpse of unimaginable earthly splendour that one hopes will be preserved forever. Those who experience the country's staggering beauty and mystery; the overwhelming majesty of its mountains; the golden light of its valleys, and the open-hearted hospitality of its inhabitants, will find themselves destined to return.

Yemen shines like an incomparable diamond evocative of the words of Flaubert, "There are places on earth so beautiful, you will want to hug the globe to your heart!"



Ministry of Tourism  
Yemen Tourism Promotion Board

[www.yementourism.com](http://www.yementourism.com)





The value of a legend lies not in its ability to entertain, nor in its authenticity; but rather, in its power to inspire and bestow a sense of purpose and comfort, when turmoil obscures reason. As we continue to watch the unfolding developments in the Middle East, the fable of the eagle's rebirth comes to mind.

The eagle can live to be seventy years old. Sadly, around forty, middle age sneaks up and its talons, beak and feathers deteriorate, making it arduous to eat or fly. It is then faced with a difficult decision: embrace apathy and starve; or adopt change and live. While some give up; courageous eagles fly to mountain nests to endure an agonizing five-month period of self-destruction, devastating their own defective parts, to enable regeneration and achieve longevity.

The story illustrates that positive change takes effort and discomfort, but it is instinctive for survival. The human spirit has an insatiable appetite for life, happiness and freedom. As history demonstrates, these fundamental principles are the pivotal set point to which all societies eventually return; by which all empires and regimes have ultimately fallen; and towards which we are all naturally drawn.

I hope this magazine will illuminate the magnificent panorama of Yemen, an ancient land and people, whose ongoing quest for freedom, combined with an enduring resilience and ability to re-invent themselves, now renders them akin to the revitalized eagle, poised to spread their wings and soar into a future filled with hope and promise.

*His Excellency Khaled Bahah*

AMBASSADOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF YEMEN TO CANADA



ABOVE: Mr. Khaled Bahah, Yemen's fifth Ambassador to Canada, formally presented his Credentials to the Governor General, The Rt Hon Michaëlle Jean, on January 21st, 2010. The Credentials are the formal documents by which new heads of diplomatic missions are introduced by their Head of State as the country's official representative in Canada. The Ambassador promised to promote goodwill and cooperation between the two countries.

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Mr. Bashir Mohhamed Ali Kasim - *Second Secretary*  
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HE Dr Mohammed Saad-Ali: 1990 – 1996  
Mr Ahmad Ghaleb: 1996 – 1998  
HE Mohammed Hazza: 1998 – 1999  
HE Mustafa Noman: 1999 – 2003  
HE Dr Abdulla Nasher: 2003 – 2008

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# Yemen *at a Glance*

## LOCATION:

Yemen is an Arab country located on the Arabian Peninsula in Southwest Asia. It is strategically located, bordered by Saudi Arabia to the North, the Red Sea to the West, the Arabian Sea and Gulf of Aden to the South, and Oman to the East. It presides over one of the busiest and most crucial shipping routes in the world. The political capital is Sana'a and the commercial capital is Aden.

## AREA & POPULATION:

The country is about 555,000 sq km and its territory includes over 200 islands, the most famous of which is Socotra, one of Yemen's several World Heritage Sites, with the largest number of indigenous species in the world. The population is 24 million people with a growth rate of 3.4%.

## POLITICS:

Prior to 1990, there were two Yemens – the northern Yemen Arab Republic and The Peoples' Democratic Republic of Yemen in the South. On May 22, 1990, unification took place to form the Republic of Yemen. In 1993 the first General Election was held. At this and subsequent elections, 301 members are elected to represent the people for four-year terms.

## ECONOMY & RESOURCES:

Yemen is a land of future potential whose resources have not so far been exploited economically, particularly in the area of mineral and petroleum wealth, fishing and tourism. The average annual growth rate of Yemen is between 2% - 4% annually. The average GDP per capita is approximately \$1,118 U.S. dollars.

**Petroleum:** The petroleum sector is the major production sector. This sector contributes between 30% - 40% of GDP. It also contributes to more than 70% of the budget and represents more than 90% of the value of exports.



**Agriculture:** The agricultural sector is considered as the second production sector after oil, representing 10% - 15% of GDP. The agricultural sector is considered as the most conducive for employment, since it encompasses approximately 54% of the total labour force and is a source of income for more than 70% of the population.

**Fish:** The fish industry represents one of the most important yet unexploited sectors in the economy. It presently represents only 1% - 2 % of GDP; but Yemen, with over 2000 kilometers of coast, stretching along the Red Sea, the Gulf of Aden, the Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean, with islands and bays scattered throughout, offers an enormously rich environment for fish and more than 350 types of aquatic life. Development of this resource will boost the national economy and be a major source of employment.

**Tourism:** This is perhaps one of the most valuable of Yemen's undeveloped potentials. It is a country possessing climatic & geographic diversities unsurpassed by any other in the world. It is awe-inspiring and best described as a visual feast. It offers majestic mountains, desert dunes, fertile flat plains, lush forests, breath-taking valleys, and thousands of pristine beaches and coastal regions, including the incomparable archipelago of Socotra with endemic and prehistoric life forms. Temperatures range from 40 degrees centigrade in the height of summer to 10 degrees centigrade in the winter, depending on location. There is a very high degree of sunshine throughout the country. The drama of the geography is exceeded only by the uniquely distinctive forms of architecture that have evolved and been preserved since antiquity.

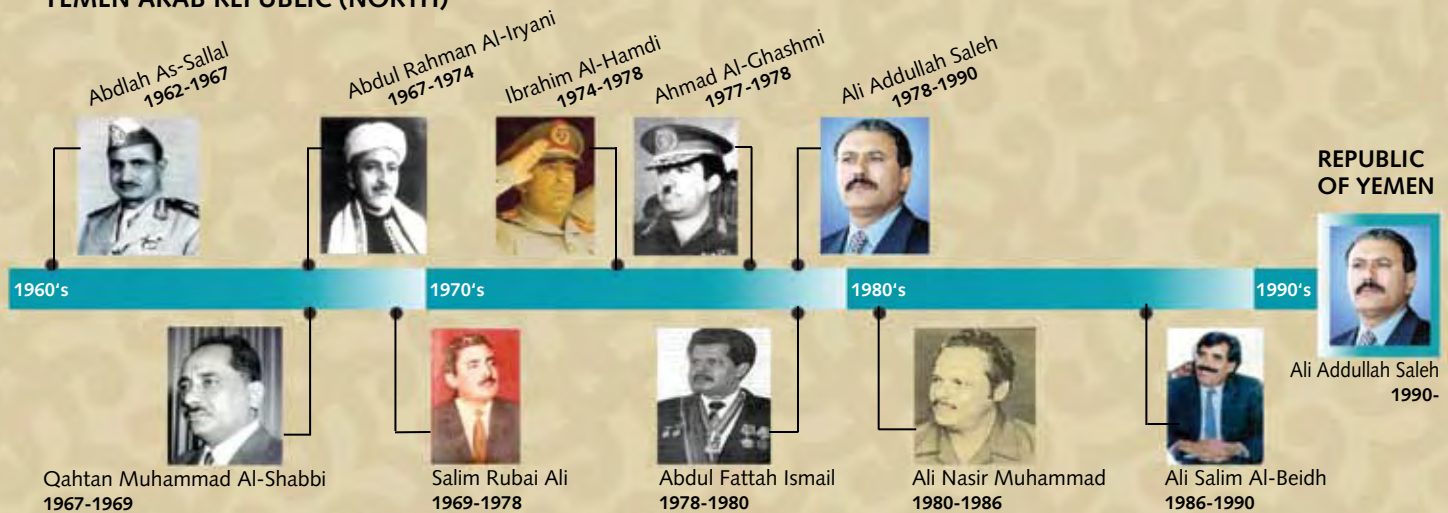
**Other Industry:** This represents one of the key components of the national economy and contributes 10% - 15% of GDP. Food industries are ranked first, followed by construction, cement, tobacco products and metals.

# Historical Timeline

*The land of Yemen is one of the oldest locations of civilization in the world.*

1400 BC	—	Sabaen Empire
1200 BC	—	Queen of Sheba
600 BC	—	Height of power of Sabaen Empire
600 BC	—	Awsanian Kingdom
400 BC	—	Minaeanen Kingdom
400 BC	—	Himyarite Kingdom
25 BC	—	Romans abandon invasion efforts
280 AD	—	Hadhramout Kingdom
650 AD	—	Islamic Caliphates
897 AD	—	Zaidi Dynasty
1229 AD	—	Rasuliden Dynasty
1839 AD	—	South Yemen under British Rule
1869 AD	—	Suez Canal opens – Aden serves as major refuelling port
1872-1918 AD	—	Ottoman Empire in Northern Yemen
1918 AD	—	Northern Yemen gains Independence
1962 AD	—	North Yemen - end of Imam Rule & becomes Republic (26 September)
1963 AD	—	Revolution against British in South Yemen (14 October)
1967 AD	—	British leave & South Yemen becomes Independent (30 November)
1990 AD	—	Unification of North & South Yemen (22 May)

## YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC (NORTH)



## PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN (SOUTH)



# Black Gold

## The Origins of Mocha

While Yemen may represent a distant, mysterious and unknown territory for many...it may surprise you to learn that it is the birthplace of a product that many of you find indispensable and consume daily. You stock it diligently in your homes; you enjoy it immensely, some excessively. It appears in many different variations and numerous individuals will insist that they cannot start the day without it. Its appeal knows no social or cultural barriers and it is purchased regularly by saints, sinners, beggars and kings.

In the 17th Century, in a little Yemeni town called Al Mokha, on the shores of the Gulf of Aden, where the Red Sea meets the Arabian ocean, a group of exhausted sailors anchored to rest and were greeted by a local Sheikh

who served them an ominous black brew. It looked and smelled quite distasteful but, being even more fearful of the consequences of offending the Sheikh, they reluctantly downed the liquid. They were shortly to become utterly amazed by the stimulating and invigorating effect of the drink and even begged for a few sacks to

take home. Remarkably, the Sheikh's random hospitality, has today evolved into a staggering, 600-billion-cup-per-year world coffee industry.

Today, Yemeni coffee commands a high premium in both the global specialty market and the Gulf market. It is distinct as Yemen is the only country in the world that uses 100% natural-sun-dried methods for all its coffee

by which it derives its unique character and flavour. As a result, Yemen is reclaiming its fame among the new breed of coffee aficionados around the world.

Next time you order a cup of Mocha, remember this tale, and remember Yemen and the little town of Al Mokha from where it all began.







# THE Queen of Sheba

A land of flourishing Kingdoms, this south-western part of Arabia, known today as Yemen, was once the thriving realm of the Queen of Sheba, one of the best known icons of ancient history. At that time it was one of the significant centers of human civilization, reigning over and dominating the trade routes of the ancient world. It was an exotic and mysterious land and its highly developed culture contributed to the development of the ancient civilizations and cultures of Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece and Rome.

In the 10th Century BC, Sheba was a land steeped in power and mystery, its power and riches all the greater due to its monopoly on two of the most sought-after materials of the ancient world, frankincense and myrrh, more valuable than gold.

According to legend, the great King Solomon of Jerusalem received reports from a Hoopoe bird about the Kingdom of Sheba, ruled by a Queen, whose people worshipped the sun instead of God. Solomon sent her a letter inviting her to visit him and submit fully to Allah. Unsure whether to accept his invitation she consulted with her people as to whether she should do as the King asked or simply ignore it. Although their response was to wage war against King Solomon's Kingdom, she decided against it and instead sent gifts and awaited his response. Quite unimpressed by these gifts, Solomon sent back a message that he would expel her people by force. Thus, the Queen decided to visit Solomon and the story of her visit is legendary and mentioned in the Old Testament, the Talmud, the Bible and the Koran, appealing to all of us – Jews, Christians and Muslims.

Solomon and Sheba, two of the most charismatic characters in history, were eventually to fall in love. Solomon's wisdom was so convincing that she converted and embraced his monotheistic faith, and together they produced a son, Menelik, who became King of Ethiopia and Yemen.



# A Token of Thanks *from Sheba* to the Governor-General

This magnificent work by Yemen's beloved artist Mazher Nizar, was presented to the Governor General of Canada, The Rt Hon Michaëlle Jean by the Embassy of the Republic of Yemen, in commemoration of the generous donation of wheat to the people of Yemen in the 1960's.

The painting (seen right) depicts the image of Canada as a woman, identified with a shawl of maple leaves bestowing sheaves of wheat to The Queen of Sheba. It is a beautiful rendition of the close and very special relationship that exists between our two countries.



## A Career *in Ruins*



Dr. William Glanzman, a professor and archaeologist at Mount Royal College in Calgary, is a modern day Indiana Jones. His remarkable career, specializing in pre-Islamic Arabia and, in particular, his exploits unearthing the Temple of the Queen of Sheba, buried under the desert sands in the ancient City of Marib in Yemen, has made him a legend.

Based on this project, a movie was aired throughout the world entitled, *The Queen of Sheba: Behind the Myth* which detailed the evidence to support the existence of this famous queen and in particular, her origins in Yemen.

Over the course of the last twenty-three years, Dr Glanzman's world-renowned accomplishments in the field of discovery in Yemen have contributed significantly to advancing historical knowledge of the ancient civilization of Southern Arabia, enriching the world's awareness of the Realm of the Queen of Sheba.



# A Magic Potion *from Yemen*

Among Yemen's wonderland of species is the ancient and sacred Sidr tree, which is mentioned in the Qu'ran, the Bible and the Torah. Having survived the test of time, it is necessarily resilient and also possesses beauty and strength. In addition, it has been revered for many centuries for the renowned medicinal properties of the exquisite honey produced from its flower.

Sadly, the lifespan of bees that make honey from the Sidr tree is not prolonged, nor enhanced, as a result of being exposed to these miraculous properties. On the contrary...these poor creatures are destined to an arduous and surprisingly short life. While the average bee will make 37,000 trips to make a half kilo of honey; a bee that is fed solely on the nectar of the Sidr tree flower, will expire after only 3 trips, as a result of becoming fatally intoxicated by the potency of the tree's nectar.

While honey comes from many parts of the world, the quality of honey varies significantly in its purity, nutritional value, composition and, most importantly, in its therapeutic properties. Yemeni beekeepers, especially those who produce Sidr honey, take great

care to harvest this product in the most traditional and pure ways, which have varied little over many centuries. No chemicals, antibiotics or unnatural processes are ever used in production – in fact all work is done by hand without the use of machinery and the honey is eventually poured raw into its commercial containers. The trees themselves are organic, growing wild and uncultivated in the remote desert area of Yemen.

While **Sidr honey** is considered the most delicious, its medicinal properties are legendary as a wonder cure for countless acute and chronic ailments. These include liver, stomach, heart and respiratory problems; infectious

diseases; arthritis; immune deficiency; cancer and a long list of other serious illnesses. It is even professed to cure hair loss, promote weight loss and act as a natural aphrodisiac!

Many studies are underway to determine the validity of these claims and recent medical studies have shown that it does indeed have remarkable healing and antibacterial properties, which has contributed to making it a rapidly sought-after and expensive product. Time will determine the health benefits of this remarkable product, but in the meantime, we urge you to seek it out, if you can, as it is absolutely 100% guaranteed to improve the taste of just about anything!







# The Blue-Eyed Sheik

*Paris is beneath you in beauty, and so are London  
And all the capitals of the Romans and the Americans:  
Their beauty is but embellishment and artifice,  
While yours, Sana'a, is the gift of your "Creator".  
It never ceases to be true.*

Artist and scholar Tim Mackintosh-Smith sits in his Mazar (top viewing room). The inset poem is inscribed on the walls of this outdoor room.

If one happens upon the ancient tower house, located next to the donkey market in the heart of Yemen's ancient capital city of Sana'a, one might be fortunate enough to stumble across the building's extraordinary inhabitant, **Tim Mackintosh-Smith**. In the event of such an occurrence, it is guaranteed to be an experience that will not soon be forgotten.

Known as the "Sage of Sana'a", Tim has called Sana'a home for the last thirty years - ever since he chose this rather unusual location to practice his Arabic language skills, following his classical education in the subject at Oxford. What began as a short-term undertaking led to a long-term passion for Arabia in general and Yemen and its people, in particular.

Over the course of the last thirty years, his achievements and adventures have been colourful and numerous. Tim has become a prolific award-winning author; a popular and witty lecturer; a successful film-maker; and a renowned scholar of the 14th Century traveler Ibn Battutah, about whom he has written the definitive trilogy. He has also written about the more obscure subjects such as alabaster, the collection of Frankincense, the ghost stories of MR James, and the history of umbrellas. His works have been translated into a myriad of languages, including Norse and Chinese.

He has been described as a charming eccentric with a style that is "brilliant, erudite, dazzling and subversively

good humoured with the capability of sketching complex detail in a few telling lines". Needless to say, he is a fascinating character in his own right and was featured in the remarkable documentary film, *The English Sheik and the Yemeni Gentleman*.

Tim honoured us with a visit to Canada in 2004. At that time, he lectured at the Canadian Parliament, and the Universities of Ottawa and Calgary. The Embassy is currently investigating the possibility of a return visit in September, 2011.

For more information about publications by Tim Mackintosh-Smith, kindly visit his website at: [www.mackintosh-smith.com](http://www.mackintosh-smith.com).



# THE Pearl of Arabia

It is easy to fall in love with the ancient fortified **City of Sana'a**. It is regarded as one of the most beautiful cities in the world, and is aptly known as the "Pearl of Arabia". One of the loftiest Capital Cities at an altitude of 7500 ft, each of its 4000 buildings is unique in structure, height and intricate ornamentation. This vast diversity of style, with its endless assortment of decorative shapes adorning façades, doors and wood-framed windows, many with jewel-toned stained-glass, renders a tantalizing vista that is unpredictably complex and understandably reminiscent of a fairy tale illustration. Visitors enter through the 1000 year-old Yemen Gate, penetrating its 40 ft high, 7 ½ mile-long fortified surrounding wall; and are immediately transported to a world of unparalleled

medieval enchantment, further accentuated by parapets, filigree railings, and natural stone-coloured buildings, including towering mosques, al Kasar castle and an Imam's palace.

Reputed to be more than 2500 years old and steeped in legend, it is said that Sana'a was founded by Sem, the son of Noah. Apparently, he followed a twig-carrying bird to the base of mount Jebel Nukum, whereupon the twig was dropped and Sem, believing this to be a sign from God, built his house. Evidence does show that it dates back to the Sabaean dynasty of that era and, while it has weathered many wars and sieges over the years, it has maintained its important and noble status since that ancient time.

Sana'a has changed little over the years and offers visitors the rare opportunity to enjoy a rare cultural and historical experience that is authentic, hypnotic and truly magical.

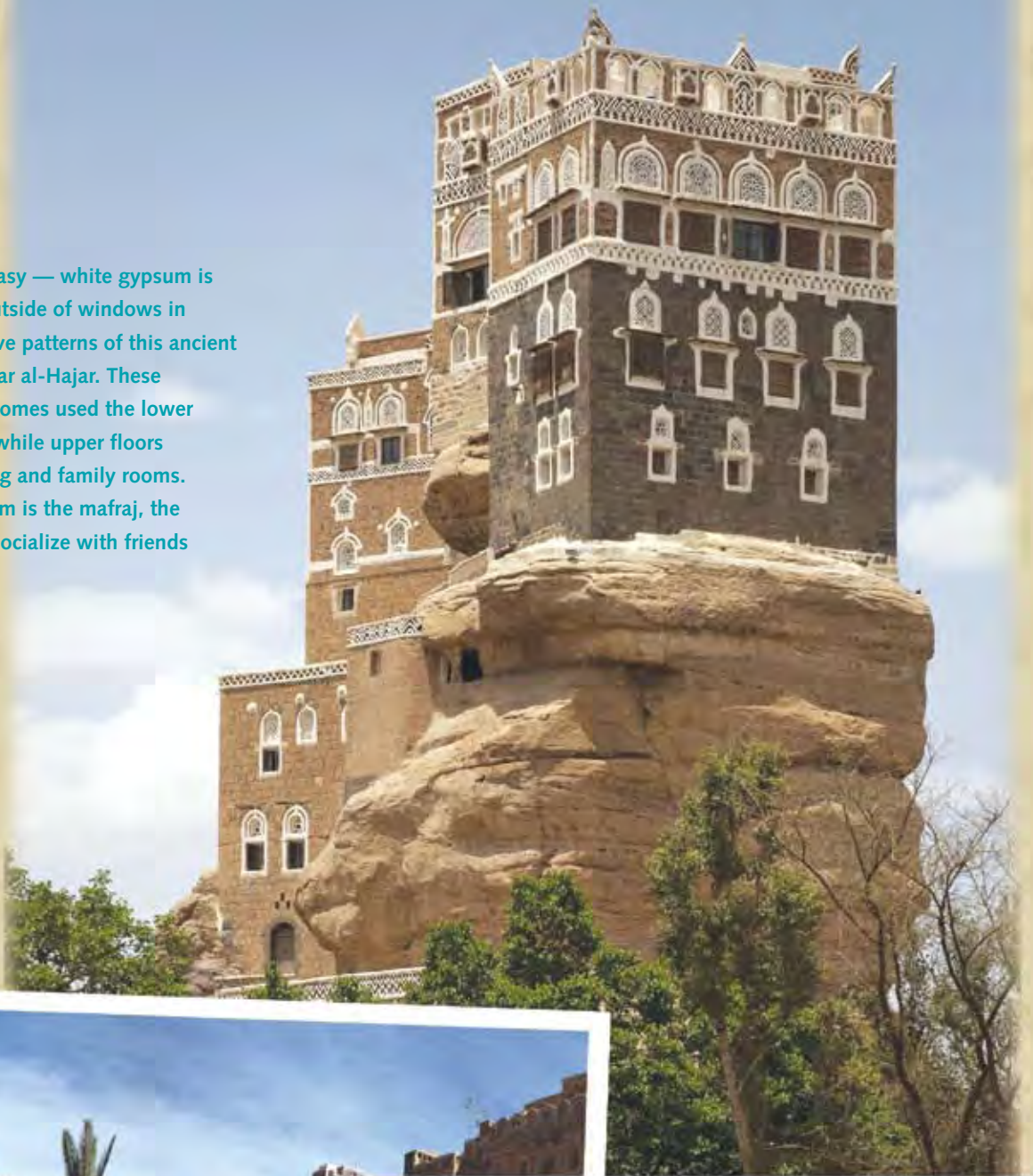
Sana'a is a place of undisputed and profound beauty, but its fundamental value lies in its worth as a living museum and example of an astonishing blend of Islamic tradition and international culture. Its matchless architectural style makes it one of the most compelling locations in the Middle East. In recognition of this, UNESCO declared it a World Heritage City in 1986 and ongoing efforts are underway to ensure the preservation of this precious "Pearl of Arabia", unquestionably a monumental historical masterpiece.



LEFT: Inhabited for more than 2500 years it is said that seeing the ancient walled city for the first time is like seeing "a vision of a childhood dream". Sana'a was a historical central link between the Far Eastern markets and those of the Mediterranean.



A gingerbread fantasy — white gypsum is used around the outside of windows in geometric decorative patterns of this ancient palace known as Dar al-Hajar. These multi-level tower homes used the lower floors for storage, while upper floors are used for cooking and family rooms. The uppermost room is the mafraj, the preferred room to socialize with friends and family.





# The Land of the

The **Island of Socotra** has been described by many as “the most alien-looking place on earth”. Located 250 miles off the coast in the Indian Ocean, Yemen’s otherworldly island is beyond comparison and photographs of it could easily be misconstrued as those from a planet, light years away. Socotra, from the Sanskrit, meaning “Island of Bliss” is part of an archipelago, and has stood detached as an island for 250 million years. As a result, it is home to the world’s most unusual collection of organisms – more than 900 species, many that can be found nowhere else on earth!

Prior to 1999 it could only be reached by cargo ship and even though now it is accessible by air, its small airport permits only a limited number of eco-tourists to visit the island every year. There are few hotels and fewer roads. The island has been inhabited for over 2000 years and its 40,000 inhabitants, who speak Socotri, are like an indigenous species themselves, living in a world uniquely their own, with a calendar of 24 months, each roughly 13 days long, including the Month of the Cow’s Breath, when heavy winds turn the sea to foam, and the Month of Crabs, when thousands of ghost crabs, crowd the beach.



The famous Dragon’s Blood Tree found on Socotra is one of 900 species, many that exist nowhere else in the world.



The unspoiled, giant, calm beaches of Socotra are an award winning eco-tourist destination.



# Dragon's Blood Tree



This isolated island has wide sandy beaches and network of caves in its limestone plateaus and mountains, which protrude up to 1525 meters in height. Despite its harsh climate, which is hot and dry, an unimaginable assortment of bizarre flora and fauna flourish on the island. The best known tree is the Dragon's Blood Tree which resembles an inside-out umbrella. Its valuable resin is used as a cure-all and was used in medieval ritual magic and alchemy. Frankincense, of which there are nine varieties, and Myrrh trees abound, while the Desert Rose is reminiscent of a blooming elephant leg springing out of sheer rock. Numerous other plants resembling creatures from outer space thrive in the most unexpected manner. There are numerous different species of bird, countless unusual insects, and a unique hybrid of marine species from the Red Sea, Indian Ocean and Western Pacific.



125 kilometers in length and 45 kilometers across, Socotra is the largest island in the Middle East.

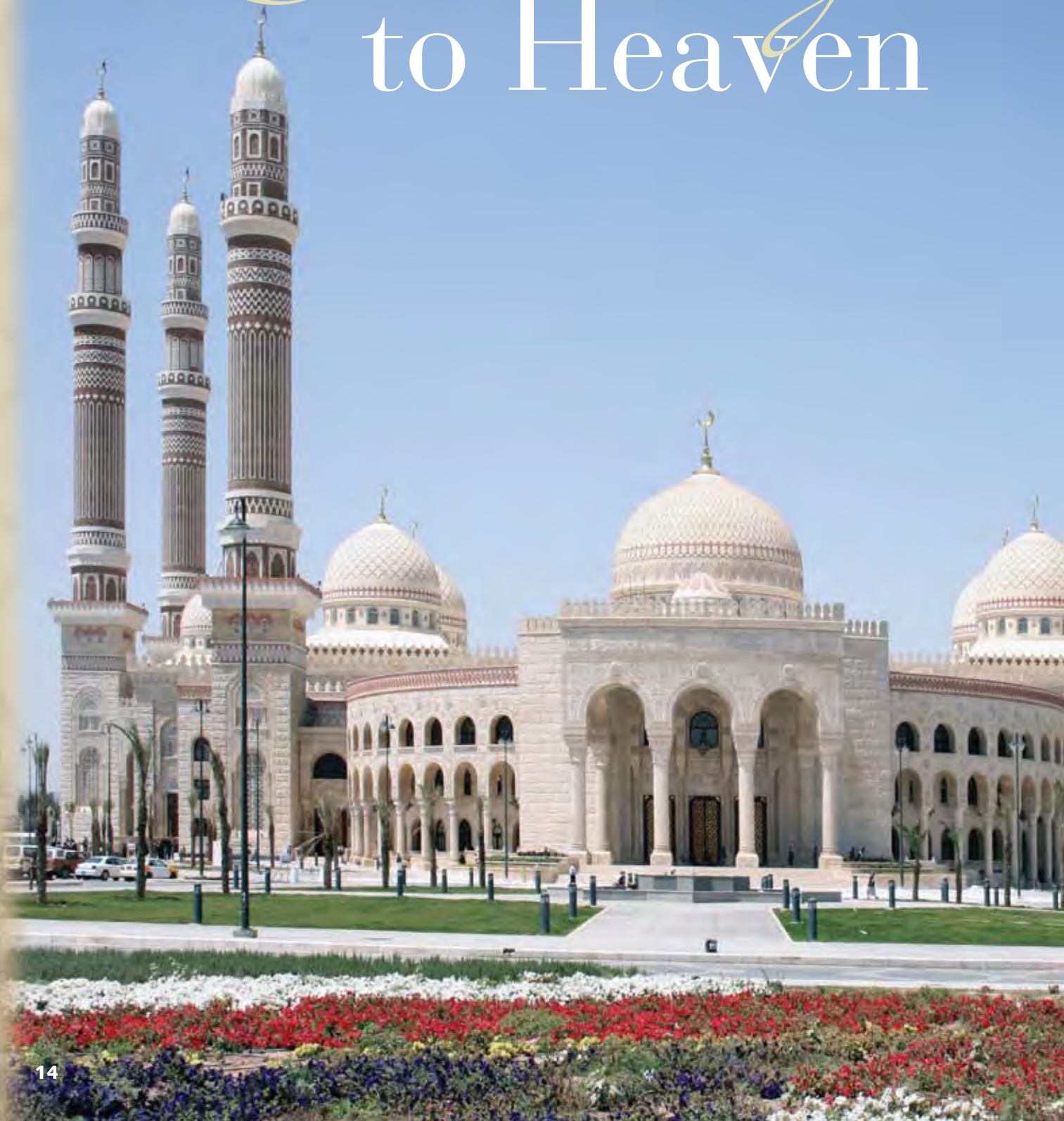


The Socotra Archipelago Conservation and Development Programme ensures the conservation and sustainable development of the island.

The Socotra Archipelago was named a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 2008, as one of the most biodiversity-rich and distinct islands in the world. Most of the island is comprised of terrestrial nature sanctuaries, national parks and areas of special botanical interest, and extraordinary measures must be taken to restrict and protect this wonderland from future threats of invasive species...including the human variety!



# *Stairway* to Heaven







This staggeringly beautiful **Mosque**, completed in 2008, is a breath-taking architectural wonder, soaring towards heaven from amidst the Sana'a skyline. It is one of the largest Mosques in the world and is considered to be a monumental example of Islamic structural accomplishment. The entire structure occupies 27,300 sq meters. Each of its six minarets reaching skywards from amidst its five impressive domes, are over 100 meters high. The main hall alone covers 13,500 square meters with a capacity to hold over 44,000 people.

It is a stunning addition to the already magnificent cityscape of Sana'a and its importance extends beyond the physical, serving as an enduring symbol of Islamic and Yemeni heritage. Materials were specifically chosen to withstand the ravages of time in order to maintain its glory for posterity; but also, and of equal importance, particular care was taken to utilize building materials exclusively from Yemen, including concrete, golden and red limestone and polished granite, among the vast array of Yemeni products contributing to this astonishing structure.

So too, the style of the design was created to reflect many features drawn from Yemen's abundant architectural treasures of antiquity, including the Temple of Bilqis and the Marib Dam. By contrast, the Mosque is equipped with modern air-conditioning, fire extinguishing systems, the latest sound and television transmission facilities and parking for thousands of cars – an intriguing bridge between ancient legacy and modern necessity.

This tribute to Islam is a fine example of the power of majestic beauty to stimulate divine inspiration in all mankind, extending beyond the barriers of cultural and religious diversity; crossing the boundaries of time and space; and ultimately, serving as universal testament to the supremacy of good over evil.



# Manhattan *of the* Desert

An unsuspecting visitor, suddenly arriving upon the **City of Shibam**, could be forgiven for insisting that he is experiencing an optical illusion. Built like a fortress of skyscrapers, in the midst of the Hadhramut Valley, Shibam is one of the world's most astonishing architectural miracles. Its five hundred soaring mud towers, ranging up to 11 stories in height, were built in close formation several hundred years ago, and bear an uncanny resemblance to New York City. Shibam, however, unlike the

Big Apple, is not subjected to overcrowding or traffic congestion; in fact, its population of 7,000 has hardly any traffic at all, due to the snug fit between buildings prohibiting the passage of automobiles. Its astonishing preservation is as a result of some of the strictest building codes in existence – since its last rebuild in 1554, laws have dictated that any restorative work must be as the original, including the tiniest details. So too, the population is resilient and tight-knit, with a unique way of life.

This extraordinary city of southeastern Yemen dates back to the 3rd Century AD, when it was the former capital of the Hadhramut Kingdom. It became a flourishing hub of prosperity, as a bustling caravan stop for the lucrative spice and incense trade





routes of the ancient world; frankincense and myrrh were commodities considered more precious than gold. Its prestige at that time extended throughout the entire ancient world and the prosperity of Southern Arabia was bound to the fortunes of this city. When the demand for spice declined, so did the wealth of Shibam, allowing the city and its remarkable skyscrapers to be engulfed by a mist of obscurity where it quietly remained, outlasting destruction, setbacks and anonymity for many years.

In 1982 it was named a UNESCO World Heritage Site, recognizing its qualities as an outstanding example of human settlement and vertical construction, enabling these lofty towers to continue hold the world and future generations utterly spellbound.

**FACING PAGE:** The city of Shibam is one of the world's oldest examples of successful urban planning and land use. **RIGHT, FROM TOP:** The verdant valley's of the Hadhramut Valley are perfect for growing palm and coconut trees along with many other crops; Considered to be one of the most important characteristics of Yemeni architecture the traditional Yemeni window uses intricately carved privacy shutters; The Wadis remains dry except during rainy season as pictured here; Shibam is built on a hillock, which allows it to escape the sometimes devastating floods of the Wadi.





TOURISM



▲ Hajjah



Sa'da ▶

▼ Al Mahwit



Ibb ▶



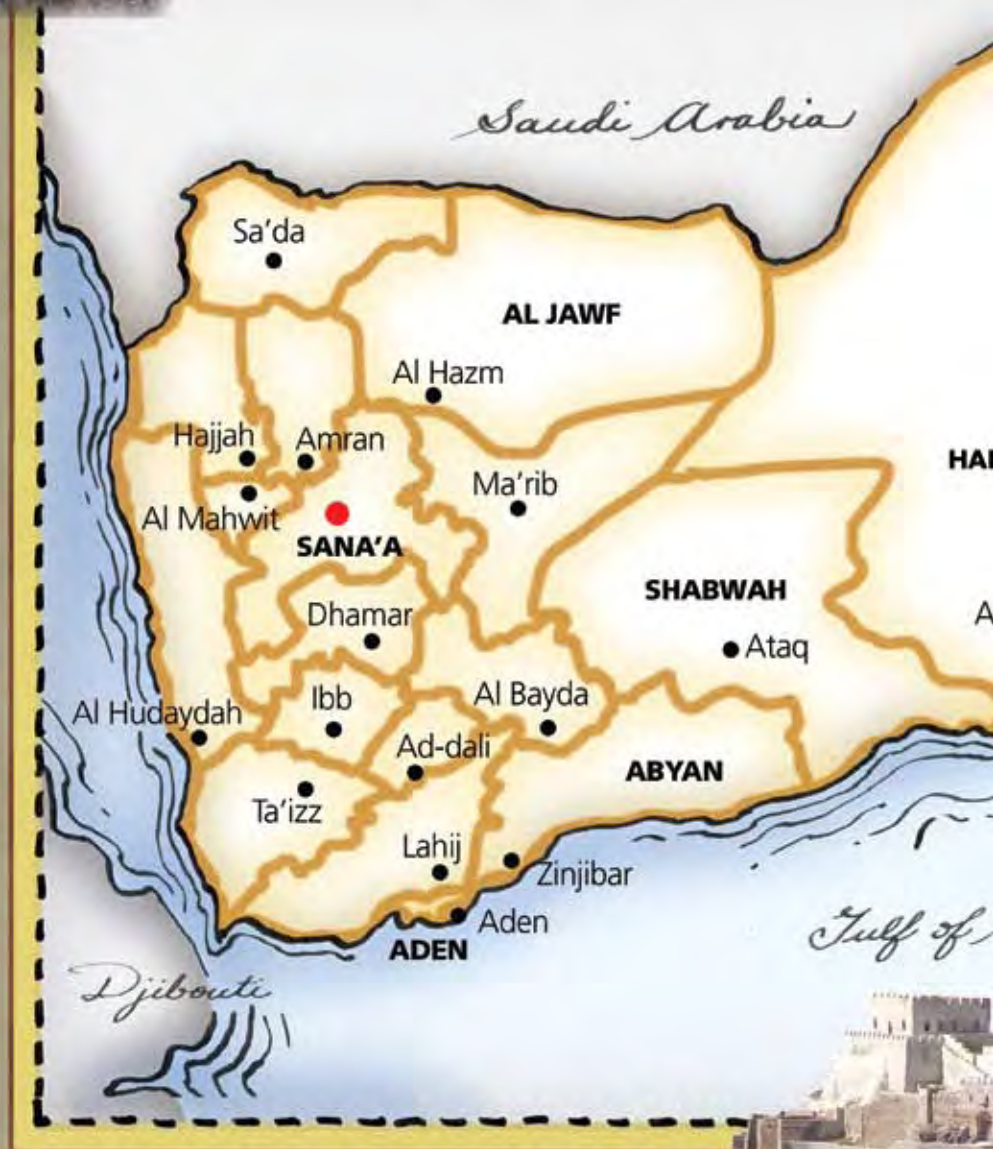
◀ Al Hudaydah



▲ Lahij



▲ Aden







▲ Sana'a



◀ Ma'rib



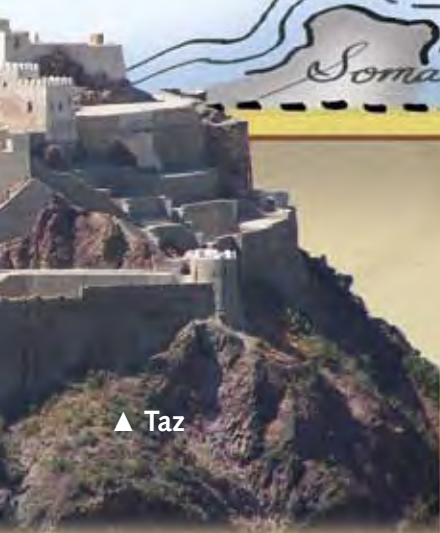
▲ Hadhramut



▲ Al-Jawf



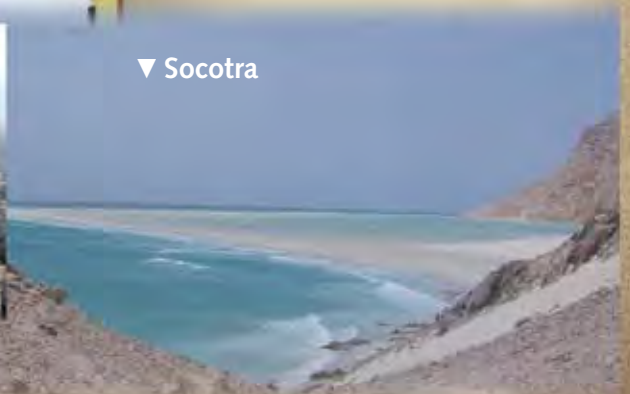
▲ Shabwah



▲ Taz



▲ Dhamar



▼ Socotra



# Building a Sustainable Bond

Nexen Inc. and Yemen go back a long way. Nexen, along with its Masila Block project partners, Occidental Petroleum and Consolidated Contractors Company, first entered into a partnership with the Government of Yemen in the late 1980s to develop the country's oil reserves. Since then, Nexen has produced more than one billion barrels of oil, helped build a viable energy industry and established strong community relationships.

Nexen's relationship with Yemen is about much more than oil. Over the years, the company has formed a bond with the Yemeni people that is essential to the company's continued success and the sustainability of its operations. Nexen has helped build schools, provided community medical clinics, purchased and installed community generators and supported a number of

projects to improve community water supply and sanitation facilities.

A significant oil producer in Yemen, Nexen has hired and trained thousands of Yemeni nationals to run its production operations and administration facilities. While many of these employees still work with Nexen today, some have leveraged their experience into new career opportunities with other companies, in Yemen, and abroad. Many former Nexen national employees have also used their energy industry experience to start their own business ventures in Yemen, providing such services as drilling, trucking and catering.

As a legacy project, Nexen created a scholarship program that, over the past 13 years, has awarded scholarships to 130 Yemenis to pursue

four-year post-secondary degrees — enabling them to access promising careers and, in many cases, bring their talents back to their home country.

"Our strength in Yemen is that we've done a great job engaging and integrating with the local communities and economy," observes Marvin Romanow, Nexen's President and Chief Executive Officer. "Today, close to 95% of our employees are Yemeni nationals. We're proud to have them — they are talented and dedicated individuals who have made significant contributions to our company."

## Looking back

The first successful Masila Block exploratory well was drilled at Sunah in 1990, and initial production began in July 1993. The Masila fields, in which Nexen has a 52% working interest, are mature, but still hold significant value. Under the Masila Production Sharing Agreement (PSA), between the Government of Yemen and the Masila joint venture partners, Nexen has the right to produce oil from the Masila Block until late 2011. Nexen







## Nexen's relationship with Yemen is about much more than oil

ethical manner and openly engaged community stakeholders. By maintaining good two-way communication with local residents, and keeping them closely informed of the company's activities, Nexen has established a tradition of trust and goodwill that should serve the company well in the years ahead.

### Economic Growth

The proposal Nexen and its partners have submitted to extend production in the Masila Block for another five years would see further investment in planned technical work and community investments.

is currently negotiating a five-year extension of the Masila PSA .

Nexen began production from East Al Hajr (Block 51) in 2004. Nexen operates and holds an 87.5% working interest in Block 51 under a PSA with the Yemen government that expires in 2023, with a built-in right to negotiate a five-year extension.

Today, Nexen's Yemen operations have proven reserves of 13 million barrels of oil before royalties. In 2010, Nexen's working interest in Yemen generated 42,300 barrels per day, representing approximately 17% of the company's total production.

### Responsible Development

One of the keys to Nexen's success in Yemen is its commitment to operational excellence, including a strong record of continuous production and industry-leading standards in safety and environmental care. Nexen was a pioneer in bringing the Responsible Care program to Yemen. This program promotes a sustainable approach to a wide range of safety, environmen-

tal and social responsibility issues. In 2005, Nexen's Yemen operations became the first energy company in the Middle East to be verified by international Responsible Care examiners.

From the start of the Masila Block project, and through subsequent exploration and development projects, Nexen has undertaken detailed environmental impact assessments (EIAs) before proceeding. These EIAs identified key environmental sensitivities, including the protection of groundwater resources, small intensive agricultural areas, rich marine fisheries and significant archaeological resources near the project facilities.

Pre-construction investigations employed Yemeni authorities from many disciplines and the mitigation measures they put in place were incorporated into the final design and construction plans. This also provided a unique opportunity for Yemenis to learn EIA protocols and procedures.

Over the years, Nexen has conducted its business in Yemen in an honest,

In addition to maintaining Nexen's innovative scholarship program and many community and health care projects in Yemen, Nexen is proposing a major local initiative to ensure education resources are available in communities in the Masila area. Part of this would involve sponsoring students between the ages of 16 and 20 who have left school but who wish to continue their education at technical training centers and become qualified in the mechanical, electrical and building trades.

Nexen is proud of what it has achieved in Yemen over the past two decades both in terms of safe and sustainable energy development and in community outreach and support. Going forward, the company intends to build on that foundation of success.

"We believe investing in the well-being of the communities where we operate is not just the right thing to do — it also makes good business sense," observes Romanow. "This is how we continue to earn our license to operate. We hope to be working in Yemen for many years to come."



# A Legacy of Learning

Over the course of more than 20 years of responsible energy development in Yemen, Nexen knows the country's greatest natural resource is its people. The people of this country are warm, generous and welcoming. Yemeni families also want something that's quite universal — to create a better and more fulfilling life for their children and future generations to come.

To mark the 10th anniversary of Nexen's presence in Yemen in 1998, the company looked for a legacy project that would help the Yemeni people achieve these objectives. Nexen concluded that one factor above all could help make this happen — education.

Why education? Yemen, with a population of 24 million, has one of the world's youngest and fast-growing citizenry. For another, Yemen's educational attainment rates were low compared to Canada's, particularly for women. If young Yemeni men and women had the chance to study abroad, Nexen believed both they and the country would benefit greatly.

Nexen developed a scholarship program that would bring promising young Yemenis to Alberta to attend the University of Calgary and the Southern Institute of Tech-



Nexen's pioneering scholarship program primes young Yemenis for success.

nology (SAIT) Polytechnic over a four-year period of study leading to first degrees. To date, a total of 130 young Yemenis have been awarded scholarships, approximately 30% of them women. The program has been tremendously successful with a total of 70 alumni by the end of 2011.

Each scholarship underwrites tuition, books, accommodation, a monthly living allowance and annual travel to Yemen. The total value of the scholarship over four years is \$180,000, making it one of the most attractive awards of its kind.

The scholarships are based on merit with recipients achieving secondary school results above 90 per cent. The recruitment process begins in the fall of each year when an announcement calling for applications is posted in

major Arabic and English-language newspapers in Yemen. The screening process consists of three phases. In the first phase, applicants are ranked according to their secondary school performance. The candidates then move on to the interview process, which helps identify those students who have the maturity and motivation to succeed in the program.

The results of those earlier phases are then presented to the Scholarship Steering Committee to make a final selection. The Committee takes into account issues such as geographical distribution to ensure top-ranked students from throughout Yemen have the opportunity to participate.

"When we initially established the Yemen Scholarship Program we saw it as a way to encourage and enable





young Yemenis to pursue an education in fields critical to the country's economic growth and development, such as engineering, business and information systems technology," said Andrea Bosnjak, who manages Nexen's Yemen Scholarship Program. "We also believed students would come to Canada, pursue their education and then return home."

The reality turned out to be richer and more complex. Some students adjusted so well to life in Canada that they stayed here after completing their education. Others worked for a time in Canada and then returned to Yemen, equipped with the skills and experience so essential to advancing the country's economic growth and development. "They are all creating a legacy of their own, whether in Yemen, Canada or beyond," said Ms Bosnjak.

Nexen is pleased to note that other companies working in Yemen are now following its lead and developing their own post-secondary scholarship programs, thereby multiplying the opportunities for Yemeni youth to realize their full potential.

Alumni of the Nexen Yemen Scholarship Program tend to have their pick of careers. Several recent graduates have found work as engineers, systems analysts and communications specialists. Still others have returned to Yemen and are making a difference, working for the U.S. Embassy and international energy companies, including Nexen.

The legacy of the Nexen Yemen Scholarship Program extends far beyond the lives of the individual students. Everyone who meets or works

with the students — from Nexen staff to faculty at our partner institutions to Scholarship Steering Committee members — reports being enriched by the experience.

Certainly, this program could not have succeeded without the dedication of Nexen's partners. AMIDEAST, an American non-profit organization that promotes educational ties between the Middle East and North America, helps recruit the scholarship candidates and provides them with language training. The University of Calgary and SAIT Polytechnic have enthusiastically embraced the program and worked hard to integrate students into their chosen fields of study. Thanks to the efforts of these partners, scholarship students are well prepared and supported before they leave for Canada and after they arrive.

As a responsible energy developer, Nexen is establishing and nurturing a relationship with the people who call Yemen home. The Nexen Yemen Scholarship Program is an essential link in that relationship.

"One thing all our successful scholarship candidates have in common is that they are motivated and gifted young men and women who are advancing in their professional fields and making the most of their opportunity," said Ms Bosnjak. "Many of our graduates are also starting families of their own, setting the stage for another generation's progress. In this way, as in so many others, they are helping fulfill the original promise and intent of the Nexen Yemen Scholarship Program."



Yemen LNG is a world-class Liquefied Natural Gas producer delivering to the Americas, Europe and Asia. The first of its kind in Yemen, the project is the largest industrial investment ever undertaken in the country, with an investment of around US \$ 4.5 billion, of which 2.8 billion dollars are attracted as foreign loans.

Project components included the modification of existing upstream production facilities; the construction of a 345 km pipeline network; and the construction of a two-train natural gas liquefaction plant in a remote, environmentally and archaeologically sensitive location with stand-alone utilities, off sites and infrastructure including a loading jetty.

# Yemen LNG... A World Class LNG E

In total, over 100 million man-hours were required in order to upgrade the Marib Block 18 upstream facilities; lay a 320 km, 38 inch pipeline through the Marib and Shabwah deserts; build the 6.7 million ton per annum liquefaction plant; construct the deep water port; and build a fleet of 160,000 cubic meter LNG ocean carriers, which proudly fly the Yemen colors.

What is unique about the Yemen LNG project is that it has full control of the LNG operational chain, from the wells and the gas reservoirs, to the shipping and the delivery ports, as well as the operation of its state-of-the-art facilities and fleet of newly-built tankers.

## LNG Sales

Since the start of gas exports in 2009, Yemen LNG has been successful in delivering LNG to 11 countries across the globe, thereby capturing opportunities to maximize value. These countries are: Chile, Mexico, UK, Spain, Kuwait, India, Japan, China, USA, Korea, and France.

In 2011, cargoes bound to the US markets will be diverted to China, Korea, and UK with an aim to achieve the best value for Yemen LNG shareholders.

The economic significance of the Yemen LNG project lies in the fact that it will boost the economy of Yemen and increase the gross domestic product (GDP). Over the next 20 years, Yemen's revenues are estimated to reach \$30 billion.

In 2010, Yemen Gross Domestic Product increased by 7.6 per cent, mainly due to the LNG start up.







# enterprise:

FROM CONCEPTION TO REALIZATION





# Sailing *in the* Fast Lane



Yemen's strategic geographical location, the diversified natural and climatic conditions and, most importantly, the country's control over the leading world trade routes gave rise to Yemen being one of the significant centers of ancient human civilization, aptly named by the Greeks and Romans as "Arabia Felix"

**The Port of Aden** is mentioned in the Old Testament and has been an important seaport of trade for over 3000

years. Overlooking the Gulf and commanding the narrow straight leading into the Red sea, Aden's location is as critical today as it was in ancient times, dominating the Red Sea, virtually at the apex of the world's most crucial and efficient shipping routes. The eyes of the world have been on Aden for a very long time

In 1850 the British Governor at the time, pronounced it a free zone for goods arriving by sea or land. It be-

came one of the MOST important free ports in the world and by the 1950's it was second to New York and during the first half of the last century it was the most active, being visited by over 700 ships per month, bringing commercial goods, commodities and people.

Despite a decline in recent years, today's burgeoning demand from Asia for goods and energy has meant that regeneration of the Port of Aden is well underway. Asia's demand for goods





and oil is estimated to be greater than that of the US in the next 35 years.

Recognizing this, Yemen has initiated the Port Cities Development Program. Together with Dubai Ports World, the largest marine terminal operators in the world ([www.dpworld.com](http://www.dpworld.com)), they have begun an ambitious and dramatic transformation of Aden Port ([www.portofaden.net](http://www.portofaden.net)), which promises to achieve levels of prosperity and progress of the region's former glory days.



## Did you know?

Around the world, there are a number of ports, not many, that are recognized to be very special natural harbours...

**Aden happens to be one of these!**

Some of these great natural harbours lie directly on major international shipping routes...

**Aden happens to be one of these!**

Perhaps one or two of these great natural harbours, directly on a major international shipping route, have massive potential for further expansion of their facilities because of the size of the harbour...

**Aden happens to be one of these!**

We are not sure whether any of these great natural harbours, directly on a major international shipping route, with massive potential, can be expanded without the need for breakwater protection or any maintenance dredging when the facilities have been built...

**Except Aden!**

Only one of these great natural harbours, directly on a major international shipping route with massive potential for further expansion, without the need for a breakwater, occupies a truly strategic location in the Middle East...

**It happens to be...Aden Port!**







## Shoora Council Speaker Abdul Ghani Leads Delegation to Canada

- May 29-June 11, 2006

On May 29, 2006, Yemen's Shoora Council Speaker, Abdul Ghani, together with his Deputy Speaker; Heads of Committees on Finance, Economy, and Politics; plus his Director General and a fellow Member of the Council, arrived in Ottawa.

During their visit they attended a very full schedule of meetings, receptions and luncheons with Senate Speaker Noel Kinsella; Speaker of the House of Commons; Ministers of State, Members of Parliament, Senators and Committee Members.

They attended a formal reception at the Chateau Laurier hosted by the Embassy of Yemen, with VIPs from Parliament, Senate, Government, Diplomatic Corps, Academia, Business and Media.

During his talk Speaker Abdul Ghani thanked Senator Kinsella for his kind invitation, generous hospitality and ex-

cellent discussions that had translated into incalculable goodwill and friendship. He spoke of Yemen's precious relationship with Canada, a country

which Yemen holds as a superb role model for democracy, rule of law and human rights and looked forward to hosting many reciprocal visits in Yemen.



The Delegation headed for Toronto where they attended several excellent meetings, including important discussions with the Ontario Lieutenant Governor and the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. As a break from the business at hand, a day was spent touring Niagara Falls and enjoying a relaxed luncheon in the picturesque town of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

The final destination of the trip was Calgary, where Speaker Abdul Ghani met with old friends and senior executives of Nexen Inc. and also attended the annual Graduation Dinner for Yemeni students enrolled in the Nexen Scholarship Program.



# Speaker of the Senate, Noel Kinsella Leads Delegation to Yemen

– January 10 - 13, 2008

As part of the ongoing efforts to continually strengthen established international relationships, an official Canadian delegation visited Yemen from January 10 – 13, 2008, led by The Honourable Noel Kinsella, Speaker of the Canadian Senate. The group also included Senators Donald Oliver, James Cowan and the Clerk of the Senate, Paul Belisle; as well Chief of Staff to Senator Kinsella, Janelle Feldstein and the Secretary to the Delegation, Stephanie Bond.

Objectives of the visit, were to enhance the bonds between Canada and Yemen, by promoting parliamentary exchanges; highlighting Canada's interests in the region; developing contacts; promoting education, and to discuss foreign policies with respect to issues of international and mutual interest.

During his meetings Senator Kinsella emphasized the importance of strong inter-parliamentary relationships and their ability to help nations understand one-another. Discussions took place regarding the expansion of business, investment and further collaboration in the fields of medicine and energy, as well as alliances between sea ports. It was agreed that Yemen is a country that has much future promise. As a result the topic was also raised of the need for a Canadian Embassy in Sana'a



which is essential if business is to be expanded to enable it to be poised to take advantage of the future potential of oil, gas, minerals and other industries which still remain unharnessed within Yemen's borders.

The delegation spoke of the critical importance of education and exchange programs for Yemen's future development. Other topics surrounded democracy, women's rights and the extensive renovations on the Port of Aden, destined to re-establish it as one of the most important ports

in the world.

Discussions also took place regarding the effects of instability from the surrounding regions and the negative impact of piracy, smuggling and terrorism on Yemen. It was collectively agreed that international collaboration is essential to thwart these activities.

Senator Kinsella observed that the relationship between Canada and Yemen is deeply rooted and remarked that only water separates Canada and Yemen, and water makes things grow.



# Visit to Canada by Yemen Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Abubaker Alqirbi – January 17-18, 2010

The arrival of Dr Abubaker Alqirbi in January, 2010, to meet with Canada's Foreign Affairs Minister Lawrence Cannon, was an historical occasion, representing the very first visit to Canada by a Yemeni Foreign Minister. Dr. Alqirbi, having previously lived in Canada for several years and taught at Dalhousie University in Halifax, stated that it felt like "coming home".

Upon his arrival, he attended a luncheon with Arab Ambassadors and then later that night attended a dinner hosted by the Ambassador of Yemen with Canadian dignitaries.

On Monday January 18th, the Minister attended a meeting and Press Conference with Minister Lawrence Cannon, followed by others with senior officials of CIDA and a Foreign Affairs luncheon hosted by Deputy Minister Leonard Edwards and senior staff.

That afternoon a large well-attended reception and press conference were held by the Embassy of Yemen at the Chateau Laurier Hotel. Minister Alqirbi gave a speech thanking and reassuring the Canadian people that, while Yemen faces challenges, these are not insurmountable. He cited the experience of Nexen Inc and other companies in the oil and gas industry who are expanding and doing excellent business in Yemen. He also mentioned the need for international assistance for the growth in problems emanating as a result of unrest in neighbouring Horn



of Africa, such as piracy and a growing refugee problem. Yemen has received more than 800,000 individuals fleeing across the waterways as a result.

Minister Alqirbi spoke of the great friendship that exists between our two great countries, thanking Canada for being a partner to Yemen at this time;

opening the door to a new page in the relationship that will benefit not just Yemen, but the entire Middle East. The speech was followed by an energetic question and answer period from the Press and audience members. He then bid farewell and headed onwards to Washington to meet with Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.



## Yemen's Oil Minister Visits Calgary – May, 2007

Just two years prior to becoming Ambassador of Yemen to Canada, Oil Minister Khaled Bahah, along with his delegation, came calling in Canada for Calgary-based oil companies to participate in his country's next international oil and gas bidding round, later that year, in order to significantly boost oil production capacity over the coming few years.

The first stop was Nexen Inc, where they met with the Company's President and CEO; the Senior Vice President for International Oil and Gas, and other senior officials. Minister Bahah confirmed that Yemen would provide all support facilities for the company, in accordance with legislation, in order for it to expand its operation in his country.



The delegation enjoyed a number of extremely productive meetings with a variety of petroleum industry organizations, including the Alberta Utilities Commission. In honour of the visiting Minister and his delegation, the Canada-Arab Business Council hosted a Forum, organized by former Council Chair, Dwain Lingenfelter, and President Sandra Leblanc, attended by representatives from the most influential oil companies. Since its conception almost 25 years ago, this Council has

successfully nurtured important associations in the petroleum and other rapidly emerging sectors of opportunity between Canada and the Middle East.

During the Forum luncheon, the importance of this visit and future delegations, between Canada and the Middle East, was emphasized. Presence and communication are the best means by which to develop significant personal bonds – the key ingredients for success in the Arab world.



## Yemen's Transportation Minister Visits Montreal – September, 2010

The International Civil Aviation Organization opened the 37th Session of the ICAO Assembly at its Headquarters Montreal on September 28th, 2010. Delegates from 190 member countries met to review the major issues facing the industry; setting policy; establishing budget and electing governing body members for the next three years. In attendance were His Excellency Khalid Al-Wazir, the Minister of Transport for Yemen, with his Chairman of the Civil Aviation & Meteorology Authority; the General Manager; the Director-General; and the Director of the Air Control Center.



The organization signed numerous international cooperation agreements, with regional aviation organizations from all corners of the earth to solidify its global influence in the most secure mode of mass transport in the world. They adopted a resolution on the environment to reduce the impact of

aviation emissions on climate changes, providing an action plan through 2050. They also endorsed a proactive safety strategy based on the sharing of information among governments and industry to better analyze and predict safety risks and to take action before issues result in accidents, and reaffirmed the commitment to enhance aviation security collaboratively through screening technologies to detect prohibited articles, strengthen international standards, improve security information-sharing and provide capacity-building assistance to member states in need.



# “A Mari Usque Ad Mare” – From Sea to Sea, the Canadian Motto

The opportunity to gain knowledge and understanding of a new country and its culture is one of the great advantages of becoming a Diplomat. Canada offers a vast and diverse array of, geography, environment, climate, and cultural texture for foreign representatives to explore. While the Office of Protocol offers exceptional programs for this purpose, many Ambassadors initiate additional travel to more fully discover their new surroundings.

Ambassador Bahah, having great esteem and affection for this country, has taken the Canadian motto “A mari usque ad mare” to heart and has made efforts to see every inch of Canada “from sea to sea”. The following is a small photographic journal of a selection of trips that he has undertaken in order to enhance his understanding of Canada’s democracy, values and its people, and continue to strengthen the excellent relationship between these two countries.



*Meeting with St. Mary's University, Halifax, NS – July 2009*

A pivotal meeting took place between the Ambassador and Dr. Colin Dodds, the President of St Mary's University and Dr. Alain Boutet, the Director of International Development Studies. The focus was on the expansion and vast array of future possibilities for partnership between this much-heralded institution and Yemen, with forward for consideration



*Official Visit to Government of Nova Scotia – Halifax, NS – October 2010*

As part of a two-day Official Visit with the Government of Nova Scotia in October, 2010, Ambassador Bahah met with the Hon Mayann Francis, the Lieutenant Governor of the Province. The main topic discussed throughout his meetings with all Government officials was the promotion of cooperative initiatives between maritime regions of Yemen & Nova Scotia, specifically in the fields of international education, commerce and investment, as well as the possibility of twinning the port cities of Halifax & Aden.



*Meeting with Mike Dorion, of Moncton Flight College, Moncton, NB – July 2009*

Passing by Moncton, NB, on his way to Halifax, His Excellency is pictured here with Mike Dorion, the CEO of the well-known Moncton Flight College, who kindly gave the Ambassador a tour of the college and its facilities. They enthusiastically discussed a strategy that would promote the college and recruit students from Yemen, who are interested in careers in aviation.



*Meeting with Senator Noel Kinsella – Speaker of the Senate, Fredericton, NB – July 2009*

Ambassador Bahah is seen here during his July, 2009 trip to the Maritimes, with the Honourable Noel Kinsella, the Speaker of Canada's Senate at his home in Fredericton, New Brunswick. The Speaker was instrumental in making the Ambassador's trip to New Brunswick so successful. Upon the Ambassador's arrival, Senator Kinsella, provided astonishing guardianship – sharing his time, expertise and considerable knowledge of the region, and also organizing many valuable meetings. Senator Kinsella, a great supporter of international education, is well-known in Yemen and highly regarded as a trusted colleague and precious friend.





*Meeting, Lunch & Tour at Port of Halifax, Halifax, NS – July 2009*

A thriving and bustling centre, the Port of Halifax is of great interest to Yemen. Many parallels can be drawn between this harbour and the Port of Aden. Ambassador Bahah was delighted to have the opportunity to discuss the tremendous opportunities presented by a future association between the two ports. These discussions took place with Vice President, George Malek and other Board Members, followed by a luncheon and tour of these exceptional facilities.



*Meeting with the Honourable Donald Ethell, Lieutenant Governor of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta – June 2010*

One of the first meetings of Ambassador Bahah's Official Visit to the Government of Alberta in June, 2010, was with the very distinguished Lieutenant Governor of Alberta, the Honourable Donald Ethell. The two gentlemen discussed the strong connections between Yemen and Alberta - a relationship that has lasted many years and has had particular personal significance, given the Ambassador's former role as Minister of Oil and Minerals for Yemen. He expressed his admiration for the Province, and described its beauty and dynamic business wisdom as truly astonishing. They discussed the opportunity to build upon this precious association by expanding upon existing and new partnerships in the years to come.



*Global Petroleum Show – Leaders Forum, Calgary, Alberta – June 2010*

Ambassador Bahah joined international energy leaders to share their visions on global markets, recovery and environmental issues at the Leaders Forum at the *Global Petroleum Show* on June 9, 2010. The opening remarks were delivered by International & Intergovernmental Relations Minister, Hon. Iris Evans, pictured here with (left to right) HE Dr. Mohammed Al Sada, Minister of State for Energy & Industry Affairs, State of Qatar; moderator Dr. Randy Gossen, President of the World Petroleum Council; Mr. Daniel Saba, Chairman of the Board, Perupetro, SA, Peru; Ambassador Bahah; Shri Jitin Prasada, Minister of State, Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, India.



*Meeting with the Honourable Wayne Cao, MLA – Deputy Speaker, Government of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta – June 2010*

Upon arrival at the Alberta Legislature, Ambassador Bahah met with a number of high level Government representatives including, the Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta, Mr. Wayne Cao, MLA. Discussions were held about continuing to strengthen the bonds that exist between Yemen and Alberta by developing new alliances within the Province of Alberta in the future.



*Meeting with the Honourable Iris Evans, Minister of International and Intergovernmental Relations – Government of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta – June 2010*

The Minister of International and Intergovernmental Relations, the Honourable Iris Evans, hosted Ambassador Bahah to a business luncheon. Minister Evans has served in numerous ministerial positions during her eminent and lengthy political career. Other notable luncheon guests included members of the Alberta Government Group; prominent community leaders from business and the Universities of Calgary and Alberta, as well as the Chairman of the Muslim Community. His Excellency found the ensuing discussions to be extremely worthwhile, encompassing a wealth of topical diversity.



## Building education and international partnerships

EduNova is a co-operative industry association of education and training providers in Nova Scotia, Canada. Our mandate is to work with members to promote Nova Scotia's education and training programs abroad.

EduNova's members include universities, colleges, secondary schools, the Department of Education, language schools, and private-sector partners.

Through collaboration, EduNova, and its UAE based Gulf office, secures international training contracts for members by matching their expertise to the needs of international partners and clients.

**EduNova.ca**  
CANADA'S EDUCATION EXPERIENCE



# A Journey to the World's Last Frontier – the Northern Tour – July 5-12, 2010

Since 1972, The Northern Tour, has been consistently considered the most popular of all Diplomatic outings – one of numerous outstanding programs organized by the Office of Protocol and considered a journey which defines an Ambassadors' time in Canada as the posting of a lifetime.

The week-long tour stopped in nine main locations – The Belcher Islands, Churchill, Yellowknife, Whitehorse, Dawson City, Inuvik, and Resolute, Baffin Island and Iqaluit. This required more than 25 hours of flying time and covered a staggering 12,000 km of terrain. It presented all participants with a comprehensive understanding of the sheer magnitude of Canada, as well as a rare glance at vast areas of pristine beauty of the world's last frontier.



Through meetings with Government, Chiefs and Council of First Nations people and others, they learned of the rich history and culture, as well as the triumphs and the challenges of living in remote locations. They were given an overview of natural resources, employment, defence, security, health

housing and social issues. They also brought home indelible memories of discovering a land that most people never see; a clearer understanding of the tremendous scope and challenges of this often harsh but magnificent expanse of territory; and an appreciation of the great efforts that are underway to efficiently and harmoniously blend an ancient civilization's culture, history and livelihood, with modern society's passion and hunger for "progress" and development.

As a result, they became conversant with the Four Pillars of The Northern Policy and how these fundamental pillars are applied to both Foreign and Domestic Policy Issues:

- 1) Sovereignty;
- 2) Economic & Social Development;
- 3) Environmental Protection and
- 4) Governance.

Thus was the remarkable journey to the world's last frontier. All returned with a far better understanding of those who inhabit it and the courageous and adventurous spirit of the pioneers who ventured there so long ago.

With more than 775 lawyers, intellectual property agents, and other professionals working in six major Canadian cities, Borden Ladner Gervais LLP is the largest Canadian full-service law firm focusing on business law, litigation and intellectual property solutions. BLG provides bilingual services in virtually every area of law, and represents a wide range of regional, national and multinational organizations. For further information, visit [blg.com](http://blg.com) or contact the Honourable Gar Knutson at [gknutson@blg.com](mailto:gknutson@blg.com)

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*It begins with service*



## Thirteenth Annual Diplomatic Forum in Prince Edward Island – September 26 -29, 2010

In September, 2010, the 13th Annual Diplomatic Forum took place in Prince Edward Island. While in terms of land area and population, it is the smallest of the Provinces, participants soon came to realize that its outstanding beauty and its significance as the birthplace of confederation render it a touristic and historical giant. This was the first Forum to take place in the Province.

During the course of four days on the Island, participants' attention focussed initially on Canada's foreign policy priorities, leadership and financial initiatives on the international stage, including Canada's free trade and



investment strategy, and then moved on to a multitude of Provincial issues. Events included sessions by the Minister of International Trade; the current and former Premier, the Deputy Premier and the Lieutenant Governor of PEI; plus several Ministers, including Agriculture, Fisheries, Tourism, Innovation and Education. Also joining this group were key entrepreneurs

from the vibrant and bustling business community and the President of the University of PEI.

This all contributed to making it a unique and unforgettable experience, providing all participants with an great appreciation for the PEI's culture, history, economy and magnificent beauty.

## Twelfth Annual Diplomatic Forum in Vancouver, BC – October 6-9, 2009



Heads of Mission flew to the beautiful city of Vancouver, where they visited the Olympic Oval, attended a luncheon hosted by the City and Mayor of Richmond, and then headed for Whistler Resort - home to the 2010 Olympic Games. They also attended a reception and ceremony by the Four Host First Nations with welcome remarks by Protocol Chief, Mr. Robert Peck, Chiefs of the First Nations, and the Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia.

The following days were packed with activities providing insight on the positive impact of the Olympic Games, from the Minister for Intergovernmental

Relations; the Minister of Small Business, Technology and Economic Development; and former Minister of Foreign Affairs, David Emerson who spoke of BC's Gateway Economy. A visit to Quest University was hosted by the President and Executive Director of the BC Council for International Education following which they attended a reception by the Premier of British Columbia at the magnificent Vancouver Congress Centre.

Presentations were made by The British Columbia Tourist Institute, as well as the International Studies Council of B C, emphasizing the importance of international education in strengthening

bilateral relations. Lunch was hosted in the Athlete's Village by the Mayor of Vancouver, and DFAIT held a reception with remarks by the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Working sessions were held with a variety of distinguished experts including the Minister of International Trade and the Deputy Minister of Environment Canada. The final dinner was hosted by Lawrence Cannon, the Minister of Foreign Affairs whose keynote address was, on Canada's Foreign Policy.

This marked the close of yet another stellar Diplomatic Forum thanks to the superb organizational skills of the Office of Protocol.



# The Canadian Medical Delegation “Teach the Teachers”

In 1988, Dr Martin Robinson, became the first Canadian doctor to be invited to Yemen, in order to offer assistance to improve the skills and update knowledge of Yemeni physicians, surgeons and overall healthcare in the country. Believing that additional colleagues on this inaugural visit would allow his initiative to have a stronger impact, Marty was able to obtain permission to be accompanied by two other prominent physicians. Once in Yemen, the three doctors became known as “The Canadian Medical Delegation”, a name by which they have been known for the last twenty-three years.

Within a very short time of arriving in Yemen, Robinson and his colleagues became aware that their efforts were producing immediate results and this initial success was truly gratifying and inspired confidence that, over time, future efforts were bound to yield considerable benefits to healthcare in Yemen.

Over the years, Dr. Robinson and an ever enlarging team, have annually been donating their time and tireless energy to provide assistance and teaching to the medical community at large. They have served to see dramatic results throughout the country and have transformed their motto, “Teach the Teachers”, from a mere slogan, into a remarkable and triumphant battle cry, resulting in the significant advancement of medical wisdom in Yemen.





# The Friendship Teams

Over the course of the last five years, The Christian Embassy has been involved in organizing two delegations to Yemen. In April 2005, four business leaders and two members of the Christian Embassy from Canada visited Yemen and met with a variety of individuals.

In the spirit of recognizing athletics as the language of international friendship, the exciting possibility of bringing a sports team was enthusiastically

discussed. This dream was realized in May 2006, when the Christian Embassy delegation returned to Yemen, accompanied by a Canadian soccer team eager to engage the Yemeni National Team and one of Yemen's professional teams in some friendly matches. During the course of the visit, a soccer clinic for youth was held at which time small mementos of the occasion were distributed to participants – Yemen's eager football stars of tomorrow.



This rewarding visit clearly demonstrated the importance of our international relationships and emphasized the power of sport to build bridges, eliminate cultural and social barriers, while uniting us all.



Bridges Social Development\* presents:

## Unveiling Youth Potential

**A global youth empowerment program aimed at realizing the potential of youth by supporting their leadership roles in building healthy, vibrant communities through supported entrepreneurship.**

**For more information and to request the program in your community, visit [www.unveilingyouthpotential.com](http://www.unveilingyouthpotential.com).**

\*Bridges Social Development is a Calgary-based volunteer organization and registered charity that trains and mentors community leaders - locally and abroad - in healthcare, law, journalism, education, politics and social entrepreneurship. Bridges' vision is fully realized human potential and a peaceful world abundant with optimism and hope.



# The Diplomatic Gateway

The Ottawa Diplomatic Association operates under the Patronage of the Governor General of Canada and has earned its reputation as a well-respected entity among Canadian society. Its Executive meets regularly with Parliamentarians, senior Government officials, intellectuals and business people in order to forge strong bonds and cooperative relationships within the host country, and to foster and promote excellent relationships between nations, while encouraging lasting friendships among its members.

On September 8th, 2009, Ambassador Khaled Bahah was appointed to pre-side over the Association as President. He embraced, with great enthusiasm, the opportunity to serve the Association in its promotion of friendship and the delivery of vital information about Canadian culture, politics and economics, through innovative activities that



both inform and entertain. He also recognized, as a new member of the Diplomatic Corps himself, the vital importance of providing an association that would make other newcomers feel quickly at home upon their arrival in Canada and provide a valuable framework within which they can swiftly network and conduct business without delay.

Upon the conclusion of his year as President, Ambassador Bahah re-

marked that it had been a tremendous privilege and uniquely rewarding experience to have had the opportunity to represent this lively and ever-evolving organization. He also congratulated his Executive Committee on their remarkable achievements in substantially increasing its value as an entity that adds energy and vibrancy to this beautiful Capital city. He expressed tremendous gratitude to all Diplomats for their enthusiastic support of the numerous networking initiatives and social activities occurring during his term; which greatly enhanced the ODA's capacity to act as a powerful conduit to access the highest levels of Canadian government and business, while promoting friendship and camaraderie among fellow members.

He expressed his ongoing wishes that the Ottawa Diplomatic Association will continue to develop to ensure that each diplomat benefits to the maximum from the Canadian experience; and upon completion of their tours of duty can look back in the knowledge that their contributions on a personal and diplomatic level have truly made a difference."

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# National Day

– May, 2009

The celebration of National Day is always a Nation's most auspicious event. For Yemenis, May 22nd, 1990, is the date that represents a significant turning point in history. Prior to 1990, Yemen was divided by two distinctly different regimes, backgrounds and systems. In that year, North and South were reunited to form the Republic of Yemen. The implementation of this historic re-unification changed the course of the country's social and political history for ever.

Ambassador Khaled Bahah hosted Yemen's 19th National Day Anniversary at the Hilton Lac-Lemay, in Gatineau on Monday, May 25th 2009. This grand celebration was considered to be one of the most memorable of the year, with hundreds of illustrious guests, including, President Mahmood Abbas of Palestine and Speaker of the Canadian Parliament, Peter Milliken, who were joined by many eminent parliamentarians, Ambassadors and diplomats from all continents; senior government executives, NGOs, business leaders and academic luminaries.

Of particular amusement for all of the invitees was the surprise presence of Sheeba the camel, who traveled all the way from Montreal's Granby Zoo to greet guests at the front door as they arrived. Yemeni students and Embassy staff in colourful national costume ushered guests into the magnificent ballroom, decorated with cultural artefacts and large movie screens showing magnificent and dramatic panoramas of Yemen.



In his National Day Speech, the Ambassador touched upon the remarkable past, present and future of his country, noting that, " In Yemen, it took a day to unite, but 19 years of

nurturing to progress, and quite possibly, the efforts of a future generation to attain success. While we have made enormous strides, we must be realistic and I will not trivialize the substantial challenges that lie ahead. Despite this, I wish to make it abundantly clear that Yemen is resolutely dedicated to its journey along the road to democracy. It is a destination that we deem not only worthwhile, but critical for Yemen's future as a productive nation. In addition, a strong and democratic Yemen will be essential to provide calm in the region."





# Visions of Sheba Reign on Parliament Hill & Ottawa University

– September & October, 2009

Inside the turreted walls of the ancient City of Sana'a, one will find the extraordinary studio of a most unassuming creative genius, who is considered to be one of the most significant artists in the Arab world. **Mazher Nizar** is renowned for his magnificent paintings of The Queen of Sheba, Yemen's ancient ruler, but his brush strokes speak volumes to a universal audience, by lifting cultural veils and transcending time barriers to reveal images of women in general, revealing their beauty, potential and the shared sensibilities by which they are all united.

Mazher's paintings conjure up whimsical images, interchanging between different worlds of magic, romance and faith, combining stunning visions steeped in a Technicolor rainbow of cultural diversity. His work contains the spirit of the ancient culture, but one can easily see its relevance to modern day life, as he transfers his creations from fantasy to reality, merging history, myth and philosophy with contemporary illustrations. His brilliant talent for re-invention miraculously propels Yemen's famous ruler from 2000 years ago into the 21st Century.

An exclusive showing of the works by the Yemeni artist was presented to a very special audience of Parliamentarians and Staffers by the Embassy of Yemen, on September 29th, 2009.

The stellar event was made possible under the auspices of Senator Marcel



Prud'homme and Senator Dennis Dawson who kindly invited us to display this remarkable collection of art in Room 256S at Parliament Hill.

The unusual and breathtaking room is located in Centre Block and is a work of art in itself; famous for its spectacular painted ceilings and walls, depicting Canadian cultural motifs, which provided a magnificent framework to the magical renditions of Yemen's iconic monarch, Sheba. This striking visual blend of two distinct cultures bestowed to the many illustrious guests, a fitting artistic testament to the multi-cultural appeal of Mazher's artistic talent, as well as a poignant



tribute to the very special relationship enjoyed over many years between our two great countries.

We were delighted to be able to lure Mazher out from his remarkable studio in Sana'a's ancient city walls to accompany his art collection to Canada's capital for the second part of the Exhibition, which took place on the evening of October 14th, 2009 at Ottawa University's majestic Tabaret Hall. This splendid occasion, entitled, *Beneath the Veil of the Queen of Sheba*, was hosted by the Embassy of the Republic







# Melodies of Love & Peace

Ahmed Fathi is idolized as a legend in the entire Arab region as one of the greatest oudists in the world. He was born in the port town of Alhodayda, on the shores of the Red Sea in Yemen. Ahmed was a musical child prodigy and was considered to be a brilliant artist and composer by the time he was 12 years old. As an adult, he is an international star and is a frequent performer at the world's most prestigious venues.

On June 10th, 2010, the Embassy of Yemen, in collaboration with our extraordinary friends at Nexen Inc, convinced the artist and his exceptional musicians to take a brief detour from their busy world tour schedule, to include an unscheduled visit to Calgary and honour us with a special performance of their monumental *Love & Peace Concert*.



The artist's of inspiration for this concert was President Obama's *New Beginnings* speech in Cairo. Ahmed and his musicians have compiled a beautiful musical conversation, created by the harmony of two diverse cross-cultural instruments – the oud and the flute, as a shining example of the larger potential for harmony in the diverse cross-cultural dialogue for humanity.

The message of the performance made for an unforgettable evening, speaking to us all in a beautiful musical language that extends far beyond the confines of sheer entertainment.

of Yemen, in collaboration with the Chair of Arabic Studies of Ottawa University, and provided a visual and intellectual feast for all who attended.

While the unique vision of celebrated Yemeni artist Mazher Nizar immersed his audience in an astonishing array of tantalizing imagery of the legendary Queen of Sheba; at the same time, Donna Kennedy-Glans, the former Vice President of the Nexen Oil Company, and founder of "Bridges" volunteer organization, presented her recently authored masterpiece, *Unveiling the Breath*, a refreshing and encouraging perspective on cultural diversity and human potential – the examination of conflicting perspectives and the unexpected parallels that bond us.

The Ottawa crowd was particularly struck by the evening's thematic scheme whereby the exceptional art and literary work united to bridge cross-cultural issues that are contemporary and significant, while inspiring new and dynamic dimensions to vision, conversation and dialogue.

The evening was a tremendous success and we have been able to convince the artist and the monarch to return again one day.

**To view the astonishing works of Mazher Nizar kindly visit: [www.nazir-art.com](http://www.nazir-art.com)**



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# Yemeni Students Shine Across Canada



Upon arrival in Canada, Yemeni Diplomats make it a priority to learn about the resources of a country that is to become their home-away-from-home for the next few years. They are often surprised to discover that Canada is also the foster home to one of Yemen's most valuable resources...the Yemeni student population. Although their route to Canada is through diverse auspices — The Ministry of Higher Education; the Nexen Scholarship Program, the Hadhramout Establishment for Human Development; or through private resources — they are all united in the same shared common goal — to develop the knowledge and skills by which they will all shape the Yemen of the future.

The relationship between the students and the Embassy is an important one.

It is a two-way street by which both entities benefit. The Embassy provides advice and support in a variety of ways and serves as a direct link home; the students supply essential feedback to the Embassy about their triumphs and challenges, while their dedication and academic achievements are a source of tremendous inspiration and pride to the Embassy.

The Official Residence in Ottawa hosts regular social events for local students; and the Embassy has greatly benefited from many meetings with others in Toronto, Calgary, and Halifax. The popularity of these gatherings demonstrates the very positive and close relationship that has developed between these vibrant young people and their Embassy. It has also permitted the Embassy to become familiar with the



rich and varied circumstances of each individual who is part of our beloved student community.

These meetings have evolved into relaxed and inspiring occasions with very much of a family-style atmosphere, making everyone feel right at home. They have also provided a wonderful forum for exchange of different ideas and opinions, in a supportive environment, providing solutions and advice that are both helpful and encouraging.

While the purpose of their stay in Canada is the pursuit of education, it has become evident that students will take away far more than just text-book information. The multi-cultural nature of Canada has exposed them to a varied universe which encompasses a broad range of societal and cultural differences. The development of tolerance and understanding enhances the set of essential human skills required to achieve success in the 21st Century and inspire others.

The Embassy greatly looks forward to many future get-togethers with our precious students across Canada; to build upon our strong and open relationship; to benefit from each individual's unique story; and to impress upon each one the potential that they possess to act as a powerful agent of change, dramatically influencing the destiny of generations to come.





# A Growing Spirit Of Community

A community is made up of more than a single narrative; it is a rich and complex compilation of the fascinating life stories of each member overflowing with tales of the remarkable journeys that brought them to their destinations. Recognizing the tremendous opportunity to learn from these experiences, the Embassy of the Republic of Yemen has enthusiastically embraced the initiative to create a strong sense of identity and cooperation within our Yemeni population here in Canada. The Embassy takes a particular interest in each member of the community and their own unique chronicles of the conquests and challenges associated with living in this magnificent country.

Our focus at the Embassy is to make our community feel connected to their roots in Yemen as well as fellow community members here. Interestingly, over the course of getting to know communities across Canada, we have discovered that each one is distinctly unique.

Proximity to the Ottawa community has facilitated many memorable get-togethers at the Residence; impromptu visits at the Embassy and several special events such as the art exhibition by Mazher Nizar at Ottawa University in 2009, and the particularly exciting and rousing day of competition last



July when Ottawa-based Yemenis organized the 6th annual Queen of Sheba Soccer Tournament, comprised of star athletes from Yemeni communities throughout North America.

We feel fortunate as well to have easy accessibility to Toronto, another centre representing a well-established core of Yemeni-Canadians. We have had the opportunity to visit this vibrant town on several occasions and frequently we are delighted by visits at the Embassy

when community members are in the Capital.

There are a growing number of Yemenis located in Halifax – although this is a relatively new community and made up of a fairly transitional population of people traveling regularly between Canada and Yemen, it is nevertheless an exciting and growing entity and we have greatly enjoyed our visits and look forward to many more.

Calgary which has been a popular destination for Yemeni students has now morphed into more of a youth-based community of former students who have chosen to stay in Canada and gain valuable work experience in their chosen fields. Our connections with Calgary and Nexen Inc are strong and as a result we have met students and community members quite often





during regular visits. Last year, we were particularly delighted to see so many of them when Yemen's beloved Ahmed Fathi appeared for an exclusive one-night only performance of his "Love & Peace" concert.

It is our ambition that we will continue to build upon our close relationships and strengthen the many bonds which unite us. We sincerely hope that the Yemeni communities across Canada will see us as a window through which useful information can be shared and as a trusted friend whose door will remain constantly open.





# The Troublesome Trio – Overcoming the Obstacles



## REFUGEES

Yemen has deep historical and cultural bonds with The Horn of Africa. We have shared in many similar challenges and, since early times, have shared many rich similarities as well. We feel geographically interconnected – our countries being narrowly separated by the Gulf of Aden; we have parallels in climate and terrain, and have been trading partners for 1400 years.

Somalia is regarded as Africa's most utterly failed state. The people of Somalia are exhausted and the country is in shambles, with no solution or peaceful government since the militia coup in 1991. Since that time, it has been torn apart by warlords, crushing poverty, drought and famine, leaving 300,000 dead. The outside world has given up and the end result is what we have today – a state of utter chaos.

The tragedy that envelopes the region has led to an exodus of many. Yemen's population has become overburdened by the influx of over one million refugees from this unrest. Many others risk the perils of escape in unseaworthy vessels, and many pay with their lives.

## PIRACY

Somalia's problems have also had other tragic consequences at sea as demonstrated by an alarming increase in piracy. Dozens of ships have been attacked, including commercial, cargo, cruise and UN food ships, posing a serious threat to international trade and the entire maritime industry. A failed state and lack of security has also meant that the normally rich commercial fish stock off the Somali coast has been devastated by international thieves who ravage the fish, destroy sea beds, coral reefs and jeopardize future supplies.

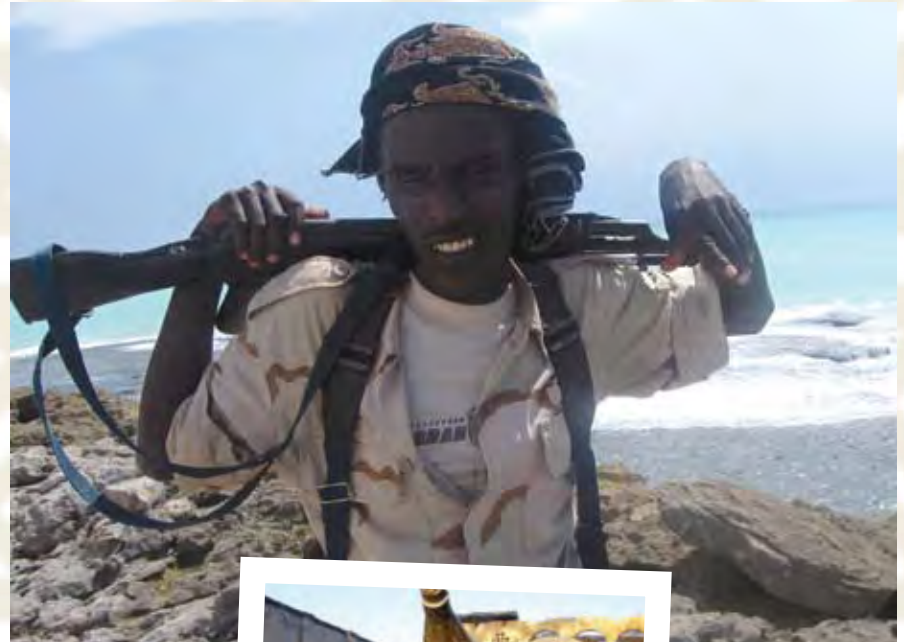




The more the world embraces globalization, the more we must realize that regional instabilities, struggles and failed states can no longer be considered the problems of “others”. The world is now small – the problems are “ours” and together we must work to solve these problems.

### **TERRORISM**

Modern-day terrorism is a relatively new phenomenon; the warning signs of its inception have been loud and clear in the concentrated emergence of radicalism among the disenfranchised people of the world. Developing nations, especially Yemen have been imploring stronger nations for security assistance for a long time. In order to eliminate terrorism, it is essential to neutralizing the source of the problem, thereby preventing the citizenry of vulnerable states from becoming victims of radical exploitation. This can



most effectively be achieved by developing mechanisms for positive change and hope through international support in education, democracy, human rights and security.





# The 20th Arabian Gulf Cup

– November & December 2010

The potential of a successful sporting event to empower a Nation, promote good will and economic stimulation, was resoundingly demonstrated by the 20th Arabian Gulf Cup Tournament of Nations, held during November and December in Aden. Eight teams participated in the tournament: Yemen; Oman; Bahrain; Iraq; Kuwait; Qatar; Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

This was the first time, since the inception of the Tournament, that it had been held in Yemen, inspiring a tremendous amount of excitement and national pride.

The opening match was played on November 22 between the host, Yemen and finalist, Saudi Arabia in Aden's May 22 Stadium. The final match between Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, attended by 50,000 people, delivered a suspenseful 120-minute game with a narrow victory by the Kuwaiti team with a score of 1-0. This was the tenth win in the team's history.

The entire tournament was conducted with great enthusiasm and the utmost sportsmanship. Such an event rendered a social, human and economic value to the people and image of Yemen that is beyond calculation,





# YEMEN

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"Whether you get your kicks from culture, history, nature or daredevil action, Yemen has it all. And here you get the coral reefs to yourself, the sand dunes are trackless and the culture is authentic. Prepare to be overwhelmed by the renowned Yemeni hospitality; when visiting the souks and villages don't be surprised to receive invitations to tea and dinner! From azure seas to valleys bathed in sunlight, from ethereal mountain landscapes to vast sandy deserts, Yemen is an undiscovered gem. Now's your chance to be truly adventurous. Visit Yemen!"



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# YEMEN HAS BECOME A PART OF US

## **WE ARE A PART OF YEMEN**

Together, we have shared many achievements. We have become more than partners and more than friends. We have become family.

Such a relationship carries an obligation: to work with the people of Yemen to help build prosperity, opportunity and a great future. We believe one factor above all would allow the people of Yemen to have a bright future: education.

To date, we have awarded scholarships to 130 Yemeni students. These students are part of a legacy we envisioned. We believe they will go on to create a legacy of their own, whether in Yemen, Canada or beyond.

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