



The Arab Human Development Team: A Report prepared for Arabs by Arabs

The *AHDR 2002* challenged the Arab world to overcome three cardinal obstacles to human development posed by widening gaps in freedom, women's empowerment and knowledge across the region.

Looking at international, regional and local developments affecting Arab countries since the report was issued confirms that those challenges remain critically pertinent and may have become even graver, especially in the area of freedom.

Nowhere is this more apparent than the status of Arab knowledge at the beginning of the 21st century, the theme of this second report. Despite the presence of significant human capital in the region, *AHDR 2003* concludes that disabling constraints hamper the acquisition, diffusion and production of knowledge in Arab societies. This human capital, under more promising conditions, could offer a substantial base for an Arab knowledge renaissance.

The Report affirms that knowledge can help the region to expand the scope of human freedoms, enhance the capacity to guarantee those freedoms through good governance and achieve the higher moral human goals of justice and human dignity. It also underlines the importance of knowledge to Arab countries as a powerful driver of economic growth through higher productivity.

Its closing section puts forward a strategic vision for creating knowledge societies in the Arab world based on five pillars:

- Guaranteeing key freedoms;
- Disseminating quality education;
- Embedding science;
- Shifting towards knowledge based production; and
- Developing an enlightened Arab knowledge model.

The *AHDR 2003* makes it clear that, in the Arab civilization, the pursuit of knowledge is prompted by religion, culture, history and the human will to achieve success. Obstructions to this quest are the defective structures created by human beings—social, economic and above all political. Arabs must remove or reform these structures in order to take the place they deserve in the world of knowledge at the beginning of the knowledge millennium.

AHDR 2003 is published by UNDP and prepared by a team of Arab scholars:

Abu-Nuwar, Abdul Muniem is director of the United Nations Population Fund in Amman. He received a Ph.D in Actuarial Science from the City University in London. Dr. Abu-Nuwar has held positions as the UNFPA Representative for Egypt and the Country Director for Syria/Lebanon, and Cyprus. Dr. Abu-Nuwar has participated in

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Abul-Majd, Ahmad Kamal is assigned to the post of Civilization Representative in the Arab League. Dr. Abul-Majd, who is an eminent law scholar and professor of law, is currently presiding over the Administrative Court at the World Bank. He has been a minister of Youth in Egypt during the period 1971 and 1973 and a minister of information during the period 1973 and 1975. Dr. Abul-Majd's publications include: *Studies on Arab Society, A Contemporary Islamic View and the Islamic Share's and its Role in Organizing the Current International Commerce Transactions*.

Al-Banna, Sami' is responsible for the strategic and operational dimensions of McKinsey's KM systems and technologies. He joined McKinsey in December 2000 from Computer Sciences Corporation where he was a partner and served as Chief Architect and Director of Strategy for the Corporate Knowledge Program. Prior to that, Al-Banna served in a variety of roles in industry, consulting, academia, and the not-for-profit sector. Al-Banna holds a Doctor of Engineering Science degree from Columbia University, a Master of Science in Engineering from the University of Rhode Island, and a Bachelor of Science in Engineering from the Al-Hikma University in Iraq.

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Al-Jabri, Muhammad Abed is professor of philosophy at Rabat University. He is a prolific writer on Arab culture and civilization. Among his published works are the following: *The Arab Rise Plan: A Critical Revision, The Formation of the Arab Mind, and The Issues of Identity, Arabism, Islam and the West*. His original writings have initiated extensive studies and stirred a profound scholarly debate.

Allaghi, Farida received her PhD in Sociology and Planning and Development from the Colorado State University in 1980. Between 1984 and 2000 Dr. Allaghi has been the Director of the Women and Children Division of the Arab Gulf Fund in Saudi Arabia, the General Coordinator for the Arab non-governmental organization Committee and General Coordinator of the Arab Council for Children and Development, both positions held in Cairo. She is currently the Senior Adviser to Prince Talal Bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, President of the Arab Gulf Programme for the United Nations Development Group.

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Fariz, Ziad received his PhD in Economics in 1978, from Keele University, United Kingdom. Presently, he is the Chief Executive Officer of the Arab Banking Corporation (Jordan), Amman. From April 1989 to December 1989 Dr. Fariz was appointed as Jordan's Minister of Planning. Correspondingly, he was appointed Minister of Trade and Industry, from December 1989 to June 1991, and re-appointed in June 1991 as Minister of Planning. Dr. Fariz served in the Ministry of Planning until November 1995, when he was elected as Chairman of the Board of the Bank of Export and Finance and was subsequently appointed as the Governor of the Central Bank of Jordan until December 2000.

Ghalioun, Burhan is professor of political sociology and director of the Center for the Study of the Contemporary Orient (directeur du Centre d'Etudes sur l'Orient contemporain) at Sorbonne University. Among his published work are the following: *A Manifesto for Democracy, The Elite Society, The Assassination of the Mind, The Arab Dilemma: The State Against the Nation*. He publishes in French, Italian and Spanish.

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Kanaan, Taher read Economics at the American University in Beirut and at Trinity College, Cambridge University, from which he graduated as PhD. He is currently the President of the Higher Council of Science and Technology in Jordan. Before assuming his current position, Dr. Kanaan was Managing Director of the Arab Bank Center for Scientific Research. Earlier in his career he served the Government of Jordan as Cabinet Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs (1985-1986), Minister of Planning (1986-1989), and Minister of State for Development Affairs and Deputy Prime Minister (1997-1998).

Jada'an, Fehmi received his Doctorat d'Etat es Lettres (Université de Paris-Sorbonne). Professor of Philosophy and Modern Arab and Islamic Thought at University of Jordan, University of Paris (Sorbonne Nouvelle) and, presently, Kuwait University. Author of many books in Classical Islamic Philosophy and in Contemporary Arab Thought including especially in French: *L'influence du stoicisme sur la pensee musulmane*, 1968; in Arabic: *The Foundations of Progress according to Modern Islamic Thinkers*, 1979; *The Inquisition*, 1989; *The Road to the Future*, 1996; and in English: *Notions of the State in Contemporary Arab-Islamic Writings*, 1990.

Khalaf Hunaidi, Dr. Rima Dr. Khalaf Hunaidi became Assistant Secretary-General and Director, Regional Bureau for Arab States (RBAS), at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in September 2000. Under her leadership, the Regional Bureau issued the first *Arab Human Development Report* in July 2002, and she continues her work analyzing many of the regional developmental issues. Dr. Khalaf Hunaidi has also pioneered important regional initiatives on Arab education issues, knowledge acquisition and economic growth. Before joining the UNDP, she was Deputy Prime Minister of Jordan where as head of the ministerial economic team, she promoted the drive for economic reform in Jordan while simultaneously working on a package for building human capabilities, alleviating human poverty and strengthening the social safety net. She also served as Minister of Planning and Minister of Industry and Trade; she was also a Senator in the Upper House of the Jordanian Parliament. Dr. Khalaf Hunaidi has a degree in Economics from the American University of Beirut, and has an MA in Economics and a PhD in Systems Science from Portland State University.

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Maksoud, Clovis is former Ambassador and Permanent Observer of the League of Arab States at the United Nations and its Chief Representative in the United States for more than 10 years. He is the Director of American University's Center for the Global South. Founded in 1991, the center examines issues affecting the developing countries of the world, characterized as the Global South. A lawyer, journalist, and diplomat, Dr. Maksoud served as the League of Arab States Ambassador to India and Southeast Asia from 1961 to 1966. Dr. Maksoud was also the League of Arab States special envoy to the United States in 1974. As a journalist, he was senior editor of the daily *Al-Ahram* in Cairo, Egypt, and editor in chief of *Al-Nahar*, an Arabic-language weekly published in Beirut, Lebanon. He is the author of several books on the Middle East and developing countries, including: *The Meaning of Non-alignment*, *The Crisis of the Arab Left*, *Reflections on Afro-Asianism*, and *The Arab Image*.

Matar, Jamil holds a Master of Arts in Political Science from McGill University in Montreal (1970). Mr. Matar is currently the director of the Arab Center for Development and Futuristic Research, which was founded in 1988. Before that he was Deputy Chairman of the General Department for Palestinian Affairs at the League of Arab States (1980-1987). Mr. Matar also worked during the period 1977-1980 as Director of the Arab Fund for Technical Assistance to African Countries. Mr. Matar has numerous publications including, with Ali Eddin Hilal, *The Reform of the Arab League*.

Rashed, Roshdi is a Professor at the National Center for Scientific Research, France. His research interest spans from the history and philosophy of algebra, classic number theory, the historical and philosophical problems in the applications of mathematics in social science, and the history of science and philosophy. Dr Rashed authored many books, including: *Essays on the History of Mathematics*, *Descartes and the Middle Ages*, and *Encyclopedia of the History of Arabic Science*: vol. 1-3. He is a distinguished member of the National Committee for Science Research, President of the Society for Historical Sciences and Arabic and Islamic Philosophy, and holds a position on the Superior Council for Universities.

Rezig, Abdelouahab is Director for the Center of North African Development, CEA/ONU, Tanger. He holds a Doctorate in Economics. Before joining the United Nations, Dr. Abdelouahab was a Professor at the University of Algeria, Member of the National Algerian Economic and Social Council, and was also General Director for the Algerian Center for Research in Developmental Applied Economics. Dr. Rezig's research work is in under-development and growth.

Shihab-Eldin, Adnan has recently joined the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries as Director of the Research Division. From March 1999-August 2001 he served as Director of the Division for Africa, and East Asia and the Pacific, Department of Technical Cooperation, at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna, Austria. Prior to joining the IAEA, from December 1991 to February 1999, he served as Director of the UNESCO Regional Office for Science and Technology and as the UNESCO Representative in Egypt, Sudan and Yemen. Dr. Shihab-Eldin is a Kuwaiti citizen, born in 1943. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering in 1965, a Master of Science degree in 1967, and Doctorate degree (PhD) in Nuclear Engineering in 1970, all from the University of California, Berkeley.

Yasin, El-Sayyid is a graduate of Paris University and a Sociology and Politics scholar. He is currently an adviser at the Al-Ahram Center for Political and Strategic Studies and a professor of political sociology at the National Center for Social and Criminal Studies. He was the Secretary-General for the Arab Thought Forum in Amman, Jordan. He is a recipient of Egypt's State Prize in Social Sciences in 1996