

# 14<sup>th</sup> International Conference Program: 3<sup>rd</sup> Business, Investments & ICT Conference



Friday, November 9 - Saturday, November 10, 2012

# National 4H Conference Center 7100 Connecticut Avenue Chevy Chase, MD 20814

Friday, November 9, 2012

10:00 am – 4:00 pm 3<sup>rd</sup> Business, Investments & ICT Conference

6:00 pm Awards Banquet Washington Marriott

1221 22 Street, NW Washington, DC 20037

Saturday, November 10, 2012

8:00 - 8:30 am **Registration, Refreshments, Exhibits Open** 

8:30 - 8:50 am Opening Prayer: Father George Rados, Pastor

Saints Peter and Paul Antiochian Orthodox Christian Church

**Introduction to the Conference** 

**Dr. Hugh Dempsey, K.M. Ob., KHS,** Vice President, HCEF Board of Directors **Dr. Saliba Sarsar,** Secretary, HCEF Board of Directors and Associate Vice President for Global Initiatives, Monmouth University

8:50 - 9:00 am Welcoming Remarks:

Sir Rateb Y. Rabie, KCHS, HCEF President/CEO

9:00 - 10:00 am The Role of Religious Institutions and Leaders in Peace-Building

The essence of religion is to worship God and to respect life and the dignity of all human beings, regardless of religion, nationality and gender. The role of religious institutions is to put those values into practice. This session will address how religious institutions are playing a vital role in peace-building, including education, housing, social services, and reconciliation efforts.

Moderator: Rev. Canon Dr. Trond Bakkevig Convener, Council of Religious

Institutions of the Holy Land and Dean of Vestre Aker, Oslo - Church

of Norway

**Speakers**: Imam Yahya Hendi, Muslim Chaplain, Georgetown University;

President, Clergy Beyond Borders

Bishop Richard Graham, Lutheran Bishop of Washington

10:00 - 10:40 am Christians of the Holy Land: Who Are They? And Why They Do Need Western Christians

**Speakers**: **Jeff Abood, KHS**, Education Master, Equestrian Order of the Holy

Sepulcher of Jerusalem, Cleveland Section

Rev. Dr. Craig Barnes, Senior Pastor, Shadyside Presbyterian

Church, HCEF Advisory Board

10:40 – 11:00 am **Break** 

11:00 -12:00 noon Palestinian Geopolitical Status under the Israeli Occupation

Jewish settlements and the Israeli wall on Palestinian territories, including Jerusalem, have complicated Palestinian life and have been serious impediments to peace between Palestinians and Israelis. This session will focus on their impact on Palestinian daily life and the larger issue of peace.

Speakers: Dr. Jad Isaac, General Director, Applied Research Institute of

Jerusalem (ARIJ)

Amb. Philip Wilcox, Jr. (Ret.), President, Foundation for Middle

East Peace (FMEP)

12:00-12:30 pm Visual Presentation: HCEF & KTH DVD

12:30 - 1:30 pm Lunch

1:30 - 2:15 pm **Special presentation** 

2:15 - 3:00 pm **Noa Baum,** Jewish Storyteller, Promoting Peace through the Art and Practice of Storytelling

3:00 – 4:30 pm **CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS** 

## 1. Investment Environment and Business Opportunities in Palestine

(3rd Business, Investment & ICT Conference Workshop)

People are at the heart of society. Investing in people pumps positive energy into society and brings hope to the future. This workshop will examine business opportunities, especially investments, job creation, and international development as they relate to Palestine. It will review actions underway in Palestine, which advance a vision of investment, leadership for investment, and resources for investment in people. These build on the strong foundations of financial management and transparency that are necessary for promoting economic well-being and prosperity.

## 2. Know Thy Heritage: Youth Leaders

This workshop will include presentations by KTH Delegates, Palestinian American youth leaders who have "visited and lived Palestine" during summer 2011/2012. They will share their life changing experience of going to Palestine for the very first time. KTH is an annual HCEF program that empowers Palestinian youth in the Diaspora by strengthening their knowledge of their Palestinian identity, culture, history, traditions, as well as their understanding of Palestinian economic environment, political landscape, and social structures and conditions.

## 3. Religious Tourism

By taking a pilgrimage, people of faith fulfill important spiritual and personal needs. The Holy Land is one of the most sacred spots on earth, which has deep meaning for the followers of the three monotheistic faiths of Judaism, Christianity and Islam. This panel will explain the importance of promoting pilgrimages to the Holy Land.

Moderator: Rateb Rabie, HCEF President/CEO

**Speakers**: **Mary Jane Fox,** *Pilgrim Center of Hope, San Antonio, TX, Founder* 

and Co-Director

Sami Abu Dayyeh, CEO, Near East Tourist Agency (NET), Owner,

Ambassador and Ritz Hotels, Jerusalem

Sami Khoury, Tourism Consultant, "Visit Palestine"

4:30 - 5:45 pm

# U.S. Presidential Election Results: Implications and Prospects for Peace in the Middle East

Historically, U.S. presidents have played key roles in Middle East affairs. The presidential election results on November 6 will be significant as they will indicate possible shifts in U.S. policies. This panel will explore the implications and prospects for peace in the Middle East given a Barack Obama  $2^{nd}$  term or a Mitt Romney  $1^{st}$  term.

Moderator: Mr. Saba L. Shami, Principal, Washington Works, LLC

**Speakers: Dr. Asad Abdul Rahman**, *Member, Executive Committee of the* 

PLO, Chairman, Palestinian International Institute

**Dr. James Zogby,** President, Arab American Institute (AAI)

5:45 - 6:00 pm

Closing Remarks and Prayer

6:00 pm

#### **Know Thy Heritage Reunion & Youth Networker**

The alumni of the 2011 & 2012 KTH Delegations welcome other youth to join them in a cultural, professional and activist networking event following the conference. This is an invitation to Diaspora Palestinians to connect with their origins, and their heritage, and to support their nation as one people, regardless of background, geographic location, religion, or political affiliation, and to build solidarity with other supporters.

The networker will be followed by a Palestinian cultural heflah!

All youth are welcome to attend!