

IRAQI BUSINESS COUNCIL

2012

COMMUNICATION ON PROGRESS

THE GLOBAL COMPACT

STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT TO UPHOLD PRINCIPLES OF GLOBAL COMPACT

In order to enhance the concept of partnership between the Public and Private Sectors and the principles of integrity and transparency, the Iraqi Business Council (IBC) was a pioneer organizer and supporter to the United Nations Global Compact Initiative concerning the social responsibility of companies. This Initiative that promotes the consolidation of ten principles adopted by the United Nations including transparency, combating child labor, integrity, environment preservation, human rights and other sublime principles that the IBC endeavored to apply to its agendas and programs since its establishment to the present date through symposiums and workshops to introduce this Initiative and its role in the development of the business society and the Iraqi civil society. IBC Board of Directors being keen on expanding participation in the activities of the local network of the Global Compact in Iraq, appointed Dr. Amila Naji holder of a Ph.D. Degree in Companies' Social Responsibility and an IBC member, as IBC Counselor for companies' social responsibility and IBC representative in the Steering Committee of the Local Network of Global Compact in Iraq.

With this in mind, IBC was keen since its foundation to establish and support health care and humanitarian aid programs for the Iraqi community in Jordan by forming humanitarian committees to support the humanitarian programs and improve the conditions of vulnerable Iraqis whether inside Iraq or those living in Jordan. The activities of this committee cover health, living and educational programs, and efforts to provide resources that assist in alleviating the sufferings of this vulnerable sector including "I HAVE A DREAM" Program to support Iraqi children inflicted with incurable diseases, "FARAH" Program which was designated to children with burns who were mutilated as a result of the obnoxious acts of terrorism underway in Iraq, and "AL-BALSAM" Program designated to aid the vulnerable Iraqi elderly patients who are in the Intensive Care Units in the Jordanian hospitals.

In addition to the aforementioned, IBC also sponsors Iraqi competencies of intellectuals, university professors, artists, scholars and other qualified dignitaries living in Jordan by means of shedding light on their creativity and supporting them to hold art exhibitions and finding opportunities to propagate their ingenuousness regionally and globally. IBC sponsorship of scientific competencies was not only limited to Jordan, but it extended to participation in the Diamond Sponsorship of “Tamayuz Award” for architectural excellence of graduation projects for students of architectural engineering colleges in Iraqi universities for 2012 to stimulate scientific ingenuousness and encourage Iraqi competencies and talents. IBC further works on promoting social ties between members of the Iraqi community residing in Jordan and outside Iraq through cultural activities and various social meetings.

Based on IBC various activities in the humanitarian field and keenness of its members to take part in the social and economic rehabilitation initiatives, with great pride IBC participated in organizing fine arts and humanitarian gallery under the title “MEMORY OF A PLACE” which represented the Iraqi man holding on to his genuine cultural roots.. crying out loud “this is Iraq, it is my land.. it is my history.. it is the dream of my children and ancestors.. it is the place that has imperishable living memory.”

This art exhibition was held in collaboration with the International Migration Organization – Iraq Mission and the Embassy of the Republic of Iraq in Jordan where elite Iraqi, Jordanian and European artists participated with the objective of supporting the affected communities in Iraq through the activities of the International Migration Organization that plays an outstanding sublime humanitarian role to alleviate the suffering of displaced Iraqis inside and outside Iraq through the support of the Iraqi Embassy in Jordan which has achieved remarkable successes turning it from an Embassy to a warm home embracing all Iraqis. This participation comes as an achievement of IBC objectives, humanitarian goals and its ethical responsibility to aid the vulnerable Iraqis inside and outside Iraq.

SAAD MUHSIN NAJI

Vice Chairman & General Secretary

Iraqi Business Council

MANAGEMENT

IBC Administration cadre includes a CEO, Public Relations Section, Fairs and Conferences Section, Computer and Technology Information Section, Accounts Section, and Members Affairs Section. IBC accounts and journals are audited by a recognized audit office, IBC also has an advocate who acts as its Legal Advisor.

IBC maintains an interactive a website, webpage on Facebook and Skype account.

During years of hard work, IBC was able to achieve successes and emerge as an upscale professional organization with manifest economic, humanitarian and cultural trait that won the respect of the Jordanian and Iraqi Governments. IBC was also recognized by many Embassies and economic organizations outside Iraq as a reference embodying all Iraqi investors. This year it was also able to become an active partner in taking special decisions concerning the Iraqi presence in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. IBC also prepared presentations and presented studies for the purpose of finding a comfortable environment for the Iraqi investor outside Iraq and promoted projects in Iraq and Jordan on the basis of a single ground that serve the regional economic integration.

ABOUT THE IRAQI BUSINESS COUNCIL

The notion of establishing IBC first started with a common desire harbored by a number of prominent Iraqi businessmen and investors living on the Jordanian soil, who decided to form an economic entity embracing them and all those who wished to join them.. that would contribute to uniting their efforts to realize the required understanding and convergence which aim at active contribution to finding out ways that would enable them to truly contribute to Iraq reconstruction drive in all fields, and play a true and active patriotic role that is required in this phase to assist in conquering the challenges that face the great people of Iraq. The notion of establishing IBC received encouragement and good response from the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and the approval of the competent Jordanian authorities to launch the Iraqi Business Council in Jordan was therefore granted.

IBC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Dr. Majid Al-Sadi Chairman of Board
- Saad Naji Vice Chairman & General Secretary
- Turki Al-Kaisi Vice Chairman & Head of Cultural Committee
- Ahmed Al-Shabender Vice Chairman& Head of Financial Committee
- Mohammed Al-Juburi Board Member & Head of Iraqi Affairs Committee
- Wasan AL- Khafaji Board Member & Head of Humanitarian Committee
- Dr. Fakhri Rasha Board Member & Head of Economical Committee
- Osama Al-Quraishi Board Member & Head of Foreign Relations Committee
- Eng. Jalal AL-Gaood Board Member
- Khaleel Al-Bunnia Board Member
- Nizar Auchy Board Member
- Maki Al-Faiz Board Member
- Mohammed Al-Saraf Board Member

IBC Committees

IBC includes the following Committees :-

Economic Committee

This Committee works on collecting data for an economic, investment and trade base whether in Iraq or the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. The Committee coordinates participation in conferences, fairs and economic symposiums that serve IBC activities.

International Relations Committee

This committee specializes in establishing and following up relations and communications with key officials, dignitaries, ambassadors and commercial attaches in Jordan, Iraq and other world countries. The Committee also organizes communications with Chambers of Commerce and similar associations for purposes of collaboration, and further sets meetings with the delegations visiting the Kingdom.

Culture & Information Committee

This Committee works on introducing and promoting the culture of Mesopotamia through conferences, symposiums and fairs. It also supports the activities of Iraqi artists and intellectuals in the Kingdom and maintains communications with media and press for the purpose of introducing IBC objectives and activities.

Humanitarian Affairs Committee

This Committee works on supporting the humanitarian programs that aim at improving the living conditions of vulnerable Iraqis in Iraq and Jordan. The activities of this Committee include health, living and educational programs, and it also works on securing donations and resources for the humanitarian programs.

Social Activities Committee

The objectives of this Committee aim at strengthening the social ties between members of the Iraqi community in Jordan and the Jordanian civil society. The Committee carries out all required activities to realize its objective such as meetings, parties, special events and social trips.

Scientific Competencies Committee

This Committee works on connecting with the scientific competencies in the Kingdom such as doctors, engineers and university professors as this Committee supports this sector through finding work opportunities or involvement in the Council's activities. This Committee also supports scientific product by assisting in the publication of books,

studies and researches. The Committee further supports activities of similar sectors that serve the Iraqi scientific competencies present in Jordan.

Goals & Objectives

The targets that IBC seek to accomplish go even farther; reaching to all that is useful and beneficial to its members, the development of their businesses, and serving the great people of Iraq, which can be summarized as follows :-

- Expand the role of the Council to act as the main incentive to develop and promote trade and investment between Jordan and Iraq.
- Contribute to the efforts aiming at developing the local civil society.
- Promote trade, industrial and investment development between the Republic of Iraq and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.
- Act as a link between the Chambers of Commerce in Iraq, other trade organizations and the Jordanian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, and work to promote the interests of the Iraqi and Jordanian local civil society.
- Collaborate with individuals and other institutions in issues of common interest.
- Introduce the Jordanian and Iraqi investors with investment opportunities in both countries.
- Arrange meetings between members of the Council and officials in the Iraqi and Jordanian Governments.
- Create a bank of information with regard to investment, trade and industrial opportunities in the two Countries.
- Assist members of the Council and facilitate their investments in Jordan and collaborate with the Jordanian authorities according to the laws and regulations in force.
- Strengthen social ties between members of the Council, the Iraqi community and the people of Jordan in general by means of holding exhibitions, festivals, and miscellaneous cultural, social, economic and scientific activities.

Principle 1 : Supporting & Respecting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Since the beginning of its establishment, the Council respected human rights relying on its deep belief and faith that man is the fundament of economic development and a key factor in the prosperity and development of countries.

According to the above, the Council's Board of Directors set a number of Codes of Ethics, bylaws and regulations that secure the rights of the Council's employees and staff according to the following basis :

Fundamental Principles and Work Plan

- Equality between men and women without any discrimination in employment, wages and privileges, relying on the criterion of efficiency upon recruitment of employees and staff.
- Holding periodic meetings with the employees to listen to their proposals and complains, and formation of a committee to detect violations to the rights of employees.
- Develop the skills of employees through training courses to increase their efficiency.
- Periodic circulation of laws and regulations through issuance of internal memos by the Board of Directors.
- Allocation of incentives and annual bonuses for all employees.

Expected results and Added Value

The Council's Board of Directors holds regular monthly meetings to recognize the conditions of its employees and listen to their needs. Through a special committee comprising of three Board members, the Board of Directors also follows up issues pertaining to violation to human rights.

Circulate all resolutions and regulations passed by the Board of Directors that deal with issues concerning the personnel. Every employee has the right to object or accept such decisions by writing an internal memo addressed to the Board of Directors.

Incentives and annual bonuses are given to all employees determined by his/her efficiency and work productivity. An employee is entitled to overtime pay when participating in any activity outside office hours.

Additionally, the Council's Human Resources Section organizes training courses to all employees to improve their competencies and skills.

The Council's role in protecting human rights is not only limited to its personnel, but also extends to protecting the rights of individuals working in companies owned by the Council members through special programs organized to shed light on the importance of the development of human resources in the companies registered at the Council.

Principle 2 : Ensuring Non-Complicity in Human Rights Abuses

Through its Humanitarian Committee, the Council is keen on ascertaining non-complicity in human rights abuse as it considers man as the fundament in the development of society, and that compliance with respecting human rights is the most important pillars of society.

The Humanitarian Committee worked on a number of initiatives and programs aiming at improving the conditions of vulnerable Iraqis whether in Iraq or Jordan. The activities of the Humanitarian Committee cover health, living and educational programs, and endeavor to secure donations and resources to cover for these programs.

In this respect, the Council carried out several projects that aim at supporting and assisting the local society, including:

“AYADI ALATAA” (Giving Hands) initiative, through which the Council organized several humanitarian campaigns for needy families and orphaned children where over 350 needy families and 150 orphans were assisted, in addition to allocating donations from the Council’s budget to support the needs of such families and children.

In addition to the above, the Council follows up the humanitarian cases relating to human rights abuse through its Follow Up Committee, where a number of the Humanitarian Committee members conduct field visits to those families to realize their needs and extend assistance.

Assessment of Expected Needs and Added Values

“AYADI ALATAA” Initiative is one of the Council’s humanitarian initiatives which it adopted and placed on its priority agenda since its foundation. The Council’s Humanitarian Committee launched this initiative that included several humanitarian campaigns dedicated to aid and assist needy families and orphaned children.

Over the past years the Council conducted several humanitarian campaigns within the framework of this initiative for instance **“TUROUD AL KHAIR”** (Welfare Parcels) which is held annually during the Holy month of Ramadan to support the needy families where items of foodstuff covering (rice, sugar, tea, cooking oil, etc.) are distributed, in addition to cash and material donations that are distributed to families living in areas such as North Hashimi, Marka, Jofa, Bayader and Al-Husseini Camp and Jasmine districts. Collaboration is also maintained with a number of humanitarian organizations taking part in the distribution process of foodstuff parcels; among these organizations is the

Japanese Peace Organization. **“AYADI ALATAA”** Initiative also includes the **“Orphan Care” Campaign** where work is carried out throughout the year emanating from the belief of the Council members and their firm conviction for orphan care not only through cash or material donations, but exertion of mass efforts to please orphaned children and fill their hearts with joy through holding certain activities, entertainment events and distribution of presents to alleviate their suffering.

In addition to the above, the Council launched the **“MAOUNAT AL SHITAA”** (Winter Aid) Campaign in favor of the Iraqi needy families living in Jordan. The Campaign included collection of second-hand and new clothes, sort them out and distribute to the needy families according to their requirements, in addition to purchasing a number of items such as carpets, blankets and heaters for those families. The conditions of these families were recognized with the aid of the Japanese Peace Women Organization and other humanitarian organizations involved in assisting vulnerable Iraqis in the Kingdom. The archive of the Council’s Humanitarian Committee was also accessed for these purposes.

Principle 3 : Upholding Freedom of Formation of Labor Associations and Respecting Their Representatives

Fundamental Principles and Work Plan

The principle of upholding the freedom of formation of labor associations and respecting their representatives is considered one of the fundamental pillars on which the Council was founded. The notion of establishing the Iraqi Business Council was based on the common desire harbored by a number of prominent investors and businessmen living on the soil of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan who decided to form an economic entity for themselves and for all those who wished to join them that would contribute to uniting their efforts to realize the required understanding and convergence which aim at active contribution to find ways that would truly enable them to contribute to the reconstruction of Iraq in all fields and play a true and patriotic role that is required at this phase to assist in conquering the challenges that face the great people of Iraq. The idea of establishing the Iraqi Business Council received encouragement and good response from the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and the approval of the competent Jordanian authorities was hence granted to launch the Iraqi Business Council in Jordan.

With this in mind, the Council believes in the right of an individual to join any licensed association for workers or similar unions that provide them with services of their aspiration. The Board of Directors allows the employees the liberty of negotiation and expression of thought to obtain any rights or wages for working in the Council.

Since 2007 the Council formed a Social and Cultural Committee of a number of members. The function of this Committee included various activities and social programs aiming at increasing the social ties between members, the Council's personnel and the local society. The program of this Committee included many social and cultural activities that contributed to increasing the social and cultural communication. Some of these activities are:

- **A lecture for Iraqi Maqam Singer Hussein Adhami at IBC Headquarters.**

Within the framework of the activities of the cultural program, the Council organized a lecture for the Iraqi Maqam singer Hussein Adhami at IBC Headquarters under the title "The Iraqi Maqam in the 20th century" at the

presence of the Iraqi Ambassador Mr. Jawad Hadi Abbas and his spouse, a number of Council members, in addition to a number of IBC's guests and friends.

- **Lecture under the title Textiles and Iraqi Carpets for the Iraqi expert Mrs. Layla Piyo.**

Within the framework of the cultural program activities, the Iraqi Business Council held a cultural lecture under the title "Iraqi Textile and Carpets" for the Iraqi expert Mrs. Layla Piyo on IBC hall in Swefiyah / Sharqiya House Building. The Iraqi Ambassador Dr. Jawad Hadi Abbas and his wife were among the audience, Minister Plenipotentiary at the Iraqi Embassy Mr. Tahseen Ena, the Georgian Ambassador Mr. Zorab Aristavi, Swiss Ambassador Mrs. Andrea Rishlin, a number of Ambassadors of Asian and European countries and their wives, in addition to a number of Council members and members of the Iraqi community. During the lecture, Mrs. Piyo presented a brief on the history of carpets and textiles in Iraq, and exhibited unique textiles from various Iraqi Governorates.

- **Old Antiques Exhibitions for the Iraqi Expert Muhammad Baghdadi**

An exhibition of antiques and old rare items was opened on the Council's hall at the presence of the Iraqi Ambassador Dr. Jawad Hadi Abbas, the Azerbaijani Ambassador Mr. Elman Arasli and a number of dignitaries and members of the diplomatic corps. The exhibition included a rare and valuable collection of jewelry, silver, porcelain, glass works, carpets and paintings. The exhibition was attended by the Council's members and a large number of the Iraqi community members.

- **Modern Iraqi Folklore Fashion Show in Baraka Mall**

Within the framework of the Council's cultural and social program, the Iraqi Business Council held a branch party for the Council's lady members and their guests at Storia Restaurant – Baraka Mall. The Council's CEO welcomed the guests with a brief presentation on the Council's activities followed by fashion show of modern folklore fashions designed by the International Iraqi designer Mrs. Hana Sadiq. At the end of the party, the guests enjoyed the delicious breakfast buffet. The party was attended by the Iraqi Ambassador's wife, a number of Council members, media and society ladies and IBC CEO.

- **First Solo Art Exhibition of Iraqi Artist Baidaa Anazi Under the Title "Palm Trees Hymns" at the Council's Headquarters**

In light of the support extended to young Iraqi talents, the Council's Cultural Committee hosted the first solo art exhibition of the Iraqi artist Ms. Bayda Anazi

under the title “Palm Trees Hymns” under auspices of the Iraqi Ambassador to Jordan Dr. Jawad Hadi Abbas. The exhibition was attended by a number of diplomatic figures, a large number of Council members, members of the Iraqi community in Jordan and a number of media people.

- **A Historic and Cultural Evening Under the Title “Baghdad.. History and Culture” for the Iraqi Historian Dr. Hussein Amin.**

The Iraqi Business Council hosted a historic and cultural evening At Al-Hussein Club – Jabal Amman under the title “Baghdad.. History and Culture” for the prominent Iraqi Historian Dr. Hussein Amin. During the lecture, Dr. Amin elaborated on the history and uniqueness of Baghdad, its imperishable culture, buildings, souks, mosques, palaces, its role in spreading the Arab and Islamic culture, how the name of Baghdad was linked to the greatness of the Arab Islamic culture, and the prominent role it played in the Middle Ages in the domain of science, culture, fine arts, construction and cultural prosperity. Dr. Amin was introduced by Architect Dr. Ihsan Fethi, and the lecture was attended by the Iraqi Ambassador to Jordan Dr. Jawad Hadi Abbas, the Council’s Chairman Dr. Majid Saedi, Vice Chairman Engineer Jalal Qaood, and a number of Iraqi community members in Jordan.

- **Daghistani Exhibition for Silver and Modern Fashion of Folkloric Character**

Under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Raad Bin Zaid, the Daghistani exhibition for silverware and contemporary fashions with folkloric character was opened in the Council’s Headquarters in Jordan, which is one of the various activities of the Council’s cultural program to recognize world’s cultures and arts. The inauguration ceremony was attended by the Iraqi Ambassador to Jordan Dr. Jawad Hadi Abbas and his spouse, a number of representatives of the diplomatic corps in Jordan, Council’s Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary General, a number of Council members and Board members, Iraqi Embassy staff, President of Daghistani Association Divan, a number of Association members, in addition to a number of the Council’s guests.

- **Fashion Show for Contemporary Arabic Fashions for the International Iraqi Designer Mrs. Hana Sadiq.**

Within the framework of the Council’s social program, the Council hosted a fashion show for contemporary traditional fashions for the international Iraqi fashion designer Mrs. Hana Sadiq. The event was attended by the Iraqi Ambassador to Jordan Dr. Jawad Hadi Abbas and his spouse, the French

Ambassador to Jordan Mrs. Corinne Brouze, Iraqi Embassy staff, Council Chairman, Secretary General, a number of Council members and their guests. The event included a show of the new variety of contemporary folklore fashions accompanied by lovely tunes.

Assessment of Expected Results and Added Values

- These activities contributed to boosting cultural awareness and social ties among Council members, staff and local society.
- A bonus was given to the Council personnel and workers who took part in organizing such events according to the efforts exerted, in addition to the bonus given on the occasions of Eid Al-Adha, Eid Al-Fitr and New Year.
- Contribute to cover for treatment expenses for the Council's staff without deducting these amounts from the monthly salary.
- Organizing tours, breakfast and lunch invitations for the staff and their families every three months.
- Support the employee in emergency cases and emergency trips abroad by bearing the financial expenses incurred by him/her and deduct certain amount of the salary according to his/her living conditions to cover for that financial aid.

Principle 4 : Elimination of All Forms of Forced and Compulsory Labor

One of the key policies of the Iraqi Business Council is respecting the dignity and rights of its personnel, not permitting any violation to their rights or any other physical or psychological abuse. The Board members work on providing suitable and comfortable work atmosphere to improve performance of its staff and enable them to work in a better mode. The Council further encourages all its members to apply this policy and promote it in the businesses they own.

The Iraqi Business Council applies the provisions of the Jordanian Labor Law, whereas Clause (75) stipulates the following:

“The employer shall be penalized for any violation committed with a fine not less than 500 JOD and not exceeding 1000 JOD if he employs any laborer forcibly, under threat, by fraud, compulsorily, including holding the laborer’s passport. A partner, instigator and intervener in this employment shall be punished with the same penalty. The fine shall be doubled in case of repetition.”

Assessment of Expected Results and Values Added to the Company

The Council believes in the values and importance of voluntary work to increase the efficiency and productivity of its personnel. It does not permit forced or compulsory labor and does not demand any guarantees or personal documents from the employee to recruit him/her.

The employee can submit a resignation request at any time, provided that he/she notifies the Management one month in advance. The resigned employee shall be given an end of service bonus, in addition to all merits.

The Council initiated collaboration with a number of humanitarian organizations and promoted a number of programs that target provision of jobs and upholding sustainable development, most significant of which :-

- **The Iraqi Business Council Concludes an Agreement with the International Relief & Development Organization (IRD).**

IBC and the International Relief & Development Organization (IRD) concluded an Agreement aiming at securing work opportunities for vulnerable Iraqis living in Jordan after completing the IRD Training Workshops Program supporting the local society. This program aims at training vulnerable Iraqis living in Jordan and rehabilitates them to work in different specializations. In response to the

invitation extended by (IRD), the Council's delegation visited a number of professional training workshops at Theodor Schneller School accompanied by the Iraqi Ambassador to Jordan Dr. Jawad hadi Abbas, Iraqi Embassy staff, and a number of (IRD) officials. The delegation toured the School, met with a number of Iraqi trainees in those workshops and witnessed the progress of training process. The delegation also met with the Jordanian MP Dr. Ghazi Msherbash Director of Theodor Schneller School, who welcomed the Iraqi Ambassador and the visiting delegation appreciating their efforts to support this program. Dr. Msherbash also briefed the delegation on the School and the programs allocated for vulnerable Iraqis in the Kingdom.

- **The Iraqi Business Council Diamond Sponsorship of "Tamayuz" Award for Architectural Excellence on Graduation Projects for Students of Architectural Engineering Colleges in Iraqi Universities for 2012.**

Proceeding from its vision to boost scientific competencies and skills, and belief in the necessity of encouraging and motivating such competencies on the pursuance of creativity, the Council participated in the Diamond Sponsorship of "Tamayuz" Award for Architectural Excellence on graduation projects presented by young students of Architectural Engineering Colleges in Iraqi Universities for 2012, which was founded solely by Iraqi efforts to uphold the young Iraqi Architect and introduce the world with the exerted academic efforts. "Tamayuz" Award aims at honoring excellence and creativity and sheds light on the young Iraqi Architect, in addition to introducing the creativity of Iraqi students to the world society of Architecture.

Principle 5 : Commitment to Effective Abolition of Child Labor

Commitment to the principle of abolition of child labor is one of the principles the Council cherishes and adheres to apply, and it also commit itself to spread awareness among companies on child labor which engulfs risks on children's lives and threatens their future which would eventually cause serious risks to international community.

The Council strongly beliefs that it is not permissible to employ anyone under the age of 15 for any reason whatsoever, whether on part-time or full-time basis or negotiate with him/her to conduct any work.

The Council's Board of Directors designed several programs to assist vulnerable and orphaned children in order to alleviate their suffering so as not to be forced to work.

Assessment of Expected Results and Added Values

The Management and members of the Iraqi Business Council do not authorize child labor, whatever the urgency may be. The Council works on preventing and combating this phenomenon for the negative impacts involved on children and society.

Members of the Humanitarian Committee of the Iraqi Business Council founded a number of programs to attend to orphaned children and children of vulnerable families and held many activities within the framework of this program to assist children and spare them the dangers of labor, among which :-

- **Uphold Iraqi Orphaned Children & Children of Vulnerable Families in Jordan**
Within the framework of the support program dedicated to orphans and vulnerable children care, the Iraqi Business Council held an entertainment party at Burger King Restaurant – Amman to distribute clothing and presents to orphaned and vulnerable children on the occasion of Eid Al-Adha. The event was attended by IBC Vice President Dr. Mahmoud Qashtini, members of the Humanitarian committee; Mr. Ahmed Saedi, Mrs. Tamara Daghistani, Mrs. Wasan Aboud, Mrs. Widad Saffar, in addition to IBC CEO and staff. The party included face-painting and a meal that the children much enjoyed. The International Relief & Development (IRD) Organization participated in this event by donating school bags and stationery to the partying children.
- **Holding A Christmas Bazaar for Orphaned & Vulnerable Children & Their Families at Baraka Mall – Amman.**

Under the patronage to the French Ambassador to Amman Mrs. Corinne Brouze and with the support and participation of the Iraqi Business Council in Jordan, Tanweer Organization held a charity Bazaar on the occasion of Christmas and the New Year under the title “SANTA CLAUS VILLAGE – CHRSTMAS BAZAR” at Ramada Hotel – Amman. This Bazaar was organized to contribute to helping many orphaned children and needy families to sense the glorious spirit of Christmas. Over 300 children of all ages and nationalities and from several charity associations were received and enjoyed concerts for Jordanian singers, in addition to the Christmas presents that were distributed in warm family and Christmas atmospheres.

- **The Iraqi Business Council Holds Entertainment Party for Orphaned Children & Their Families at Baraka Mall – Amman.**

Within the framework of the activities of its Humanitarian Committee, the Iraqi Business Council held a party for orphaned children and their families at Baraka Mall – Amman to please the children and bring happiness to their innocent souls. This humanitarian initiative was launched by the Council focused on orphan care. The party included miscellaneous child entertainments such as leap forward competition and a movie at the Prime Cinemas Theater. Red Tag Stores in Jordan distributed presents and toys on the partying children. The party also included delicious meals offered by McDonalds, Shawerma Dar, Le Gemelle and Batatee5 which the children much enjoyed. The party was supervised by the Council’s Secretary General Mr. Saad Naji, member of the Humanitarian Committee Mrs. Widad Saffar, in addition to Al-Ansar Orphans Center, a number of volunteers, Red Tag Company staff, Council’s CEO, staff and media.

Principles 6 : Elimination of Discrimination in Respect of Employment & Occupations

Fundamental Principles & Work Plan

The Council commits to nondiscrimination in employment and adheres to the principle of equality in race, sex, religion and nationality. The recruitment of staff depends on the standard of efficiency and ability to produce at work. The Council's Board of Directors is keen on giving the employees all their wages and entitlements. All employees receive their overtime wages involving any activity outside the determined working hours. It also pays the salary of an employee with excused absence whether a sick leave or travel.

Assessment of Expected Results & Added Values

In compliance with the principle of elimination of discrimination in employment and occupation, the Council appointed a number of women to occupy major positions in management and administration, the positions of CEO and Head of Work Development Department for instance. Over 40 women and female volunteers were appointed in the Humanitarian and Economic Committees from 2011 – 2012 in order to enhance the role of women in all fields. The Iraqi Business Council always seeks to hold a number of courses to empower women and help them obtain jobs to provide a continuous income that meets the needs of their families.

Principle 7 : Precautionary Approach to Environmental Challenges

Fundamental Principles & Work Plan

The Board of Directors and members of the Iraqi Business council believe that the principle of environment preservation is a significant indicator for the social responsibility for companies and civil society organizations, being an important factor in provision of suitable work environment. The members continuously seek to promote awareness of this Principle to secure a clean and safe environment. During Board meetings, practices and risks that lead to environmental pollution and preventive solutions are discussed.

Assessment of Expected Results & Added Values

- In order to reinforce the principle of environment preservation, the Council changed its policy concerning circulation of information to Board members by banning paper printed material that is harmful to the environment. It constantly updates its formal website on the internet to be a reliable source of information circulated on Board members.
- Wider usage of electronic mail instead of the post office box to reduce the consumption of paper material that is harmful to the environment.
- Cleaners take care of hygiene issues on daily basis to provide clean and safe work environment.
- The Council provides free healthy filtered water, a kitchen equipped with all necessary requirements and a fridge to store foodstuff and maintain their quality.
- Regular meetings are held with the staff focusing on the awareness and importance of preservation of environment avoiding practices that cause contamination.

Principle 8 : Promotion of Initiatives on Environment Responsibility

Members of the Iraqi Business Council initiated a number of awareness campaigns targeting the Council staff and staff of the companies owned by the members stressing the importance of preservation of environment, promoting this important principle due to its direct impact on the workers' health.

Assessment of Expected Results & Values Added to the Company

- Promotional campaigns to preserve the environment through specialized workshops on environment and usage of alternative energy.
- Banning paper printed materials and suffice with publishing such materials on the Council's website.
- Using the e-mail instead of post office box to reduce usage of materials harmful to the environment.

Principle 9 : Encourage Usage of Friendly Technology Reflecting Environment
Requirements

Through its participation in conferences and seminars on the usage of renewed energy sustained from the non-exhaustible natural resources, the Council encourages the usage of renewed energy and stresses its importance in the provision of clean and safe environment and its role in reducing global warming.

Assessment of Expected Results and Values Added to the Company

- The Council uses modern technology such as e-mail and website to eliminate usage of materials harmful to the environment.
- Participation in conferences and symposiums that aim at promoting the importance of using sustainable and renewable energy.
- The Board proposed organization of a conference on the importance of renewable and sustainable energy encouraging the companies owned by its members to invest in sustainable energy projects.

Principle 10 : Combating All Forms of Corruption Including Extortion & Bribery

One of the main factors that contribute to the economic development is the struggle against corruption. As a social responsibility, the Council seeks to combat all forms of this phenomenon owing to its negative reflections on economic and community development.

Assessment of Expected Results & Added Values

- The Council believes that business community plays a great role in combating corruption including extortion and bribery. It believes in integrity and transparency in business and providing members with all information that they need to have. It always seeks to coordinate and unify efforts with the companies owned by the members to eliminate the phenomenon of corruption.
- The standard of integrity is one of the important conditions for the recruitment of staff in the Council. Applicants must enjoy good conduct in order to be recruited.
- The Council members take part in several conferences, symposiums and workshops that are regularly held to raise awareness of the need to comply with anti-corruption laws.
- Based on the Council's vision to adopt integrity and transparency in conducting its business, the Council's personnel send circulars to the members on daily basis covering all tenders, information on investment and trade opportunities. Members are also informed of all activities to be held by the Council two weeks prior to the date of hosting the activity.
- The Board of Directors invites the members to all meetings held at the Headquarters of the Council or any other venue determined by the Board by a notice addressed to all members who have the right of attendance one week before the meeting. This notice must be attached to the agenda; any 10 members may add an item to the agenda by means of a written notice addressed to the Chairman one week before the meeting date.
- The Secretariat of the Council issues an annual report covering its activities and circulates to all members.

- The Founding Assembly elects a 13-member Board of Directors for three years, they may be re-elected by the General Assembly.

Members of the Iraqi Business Council took part in a number of conferences and workshops to promote integrity and transparency in Iraq during the past years, including :-

Participation of the Iraqi Business Council in a Workshop on the Role of Private Sector in Promoting Integrity and Transparency in Iraq

At the invitation of the United Nations Development Office, United Nations Office on Crime and Drugs and the Iraqi Commission of Integrity, the Council's Secretary General and a number of the Council members participated in a workshop on the role of the Private Sector in building integrity and transparency in Iraq held at Kempinski Hotel – Amman. During the workshop, the Terms and Provisions of the United Nations Agreement on anti-corruption and the role of the Private Sector in building integrity and transparency and combating negative phenomena that affect economy were discussed.

Council Members Applying the Initiative of Corporate Social Responsibility towards Society

In light of the social responsibility of the Iraqi Business Council and the belief of its members that social development constitute a key element to the success of sustainable development which may be achieved by upholding small projects and creating work opportunities to improve the living conditions of poor sectors that would eliminate the phenomenon of poverty, in this context, and during his participation in the Building of Arab Cooperation Bonds for Pioneering Partnership Forum, Mr. Saad Naji, Chairman of Rafidain for Projects Development Company / Chairman of Al-Naji Holding Group / Founding Member and Secretary General of the Iraqi Business Council – Jordan, presented a worksheet on adoption of certain policies by Arab Governments to support export and improve conditions of pioneering partnership.

BUILDING COLLABORATIONS FOR ARAB ENTREPRENEUR

PARTNERSHIPS FORUM

ADOPTION OF POLICIES BY ARAB GOVERNMENTS TO UPHOLD EXPORT

& IMPROVE CIRCUMSTANCES OF PIONEERING PARTNERSHIP

WORKSHEET PRESENTED BY

SAAD MUHSIN NAJI

CHAIRMAN OF AL-NAJI HOLDING GROUP

FOUNDING MEMBER & SECRETARY GENERAL OF

IRAQI BUSINESS COUNCIL – JORDAN

TOPICS:

- In the Field of Legislation.
- In the Field of Financial Support.
- In the Field of Free Flow of Information and Abilities Development.
- In the Field of Export Uphold.
- Field Experiment.

Adoption of Policies By Arab Governments to Uphold Export & Improvement of Pioneering Partnership

The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the Economic & Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) Projects on entrepreneurship relied on the philosophy of entrepreneurs training for small projects based on the belief that an individual is not born into this world possessing all the skills he requires as a project entrepreneur. These necessary skills may be acquired by training, in addition to the surrounding environment. Potential leaders have to determine feasible projects that they can manage; this philosophy also requires financial support for feasible projects, which in our opinion requires an economic environment interacting with this idea, in addition to developing and adopting government methods in this direction. In this context, we can see that Arab governments try to change the economic concepts towards openness to foreign markets, keeping up with market economies, allowing the Private Sector to play a larger role in taking economic decisions, taking part in building the country and its infrastructure and providing true and permanent opportunities that allow entrepreneurs to actively participate in the plans of development. Although the intentions of Arab governments respecting economic change are turning for the better, nevertheless, the desired dream is not yet achieved and unemployment rate is increasing in most Arab countries. Following the global economic crisis, economic growth witnessed a sharp decline in most of these countries, and the economies of the Arabic oil producing states are still isolated from the global economic system, relying in the first place on oil exports and revenues which constitute most of the revenues of these countries.

Although Arab countries have legislated and passed many laws offering a variety package of administrative and tax facilities, exemptions and guarantees to attract investors and granted them freedom of movement of their finances, but these governments omitted or provided little support to projects that embrace and encourage pioneering work.

Projects entrepreneurs are individuals who know how to exploit opportunities under all circumstances, but the competition of the state with the Private Sector in most Arab countries reduces their chances of success. There is also a flaw in the method of privatization of different facilities controlled by the state which may give an entrepreneur new opportunities. In a country such as Iraq for instance, the government still imports and trades in automobiles, still controls and imports rations items, produces all dairy products, cooking oils, soaps, cooking gas, car lubrication oils, fertilizers, water

tanks in its factories, it still runs hotels, shopping centers, vegetables and fruits markets, it still collects wastes, distributes oil products, collects bills, changes street lights, participates in construction contracts, runs silos, sprays agricultural pesticides, and the list goes on and on, where free economy in fact necessitates that the Private Sector should be involved and compete on carrying out such projects.

The Role of Arab Governments in Improving Pioneering Partnership Circumstances

1- In the Field of Legislations

There are two steps controlling the domain of economic reform that governments must approve in order to pave the path for investments and give them the chance to provide more opportunities for entrepreneurs. The issue here relates to effective participation between the Public and Private Sectors and organization of such participation. These two steps include :-

Firstly : Finding independent privatization commissions in countries where they do not maintain an existence. Such a commission has to be established according to special privatization laws that ensure consumer protection, also ensure that the buying Private Sector undertakes development of the establishment intended to be privatized. This commission takes upon itself the privatization of Public Sectors' companies according to certain forms that allow their continuation and success by means of restructuring those companies, eliminating their financial and structural burdens and re-announce these projects for tender in an attractive manner to investors through the National Investment Commission. This Commission also works on unifying ownership of the state-owned lands allocated for investment, develop or change the already existing unsuccessful projects turning them into profitable projects in performance and present them to investors through Investment Commissions. By expanding its projects, the Private Sector will certainly provide a package of requirements that can be utilized by projects' entrepreneurs.

Secondly : Finding a central commission for partnership between the Private and Public Sectors. This commission shall be established according to a specific law to regulate partnership between the Private and Public Sectors, the purpose of this commission and its law is the involvement of the Private Sector in infrastructure projects such as water, electricity, roads and bridges, airports, dams, water purification and waste recycling plants, public transportation projects, and so on of other state-owned projects, or projects intended to be established according to other modes; such as partnerships to run existing

projects or establishing new (BOT) projects (according to different known modes that may rely on the government's provision of certain facilities that an investor is unable to provide without government coverage concerning the state-owned projects, or the investor operating and developing the infrastructure utilities instead of the government). Partnership is based on the principle of providing certain service to the people by the Private Sector under government supervision. However, in most Middle East countries the existing investment laws do not provide for such kind of partnership between the Public and Private Sectors, they are substituted instead by contracts subject to varying interpretations and explanations that hinder the involvement of investors into these sectors. The provision of an appropriate legislative structure will provide new opportunities of commercial value, and once again the Private Sector would be providing diverse environment for the involvement of distinguished individuals who are able to create markets for their various projects.

2- In the Field of Financial Support.

Patrons of Arab entrepreneurship have feeble resources and technical potentials which left a negative impact on their performance. We believe that Arab governments should engineer certain financial support programs to specifically encourage entrepreneurship patrons, the establishment of small and medium-sized projects, encourage the development and sustainability of the existing projects by means of providing the patrons with soft loans and reasonable repayment periods, these projects should also be given a package of privileges, customs and tax exemptions similar to other projects that fall under the criteria of investment projects, and **ESTABLISHMENT OF A FEASIBILITY STUDIES UPHOLD FUND** for any project that an investor or entrepreneur wishes to establish. We propose that governments demand serious feasibility studies from investors on their new projects and consider such feasibility studies as grounds for provision of incentives. Since local banks are grounds for the supposed financing of projects, governments must therefore encourage the existing banks to grant loans and facilities to entrepreneurs and small projects by granting these banks certain incentives by the state's central banks. Furthermore, banks must contribute to the establishment of entrepreneur patrons considering these projects (even through a private equity) simplified forms of bank investments known as private shares. When these projects realize success they may be changed to tradable financial instruments. Here I must refer to a pioneering Lebanese experience on entrepreneur patronage in the form of a company established by a bank in collaboration with a university,

which experience yielded very interesting and admirable successful projects for entrepreneurs. We also believe that governments must redevelop and modernize schools and technical institutes according to international standards to graduate professional generations in line with the advancement we aspire.

3- In the Field of Free Information Flow and Abilities Development

In this era.. the era of globalization, internet and free flow of information through the internet we believe there is no other substitute for the electronic government (E-Government) that may provide a transparent free flow of information by publishing all that relate to the government's economic activities, tenders, projects and investment opportunities. Individuals can freely and easily familiarize themselves with all types of economic and statistical information in order to make sound decisions on their future projects. Also, finalization of public transactions through the internet will better serve people and reduce chances of all sorts of illegal exploitation. Governments must uphold entrepreneurs' patrons with advanced services such as internet services, free and speedy internet access, and provide entrepreneurs' patrons with studies and appropriate logistic support in order to play their development role.

Governments must also adopt permanent and persistent programs to develop staff abilities. Also, a special program to stimulate employees must be adopted to improve their performance such as adjustment of their wages and positions upon acquiring new skills and experiences in their field, and adoption of a constant educational program. Any investment to improve the conditions of human resources in any country will directly flow in the service of improving the position of investment and will contribute to promoting new investment opportunities.

We also call on governments to adopt large-scale programs on overseas scholarships to obtain Bachelor, Master's and Ph.D. Degrees from recognized universities to acquire new and useful knowledge to enable participants to set forth to spacious horizons and witness the world advancements.

4- In the Field of Export Uphold

It may be well observed that Arab bilateral and transit trades are the main trade exchange instruments among these countries, but the volume of bilateral trade is very limited reflecting negatively on the small projects which usually compete with one another in the same country. Therefore, finding associations or organizations that specialize in exporting entrepreneurs' projects and services is inevitable before market challenges. Thus, we propose creation of investment

fund to ensure export of commodities and services among Arab countries. This fund will also provide certain loans to finance this trade. We also propose to encourage these banks by giving them special incentives provided by the central banks to finance such economic activities, and further propose the establishment of an Arab company to insure exports allowing exporters to deal with one another according to certain guarantees as the case is in the Common European Market. Since entrepreneurs require some sort of promotion and expansion at the beginning of their careers, I call upon entrepreneurs' patrons to designate part of their budgets to promote the successful projects at the early stages of their establishment, and also call for the establishment of a permanent fair in Arab states especially for projects that emerge under entrepreneur patronage, whatever their size may be. Arab governments are required to find areas of economic attraction for small and middle-sized projects with simple profit margin that allow expansion without entering into infrastructure investments or pay high taxes.

Arab economic partnership is an important requirement for the desired Arab economic advancement, and Arab governments are required to take the example of the European Community by abolishing all boundaries to achieve true economic integration.

Conclusion

In light of the aforementioned, we may conclude that development of pioneering abilities in business is an integrated process that comes under the integrated economic reform. Entrepreneurs will no doubt provide the markets with opportunities and added economic values when provided with the adequate climate.

FIELD EXPERIMENT ON JOINT PROGRAM BETWEEN THE IRAQI BUSINESS COUNCIL / ALMORTAQA INSISTUTE / THE WORLD BANK

HOW TO SET UP YOUR OWN BUSINESS

The Iraqi Business Council is a professional organization founded in Jordan in 2006 in accordance with the provisions of the Jordanian Associations Law. It embraces over 250 prominent Iraqi investors living outside Iraq with the volume of 1450 companies and diversified investments exceeding 10 billion US Dollars. Based on the social

responsibility on upholding the civil society, the Council resolved to launch a permanent training program for entrepreneurs in collaboration with the World Bank and Almortaga Institute. The program targets Iraqis living on the Jordanian soil. The course was held at the main hall of the Iraqi Business Council.

On the Program

(201) participants participated in the first course of the program which lasted 3 months. This number included (80) females and (121) males.

Academic qualifications of Participants :

- (46) Holders of High school certificates
- (114) Holders of Bachelor Degrees
- (31) Holders of Masters Degrees, and
- (10) Holders of P.H.D. Degrees

- 40 years of age (52) participants
- 30 years of age (101) participants

Age Groups of Participants

- 30 years / 20
- Over 40 years / 48

Participants' Occupations

- 87 participants – without work
- 74 participants – Administration
- 15 participants – CEOs
- 25 participants – Employers

Course Topics :

- How to set up your own business.
- How to prepare feasibility studies.
- How to run your project.
- How to prepare financial statements for the project (costs, sales, profits and losses).
- How to expand your project.

The Arabic material of the training course was provided by the World Bank.

Entrepreneurs were trained by instructors certified by the World Bank.

Please contact IBC Headquarters for more information on the outcome of this course.

Proceeding from the principle of social responsibility of companies in preserving environment and natural resources, which is considered a fundamental topic in sustainable development, the Research & Studies Department in the Iraqi Business Council under supervision of Engineer Jalal Qaood, Chairman of the International Trading Group / IBC Vice Chairman, presented studies on the nature of environment in Iraq and development proposals.

- **THE ENVIRONMENT IN IRAQ.. IS IT OVERWHELMED WITH OBLIVION OR CORRUPTION?**
- **WASTE & DEBRIS.. ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES HAUNTING IRAQ**

THE ENVIRONMENT IN IRAQ.. IS IT OVERWHELMED WITH OBLIVION OR CORRUPTION?

By Consulting Engineer Jalal Qaood

Prelude

Environment is a significant issue in the present times. The United Nations focuses on environment, the civilized countries paid serious attention to the environment and passed many laws and regulations to preserve it and imposed harsh fines on violators and those who adversely affect the environment particularly after the incredible increase of the world population, which prompted many scientists and researchers to seriously study means of building and preserving a suitable environment for man.

When touring the Iraqi cities, one can witness the extent of destruction that man can inflict on his environment. Meanwhile, I shall attempt to give personal observations from Anbar Governorate, and I believe that similar observations can be witnessed in any other Iraqi city as no deterrent penalties are imposed on those who cause such destruction. Those who inflict destruction on the environment are oblivious to the extent of harm that would be reflected on the Iraqi society, themselves and their families. Another reason can be attributed to insufficient allocations for preservation of environment, or the fact that such allocations may not be feasibly used, or are mismanaged (if corruption is not involved) on the grounds that no one asks or cares!

Wastes & Debris

A guest will be surprised at the scene of piles of trash that fill vacant areas in the cities especially the entrances of cities that are supposed to be beautiful and shapely reflecting the civilized identity of its inhabitants. The problem of wastes and debris extends to residential areas becoming a center and hotbed for diseases, epidemics and unpleasant odors giving uncivilized example of the society. Wastes, debris, old abandoned equipment and everything out of need are dumped in the undeveloped spaces within the residential areas. These spaces should have been shapely gardens, beautiful parks and playgrounds for children as originally designed by the municipal authorities, or were they merely a design on paper and reality is something way too far from it?

This may be attributed to lack of basic services such as sewage, cleanliness, and necessary requirements for preservation of environment, and inability of the authorities

to provide the simplest basic requirements for society in line with the environmental needs and public taste.

The most serious question that haunted my mind when I observed these painful and grim scenes of dumped debris and wastes; how would the reaction of any investor visiting Iraq be? Would he ever be attracted and willing to invest in a feeble and inert institute that is even incapable of cleaning its own streets and finding proper waste dumps? How would any investor react, how would he offer the required benefits to a society that do not mind dumping trash and debris in the neighborhood right next to houses and approve of pools of waste water in residential areas and do not even bother to question the government on their rights as a human beings to dispose of such wastes and debris?

Industrial Workshops at Cities Entrances

Entrances of most of the Iraqi cities became crowded with industrial workshops and garages for cars and equipment repair as if an industrial district is the ideal and perfect sight to welcome guests to the city. It is very common in advanced cities to define the course of industrial areas according to noise and level of pollution, yet the industrial cities in Iraq are merely shops aligned on both sides of the main streets at the entrances of the cities advertising their services randomly on sidewalks or use them to exhibit and store their goods and expand their business by means of exploiting such extensions in line with their requirements which is a fundamental cause of environmental pollution.

If it were only for industrial areas, we would say that this environmental challenge requires capable organizations and sizeable potentials that the Iraqi institutes may not be able to provide now, but the truth is definitely the opposite as I came to understand from the residents and officials that large budgets do exist and modern equipment allocated to dispose of the wastes and debris are available, but officials were unable to resolve the issue for unknown reasons!!

The Heart of the City (City Center)

World cities and towns boast and take pride in organizing and beautifying their city centers as they consider the center of the city a beating heart reflecting people's culture and identity. We all recall how outstandingly Rashid Street stood in the past with its remarkable buildings, beauty and cleanliness of its street, and we may say that about most of the world known cities. As for the city of Hit (which may be taken as an example for most of the Iraqi cities), the case is much different. In Hit commercial city center (if we may call it so) one may witness evident trespassing on sidewalks as they are considered natural extensions for shops according to the prevailing norms of

society. One can also see open sewage covers, dust, dirt, wastes and debris which are really disturbing scenes. We are now in the twenty first century and in a country possessing remarkable financial and human potentials that can make it one of the richest countries not only in the region but worldwide, bearing in mind that Hit is one of the oldest cities in Iraq as it dates back to some 6000 years. The images given here show the remainder of a town that was fully populated until the past twenty years, but now it is only accumulated ruins overlooking the timeless and most beautiful Iraqi river (the Euphrates).

Pollution of Euphrates Waters (Riverside)

The city of Hit maintains a unique location on the Euphrates River with its generous orchids and beautiful waterwheels. It is really unfortunate now that the river bank has become a waste and sewage dump which pollutes the Euphrates waters and extends to pollute the waters of the cities located on the river. God only knows the share of pollution that reaches the southern cities of Iraq through which the Euphrates River passes. As for sewage, it does not get any treatment, but sent directly to the river as the attached images show. This sewage comes from the open discharge canals in streets and markets, and no one knows the materials it contains that threaten the lives of all living creatures mainly man.

Proposals for Development

The following proposals may assist in resolving the above problems:

- 1- Removing wastes and debris and designating a trash dump outside the city borders, providing trash containers in different locations and every street, set special programs to educate people on waste disposal and impose fines on violators.
- 2- Encourage the Private Sector to establish waste recycling services particularly the plastic, metal and paper wastes.
- 3- Establish small modern industrial cities in appropriate locations provided with basic services where workshops and light industries can be shifted, encourage this sector to move to these cities by means of providing electricity and water services, and apply strict restrictions and fines on workshops that operate outside the boundaries of these cities.

- 4- Enforcement of explicit laws for building, determining commercial and service streets and residential areas, regulating the process of building through adoption of clear laws and rules, taking into account the development of a clear vision for the shape of the city and its main streets prompting everyone to comply with these laws, and impose fine on violators based on a study conducted by the competent bodies.
- 5- The government must take the lead as to the rehabilitation of cities and public utilities, and pave the grounds for potential investors and encourage them to start with their investments without any obstacles. This initiative necessitates that local administrations of these cities negotiate with the competent government departments in charge of development and planning and the relevant investment commissions and take the lead as to the initiation of all required decisions that concern investment, finding proper solutions for all barriers that may delay or hinder the implementation such projects.

Conclusion

The city of Hit may represent an example of all Iraqi cities as problems and obstacles are always the same. The state legislative and executive institutions must re-evaluate achievements and find new means and more effective policies as to the execution of projects, development plans and services rendered. The state's budget is deep into operational allocations (that exceeded 70% of the general budget) on expense of the investment program, bearing in mind that the investment program is the changing tool towards building a civilized society.

I hope that my article is interesting enough, and would attract the attention of all those who are keen on building a new Iraq, looking forward to everyone's cooperation to create a new reality in line with Iraq's economic potentials to create a proper environment suitable to realize decent living and improvement of the lives of ordinary citizens, and God bless.

WASTE & DEBRIS.. ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES HAUNTING IRAQ

By Consulting Engineer Jalal Qaood

When a person visits a beautiful city or well designed and organized park it is only natural that he wishes that his city enjoys and be blessed with those same qualities. This is a feeling that constantly haunts me as it does all Iraqis who have had the opportunity to travel the world and see the standard of living realized and enjoyed by advanced societies. Everything we see we wish it for our country (Iraq) and its cities; good organization, cleanliness, and breathtaking prosperity because we believe that Iraq possesses remarkable potentials for prosperity that distinguish it from world countries. Unfortunately this distinction and uniqueness could not make their way to reality, and we keep on looking with a sigh and a lump in the heart at the well-being of other states such as Europe and the United States and several other neighboring countries such as Turkey, Gulf States and Jordan.

My recent visit to a number of towns and areas in Anbar to visit family members, relatives and friends and witness the conditions of the town on the ground, as they really are, with no beautifying touches, was a complete disaster. Drawn by nostalgia, I toured a number of towns including, of course, the city of Ramadi, and the towns of Hit, Haditha, Furat, Baghdadi, Berwana and Haqlaniya. During this tour I managed to witness and acquaint myself with many issues that represent the true reality in which Iraqis live, which may require more than one written article to cover and deal thoroughly with the size and complications of those serious problems facing society, all government institutions.. on all levels.. vertically and horizontally!!

However, in this article I shall tackle an issue that may seem, at the first glance, very simple and insignificant, but implies lots of serious and tough challenges encountering decision makers to deal with since Iraq has become the land of debris and wastes!!

I am confident that all visitors to Iraq coming either from Jordan, the Gulf States, or from the other countries of the civilized world will be shocked at the piles of trash filling empty areas in the cities, in addition to bumpy roads, holes, and alleys filled with stagnant water and ditches. It is quite amazing that wastes and debris are piled on the main roads leading to the cities, as if those in charge of those cities take pride in this scene and compete with one another on the volume of their wastes and the magnitude of the resulting environmental hazard!!

Entrances of most of the Iraqi cities became crowded with industrial workshops and garages for cars and equipment repair as if the industrial district is an ideal and perfect sight welcoming guests to the city. It is very common in advanced cities to define the course of industrial services according to noise and level of pollution, yet the industrial cities in Iraq are merely shops aligned on both sides of the main streets at the entrances of the cities advertising their services randomly on sidewalks or use them to exhibit and store their goods and expand their business by means of exploiting such extensions in line with their requirements which is a fundamental cause of environmental pollution.

With the lack of basic services such as sewage, cleanliness and environment preservation requirements, the unique and distinctive architectural and environmental style of the Iraqi cities have become a living example depicting collapse of the institutions responsible for urban regulation, with the disappearance of basic services and failure to regulate the society's simplest requirements in line with the society's environmental requirements and taste.

If it were only for industrial areas, we would say that this environmental challenge requires capable organizations and sizeable potentials that the Iraqi institutes may not be able to provide now, but the truth is definitely the opposite as I came to understand from the residents and officials that large budgets do exist and modern equipment allocated to dispose of the wastes and debris are available, but officials were unable to resolve the issue for unknown reasons!!

As regard the commercial city center (if we may call it so) one may see flagrant trespassing on sidewalks as they are considered natural extension and annexes to shops according to the norms prevailing in society, also images of open sewage covers, dust, dirt and waste, which the society got used to, and do not constitute a problem anymore!! The government, even the society, and local institutions regard these violations as acceptable and quite common by virtue of habit, and not as failure of both parties to perform their duties.

The attached images are for the City of Hit taken only one month ago! Hit is considered one of the oldest cities in Iraq as it dates back to some 6000 years. The images here show the remainder of the town that was fully populated until the past twenty years, but now it is only accumulated ruins overlooking the timeless and most beautiful Iraqi river (the Euphrates).

There is an urgent need to write another article discussing the issue of architecture and cities planning since the present reality of architecture constitutes a tremendous challenge, necessitating utter collaboration of both the state and society to find sound

ways to deal with as it does not take into consideration people's need, social nature or the climate factor, and lacks vision and the aesthetic logic of architecture.

The problem of debris and wastes persists and extends to residential areas where they become centers and hotbeds for diseases and unpleasant odors presenting uncivilized example of this society. Dirt, wastes, old abandoned machinery and everything that is out of use are dumped in undeveloped lands within residential areas instead of being gardens, parks and playgrounds for children as originally designed on the municipal layouts. Unfortunately they were just a design on paper, but reality is something entirely different!

The disaster, however, does not end here. This distinguished city which once poets and artist praised and glorified in their works for its unique location on the Euphrates River, its generous orchids and beautiful waterwheels, tuned now into a dump area for wastes and debris.. and even the banks of the timeless Euphrates River did not survive it. Society is now threatened with pollution and contaminated water especially those towns situated on the River.

Our deep apologies to our brothers and sisters in the southern part of Iraq, as no one knows the volume of contamination that reach them and their children because of this negligence, bearing mind that all drinking water projects in Iraq lack the necessary requirements for the production of drinking water complying with the specifications of the United Nations. In most cases, water projects suffice only with sand filtration!!

As for sewage, it does not get any treatment, but sent directly to the river as the above images show. This sewage comes from the open discharge canals in streets and markets, and no one knows the materials it contains that threaten the lives of all living creatures mainly man.

The rest of the cities of Anber Governorate were not cleaner than Hit. On the contrary, Ramadi and other cities of the Governorate were even dirtier, with more deteriorating conditions. What truly surprised me that when some friends, who saw these ugly and repulsive images of the cities of our beloved country, confirmed that Basra and other cities in southern Iraq and even Baghdad are no different, having their good share of this level of negligence.. perhaps even more!!

It is really pathetic that the city of Ramadi awarded a contract to a German company to clean the city, but it did not succeed in meeting its obligations. Isn't clear that the expertise required to implement such jobs is not available in Iraq? And as one of the friends who saw these pictures commented "it is almost like distant dream to go back to Iraq in the 1970s.. to those simple, safe, secure and clean towns".

Apologies to those who had lived in the era of Monarchy in Iraq.. please forgive us.. for our generation is the generation of republics.. the generation of modern democracies in torn garments of nationalism.. stained by the repulsive deeds of political conflict.

The most serious question that came to my mind when I observed these painful and grim scenes of dumped debris and wastes is how would the reaction of any investor visiting Iraq be? Would he ever be attracted and willing to invest in a feeble and inert institute that is even incapable of cleaning its own streets and finding proper waste dumps? How would any investor react, how would he offer the required benefits to a society that do not mind dumping trash and debris in the neighborhood right next to houses and approve of pools of waste water in residential areas and do not even bother to question the government about their right as a human beings to dispose of such wastes and debris? The local councils are also neglectful and have no concern to ask why the case is so, and who is responsible?

What is the case of this man who is content with his children living in a polluted environment and drinking contaminated water mixed with their waste? He is a man robbed off his will and terrified of telling the truth, raising questions and objecting because his living would be threatened.

Thus spreads corruption and corruptors.. for there is no one to hold them responsible and question them on wasting the budget and spending billions of dinars that were allocated for removal of debris and wastes. In spite of the ugliness of scenery and the volume of challenges, but God bestowed on our country plentiful blessings, though the Iraqi man is still unable to properly invest in them. Let's take Hit City as an example of these blessings and captivating nature that may be uniquely invested.

Here is the city that is deep rooted into history.. that sits on of the banks of the world's most beautiful river.. that carries a historic legacy extending thousands of years back.. here it is buried in waste and debris due to the negligence of its people and their engagement in securing the simplest requirements of daily life such as services and decent living.

It is easy for an investor to imagine and think of tens of projects that may be implemented in such a city; such as waterfront development, construction of traditional and historic souks provided with modern services to encourage local tourism at the very least, building of 3 or 4 star hotels for guests to visit the area, enjoy palm plantations and tour the desert, rebuild the town to become a historic, artistic and social front distinguishing the city. However, if we want to think about that, the state organizations must undertake many steps to pave the way for a proper environment capable of

attracting investors. In the case of this historic city, the local councils must take some measures; amongst which:-

- 1- Removal of wastes and debris and designate a trash dump outside the city borders, provide trash containers in different locations and every street, set special programs to educate people on waste disposal and impose fines on violators.
- 2- Encourage the Private Sector to establish waste recycling services particularly the plastic, metal and paper wastes.
- 3- Build small modern industrial cities in appropriate locations provided with basic services where workshops and light industries can be shifted, encourage this sector to move to these cities by means of providing electricity and water services, and apply strict restrictions and fines on workshops that function outside the boundaries of these cities.
- 4- Redesign the city layouts taking into consideration the communities' requirements such as services, transportation and green zones, and make use of the city's natural resources, its history and uniqueness so that it may become a center for investment projects.. creating an attraction point for tourism, careers, education and civil planning of the city.
- 5- Enforcement of explicit laws for building, determining commercial and service streets and residential areas, regulating building through adoption of clear laws and rules, taking into account the development of a clear vision for the shape of the city and its main streets prompting everyone to comply with these laws, and imposing fines on violators based on a study conducted by the competent bodies.
- 6- The government must take the lead as to the rehabilitation of cities and public utilities, and pave the grounds for potential investors and encourage them to begin with their investments without any obstacles. This initiative necessitates that local administrations of these cities negotiate with the competent state departments in charge of development and planning and the relevant investment commissions and take the lead as to taking all required decisions that concern investment, finding proper solutions for barriers that may delay or hinder the implementation such projects.

- 7- The state institutions must work hard to regain their prestige through elimination of financial and administrative corruption, activation of the judiciary role, clear and effective separation of powers, activation of the legislative and supervisory role of local councils, upgrade these councils through training and lectures, encourage the election of competencies, appointment of competencies in the executive systems with the responsibility to implement plans and programs, enforce law and security and respect the individual, render services through a reasonable time schedule, focus on the implementation of all services without delay; for example but not limited to, removal of debris and waste which only requires a sense of responsibility. I can see in this city an example of all other Iraqi cities; as problems and obstacles are quite the same. The international conferences held on investment and development of the systems of the state and their effectiveness are efforts that yielded only pitiful results. This is clear evidence that the present adopted strategy has failed. The state's legislative and executive institutions must reevaluate achievements, find new ways and more effective policies as to the implementation of projects, development plans and provision of services, The state's budget is deep into operational allocations (which exceeded 70% of the general budget) on expense of the investment program that should be given priority, bearing in mind that the investment program is the changing tool towards building a civilized society. Although the operational costs exceeded 70% of the general budget, yet it did not add anything to the national income due to dominance of the Public Sector and weakness of the Iraqi Private Sector.

Finally, I would point out that this report is a summary of the Iraqi Bossiness Council's applications on the principles of public responsibility of companies and it is part of all presentations made by the members in this context to achieve sustainable development. We would also point out that the Council is ready to provide further details pertaining to any part of this report.

We extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to the United Nations representatives and staff working on this initiative, and all members of the local network of the International Compact for their noble efforts to promote the social responsibility initiative for companies, and their keenness to build an integrated community where economic development that serves community can be achieved.