



13th International Conference Program

Saturday, October 29, 2011

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

8:30 - 9:00 am **Opening Prayer:**

Welcoming Remarks:

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

Introduction to the Conference

Dr. Hugh Dempsey, K.M. Ob., KHS, Vice President, HCEF

Dr. Saliba Sarsar, Secretary, HCEF Board of Directors and Professor of Political Science and Associate Vice President, Monmouth University

9:00 - 9:45 am

The Christians of the Holy Land

Clergy and church leaders in the Holy Land and the U.S. will review the current challenges facing Christians in Jordan, Palestine, and Israel, and ways to overcome them.

Moderator:

Fr. Drew Christiansen, S.J., Editor-in-Chief, America Magazine, HCEF Co-Founder and Advisory Board Member

Speakers:

Auxiliary Bishop William Shomali, Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem

Rev. Samer Azar, Pastor, Evangelical Lutheran Church of Church of the Good Shepherd, Amman, Jordan

9:45 – 10:00 am

DVD Presentation by Prince El Hassan bin Talal of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan



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- 10:00 -11:00 am **Peace Building/Interfaith Voices of Peace**
- Speakers will elaborate on their efforts in advocating peace; how their faith encourages peace and their perspective on why peace is possible, even in and especially during this critical juncture in time.
- Moderator:**
Claudette Habesch, *Secretary General, CARITAS Jerusalem, HCEF Advisory Board*
- Speakers:**
Rev. Dr. Fahed Abu Akel, *AMIS Executive Director, Peachtree Presbyterian Church; Moderator 214th General Assembly Presbyterian Church, HCEF Advisory Board*
Imam Yahya Hendi, *Muslim Chaplain, Georgetown University; Clergy Beyond Borders*
Rabbi Arthur Blecher, *Beth Chai, The Greater Washington Jewish Humanist Congregation*
- 11:00 – 11:30 am **Know Thy Heritage: Youth Presentation and Visual** (*Youth Conference*)
- “Know Thy Heritage” Palestinian American youth leaders who have “visited and lived Palestine” in July-August 2011 will share their experience. 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.
- 11:30 – 12:45 pm **Investing in Our People, Investing in Our Future**
(*2nd Investment and Business Conference Panel Discussion*)
- People are at the heart of society. Investing in people pumps positive energy into society and brings hope to the future. This panel 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.
- Speakers:**
- Dr. Jihad Wazir**, *Governor, Palestine Monetary Authority*
Hashim Hani Shawa, *Chairman of the Board, General Manager, Bank of Palestine*
Ammar Aker, *Paltel Group, CEO, Paltel Foundation*
- 12:45 – 1:45 pm **Lunch**
- 1:45 – 2:00 pm **Visual Presentation: HCEF ~ Investing in Our Community, Building the Future**
- 2:00 – 2:30 pm **Keynote Speaker: Looking and Moving Forward in Palestine**
Dr. Hanan Ashrawi, *Palestinian Legislative Council*



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2:30 – 4:00 pm

CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS

1. **Investment Environment and Business Opportunities**

(2nd Investment and Business Conference Workshop)

This workshop will examine business opportunities, especially investments, job creation, and international development as they relate to Palestine.

Speakers:

Dr. Jihad Wazir, *Governor, Palestine Monetary Authority*

Hashim Hani Shawa, *Chairman of the Board, General Manager, Bank of Palestine*

Ammar Aker, *Paltel Group, CEO, Paltel Foundation*

2. **Know Thy Heritage: Youth Leaders** *(Youth Conference)*

This workshop will include presentations by KTH Delegates, Palestinian American youth leaders who have “visited and lived Palestine” during July-August 2011. They will share their life changing experience of going to Palestine for the very first time.

3. **Religious Tourism**

As HCEF’s official Living Stones Pilgrimage Coordinators and Managers, Select Travel International and the Ministry of Tourism Antiquities (MOTA) will focus on the importance of promoting pilgrimages to the Holy Land making Palestinian Territories as the tourism destination.

Speakers:

Edita Kronic, *President, Select International*

Representative, *Ministry of Tourism Antiquities (MOTA)*

4:00 – 5:15 pm

The Long Overdue State of Palestine

A majority of Palestinians live in the occupied territories without citizenship or enfranchisement of any kind, self-determination or independence, and are subject to the arbitrary rule of the Israeli military. They watch as their land is steadily colonized by Israeli settlements, which are both a violation of international law and a human rights abuse against those living under occupation according to the Fourth Geneva Convention. This panel will assess the recent UN vote on Palestine and explain necessary steps to actualize the State of Palestine.

Moderator:

Dr. Saliba Sarsar, *Secretary, HCEF Board of Directors and Professor of Political Science and Associate Vice President, Monmouth University*

Speakers:

Dr. James Zogby, *President, Arab American Institute*

Dr. Shibley Telhami, *Anwar Sadat Professor for Peace and Development, University of Maryland, College Park*

Ambassador Maen Areikat, *Chief of Mission, General Delegation of the Palestine Liberation Organization to the United States*



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5:15 - 5:30 pm

Closing Remarks & Prayer

5:15 - 7:00 pm

Reception: All conference participants are cordially invited to the reception. This affords an excellent opportunity for all to meet and network at all levels as individuals, educators, and business leaders.

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