



# Council Chronicle

## Vol. 6, No. 3 (Summer-Fall 2012)

The National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations is pleased to provide the *eighteenth* edition of the *Council Chronicle*, the Council's periodic newsletter. The *Chronicle* seeks to keep the Council's alumni, donors, and other supporters informed and updated. One among other efforts to do so on an ongoing basis is achieved by presenting highlights and special reports related to the Council's year-round educational programs, events, and activities. For new readers interested in learning more about the Council's vision and mission, together with the ways and means it utilizes to pursue both objectives, please visit the Council's website at [ncusar.org](http://ncusar.org).

## Message from the President

People often ask the following question about the impact of the National Council's projects, programs, events, and activities: "How can one measure the short- and longer-term effects of the Council's educational and youth leadership development efforts?" The answer is anchored in a single, multifaceted fact. Like nothing else, it is measured in the



*A student delegate from Northeastern University in Boston, Massachusetts displays his certificate for outstanding representation of his country's policies and positions.*

increased levels of reciprocity of respect, knowledge, and understanding that one can discern within the relationship between the Council's *vision* and *mission*, on one hand, and the Council's continued commitment to the building, sustaining, strengthening, and expansion of the U.S.-Arab relationship, on the other. It is measured in the Council's ongoing efforts to help develop the U.S.-Arab leadership skills and empirical educational experiences of one young person at a time. It is measured in the observation that every single Council employee is an alumnus of the Council's Model Arab League Program -- in itself as dramatic an illustration of the linkage between cause and effect as one could imagine. It is measured in the composition of most of the delegations enrolled in the Council's yearly Arabic language study programs and cultural immersion experiences in five Arab countries. And finally, it is also measured by the ever-increasing number of the participants accepted annually into the Council's University Student Summer Internship/Leadership Development/Academic/Work-Study Program in the nation's capital.

In this issue of the *Council Chronicle*, one will find illustrations of but one among other means of measuring the "returns" to the growing number of individuals, investors, and institutions who are as eager and determined as we are to achieve that which the Council seeks to accomplish.

Dr. John Duke Anthony  
Founding President and CEO  
National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations



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## About the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations

Founded in 1983, the National Council is an American educational, non-profit, and non-governmental organization. The Council is dedicated to improving American knowledge and understanding of the Arab world. It endeavors to do this through leadership development. To this end, among other things, it organizes and administers people-to-people exchanges and an annual Arab-U.S. policymakers' conference that brings together many of the foremost American and Arab specialists on the multiple dynamics of the overall relationship between the United States and Arab governments, economies, and societies. For each of the past two years, the conference has drawn more than 1,200 participants. With coverage by C-SPAN, the international satellite television network, additional millions are able to benefit from the proceedings through that medium as well as the Council's website at [ncusar.org](http://ncusar.org).

The National Council produces specialized publications, including an electronic newsletter. In addition, from its inception to the present, the Council facilitates the participation of American students and faculty in Arab world study abroad and Arabic language learning experiences as well as intensive year-round and summer university student internships combined with an academic seminar and work-study experience in the nation's capital.

The National Council's *vision* for the U.S.-Arab relationship is anchored in the legitimate needs, concerns, interests, and key foreign policy objectives of the American and Arab peoples. The vision rests on a solid and enduring foundation of strategic, economic, political, commercial, and defense cooperation strengthened continuously by exchanges of present and emerging leaders among Americans and Arabs alike.

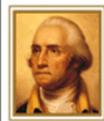
The National Council's *mission* is educational. It is committed to building, maintaining, and wherever possible strengthening and expanding the human, institutional, and programmatic bridges between and among the American and Arab peoples. It seeks in particular to enhance American awareness and appreciation of the multi-faceted and innumerable benefits that the United States has long obtained and continues to derive from its relations with the Arab world. A hallmark of the Council's mission is its emphasis on the publication and dissemination of documented facts.

In its efforts to defend the United States and the legitimate interests of the American people, together with those of America's Arab friends, allies, and strategic partners alike, the Council's goal seeks to harm no one. It seeks to do whatever is possible to restore what was once an extraordinarily positive reservoir of goodwill towards the United States and respect for American policies throughout the Arab world. It endeavors to do so because of the pervasive region-wide negative reaction in recent decades among tens of millions of the Arab world's citizens and millions more among the world's 1.4 billion Muslims who view many of America's policies towards Arabs and Muslims as unfair and unjust.

In pursuit of its mission, the National Council serves as a U.S.-Arab relations programmatic, informational, and human resources clearinghouse. In so doing, it provides cutting edge information and insight to national, state, and local grassroots organizations, media, and public policy research institutes, in addition to select community civic, religious, business, and professional associations.

# Annual University Student Washington, DC Internship Program: May - August 2012

The National Council's Model Arab League/Arab-U.S. Relations Youth Leadership Development Program has been linked for many years to the Council's **Annual University Student Washington, DC Summer Internship Program**. The Summer Intern Program's participants are alumni of the Models and other rising young American and Arab leaders of tomorrow. U.S. Ambassador (Ret.) Edward Gnehm made it possible for the 2012 program to be administered again in association with The George Washington University's (GWU) Institute for Middle East Studies in the Elliott School of International Affairs. Ambassador Gnehm is a member of the GWU faculty where he is the Kuwait Professor of Gulf and Arabian Peninsula Affairs. As in previous years, the 2012 Internship Program provided fertile training ground and an invaluable firsthand professional work experience for young American leaders interested in a career devoted to improving U.S.-Arab relations.



THE GEORGE  
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WASHINGTON DC

*The National Council expresses its appreciation to The George Washington University and The Elliott School of International Affairs for the use of its seminar facilities for the 2012 Summer Internship Program in the nation's capital.*

The program, which lasted from May 29 - August 3, provided 25 students an opportunity to work in the nation's capital at 18 organizations involved in one way or another in efforts to improve Arab-U.S. relations. The experience is one that could not possibly be duplicated or paralleled by the students' university studies on campus. In addition to their time assisting with the office routines of their host organizations, the interns met and were briefed as well as mentored several times a week by some of America's most renowned specialists in international relations as they pertain to the Arab world.

By design, the primary focus of the academic component of the program centers on a sub-region of the Arab countries, the Middle East, and the Islamic world: *Arabia and the Gulf*. The reason relates to three truisms. Each one has implications for American and other countries' needs, concerns, interests, relations, and key foreign policy objectives. First, this particular region, together with its maritime and aviation routes, has long been regarded globally as the epicenter of the most strategically and economically vital energy resources that drive the engines of the world's economies.



*As these maps illustrate, the academic focus of the internship program is on Arabia and the Gulf which, despite being of vital strategic and economic importance globally, remains little understood by most Americans and many others.*



*National Council Internship Program participants visited and were briefed by diplomats at the U.S. Department of State.*



*Council Internship Program participants visited the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia to receive a briefing from Mr. Nail Al-Jubeir, Director of the Embassy's Information Office.*

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Second, Arabia and the Gulf remain front and center among some of the most pressing international issues relating to war and peace as well as world economic growth. Indeed, it is the one part of the planet more than any other to which, on three separate occasions, extraordinarily large numbers of American and other foreign armed forces have been mobilized and deployed in the past quarter of a century. Third, the ongoing importance to much of humankind represented by these nine countries – Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen – is undeniable. Despite this, the number of Americans who specialize in this sub-region and its member states, or can legitimately claim to be well-informed about the external and internal political dynamics of these countries, remains exceptionally limited.

Accordingly, one of the program's objectives is to increase the number of foreign affairs practitioners that are as knowledgeable of Arabia and the Gulf's internal and external dynamics as possible. To that end, most of the lectures address issues related to the member-states' systems of governance, political realities, economic and social development, and their foreign relations, on one hand, and, on the other, the relationships of the United States with this Arab sub-region and its neighbors -- and *vice versa*.



*The interns visited the U.S. Supreme Court during one of their weekly excursions that allowed them to explore some of the unique institutions in the nation's capital.*



*National Council President and CEO Dr. John Duke Anthony addressed the interns on half a dozen occasions -- in this one on the topic of "Understanding the Arab World: Lenses Through Which to Look and Learn"*

Internship Program alumni currently serve as senior diplomats in American embassies in the Arab world, in U.S. government executive branch agencies as well as Congressional committees dealing with U.S.-Arab policy issues, major national and international print as well as broadcast media, leading American corporations engaged in U.S.-Arab trade, investment, technology cooperation, and the establishment of joint commercial ventures, and as teachers of Arabic and Arab area studies in American universities.

The Arab-U.S. relations programs, activities, and functions represented by the eighteen organizations and corporations that provided the professional work experience component of this year's program are varied. Included among their missions and activities are educational development and exchanges, bimonthly and quarterly publications, humanitarian relief services, public broadcasting, academic area studies, international transportation, foreign trade, and peace and justice advocacy. An additional feature of the Internship Program is site visits to public and private sector institutions such as Arab embassies, energy corporations, congressional committees, and government agencies.



*Intern program participants visited the Embassy of Bahrain to receive a briefing by H.E. Houda Ezra Ibrahim Nonoo, Ambassador of Bahrain to the U.S.*



*The interns met with and were briefed by National Council Arab World Journalism Intern alumnus Mr. Afshin Molavi, Senior Advisor for Oxford Analytica and author of, among other books, The Soul of Iran: A Nation's Journey to Freedom.*

Administering the 2012 program were National Council President Dr. John Duke Anthony as Chairman and lead lecturer. Director of Student Programs Megan Geissler served as Coordinator, assisted by staff members Josh Hilbrand, Byron Lewis, Colin Moore, and Mariam Klait as Assistants. Included among the many lecturers were The Honorable Molly Williamson, former Senior Foreign Policy Adviser to the Secretary of Energy, former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Commerce, and former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense and State; Mr. Abed Ayoub, Legal Director of the American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee; Mr. Afshin Molavi, Senior Advisor for Oxford Analytica, Columnist for *The National*, and Alumnus of the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations Morris Arab World Journalism Program; H.E. Maen Rashid Areikat, Palestinian Ambassador to the U.S.; Mr. Bill Corcoran, President of American Near East Refugee Aid; Mr. Nail Al-Jubeir, Director of the Information Office at the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia; Mr. Luyen Tran, Director of the Middle East and North Africa Office at the U.S. Department of the Treasury; Ms. Courtney C. Radsch, Senior Program Manager at Freedom House; H.E. Houda Ezra Ibrahim Nonoo, Ambassador of Bahrain to the United States of America; Mr. Laith Ulaby, Facilitator at Soliya; Mr. Aaron Snipe, Spokesperson and Deputy Director in the Bureau of Near East Affairs at the U.S. Department of State; Ambassador James Larocco, former U.S. Ambassador to Kuwait and Current Director of the Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Studies; H.E. Dr. Mohammed Alhussaini Alsharif, Ambassador of the League of Arab States to the U.S.; Ms. Camille Elhassani, Senior Producer at Al Jazeera English; and Lieutenant Colonel Abbas Dahouk, Middle East Foreign Area Officer in the U.S. Army.

# The National Council's Model Arab League Student Leaders Visit Lebanon

The National Council, in partnership with the Lebanon Renaissance Foundation, an independent, non-governmental, and non-sectarian educational organization, organized and escorted a delegation of ten Model Arab League students on a cultural immersion study visit to Lebanon, June 21-July 3, 2012. Through the study visit the students gained direct personal exposure and experience in Lebanese culture, society, and economics, and came away with a more deeply informed knowledge of Lebanon's strategic aims and requirements as they pertain to Lebanese-U.S. relations and Lebanon's role in regional and world affairs.

The study visit's participants were selected from applicants with outstanding records of professionalism, research, debate, and leadership at one or more of the National Council's 15 Model Arab Leagues in 2012. Led by Council Malone Fellow and Model Arab League Advisor Professor Linda Pappas Funsch, ten students were chosen from as many different universities. Together they formed a delegation of talented American emerging leaders from institutions of higher education throughout the United States. A key factor in their selection is that the students had a minimum of two semesters remaining before completion of their degrees. The stipulation of this requirement is strategic. It ensures the students will have a full year to share what they learned in and about Lebanon with their classmates, professors, and members of their local civic, business, and professional associations.



The program began with a pre-departure orientation session at the National Council's Washington, DC office. The objective: to introduce the participants to some of America's and Lebanon's foremost scholars and specialists on



*The Model Arab League student delegation visited the remains of the fabled cedars of Lebanon, a UNESCO World Heritage site.*

Lebanon and Lebanese-U.S. relations with a view to providing the students with otherwise hard to come by background and perspective on what they would experience and ways of sharing their newfound knowledge and understanding with as many people as possible upon their return to the United States.

While in Lebanon the delegation was based in Beirut but was able to explore numerous different parts of the country. For example, the students visited Baalbek, a UNESCO World Heritage site; Mount Lebanon; the Qadisha valley and the remains of the famous forest of cedars of Lebanon, also a UNESCO World Heritage site; the majestic Bay of Jounieh; Byblos, another UNESCO World Heritage site; southern Lebanon and the ruins of the Beaufort Castle; and Beiteddine at the

time of its annual festival. The group also explored Beirut's many neighborhoods, and experienced its thriving art community at festivals and concerts. In addition, the delegation visited several schools in Lebanon, including the American University in Beirut and Lebanese American University.

The delegation met with and was briefed by government officials, business people, academics, policymakers, civil society representatives, and student peers. In every meeting the students were able to discuss a wide range of topics, including economics, government and politics, history, religion, media, youth and women's issues, foreign relations, and more. Through their meetings as well as the visits to sites of cultural and historical interest, the students were able not only to experience daily life in Lebanon but also to appreciate all its dynamic and often complex political, economic, social, religious, security, and diplomatic dimensions.



*The Model Arab League student delegation met with Washington Bureau Chief for Al Arabiya Mr. Hisham Melham during their Pre-Departure Orientation Session in Washington, DC.*



*The student delegation visited the Temple of Jupiter in Baalbek, a UNESCO World Heritage site.*



*The MAL student delegation visited Beiteddine and experienced its annual summer festival.*



*The MAL student delegation visited the American University in Beirut.*



*The MAL student delegation met with government officials, business people, academics, policymakers, civil society representatives, and their student peers while visiting Lebanon.*



*The MAL student delegation experienced Lebanese culture, society, and economics.*

# The National Council Organizes and Escorts a Delegation of United States Naval Academy Midshipmen on a Study Visit to the UAE

The National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations, in coordination with the Emirates Center for Strategic Studies and Research (ECSSR), organized and led a May 11-20, 2012 study visit to the United Arab Emirates for the United States Naval Academy (USNA) in Annapolis, Maryland. The Academy's delegation was comprised of twelve Midshipmen and two faculty members. The visit provided the Midshipmen an opportunity to explore the dynamics of some of the major economic, political, and social determinants of UAE culture as well as the country's modernization and development.



*Midshipmen from the United States Naval Academy visit the UAE's Critical National Infrastructural Authority during a study visit sponsored by the Emirates Center for Strategic Studies and Research.*

Escorted by National Council Board Member Elizabeth Wossen and Executive Vice President Patrick Mancino, the participants visited the Emirates of Abu Dhabi and Dubai. Delegation members met with and were briefed by officials at the UAE Joint Command and Staff College; the UAE Naval Forces and Coast Guard Schools; the Abu Dhabi Media Company; the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC); Lockheed Martin; the Critical National Infrastructural Authority; Masdar (a pioneering "green" energy) City; Jebel Ali Port, the one shore facility frequented annually by U.S. Naval personnel more than any other outside the United States; the UAE National Crisis and Disasters Management Authority; and other sites and institutions. They also participated in four academic workshops at ECSSR, met with officials from the UAE Ministry of Presidential Affairs' Center for

Documentation and Research, and were briefed by U.S. Ambassador to the UAE Michael Corbin and embassy staff. In addition, the Midshipmen were introduced to a maritime variant of UAE traditional culture while navigating the vibrant waterfront commerce of the Emirate of Dubai on a *dhow*, a traditional Arab wooden sailing vessel, and exploring the pre-oil era traditions of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi in its heritage village exhibitions, together with the ECSSR seminar and other educational activities.



*The National Council's delegation from the U.S. Naval Academy visited the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs.*



*The Council's U.S. Naval Academy delegation visited the UAE Ministry of Presidential Affairs' National Center for Documentation and Research in Abu Dhabi, long recognized internationally as one of the foremost centers of its kind in the Arab and Islamic worlds.*

# Intensive Arabic Language Study Abroad Programs

The National Council offers students study abroad opportunities, including intensive Arabic language programs, through partner institutions. During the Summer of 2012 the Council placed students in the following programs:

Eleven students studied at the **Arab-American Language Institute in Morocco (AALIM)** in historic Meknes. Students at AALIM take formal Modern Standard Arabic classes, complete out-of-the-classroom assignments, and may choose to take additional Moroccan *darija* dialect classes. Students gain direct personal experience in Moroccan culture, history, and society through a variety of day excursions, local outings, workshops, and demonstrations. Meknes is an ideal setting for students to focus on learning Arabic while exploring ancient and modern Morocco. The main AALIM center is located inside the traditional walled old city, called the Medina, and is just a short walk from the bustling town center in the New City.



Two students studied at the **AFKAR Academy at Yarmouk University** in the historic city of Irbid, Jordan. The AFKAR Academy program is especially designed for students seeking to further their proficiency in Arabic language and exposure to Arab culture. The program features in-class instruction along with extensive time spent with language partners in small groups. Irbid, which recent excavations reveal dates back to 2500 B.C., is rapidly growing into a modern city. The city is surrounded by numerous smaller towns and villages, creating a mosaic of different communities with a mix of urban and rural life-styles. In addition to language instruction, students visit historical sites, including Petra, Wadi Rum, and Aqaba.



One student studied at the **Summer Institute for Intensive Arabic Language and Culture (SINARC) at Lebanese American University** in Beirut. The SINARC program is situated in the heart of the Lebanese capital and provides students a unique perspective on Lebanese culture and daily life. Students take courses in the Arabic language at various levels of proficiency, with the formal language instruction enriched by immersion in an authentic cultural context. Cultural activities include weekly lectures on topics related to Arab and Lebanese politics, history, society, and culture as well as excursions to historical, cultural and tourist sites throughout Lebanon.



*Students studying at the Arab-American Language Institute in Morocco visit the Roman ruins of Volubulis.*



*Students studying at the Arab-American Language Institute in Morocco in front of the Royal Palace Gates in Fez.*

# Fall 2012 Model Arab Leagues

## Northeast Regional Model Arab League Boston, MA - November 2-4

The 2012 Northeastern University Regional Area Model (NERMAL), convened at Northeastern University in Boston November 2-4, 2012, succeeded on multiple levels. Student delegates debated and passed resolutions on numerous diverse topics reflecting the real-life domestic dynamics and policy challenges presently facing all 22 of the League's member-states. Schools participating in the 2012 Northeastern Regional Model included: Simmons College, University of Massachusetts Lowell, Northeastern University, Colby College, University of Massachusetts Boston, Fitchburg State University, Converse College, University of Pittsburgh, Bard College, Emmanuel College, United States Military Academy at West Point, Roger Williams University, and Texas State University – San Marcos.



*Student delegates vote on a resolution in the Council on Political Affairs.*



*Student delegates in the Council on Palestinian Affairs collaborate in drafting a resolution.*



*The Northeast Model's student secretariat meets to review the progress that various councils are making on their resolutions.*



*National Council staff member and alumna of the Model Arab League Program Ms. Maria Pantelis addresses the Opening Session of the Northeast Regional Model.*



*Student delegates debate an amendment to a resolution in the Council on Social Affairs.*

## Capital Area Regional Model Arab League

Washington, DC - November 10-11

The National Council, in partnership with the Georgetown University Graduate School of Foreign Service's Center for Contemporary Arab Studies, hosted the Fourth Annual Capital Area Regional Model November

10-11, 2012. The formation of the Capital Area Regional Model Arab League in association with Georgetown University is the result of a pair of complementary forces and factors. One is the continuing national need for greater knowledge and understanding of the Arab world in the United States. The other is the extraordinary popularity of the Council's National Model Arab League. The latter event has been convened annually each spring in Washington, DC for nearly three decades. That Model typically has more than 300 participants. Always filled to overflowing, the National Model Arab League has long been unable to accommodate the many additional numbers of students and universities eager to be allowed to participate. Hence, the establishment of an additional Model Arab League in the nation's capital.



*Student delegates vote on an amendment to a resolution in the Council on Environmental Affairs at Georgetown University's Capital Area Model.*

Over 120 students from McDaniel College, Bloomsburg University, Université Laval, University of the District of Columbia, George Washington University, Millersville University, Christopher Newport University, Mount St. Mary's University, Gettysburg College, Trinity Washington University, American University, and Southern Illinois University Edwardsville took part in these two days of debate on Arab world issues at one of America's leading institutions of higher education. Since its inception in 2009, the Capital Area Model has grown in size each year. The focus of the debates at this year's Model ranged from developments in Syria, Egypt, and Libya, to civil dynamics, economic and social development, and defense as well as environmental cooperation.

Highlights included opening session remarks by H.E. Mohamed M. Tawfik, Ambassador of Egypt to the United States, and closing session remarks by National Council President & CEO Dr. John Duke Anthony.



*Student delegates cast a final vote to pass a resolution during the Summit Session of the Capital Area Model.*



*Student delegates confer while drafting a resolution in the Council on Political Affairs at the Capital Area Model.*

# National Council Public Affairs Briefings

## *The Gulf Cooperation Council at 31: Implications of Trends and Indications for GCC and US Interests* May 24, 2012

On May 24, 2012, the National Council and the U.S.-GCC Corporate Cooperation Committee hosted “**The Gulf Cooperation Council at 31: Implications of Trends and Indications for GCC and US Interests**” at The Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center.

Dr. John Duke Anthony, Founding President and CEO, National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations, served as primary facilitator and moderator. Participating specialists were Dr. Odeh Aburdene, participant in international economic, business, and investment forums in Bahrain, Qatar, UAE, and Saudi Arabia; Ms. Randa Fahmy Hudome, former U.S. Department of Energy Associate Deputy Secretary; Mr. Andrew Rabens, U.S. Department of State Bureau of Near East Affairs; Mr. Robert Sharp, U.S. Department of Defense’s Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Studies; Ms. Molly Williamson, former Deputy Assistant Secretary at the U.S. Departments of Commerce and Defense, former Acting Assistant Secretary at the U.S. Department of State, and former Senior Foreign Policy Advisor at the U.S. Department of Energy; and Mr. Joshua Yaphe, U.S. Department of State Bureau of Intelligence and Research.



*The National Council’s “GCC at 31” briefing examined how the GCC has become the most successful Arab sub-regional inter-state organization in history and the members’ likely positions, roles, capacities, and key foreign policy objectives in the period ahead.*



*(Left to Right) Arabian and Gulf specialists Dr. Odeh Aburdene, Ms. Randa Fahmy Hudome, and Mr. Joshua Yaphe, Director, Arabian Peninsula Affairs, Bureau of Intelligence and Research, U.S. Department of State.*

A transcript as well as audio and video recordings of the program are available on the National Council’s website [ncusar.org](http://ncusar.org) and through [iTunes](#) and [YouTube](#).



*Ms. Molly Williamson, National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations and Middle East Institute Scholar in Residence, and former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Commerce, Defense, Energy, and State.*



*(Left to Right) Mr. Andrew Rabens, U.S. Department of State, and Mr. Robert Sharp, National Defense University’s Near East South Asian Center for Strategic Studies.*

## *Crisis Yemen: Going Where?*

June 26, 2012

On June 26, 2012 the National Council and the U.S.-GCC Corporate Cooperation Committee hosted “**Crisis Yemen: Going Where?**” at the City Club of Washington, DC. The event was co-sponsored by the Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Studies, U.S. Department of Defense/National Defense University. Participating specialists were Ambassador Barbara Bodine, Lecturer and Director, Scholars in the Nation's Service Initiative,



*“Crisis Yemen: Going Where?” briefing.*

Princeton University, and former U.S. Ambassador to Yemen; Mr. Gregory Johnsen, Ph.D. Candidate, Princeton University, author, *Waq al-waq* blog and *The Last Refuge: Yemen, al-Qaeda, and America's War in Arabia*, and former Fulbright and American Institute for Yemeni Studies Fellow in Yemen; Dr. Charles Schmitz, Associate Professor of Geography, Towson University, President, American Institute for Yemeni Studies, and former Fulbright and American Institute for Yemen Studies Fellow in Yemen; and Mr. Robert Sharp, Associate Professor, Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Studies, U.S. Department of Defense/National Defense University. Dr. John Duke Anthony, Founding President & CEO, National Council

on U.S.-Arab Relations, former Fulbright Fellow in the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, and official observer for four of Yemen's presidential and parliamentary elections, served as primary facilitator and moderator.

Audio and video recordings from the program are available on the National Council's website [ncusar.org](http://ncusar.org) and through [iTunes](#) and [YouTube](#).

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## *Infrastructure and Business Opportunities in North Africa*

September 6, 2012

On June 26, 2012 the National Council hosted “**Infrastructure and Business Opportunities in North Africa**” at the City Club of Washington, DC. The event was co-sponsored by the U.S.-GCC Corporate Cooperation Committee, National U.S.-Arab Chamber of Commerce, and Sidar Global Advisors.

Participating specialists were Mr. Carl Kress, Regional Director for the Middle East, North Africa and Europe Region, U.S. Trade and Development Agency; Ms. Randa Fahmy Hudome, President, Fahmy Hudome International; Ms. Laura Lombard, Director, Business Development, Sidar Global Advisors; Mr. Steven Mayo, Business Development Officer, Project and Structured Finance, Export-Import Bank of the United States; Ms. Deborah McCarthy, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary and Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Finance and Development, Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs, U.S. Department of State; and Mr. Curtis Silvers, Executive Vice President, National U.S.-Arab Chamber of Commerce. Dr. John Duke Anthony, Founding President & CEO, National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations; and Member, U.S. Department of State Advisory Committee on International Economic Policy and its subcommittees on Sanctions and Trade and Investment, served as moderator.



*“Infrastructure and Business Opportunities in North Africa” briefing.*

Audio and video recordings from the program are available on the National Council's website [ncusar.org](http://ncusar.org) and through [iTunes](#).

# Help Support the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations

Please Make an Annual, Quarterly, Monthly or One-Time Tax-Deductible Donation\*

The National Council depends on its supporter's contributions to continue its educational mission to strengthen and expand U.S.-Arab relations. We invite you to contribute to the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations Annual Fund. \*The Council is recognized as a 501(c)(3) public charity and contributions are federally tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed under law. Tax-deductible gifts to the Annual Fund provide vital unrestricted revenues that help support the Council's full range of programming. You can make your gift payable to the National Council on U.S.- Arab Relations through a safe and secure online credit card donation by visiting the National Council's website, [www.ncusar.org](http://www.ncusar.org), or you can mail a check to the National Council at:

National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations, 1730 M St. NW, Suite 503, Washington, DC 20036

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**Mr. David Bosch**; also: former Director, Washington Office, Aramco Services Company; former Vice Chairman, American Business Council of the Gulf Countries; former President, American Business Council in the Eastern Province, Saudi Arabia; and former Board Member of the Middle East Institute, The World Affairs Council of Washington, DC, the Textile Museum of Washington, and Georgetown University's Center for Contemporary Arab Studies.

## National Council Management and Staff

**Founding President and Chief Executive Officer -- Dr. John Duke Anthony**; see above;

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