

MBI Al Jaber ● Foundation

# review

Summer 2007

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**MBI AL JABER**  
Foundation

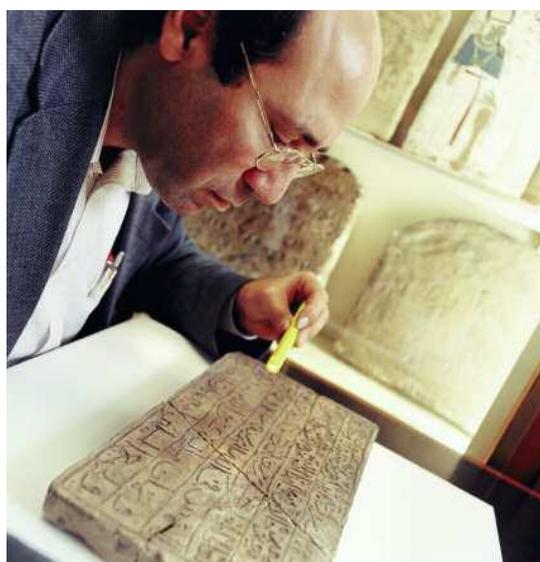
## Donation to UCL's Institute for Cultural Heritage: a centre for inter-cultural dialogue

*We are proud to announce a major donation to University College London's Institute for Cultural Heritage, due to open in 2010. The Institute will present a unique combination of culture, heritage and technology, housed in a landmark public building in central London. The building is designed by Dixon Jones, whose recent work at the National Gallery, National Portrait Gallery extension, and refurbishment of the Royal Opera House has attracted widespread acclaim.*

The Institute will be an international research centre, developing our understanding of the role of global cultural heritage in learning, promoting inter-cultural dialogue and fostering new heritage-related technologies. It will house UCL's most important collections of rare books and manuscripts, Egyptian archaeology and art; to be displayed, interpreted and studied in dramatic new galleries and beautiful reading rooms. And it will train over 150 international young professionals each year for the cultural industries: museums, galleries, archives and libraries.

This will be a place where members of the public meet and challenge academics. With a lively programme of exhibitions, events, workshops and public lectures, the Institute will engage diverse

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## Welcome to the MBI Al Jaber Foundation Review.

*Our latest Newsletter highlights some of the Foundation's recent projects and activities and also catches up with more of the Alumni from our long-standing scholarship programmes.*

This edition of the Newsletter is our biggest yet, and illustrates the wide range of programmes with which the MBI Al Jaber Foundation is involved, from giving grants to new building projects at some of Britain's elite institutions of Higher Education to innovative scholarship schemes: the items here highlight some of the ways in which we strive to forge links between the Middle East and the wider world through educational and cultural activity.

The Newsletter also celebrates the global nature of our activities, with updates on the MBI Al Jaber Foundation - France, sponsored roundtables in the United States and, not least, the appointment of our Patron and Chairman, H.E. Sheikh Mohamed Bin Issa as UN Spokesperson for Global Forums on Reinventing Government.

For further information on all Foundation activities, please go to: [www.mbifoundation.com](http://www.mbifoundation.com)



*Corpus Christi College, Oxford*

## The MBI Al Jaber Building: a new auditorium at Corpus Christi College, Oxford

*We are pleased to announce a further donation towards the building of an auditorium at Corpus Christi College, Oxford that will provide a venue for lectures and conferences and for drama, film and musical performance.*

Corpus Christi College, Oxford, founded in 1517 is one of the constituent colleges of the University of Oxford, home to 360 undergraduate and graduate students. The College has beautiful buildings, including a wonderful library and splendid dining hall, dating back to the 16th century; but it has long been in need of a larger space for academic and social activities. The planned auditorium will be the most important building to be constructed on the site in over 300 years.

The College held an international competition for the design of the building. From 105 submissions, a short-list of six was selected. From this short-list, a Jury Panel operating under the aegis of the RIBA eventually chose Rick Mather Associates. Recognising that international

architectural competitions of this type are expensive to manage, MBI Al Jaber generously contributed towards the cost of the competition.

Rick Mather has produced an exceptional design which will complement the existing buildings whilst providing a facility of the highest quality to meet the 21st century needs of the College and of the wider Oxford community.

The new auditorium will also be available for events organised by the Foundation. It will be named the MBI Al Jaber Auditorium in recognition of the generosity of the MBI Al Jaber Foundation.



## UN Global Forum on Reinventing Government, Vienna, 26 – 29 June.

Chairman of the MBI Al Jaber Foundation, Sheikh Mohamed Bin Issa Al Jaber has been appointed UN Spokesperson for Global Forums on Reinventing Government, by the Director of UNDESA (United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs) for his dedication to governance and public service and his commitment to the promotion of public and private partnerships on behalf of the Division for Public Administration and Development Management.

The Global Forums, inaugurated in 1999, have been organized to address government reinvention and aim to improve governance and enable the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The events host senior government officials, civil society organizations and representatives from the private sector. Previous conferences have been hosted in Washington, D.C., Brasilia, Naples, Marrakech, Mexico City and Seoul and each has examined a different theme related to government reinvention.

In 2007, the United Nations will host the 7th Global Forum on Reinventing Government on the theme of “Building Trust in Government” in Vienna. Trust will be examined in terms of its relationship with public sector capacities, and the costs in its absence. The conference will also explore strategies and innovations that generate improvements in governance and earn the trust of citizens. Efficient, accountable, effective and transparent governance plays a key role in the implementation of policy objectives and internationally agreed goals.

In his capacity as Spokesperson and on behalf of the MBI Al Jaber Foundation, MBI al Jaber is hosting a Gala Dinner to honour the Deputy Secretary General of the United Nations, Heads of State and Ministers attending the Forum at the Grand Wien Hotel in Vienna on 27 June 2007.

## MBI Al Jaber Roundtable on Critical Issues in the Middle East at the Council on Foreign Relations, New York

The Council on Foreign Relations of New York launched a roundtable series in 2005 that examined prospects for political reform in the Middle East. Its most recent meeting on 7 June 2007 in Washington, D.C. examined the changing Arabian Peninsula. This followed the inaugural meeting on prospects for political reform in Syria, followed by a second meeting on Egypt’s political future and a third meeting on Libya and North African Development. The written product will be a Council Special Report (CSR), a monograph which develops a set of policy recommendations for an effective approach to the Syrian regime.

The roundtable included Council on Foreign Relations members, noted Middle East experts, and U.S. foreign policy practitioners, primarily from Washington, D.C. and New York City. Steven A. Cook, the Council’s Douglas Dillon fellow, is directing the roundtable series, which was established with the generous support of Chairman Mohamed Bin Issa Al Jaber.

## Our Trustees: Working in Partnership

*The MBI Al Jaber Foundation is a UK Registered charity and is governed by a Board of Trustees, each one chosen for their interest in education and development in the Middle East.*

Since we concentrate on forging partnerships rather than simply giving grants, we view our Chairman, Trustees and Director as resources in themselves, in that they all possess specialist areas of knowledge that are used to assess applications for projects and to reach out to a network of like minded institutions.

H.E. Sheikh Mohamed Bin Issa Al Jaber, Chairman

The Rt Hon Lord Young of Graffham, PC, DL

Sir Tim Lankester, KCB

Professor Peter Jones, FRSE

Dr Nihad Ibrahim Pasha

Miss Mashaal Al Jaber



*H.E. Sheikh Mohamed Bin Issa Al Jaber, Patron and Chairman*

# MBI Al Jaber Foundation



*The new campus at MODUL University Vienna*

## Building Bridges through Tourism: Scholarships at the MODUL University Vienna

This year the MBI Al Jaber Foundation scholarships programme has been broadened to include an undergraduate degree with a particular link to one of the areas of expertise of our Chairman. Sheikh Mohamed Bin Issa Al Jaber noted: “Being in the hotel industry, I am very aware of the importance of tourism in building bridges between cultures. This has given me the motivation to support students in this area. Not only will they be a force for the good in making links between diverse cultures, but their expertise in this field will boost the tourism sector in their own countries. Tourism is often an important source of income for a country, and these young people will make an excellent contribution.”

The scholarship applies to the Bachelor of Business Administration in Tourism and Hospitality Management at MODUL University Vienna, an institute that has been training people to face the challenges of the rapidly expanding tourism industry for almost a century. MODUL counts among the leading schools for hospitality and tourism training in the world and boasts a brand new campus amongst the hills of Kahlenburg with breathtaking views over the city of Vienna. It is equipped with state-of-the-art facilities. The

University faculty combines leading international academic staff with experts from the industry. Recent developments and trends in hospitality and leisure are studied alongside international business theory.

The Bachelor of Business Administration in Tourism and Hospitality Management is designed for students from all over the world who

want to lay a solid foundation of their career in the tourism and leisure industry.

The MODUL University scholarship is open to all Arab residents of the Middle East and North Africa. Application and reference forms and further details on the scholarships can be found on our website. For further information and how to apply, go to [www.modul.ac.at](http://www.modul.ac.at).

### Scholarships for Iraq

The MBI Al Jaber Foundation is currently offering 20 scholarships to Iraqi nationals giving them the opportunity to study for a Masters’ degree either in the UK or in France. As part of Sheikh Mohamed Bin Issa Al Jaber’s commitment to supporting the people of Iraq, the Foundation is funding a scholarship scheme operating in collaboration with the Iraqi Higher Education Committee UK, the Ministry of Higher Education, Iraq, and the Iraqi Embassy, London. The Foundation’s UK partner institutions in this scholarship programme are the University of Westminster, University College London, City University and the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS). The scheme comprises 10 full scholarships to study for a Masters’ Degree in the UK, and 10 in France, under the auspices of the French Foundation.

The scholarships are open to all Iraqi nationals with the necessary qualifications for admission who have received an offer from the university they have applied to. The response to the programme has been good with students from a variety of backgrounds holding unconditional offers to study for a Masters’ degree across a broad range of subjects including Radiation Biology, International Journalism, Thermal Power and Fluid Engineering, International Relations, and Information Systems!

# Scholarship Programmes

## MBI Al Jaber Foundation - France

*The MBI Foundation France was set up in order to facilitate Sheikh Mohamed Bin Issa Al Jaber's philanthropic activities at UNESCO, including Kitâb fi Jarîda as featured in this Newsletter. The Foundation is under the patronage of the prestigious Fondation de France. The following projects are amongst those that have benefited from grants:*

### Educational Reform in the Arab World

Two projects are now underway as part of Sheikh Mohamed Bin Issa Al Jaber's focus on the educational reform process in the Arab world. The first, currently being implemented, is in Algeria and the second, in Iraq, is now also underway. The latter is a long term project which includes the establishment of an International Iraqi Centre for Educational Resources and Training.



*H.E. Sheikh Mohamed Bin Issa Al Jaber with former President Ely Ould Mohamed Vall*

### Helping the Process of Democracy in Mauritania

Several projects have focused on Mauritania as a result of Sheikh Mohamed's official visit to the country and meeting with the then President Ely Ould Mohamed Vall in his capacity as UNESCO Director General's Special Envoy for education, human rights, tolerance, peace and democracy.

Realising the importance of the elections held in the country over the past year, and the possibility to show an example of good practice to the Arab world, support was provided by the Foundation to bolster media coverage of all three elections. This was implemented in a variety of ways, including the provision of a large shipment of radio and broadcast equipment provided in order to aid coverage of the elections of people's representatives, Senate, referendums on the constitution and the election of the President. Training for local journalists was also provided in two tranches to ensure that coverage was of an internationally accepted standard. The training was carried out by the University of Nice Sophia Antipolis, which houses an Institute run by Professor Philippe Saunier with a proven track record in training local journalists for election situations – for example in Afghanistan.

### Scholarships at the University of Nice Sophia Antipolis

*Scholarships for students at both Undergraduate and Postgraduate level were awarded to the Institute of Peace and Development Law at the University of Nice Sophia Antipolis.*

These include a large number of Mauritanian students, plus students from other countries of the Arab world, particularly the Francophone countries of North Africa, for whom study in France is a more suitable option than the UK.

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communities with the latest research and encourage the widest involvement in cultural heritage debates. Because the building also houses major international collections including Judaica and Egyptian archaeology and texts it is intended to make this a centre for inter-faith and intercultural discussion and dialogue.

The building's lecture theatre, which will be named the MBI Al Jaber Lecture Theatre in recognition of the generosity of the MBI Al Jaber Foundation, will be equipped for state of the art presentations and will host a busy programme of public events, including those celebrating the culture and heritage of the Middle East.

# Alumni Updates

As a result of its longstanding scholarship programme the MBI Al Jaber Foundation has a diverse network of Alumni stretching from Morocco to Iraq. Each one has been the recipient of a scholarship from the Foundation and is now contributing to their country of origin or the region as a whole. We receive regular updates from our Alumni – here's a selection:

*Dania Sami Assi (AUB 2002/04) Dania is currently participating in the U.S. Legal and Business Fellowships Program (LBFP), a fellowship programme offered by the U.S. Department of State's Middle East Partnership Initiatives (MEPI).*

"I am now in Philadelphia on a programme prepared by the U.S. State Department for leaders in the Middle East. I was selected with 36 women from over 1000 applicants from the Middle East and North Africa region. We are staying here for six months; we had one month executive education at Wharton and we are going to have an internship in U.S. firms here. I was placed in Philadelphia at the firm Janney Montgomery Scott LLC. This programme offers a great opportunity to get to know other women from all around the Arab world."

*Raya Almoayad (University of Westminster 2006) Raya received her MA in Development Management. She is currently working with the British Council in Yemen and hoping to work in child care for development in the future.*

"I am currently managing a British Council education project which supports creating links and partnerships between schools from Yemen and the UK. It is a regional project that aims to create 1001 links within the region. In this project, there will be 40 Yemeni schools to make partnership with 20 British Schools. The links activities bring cultural exchange and developing educational experiences.

I have hopes to apply what I studied in my Masters' degree and join it with what I learned about child development to come up with a focused and professional work that could contribute to child development. I have a plan to start a project of establishing a centre that serves this purpose which should include different services."



*Ahmed Hosney Radwan, left, (LEAD 2002/04) Ahmed achieved his PHD Degree in Architecture from the College of Fine Arts, Helwan University in May 2007.*

Ahmed Radwan, a LEAD fellow, was awarded his fellowship from the Imperial College of London in April 2004. Recently, Ahmed achieved his PHD in Architecture from the College of Fine Arts in Cairo at Helwan University. His thesis entitled 'Participatory Design towards the Development of the Egyptian Village Architecture', introduces a new methodology of including the people of Egyptian villages in the design and planning processes of developing their environment.

Ahmed is now working as a lecturer at Helwan University and is at the same time practicing architectural design as an architect on various private projects.

## Palestine Nights - Contemporary Palestinian Dance and Music Performance

*MBI Scholar Mohammed Qeshta (City University 2004/6) participated in a traditional and contemporary Palestinian dance and music performance at the Bloomsbury Theatre, London.*

On Friday 25th May 2007 a multicultural London audience enjoyed a rare opportunity to enjoy the artistic beauty of Palestine and to have closer insight into the everyday life of Palestinian society by witnessing an exclusive and energetic performance of the Palestinian dance 'Dabke'.

The show included dances from the Palestinian traditional and contemporary culture together with powerful instruments and fine vocals. The performance represented a small cultural promotion project initiated by the UK based Al-Zaytouna Troupe. The group succeeded in inviting six professional dancers from the very well-established Ramallah based El-Funoun Troupe to come and jointly perform with them in London. Despite the various barriers that both groups faced during the project such as obtaining visas and other travel arrangements, they both expressed their sincere pleasure at having the chance to reflect one of the many aspects of Palestinian culture.

Mohammed Qeshta, an MBI alumnus, is one of the founders and a performer with the Al-Zaytouna. Mohammed commented "We feel it is absolutely necessary to introduce and promote our culture to the West through providing diverse audiences the opportunity to experience the Palestinian traditional dabke dance in a variety of performances, workshops and classes."



*Pro-Vice Chancellor David Rhind of City University with MBI Al Jaber and Olive Tree Scholars.*

## Update on the Olive Tree

The first cohort of students on the Olive Tree programme (OTET) will shortly be returning to their homes and putting into practice the community projects which they have been planning over the past year.

The projects are an integral part of OTET, which not only brings Palestinian and Israeli students to study together in London for a degree with an additional programme of social, academic and development work, but also has the added facet that once they have completed their degree they will return to the region and implement the projects planned during their final year. The projects are of varying nature, but all have the underlying thread of reaching across community boundaries and supporting the development of the region at some level. We wish all of the graduating scholars good luck!

We are also delighted to announce that Sheikh Mohamed Bin Issa Al Jaber, founding patron of the Olive Tree Educational Trust, will be joining the OTET Board of Trustees.



## ALECSO awards His Excellency Sheikh Mohamed Bin Issa Al Jaber its Gold Medal

### Making literature more accessible: Kitâb fi Jarîda

*Kitâb fi Jarîda* ('a book in a newspaper') is a project of H.E Sheikh Mohamed bin Issa Al Jaber in co-operation with UNESCO, and is sponsored by the MBI Al Jaber Foundation - France.

The project gives a wider range of people free access to knowledge and learning through the selection of books from various intellectual fields, re-editing the content and cover in collaboration with an artist from the Arab world, and distributing them in a Tabloid form (32-40 pages) as an addendum in the most-read daily newspapers in the Arab region.

The development of this regional initiative over the past 10 years has been amazing with an average of 2.5 million copies of each issue were distributed in the Arab world: a total of a quarter of a billion copies distributed over ten years to a segment of readers who had never before had access to such a quantity of cultural and innovative products. The current plan is to reach a distribution of 5 million by 2010.

The 10th anniversary of Kitâb fi Jarîda is currently celebrated in a small exhibition featuring covers and extracts from many of the issues which is touring venues in various countries of the Arab world and beyond.



H.E. Dr. Al Mounji Bousnina, General Manager of ALECSO, the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization, of UNESCO, awarded the organisation's highest honour, the Gold Medal, to MBI Al Jaber. The award ceremony took place as part of the 100th edition celebration of Kitâb fi Jarîda.

The Gold Medal is a sign of appreciation and gratitude for the numerous efforts and tremendously effective support that MBI Al Jaber has provided towards the various UNESCO projects aiming at promoting and coordinating education, culture and scientific activities in the Arab World, including educational reform, the arabisation of internet domain names and Kitâb fi Jarîda.

Dr Bousnina praised 'The Sheikh's bold investment and effective sponsorship is a continuation of his belief in human investment and educational reform as prerequisites for a sustainable economic reform,' and thanked MBI Al Jaber for his contribution towards ALECSO's efforts in applying the broader aspects of education and supporting scientific research in the Arab world.

Present at the ceremony was a large audience of personalities from the worlds of education, culture and the media. There was a special exhibition in honour of Kitâb fi Jarîda's 100th edition and several people given honours including Dr. Ahmad Assayad, UNESCO's deputy general manager for external relations and cooperation, and poet Shawki Abdel Amir who is in charge of the Kitâb fi Jarîda project.