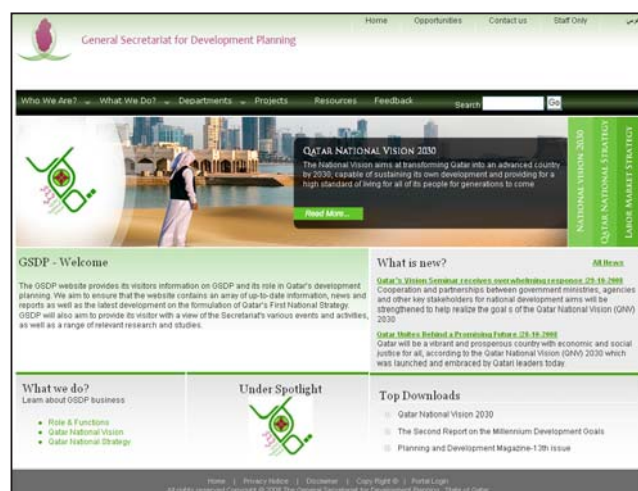




UN-ESCWA Participates in Qatar Strategic Vision 2030

UN-ESCWA was present in “Towards Qatar’s National Strategy: Issues and Challenges”, a two-day international seminar organized by Qatar’s General Secretariat for Development Planning (GSDP) on 28 and 29 October 2008 in Doha. The meeting brought together over 400 participants from Qatari ministries and government agencies, as well as private sector institutions, academic institutions and civil society organizations, in addition to experts from international organizations such as the World Bank, and states that have drawn up successful strategies based on long-term visions. UN-ESCWA’s Executive Secretary Bader Omar Al-Dafa was also in attendance along with UN-ESCWA’s Regional Advisor at the Information and Communications Technology Division, Abdulilah Al-Dewachi and Ramla Khalidi, UN-ESCWA First Social Affairs Officer. The meeting was an opportunity to launch Qatar’s “National Vision 2030” and initiate discussion on the country’s strategic priorities and plans. Along two days, experts from Qatar, Malaysia, Brunei, Singapore, Kuwait, Oman, Saudi Arabia



and others shared their expertise in the formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of development strategies with GSDP.

AlDafa delivered a presentation on the topic of “**Results-based National Strategies: Best Practices and Lessons Learned in Setting Goals, Monitoring and Evaluation**”. He stressed Qatar’s achievements in human development, noting the significant improvements in economic and social conditions in the country over the past ten years. AlDafa said “the National Development Strategy provides Qatar the opportunity to rethink the social contract between citizens and the state, in which rights and duties are agreed to by all, to further the common interest”. He also underlined the importance of

shared consensus over the national strategy through institutionalized structured engagement and participation. AlDafa noted that “In the last five years UN-ESCWA has provided technical assistance to Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Syria, Jordan, Egypt, Palestine and Iraq in the formulation of part of their strategies in thrust areas such as transport, environment, trade, information and communication technology, and social policy”.

In his closing remarks, GSDP’s Secretary General Ibrahim Al Ibrahim stressed the importance of implementation in achieving the National Vision. The seminar closed with many ideas and a plan of action that includes later steps to be taken to develop Qatar’s national strategy. ■

IN THIS ISSUE

- UN-ESCWA Participates in Qatar Strategic Vision 2030
- Unified Website Tells UN Story
- Facts and Figures

Unified Website Tells UN Story

In the context of United Nations Day 2008 (24 October), the United Nations Department of Public Information (DPI) launched the newly redesigned United Nations Information Centres website, <http://unic.un.org>. The website serves as a portal to the Department’s network of 63 Information Centres worldwide, most of which are located in developing countries.

The website provides information about the United Nations in 130 languages, including the six official languages of the Organization. “This website enables our Information Centres to bring



Unified Website Tells UN Story (Cont.)

the UN story to people around the world and to do so in their local languages,” explains Kiyo Akasaka, Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information. The website includes information on both current activities and also milestone agreements such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the Millennium Development Goals. It also features the activities and products of the individual Centres. Content

has been added to explain the public information work of the United Nations at the national level. It provides reliable, up-to-date information to a wide range of constituencies around the world, including journalists, government officials, civil society representatives, students, educators and researchers. ■



Facts and Figures: The Millennium Development Goals in the Arab Region 2007

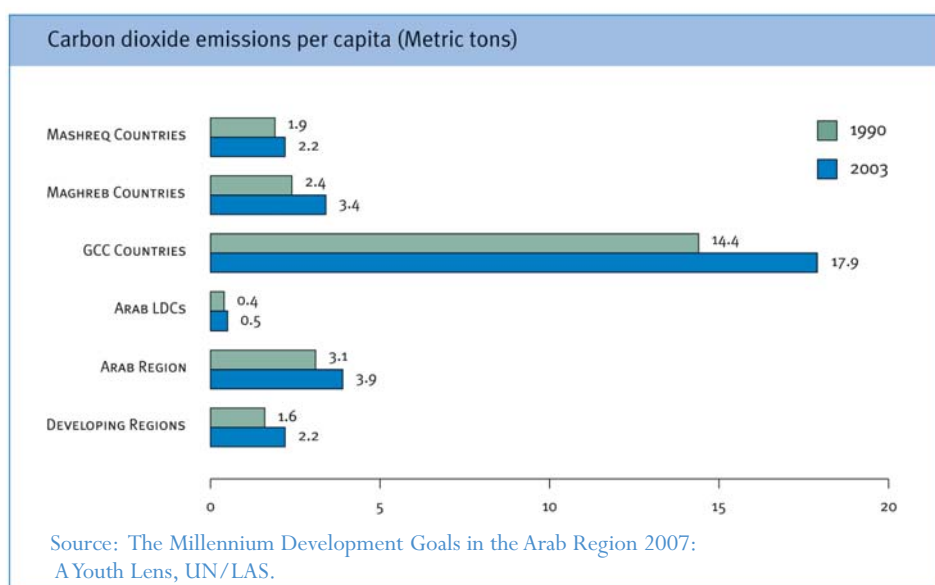
Goal 7: Ensure Environmental Sustainability

Carbon Dioxide Emissions per Capita

Total Carbon dioxide emissions in the region soared to 1.2 trillion metric tons in 2003, the equivalent of an increase of 81 per cent since 1990. That is partly accounted for by a surge in population of 35 per cent. In addition, per capita carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions also intensified, contributing to the increase in total emissions. The regional level of per capita emissions rose by 28 per cent in the same time period, from 3.1 to 3.9 metric tons. The Maghreb, Mashreq and Arab LDCs saw total emissions of CO₂ rise by 80 per cent, 66 per cent and 57 per cent, respectively. The Mashreq and Arab LDCs maintained relatively stable levels of per capita emissions, while those in the Maghreb rose by 42 per cent. GCC remains the region with the highest total and per capita emis-

sion; the former increased by 86 per cent between 1990 and 2003.

Arab countries have expended serious efforts in implementing the Montreal Protocol. 51 Legislation and programmes have been developed to reduce, control and monitor the consumption of ozone-depleting substances (ODS), especially chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs). By 2004, the region had succeeded in decreasing the level of consumption of ODS by 31 per cent. In fact, since 2000, all subregions have witnessed drops in total ODS consumption, the most significant of which was in the Mashreq, with a decrease of 40 per cent. CFCs accounted for 64 per cent of total ODS in the region. ■



Address

P.O. Box 11-8575, Riad El-Solh, Beirut-Lebanon
Tel.: 961-1-981301; Fax: 961-1-981510

e-mail: webmaster-escwa@un.org
website: www.escwa.un.org