



Writing Arabic in Domain Names



Within the framework of its project on “Arabic Domain Names System”, UN-ESCWA organized an expert group meeting on the “Use of Arabic Script in Domain Names”, on 28-29 May 2008 in Dubai, the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The meeting was hosted by the UAE Telecommunication Regulatory Authority, represented by the .ae Domain Administration, and was organized in collaboration with two global Internet domain names companies, namely the Public Internet Registry (PIR) and Afilias Global Registry Services.

This meeting came as the second one on Arabic Script in

Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs), held by the Arabic Script IDN Working Group that was established in March 2008. It aimed at reviewing the progress made in resolving the technical issues relating to the use of the Arabic script in domain names, as well as defining guidelines on policy and technical aspects of its use, in cooperation with concerned international organizations.

Experts from a number of UN-ESCWA member countries participated in the meeting, in addition to key representatives from the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN),

the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF), different top level domain administrations in the Arabic-, Persian- and Urdu-speaking countries, and a number of registries/registrar involved in the domain names business.

The meeting concluded with a set of technical recommendations, such as the use of certain symbols and characters in the Arabic script, which will be communicated as proposals to the concerned organizations. ■

More information on the meeting can be accessed through the following link:
<http://www.escwa.un.org/information/meetingdetails.asp?referenceNum=781E>

Together for a Just World

UN-ESCWA tackled ways to strengthen the role of civil society organizations in the region, at the Civicus 8th World Assembly on “People Participation and Power: Acting Together for a Just World”. It also participated in many workshops and explained that civil society in the Arab Region needs to be strengthened through networking with global Civil Society Organizations. For this end, UN-ESCWA also proposed to become a forum for networking and information exchange. The meeting concluded that efforts should be made to enforce the culture of participation especially among the new generation in the UN-ESCWA region.



IN THIS ISSUE

Writing Arabic in Domain Names

Together for a Just World

Iraqi Networking Academies Project Concludes

Spreading the Word

Facts and Figures

Iraqi Networking Academies Project Concludes

From August 2004 to June 2008, UN-ESCWA’s Iraqi Networking Academies (INA) established 5 regional academies and 39 local academies in Iraq, as part of the Cisco Networking Academy Program (CNAP), covering the country’s main governorates (Baghdad, Basra, Mosul, and Erbil).

Implemented by UN-ESCWA and funded by the UN Development Group-Iraq Trust Fund (UNDG-ITF), in partnership with Cisco, the Lebanese American University



Spreading the Word



UN-ESCWA Executive Secretary Bader Omar AlDafa received media figure Munir AlHafi on 24 June 2008, in his offices at the UN House, Beirut. AlHafi presented the AlDafa with his latest book on Saudi-Lebanese relations.

Iraqi Networking Academies Project Concludes (Cont.)



(LAU), the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and the Iraqi Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research (MOHESR), CNAP provides students with internationally recognized certificates in different areas in the Information Technology (IT) infrastructure world.

around 35 Iraqi instructors received 4 training-of-trainers sessions in Lebanon. Since the start of the academy establishment process, over 250 instructors and 1400 students have been trained on the different courses in the regional and local academies in Iraq.

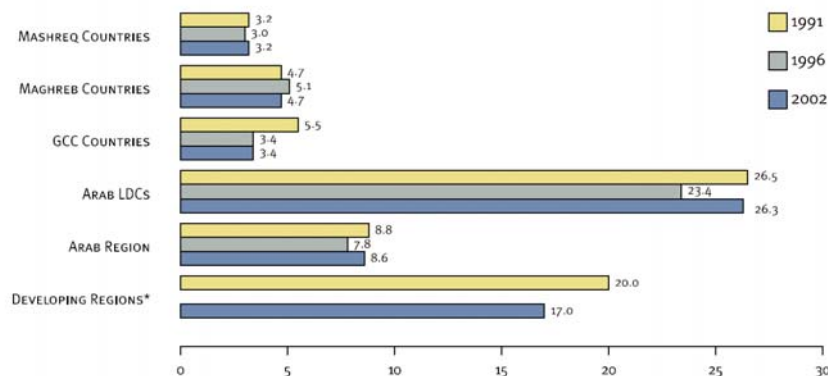
Throughout the project,

As an end-of-project activity, UN-ESCWA organized a workshop on 27-28 June 2008 in Beirut to summarize project activities throughout its implementation period, discuss the methodology of work, highlight problems faced and their solutions, identify success stories, and extract lessons learned. The meeting pinpointed administrative and technical obstacles that faced the project, and concluded with recommendations for similar projects in the near future.

The meeting was attended by MOHESR, instructors and students from the regional and local academies, Cisco, LAU, Université Saint Joseph (USJ), and the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) Education Sector, among others. ■

Facts and Figures

Proportion of population below the minimum level of dietary energy consumption by subregion.



Source: The Millennium Development Goals in the Arab Region 2007: A Youth Lens, UN/LAS

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