



## 2nd Arab-Austrian Economic Forum AACC Top Event at Hilton Am Stadtpark



OPENING of the Forum & Trade Exhibition (from left): H.E. Mr. Makram QUEISI, former Dean of Arab Ambassadors and Ambassador of Jordan, President Dr. Herbert STEPIC, Vice President KommR Nabil KUZBARI, Vice President Henry HAFEZ, Treasurer Dr. Alfred STROMMER

On November 24 2008, the AACC - with the generous sponsorship of OMV AG - organized this extraordinary event, which in reality was "5 in 1": the AACC General Assembly, the Trade Exhibition, the Lecture in the afternoon, the Expert's Corner and the 2 Evening Panels. The great interest in doing business with the Arab world was mirrored in the number of exhibitors and visitors at the "2nd Arab-Austrian Economic Forum & Trade Exhibition". Around 400

visitors were there to obtain information about the situation on the Arab economic market and visit the exhibition; over 40 stands including 11 Arab Embassies and also Arab companies. In the afternoon, visitors with queries about Arab countries had the opportunity to get answers for their special questions in the Expert's Corner. The guest of honor, **KommR Brigitte Jank**, President of the Vienna Chamber of Commerce, in her key note speech to the afternoon lecture, pointed out that Austrian exports to Arab countries have doubled between the years 2002 and 2007 - a good sign in times like these. **Dr. Julia Urmek**, economy and health psychologist, mentioned in her lecture that in order to succeed in doing business in Arab countries is not always easy. She believes that succeeding in doing business with the Arab World there are 3 main points to be considered at: building up trust, developing personal relationships, and patience (time). In the evening - there were top-class speakers in both panels - **Dr. Herbert Stepic**, **AACC President and CEO of Raiffeisen International**, pointed to the "emerging markets" - also meaning **To be continued on page 2**

Dear Member,  
Dear Friend of  
the AACC!



First of all, let me wish you personal health and success for the year 2009! Looking back to the last months of the AACC year 2008, I would like to draw your attention to three particular points:

1. The "2nd Arab-Austrian Economic Forum" in Hotel Hilton on November 7 (see p.1) turned out to be THE Event of the Year 2008.
2. The Palestinian Afternoon on December 17 (see p.2)
3. The Appointment of the new Secretary General, Dipl.-Ing. Mouddar Khouja, by January 1, 2009 (see p.1)

From the year 2009 on we will provide you with two more interesting pages in the Newsletter. You will be informed about current economic News from Arab countries on page 3 and 4 of the Newsletter.

Best regards

Dkfm. Dr. Herbert Stepic  
President AACC  
CEO Raiffeisen International Bank-Holding AG

### TOPICS

- 2nd Arab-Austrian Forum, Top Event 2008
- Welcome to AACC: New Secretary General
- Coordinative Meeting Beirut
- Palestinian Afternoon
- New Year's Concert with Daniel Barenboim
- M. Abado awarded
- Arab News: UAE, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, KSA, Tunisia
- Welcome to AACC
- Sprachecke: Ingwer & Galgant
- CHRONIK & News

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**DETAILS see PAGE 2**

**AACC NEW SERVICES - AACC NEW SERVICES - AACC NEW SERVICES**

## WELCOME to the CHAMBER!

AACC Secretary General Dipl. - Ing. MOUDDAR KHOUJA

The Executive Bureau of the Austro-Arab Chamber of Commerce has the pleasure and honour to welcome Dipl. Ing. Mouddar Khouja as the new Secretary General of the AACC.

DI Khouja obtained his master degree in computer science at the Vienna University of Technology in 1992. Thereafter he started his professional career as SW developer and tester in the PSE of Siemens Austria later he became team leader. In 1998 he took the position system integration manager in Systems Department of One. In 2001 he became partner of Cisco Systems managing professional services projects in central & east Europe and in the Middle East. 2004 he became business development manager for Europe, the Middle East and Africa. Since 2008 he is shareholding partner of Baraka Ltd. Moreover he participated as speaker, coordinated and programme managed various international conferences and Arab Ministers visits to Austria.



Secretary General of the AACC  
Dipl.-Ing. Mouddar Khouja

## KULTUR

### DANIEL BARENBOIM

„Humanist des Klanges“ dirigiert 2009 erstmals das Neujahrskonzert

„Alle Jahre wieder“... Neujahrskonzert der Wiener Philharmoniker, diesmal mit Daniel Barenboim, der 1942 in Buenos Aires als Sohn russischer Einwanderer geboren wurde und dem schon zahlreiche Musik- oder Friedenspreis verliehen wurden. Kein Konzert, das nicht ausverkauft wäre - ob Barenboim nun als Pianist, als Dirigent oder in beiden Funktionen zugleich in Erscheinung tritt.

Als „politischer“ Künstler gründete er mit dem palästinensischen Literaturwissenschaftler Edward Said 1999 das West-Eastern-Divian-Orchestra, bei dem arabische und israelische Musiker zusammen musikalische und Vorurteile abbauende Erfahrungen machen können.

Solche versöhnlichen Gesten haben ihm die palästinensische Ehrenstaatsbürgerschaft eingebracht. Der Vater zweier Söhne ist ein Kosmopolit mit ziemlich vielen Heimatgefühlen. Jedoch auch einer mit klaren Meinung: Regelmäßig kommentiert er den Konflikt im Nahen Osten

Quelle: Der Standard

### Marwan Abado

“On Friday, November 7, 2008, I have received the Federal Medal for Intercultural Dialogue from the Federal Ministry for Education, the Arts and Culture! “



“Liebe Freunde, es freut mich, Ihnen/Euch mitteilen zu dürfen, dass mir das **Bundes Ehrenzeichen für Interkulturellen Dialog am 7.Nov. 2008 vom Bundesministerium für Unterricht, Kunst verliehen hat“**

**GRATULATION!**

Quelle: www.marwan-abado.net

### Forum from page 1

the Arab countries - as a ‘ray of hope’ in global economy. **Dr. Ednan Aslan** stressed on the point that the Sharia supports business and that honesty and openness are a must. A young Saudi student, **Ms. Al Zayer**, presented the speech of **Dr. May Al Jaser**, President of the DAW (Diplomatic Arab Women’s) Forum and stressed that the rising presence of the Arab woman in politics and business is due to the improvement of the level of education among Arab women. **Dipl.-Ing. Khouja**, new **AACC Secretary General** spoke about the current state of Islamic Financing and Banking and also explained the Islamic approach to solve the momentary financial crisis. He also gave some religious reasons as a background information why the demand is so high.

There were also some humorous anecdotes related by personalities from Austrian compa-



**PANEL I:** SR. Dr. Schenz, P. Koch, DI. Khouja, Pres. Dr. Stepic, Dr. Koren, DI. Lässer, M. Gross

nies. **Mr. Paul Koch from KIKA** vividly narrated how he started his business in Saudi Arabia. Also **Josef Hickersberger**, International soccer coach in Arab countries, humorously pointed out the importance of intercultural learning and know how, when working together with Arab counterparts.

Be our guest at the 3rd Arab-Austrian Forum in autumn 2009!

## AACC NEW SERVICES - AACC NEW SERVICES - AACC NEW SERVICES

1. TRANSLATION SERVICE
2. LEGAL ASSISTANCE
3. BUSINESS CASE- and FEASIBILITY STUDIES

For DETAILS kindly contact [headoffice@aacc.at](mailto:headoffice@aacc.at)

## AACC NEW SERVICES - AACC NEW SERVICES - AACC NEW SERVICES

## COORDINATIVE MEETING BEIRUT, January 8 and 9

The main aim of the well organized meeting of the Arab Federal and Joined Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture, which was held in Beirut on January 8 and 9, 2009, was to discuss the role of the Joint Chambers in enhancing investments and technology transfer and the Foreign-Arab economic relations, and the role of Joint Chambers in promoting Arab exports. This meeting took place at the new Adnan Kassar Building donated by R.H. General Union President Adnan Kassar. AACC Vice President KR Kuzbari denominated the new Building as a landmark and expressed the necessity of removing bureaucratic barriers between the Arab countries so as to encourage the related export flow. The Joint Chambers presented their experiences in enhancing and diversifying their sources of income.

## „PALESTINIAN AFTERNOON“ in AACC Premises

On December 17, 2008, the AACC in cooperation with the Mission of Palestine organized a presentation of Palestinian products: high quality foodstuff e.g. olive oil and sesame paste, dates and other dried fruit, special olive oil soap, handicrafts like painted ceramics, oil lamps, wooden cribs, rosaries and other carvings. About 45 to 50 guests followed the invitation, among them representatives of several Arab Embassies (Jordan, Algeria, Oman, Palestine and others) and of AACC member companies. It was the first time that Palestinian products had been presented to AACC companies with the option to get in contact with the producers via the Palestinian Mission. The Palestinian representatives gave ample information on all questions concerning bilateral trade and cultural relations, underlining their readiness for further cooperation.



One of the highlights of the evening was the generously offered, outstanding buffet with Arab specialities from Kibbe to Hommos, from Falafel to Tabboule. Delicious Sweets completed the impressive hospitality of the Palestinian Mission and Community in Vienna.

## ECONOMIC NEWS FROM THE ARAB WORLD

### UAE/ ABU DHABI: YEAR 2008 IN REVIEW

2008 was another impressive year for Abu Dhabi, as the emirate continued to make high profile global investments despite depressing economic statistics abroad. Additionally, diversification reforms focusing on the environment, capital markets, transport and tourism continued at a vigorous pace.

The crown prince of Abu Dhabi, Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, announced at the beginning of the year that the emirate's government would invest \$15bn of record oil receipts into a clutch of green energy endeavours, including the first phase of a project to develop the world's largest hydrogen power plant. In keeping with the emirate's growing reputation as a home for environmentally friendly initiatives, construction began in February on Masdar City, marketed as the world's first zero-carbon, zero-waste city. Powered solely by sources of renewable energy, the 6 sq km city aims to house 50,000 residents and over 1000 businesses focused on sustainability and alternative energy. The city is scheduled to be completed in 2013.

Long-term economic diversification continued to be an important goal for the capital city, and data released in 2008 proved efforts were, indeed, paying dividends. Non-oil exports reached a record \$1bn in 2007, and re-exports, considered a key growth area for trade, reached a value of almost \$655m. One high profile investment was the purchase of the Manchester City Football Club by Abu Dhabi United Group for Development and Investment, a special investment vehicle set up by prominent Emirati businessmen. The group bought the English premier league team in September for around \$360m.

This was followed in October by Mubadala Development Company, a government-owned investor, increasing its stake in US-based Advanced Micro Devices, the world's second largest maker of computer processors, to 19.4%, at a cost of \$314m.

Finally, toward the close of the year, Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Abu Dhabi's minister of presidential affairs as well as a member of the royal family, became the biggest shareholder in the UK's second-largest bank, Barclays, buying a 16.3% stake for £3.5bn (\$4.8bn).

Source: Oxford Group



### LEBANON: YEAR 2008 IN REVIEW

For a country that has seen more than its fair share of strife in the past few years, Lebanon is showing remarkable resilience in the face of the international financial crisis.

Much of the credit for Lebanon's relatively strong position has been given to the policies of the central bank, which has banned local lenders from buying up sub-prime debt packages, set tight ceilings on loan levels for real estate projects and required banks to have at least 30% of their assets in cash. As a result, banking assets now stood at more than \$100bn, almost four times the country's gross domestic product.

While most agree that Lebanon's banking industry is well placed to ride out the worst of the storm engulfing the global financial sector, there are growing concerns that the slowdown in the Gulf region will have a flow-on effect. In particular, there are fears job cuts in the Gulf's construction and financial sectors will result in Lebanese expatriate workers being made redundant, bringing about a reduction in remittances sent back home. Funds sent home from Lebanese employed overseas add around \$5.5bn a year to the country's economy. These remittances could fall by more than 30% next year if more companies in the United Arab Emirates and other Gulf states started reducing their number of staff.

The IMF said in a report that due to rising international commodity prices and the past depreciation of the US dollar, average consumer price inflation is likely to reach 12% in 2008, and decline to 8% in 2009. That said, the IMF did predict Lebanon's real GDP growth was likely to reach at least 6% in 2008 and 5% in 2009, led by strong performances by the construction and tourism sectors.

Source: Oxford Group

### SYRIA: CAUTIONARY OPTIMISM

Reforms to the Syrian economy, in particular the opening up of its financial sector, have led to an expansion of the base of local and foreign investments, the Prime Minister Mohammad Naji Al Otari told a conference in Damascus.

While much progress has been made, further reforms are continuing, including more autonomy for the Central Bank of Syria, strengthening the regulatory and monitoring controls for the country's banking system and providing the necessary infrastructure for the financial sector, the prime minister said.

Similarly, Syrian Minister of Finance Mohammed Al Hussein told the conference that the effects of the current global financial crisis on Syria are limited. Syria has already made strong progress in enacting reforms to its financial sector in the past few years, including allowing the entry of private banks to the marketplace, easing foreign investment regulations and promoting the development of the insurance industry.

Syria's debt stock has been reduced from \$20bn in 2000 to \$5.3bn as of the end of last year. Foreign debt as a ratio of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is now below 13%.

But Mahmoud Al Nouri, chairman of the board of the Syrian-Kuwaiti Holding Company and a former finance minister for Kuwait, offered a more sobering point of view:

The global financial crisis will pose major problems for developing countries, as they are highly dependant on exports for their livelihood, he said. There will be elevated competition for exports in the region, with Asian nations increasingly competing with Syrian products, said Al Nouri. The crisis will have a significant negative impact on growth rates and direct investment in Syria will decline, with commercial banks worldwide becoming more conservative in their disbursement of loans. This could lead to a drop in foreign and other direct investment in developing countries, such as Syria.

Source: Oxford Group

## JORDAN: YEAR 2008 IN REVIEW

Despite volatile energy costs and high food prices straining the government budget, Jordan has managed to achieve success in key social and economic indicators, a performance that compares favourably with the record of other countries in the region.

Continued political stability and governmental programmes, such as the Social Safety Net (SSN) have protected Jordanians from the worst impact of the price rises and demonstrate the government's commitment to minimising the effects of the state's fiscal difficulties.

One of the biggest stories of the past year was Jordan's continued struggle with energy security: although a deal in August secured a renewed contract for low-priced Iraqi crude oil, Jordan is still working to diversify its sources of energy. Despite the immediate respite the Baghdad pact offers, Jordan is seriously pursuing the development of nuclear energy. Although fuel subsidies have gradually been reduced over the past three years, the SSN has facilitated salary and pension rises for civil servants as well as cash payments to the poorest Jordanians. The government has also encouraged private sector employers to give their staff salary increases. Meanwhile, an ongoing stream of infrastructure projects should help buttress economic growth. In recent years, investments from Gulf countries have made up 10% of GDP. This year the government has sold land in and around Amman to investors from the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait for an estimated \$10bn. Qatar has also increased its investment.

The tourism sector generates about \$1.36bn annually, or about 7.9% of GDP, and accounts for 134,000 jobs, or 7.6% of employment. Jordan's industrial sector continued to be an important contributor to GDP in 2008. Jordan Phosphate Mines Company earned record profits, reflecting high global prices for phosphate rock and fertilisers.

A weaker global economy will undoubtedly limit the scope of ongoing market reforms, but growth should be helped by the government pushing ahead with major projects such as the housing initiative, the economic zones, and attracting knowledge-intensive investments that require high-skilled labour and vocational programmes in the hope of creating more jobs and helping to counteract the impact of higher living costs.

Source: Oxford Group

## JORDAN: CONTINUOUS GROWTH

The Jordanian economy enjoyed its third successive year of growth in 2006 – a happy upward trend that analysts expect will continue for the next four years. Tourism and banking have been star performers, while industry is benefiting from expansion in the construction sector and investment is pouring into heavy and light manufacturing. Improvements in the kingdom's legal and regulatory framework; a faster pace of privatisation; and the changes in Iraq following the 2003 war are credited as the reasons behind the growth, which has resulted in a boom in foreign investment, reaching \$3.1bn in 2006.

Source: Oxford Group



Waterdesalination

## KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA: PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

With around one-quarter of the world's known oil reserves, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is a global economic heavyweight, comprising 25% of the GDP of the entire Arab world. Sustained high oil prices in recent years have translated into double-digit economic growth and rising affluence. Not content to rely on oil export income, which totalled a record \$191.5bn in 2006, the government is now working to diversify the economy by focusing on areas where the kingdom has a natural competitive advantage, such as in petrochemicals, as well as by pushing ahead with liberalisation and privatisation efforts. While expatriate workers continue to play an important role in the economy, the kingdom's high birth rate and youthful population mean that millions of new jobs will need to be created in the years ahead. This is a particular focus for the government, which is working to improve the education system to ensure that Saudi nationals have the skills to match the needs of the private sector.

Source: Oxford Group

## TUNISIA: YEAR 2008 IN REVIEW

Amidst the turbulent background of the global economic crisis, 2008 has turned out to be a surprisingly robust year for the Tunisian economy. Given the measured and steady manner in which the country tends to implement fundamental economic reforms, the year has seen a significant amount of progress towards greater privatisation and liberalisation. On a macroeconomic level, Tunisia has posted healthy growth numbers whilst managing to keep a lid on inflation. GDP growth in 2008 averaged 5.1% - lower than 2007's 6.3%, but a strong showing nonetheless, particularly given the slowdown in the Eurozone, Tunisia's largest trading bloc. Furthermore, in spite of massive rises in commodity prices - from building materials to foodstuffs - inflation came in at a modest 5%, compared to record rates in excess of 12% in other regional countries such as Egypt or Jordan.

Tunisia's domestic banking sector, which has faced a number of hurdles in recent years, posted impressive numbers for 2008, in spite of the volatile international environment. In September, two of the country's largest banks, state-owned Société Tunisienne de Banque and Banque de l'Habitat, posted year-on-year revenue growth numbers of 9.3% and 14%, respectively, while one of the country's largest private banks, Banque de Tunisie, posted a 15% profit rise in the same period.

Some sectors of the financial markets have undergone fundamental changes. The partial privatisation of Tunisian insurance giant STAR, which saw 35% of its shares bought up by French insurer Groupama, underlines the steady opening up of Tunisia's insurance market, in line with the country's decision to liberalise its services sectors as part of its free trade agreement with the EU. Following the government's drive to move Tunisia to a knowledge-based economy, the level of penetration and sophistication of the telecoms and IT sectors has been rapidly improving as well. Recently released figures from the Ministry of Communications Technologies show that by September of 2008, the contribution of the ITC sector to the national gross domestic product (GDP) had reached nearly 10%, up from 7.8% at the start of 2007.

Tunisia's more traditional industries have also been showing strong growth. In spite of the slowdown in its European markets, tourism, one of Tunisia's key economic sectors and the country's second largest employer after agriculture, has grown steadily over the first nine months of 2008, with record revenues expected by the end of the year.

Additionally, Tunisia's infrastructure is getting a big lift, with a new \$700m airport and \$2bn deepwater port in nearby Enfidha, both of which will help increase the republic's transit links with neighbouring countries. In spite of continued global economic uncertainty, the Tunisian government is expecting 2009 to shape up to be an equally fruitful year.

Source: Oxford Group

## The AACC WELCOMES its NEW MEMBERS

### “360° MEDIZIN Dr. Dieter Zakel” means:

treating a human being as a whole and treat him with academic/western medicine. 360°- MEDIZIN is named as such because it does not only treat selectively but will treat the whole body to bring it forward healthwise. Dr. Dieter Zakel MA has a degree in General Medicine, is a specialist in Anesthesiology and Intensive Care, in Blood Group Serology and Blood Transfusion Medicine. He is also an expert in Emergency medicine, is an Emergency Medical Chief, an Investigator in Clinical Trials and also Military Surgeon.

**Coordinates:** www.360gradmedizin.at; dieter@zakel.at; Tel: 0800-633 49 46 or 0660/633 49 46

### LIEBHERR WERK NENZING GMBH

Founded in 1976, the product range of Liebherr Nenzing is a wide one: ship cranes, offshore cranes, harbour mobile cranes, Reach stacker, hydraulic duty cycle crawler cranes, lift cranes, piling- and drilling rigs.

**Contact:** Liebherr Werk Nenzing AG; Dr. Hans Liebherr Straße 1, A-6710 Nenzing; Tel: +43-50809-410; www.liebherr.com

### VA International

VA Intertrading Corporation, founded 1978 is an outstanding international trading firm and Austria's leading trading house, mainly in grain, agricultural products and also steel. Know-how and creativity make VA Intertrading an ideal partner for producers and consumers all over the world. Their partners value the experience gained from their trading activities, in addition to the company's reliability, sound standing and worldwide presence. In addition to their trading activities VA Intertrading provides services in transport and logistics, counter trade and trade finance.

**Coordinates:** VA Intertrading AG, Strasserau 6, 4029 Linz; Tel: +43-732-7804; www.vait.com

### SYLVIAFREYGNER Rechtsanwältin GmbH / Dr. Sylvia Freygner, LL.M.

The main focus of the law firm lies on Franchising Law, Cartel Law, Banking & Finance, Real Estate Law, Corporate Law, Immigration Law as well as Patent Law, Copy Right and Market Rights.

**Coordinates:** Dr. Sylvia Susanna Freygner (LL.M.); Annagasse 6/ 1010 Wien; Tel.: +43 (1) 512 33 93; Fax: +43 (1) 512 33 93-50; office@sylviafreygner.com; www.sylviafreygner.com

### REITERHOF FREUDENTHAL

Mag. Anna Malenka Freudenthal operates her riding stable Freudenthal with great enthusiasm. Being a trainer of sports horses she also breeds Olympic offspring horses and markets them besides other countries also in the Arab world.

**Coordinates:** Mag. Anna Maria Malenka Freudenthal; Consulting & Training of Sport horses; Gut Freudenthal/Oberer Maierhof ; A-2022 Immendorf Nr.4, Mobil: +43 676 500 47 57; Fax: +43 2951 8209 - 4; Internet: www.immendorf.at; www.freudenthal.at



### ATTIA HANDELS-HOLDING GmbH

Sami Attia, an ambitious young man is the Managing Director of ATTIA Handels-Holding, and represents a number of foreign companies as main importer of high quality products. Among these companies are La GENOVESE KAFFEE, ELEKTRA, ASCASO, SAEKO coffee machines and ROYAL FARM spices.

**Coordinates:** ATTIA Handels-Holding GmbH; Nussdorfer Str. 36/1; A-1090 Wien; Tel. +43 1 958 21 96; Fax: +43 1 958 21 97; Email: office@attia.at; Website: www.attia.at

### JUMA LEUCHTEN Ges. mbH

Burhan Juma, Managing Director of the medium-sized enterprise "Juma Leuchten", manufactures crystal chandeliers and has been exporting them successfully besides other countries also to the Arab world.

**Coordinates:** Pohlgasse 27, 1120 Wien; Tel.: 018156257

### HULLA & CO. HUMAN DYNAMICS KG

Human Dynamics is a leading provider of premium consulting services, using our extensive knowledge and experience of Public Sector Clients' operations, effective project cycle and change management practices, and dealing with economic, institutional development, good governance and sectoral policy issues. We provide innovative and customised solutions to achieve sustainable results of the highest quality, thus demonstrating our teams are dedicated to perform.

**Coordinates:** Hulla & Co. Human Dynamics KG; Lothringerstrasse 16; A-1030 Vienna, Austria; Tel. +43 1 402 50 20; Fax +43 1 402 50 20 20; E-Mail: [office@humandynamics.org](mailto:office@humandynamics.org) www.humandynamics.org

## SPRACH-ECKE

### WÄRMENDE WURZELN FÜR KALTE ZEITEN

Wer gerne exotische Speisen genießt, ist bestimmt wohl vertraut mit den zwei wärmenden Wurzeln, die hier vorgestellt werden. Und sie, nämlich Ingwer und Galgant, wurzeln im wahrsten Sinn des Wortes im Orient. Der **Ingwer** wird auf Arabisch **zangebil** genannt. Es ist eine tropische, in Südostasien beheimatete Kulturpflanze, deren Wurzelstock ätherische Öle enthält. Ihr wird eine Vielzahl von heilenden Wirkungen zugesprochen. Den Weg nach Europa fand sie jedoch erst im Mittelalter und gebracht hatten sie die Araber und Venezianer. Der Name selbst stammt vom griech.-lat. *zingiberi* ab und dieses wiederum vom persisch-arabischen *zengebil*. Und wie so oft – steht ganz am Anfang der Wort-Evolution ein Begriff aus dem Sanskrit, nämlich *srngavera*.

**Galgant** ist ebenfalls ein Ingwergewächs und in den warmen Regionen Asiens zuhause. Auf Arabisch heißt er **halangan**. Die Galgantwurzel enthält – so wie der Ingwer – einen hohen Anteil an ätherischen Ölen. Er riecht und schmeckt warm und würzig. Die Araber kannten die Pflanze bereits früh und es ist überliefert, dass Ibn Hurdaba um 875 sie als chinesisches Produkt beschreibt. Es ist nicht genau festzustellen, wann die Pflanze in Europa bekannt wurde. Jedenfalls aber hatte sich schon 1179 Hildegard von Bingen in einer Abhandlung mit ihrer heilenden Wirkung befasst.

Text: Barbara Felder  
Quellen: N. Osman, Kl. Lexikon deutscher Wörter, www.gardnerian.de

## UPCOMING

Spring 2009

**Presentation** of the new "AACC Trade Directory", presented by the new **Secretary General** followed by a lecture on the **Arab Economy**.

May 28, 2009

**2nd Participation** with a booth at the **WKO Exporttag 2009**. Possibility for AACC members to participate at the AACC stand with information material on their companies (CDs, DVDs, Flyers)

November 2009

**3rd Arab Austrian Economic Forum, simultaneously with the General Assembly and Celebration of the 20th Anniversary.** (already in concrete planning)

Wien, 24. Oktober 2008

### SYRIEN - SCHLÜSSEL ZUR LÖSUNG DER NAHOST PROBLEME?

Die beiden Präsidenten der Österreichisch-Syrischen Gesellschaft BM a.D. NABg. Herbert Scheibner (Clubchef BZÖ) und KR Nabil Kuzbari lud zur Podiumsdiskussion mit der syrischen Staatsministerin Dr. Bouthaina Shabaan und Staatssekretär Dr. Hans Winkler. Dr. Shabaan vertrat den Standpunkt, dass das Problem Nahost kein religiöses, sondern ein politisches sein. Die Ministerin betonte, es gehe daher vorrangig um Menschenrechte, Land, Wasser, Geschichte und Kultur, wobei zur Lösung der Probleme der politische Wille oft fehle. Staaten versuchten mit militärischen Mitteln eine Realität zu schaffen, die die Menschen in der Region mitunter ablehnten. Ein Friedensabkommen sollte Gerechtigkeit, Sicherheit, Würde und Integrität für jeden und jedes Land beinhalten.

Quelle: Österreichisch-Syrische Gesellschaft

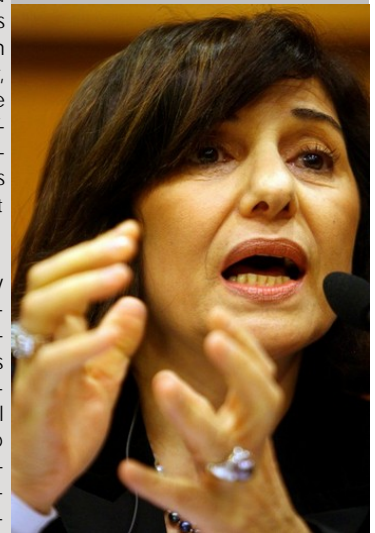
**Kuwait, January 2009**

### OFID active in Arab Economic & Social Development Summit

On invitation of the Arab League an OFID delegation headed by H.E. Suleiman Al Herbish, attended the Finance Minister's Meeting, the Private Sector and Civil Society Forum, and the Arab Economic, Social and Development Summit of Heads of Arab States on January 19 and 20. H.E. Al Herbish chaired the session on Energy which covered topics of new and renewable energy, oil and gas projects, oil demands, price outlooks and the inter-Arab electric power grid and its economic importance and finally nuclear power prospects. H.E. Al Herbish highlighted OFID's financing worldwide and within the Arab world, and focussed discussions on Energy Poverty emphasizing the importance of its development and the ongoing challenges.

Source: OFID Jan,26.

## CHRONIK & NEWS



Dr. Bouthaina Shaaban

## FAIRS & CONFERENCES, AWO TRADE MISSIONS

**AWO / WKO Kuwait und Katar, 22.-24. 2 2009**  
**MARKTSONDIERUNGSREISE**  
mit Bundespräsident Dr. Heinz Fischer  
afrikanahostwko.at  
www.wko.at

**ALGERIA:** Algiers, 22-25 February 2009. Algeria's 3rd International Electrical Engineering, Industrial Automation and Energy Exhibition.

www.electro-automation.info

**OMAN:** Mascat, 16-18 March 2009. Interiors & Buildex.

www.interiorsbuildex.com

**SYRIA:** Damascus, 6-9 April 2009. Infrastructure SYRIA 2009.

www.infrastructuresyria.com

**AWO/WKO Trade Mission:**  
**Tripoli, Libya 2-12 April 2009.** Contact: Mag. David Bachmann

T: +218 21 333 51 67

F: +218 21 333 73 22

**SYRIA:** Damascus, 16-19 April 2009. Healthcare & Dental Exhibition (medical technology).

damaskus@wko.at

**AWO/WKO Trade Mission:**  
**Morocco, Meknes, Siam 2009, 21-25 April 2009.**

Contact: Mag. Marion Tschernutter  
marion.tschernutter@wko.at

**QATAR:** Doha, 27-30 April 2009. Project Qatar 2009.

Contact: Mag. Markus Gumplmayr;  
markus.gumplmayr@wko.at

**AWO/WKO Trade Mission:**  
**Morocco, Casablanca, 1-10 May 2009.**

**Plast Expo 2009 (chemical products, packaging...)**

Contact: Mag. Manfred Schmid.

casablanca@wko.at

**JORDAN:** Amman, 4-7 May 2009. Project Near East 2009 (Construction equipment).

damaskus@wko.at

**QATAR:** Doha, 11-13 May 2009. FUTURALLIA 2009, 14th International Business Development Forum for International Commerce and Investment.

Contact: Mr. Chadi Abou Daher

chadi@wtcdoha.com

**UAE:** Dubai, 12-14 May

2009. Domotex 2009, carpets and floor coverings exhibition.

marion.tschernutter@wko.at

**LEBANON:** Beirut, 2-5 June 2009. Project Lebanon 2009 at BIEL. (3 billion USD projects under construction, 600 companies participating from 16 nations).

www.projectlebanon.com

**MOROCCO:** Casablanca, 2-5 June 2009. Morocco's International Exhibition, Chemical Industry, Food Technology, Paper Trade and Plastics & Rubber Industry. www.gesell.com

**UAE:** Dubai, 7-9 June 2009. Beautyworld Exhibition, wellness & Spa 2009. Perfumes, Cosmetics and Make-up.

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Contact: Mag. Markus Gumplmayr,  
markus.gumplmayr@wko.at

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Für den Inhalt verantwortlich:  
GS Dipl.-Ing. Mouddar Khouja  
Chefredaktion:  
Johanna L. Sassarak  
Redakteure:

Dr. Horst Machu, Elias Elias, MBA  
Layout: Johanna L. Sassarak  
Lobkowitzplatz 1/15  
A - 1010 Wien  
T +43 / 1 / 513 39 65  
F +43 / 1 / 513 85 59  
headoffice@aacc.at  
www.aacc.at