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Palestinian Academic Society for the Study of International Affairs



آكت لحل النزاعات
Conflict Resolution

Protecting Islamic and Christian Cultural Heritage in Jerusalem - "IRTH" Project
Conference on "Protecting, Preserving and Investing in Waqf Properties in Jerusalem"

Legacy Hotel, Jerusalem

Available via Zoom

Tuesday and Wednesday, 1-2 November 2022

9:00 - 15:30 Jerusalem Time

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Day One		
9:00 – 9:30	Registration	
9:30 – 10:00	Opening Remarks – Dr. Mahdi Abdul Hadi, <i>Head of PASSIA, representative of partner institutions</i> – Ibrahim Laafia, <i>EU - Head of Cooperation (HoC), Jerusalem</i>	
SESSION ONE: THE WAQF SCENE IN JERUSALEM Moderator: Dr. Mahdi Abdul Hadi, PASSIA		
10:00 – 10:15	The emergence and development of the Waqf in Jerusalem (definition, concept, classification (charitable and family), aspirations)	Dr. Haitham Suleiman <i>Lecturer, Faculty of Law, Al-Quds University</i>
10:15 – 10:30	The role of the Waqf Council in the management of endowments (public and family endowments; powers and specializations; Properties Department at the Waqf Council)	Judge Mohammed Sarandah <i>Jerusalem Shari'a Court, Waqf Council</i>
10:30 – 10:45	Christian endowments in Jerusalem (figures and statistics – utilized and vacant)	Simon K. Azazian <i>Consultant for Church & Faith in the MENA, Jerusalem</i>
10:45 – 11:15	General Discussion (participants)	
11:15 – 11:30	Coffee Break	

SESSION TWO: CHALLENGES AND POTENTIALS FOR DEVELOPING WAQF PROPERTIES Moderator: Dr. Bernard Sabella, Executive Secretary, Middle East Council of Churches, Jerusalem		
11:30 – 11:45	Educational challenges and the role and potential of Waqf properties	Dr. Ali Abu Ras <i>Education Expert, Professor of curriculum and teaching methods at Al-Quds University, Abu Dis</i>
11:45 – 12:00	Housing challenges and the role and potential of Waqf properties	Salah Hidmi <i>Chief Executive Officer, Quds Bank, Ramallah</i>
12:00 – 12:15	Tourism competitiveness and the role and potential of Waqf properties	Raed Saadeh <i>Chairman, Jerusalem Tourism Cluster</i>
12:15 – 13:15	General Discussion	
13:15 – 14:00	Lunch	
SESSION THREE: CASE STUDIES OF WAQF PROTECTION INITIATIVES AND POTENTIAL FOR INVESTMENT TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY Moderator: Waad Qannam, PalVision		
14:15 – 14:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Old City of Jerusalem Revitalization Program (OCJRP) (Welfare Association) Eng. Amal Abu Al-Hawa, Program Manager, OCJRP, Taawon/Welfare Association 	
14:30 – 14:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waqf in 1948 Lands Khaled Zabarka, Lawyer and Legal Advisor to several family endowments in Jerusalem and 1948 lands 	
14:45 – 15:30	General Discussion	

Day Two		
9:00 - 9:30	Registration	
SESSION ONE: CASE STUDIES AND THE ROLE OF THE COMMUNITY IN WAQF UTILIZATION AND PROTECTION Moderator: Adnan Al-Joulani, PASSIA		
9:30 – 10:00	The Mughrabi Quarter Digital Archive and the Virtual Illes Relief Initiative	Dr. Maryvelma Smith O'Neil & team
10:00 – 10:30	The Role of Civil Society in Waqf Protection	Dr. Maryvelma Smith O'Neil, Founder and co-director of the Webster University MENA Center for Peace and Development, Webster University, Geneva, Switzerland
10:30 – 11:00	General Discussion	

11:00 – 11:15	Coffee Break	
SESSION TWO: ENDOWMENT FUNDS - A NEW CONCEPT IN THE WAQF ECONOMY Moderator: Dr. Mahmoud Abu Sway, Senior Partner, Sharp & Beyond for Legal and Investment Consulting Services, Ramallah		
11:15 – 11:20	Introductory video	
11:20 – 11:35	The concept of endowment for Waqf investment funds (definition - how it works - where it works)	Dr. Abdul Hannan Al-Issa, <i>International expert in arbitration in Islamic finance and contracting, Oman</i>
11:35 – 11:50	The role of Waqf investment funds in expanding the Waqf's work in Jerusalem	Amjad Qabha <i>Director of the Legal Department at the Capital Market Authority, Ramallah/Al-Bireh</i>
11:50 – 12:30	General Discussion	
12:30 – 12:45	Coffee Break	
SESSION THREE: THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK GOVERNING WAQF INVESTMENT AND RESOLVING WAQF DISPUTES Moderator: Mohammed Hadieh, ACT		
12:45 – 13:00	The legal framework (Jordanian law and the laws in effect in Jerusalem - Waqf registration – investment contracts - investment law)	Bashir Assi <i>Lawyer, legal advisor and expert in investment and commercial issues, Jerusalem</i>
13:00 – 13:15	Mediation in resolving Waqf disputes - FIDIC (International Federation of Consulting Engineers) as a model.	Tahseen Saleh <i>Engineer, international arbitrator, and certified trainer with the International Federation of Consulting Engineers (FIDIC), Qatar</i>
13:15 – 13:30	Arbitration as a judicial alternative for investment disputes (International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes - ICSID as a model)	Lubna Katbeh <i>Lawyer and co-founder of the Equity Legal Group, Ramallah, an international arbitrator; first Palestinian woman to be a member of the International Court of Arbitration in Paris</i>
13:30 – 14:00	General Discussion and Presentation of Findings and Recommendations	
14:00	Lunch	