

# Alliance of Civilizations International Fellowship Program

UN Alliance of Civilizations, British Council, Islamic Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization, League of Arab States,  
and The German Marshall Fund of the United States

## ALLIANCE OF CIVILIZATIONS INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

# AoCIF

Middle Eastern  
&  
North African  
Fellows

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**G | M | F** The German Marshall Fund  
of the United States  
STRENGTHENING TRANSATLANTIC COOPERATION



ALLIANCE OF CIVILIZATIONS



**Muhammad M. Abushaqra** is currently a Specialist at the Institute for Peace Studies (IPS), and graduated from the faculty of law-English department at Alexandria University. Mr. Abushaqra is also a member of a group of international institutes and networks that specialize in dispute settlement and ADRs (Alternative Dispute Resolutions), which includes the ACI Arb, an associated member in the chartered institute of arbitrators in London, and the YIAG-LCIA, or Young International Arbitration Group in London Court for International Arbitration. Mr. Abushaqra serves as a registered researcher in a number of international networks that focus on development, international affairs, and youth, including the Global Development Research Network (GDRN), the World Bank's consultation group, and the Youth Employment summit –YES. Mr. Abushaqra served as a United Nations Volunteer for four month during 2008 and actively participated in various intercultural events. Mr. Abushaqra is an Egyptian national, born in Alexandria in 1986. He is single. He likes classical and jazz music. His main interests are playing football and reading. He is tri-lingual: Arabic, English, and developing French.



**Maha Adel** works as a Configuration and Release Management Manager in ITWorx, Egypt's largest Software Development Company. She has been managing a team of 3-6 employees for the past 4 years, and has been working for ITWorx for the past 7 years. She graduated from the Faculty of Computers and Information System in 2000, and has been working in the Software Development industry ever since. She is certified in a few of the industries technologies and best practices certificates. She has had many professional, technical, and soft skills training over the past few years. She has focused on developing community activities over her years in ITWorx as part of the company's Social Responsibility department by establishing CuttingEdge, BeGood and AcademiaBridge clubs. She has had many social and charity involvements over the past years, and is an active member of many community development organizations.



**Anas Adel AlFalah**, born and raised in Kuwait, began his career as a computer programmer at one of the top computer companies in Kuwait following his graduation from Kuwait University (KU) with a BsC in computer science. While there, he developed a great interest in business, and then went on to obtain a master degree in business administration (MBA) and completed an executive education course at Harvard Business School. After graduation, he was elected to supervise international relationships between the National Union of Kuwait student (NUKS) and other student unions around the world. A few years later, he joined the Islamic Conference Youth forum for dialog and corporation (ICYF-DC), which represents Muslim youth around the world for dialogue and cooperation with other nations. He also took part in organizing new projects such as the Islamic Conference Young Entrepreneurs Network (ICYEN). He has been an active member in the Kuwait Economic Society (KES) and is the head of the small project support league. Mr. AlFalah spent two years as the deputy chairman of Al-Burooj Real-estate Company, and he was the General Manager and deputy chairman of Kuwait Investment House. In 2008, he decided to start his own business, and established Capita Group Projects, which focuses on developing investment in the Middle East and Eastern Europe.



**Lara Arabian**, a Beirut native, has lived in Lebanon all her life. Due to her Armenian origins, she was involved in activities with the Armenian Community in Lebanon. During her childhood and adolescent years, she was active in the Scouts Movement within the Armenian Community; afterward, she became a member of the Armenian University Students Association and then the Armenian Young professionals group. As a law student, her interest in defending and providing equal rights for all human beings started to grow, and along with it, her involvement in Human Rights NGOs, first as a volunteer then as a paid staff member. This also led to her choice for specialization for her Master's degree in Human Rights and Democratization. Today, she is greatly involved in the human rights arena in Lebanon and worldwide. She has worked and continues to work on various human rights topics on both community (implementation) and legal text (amending the law to confirm with the international human rights standard) levels.



**Farah Ahmed Atyyat** has worked for Al-Ghad Daily Newspaper in Jordan since May 2004, covering human rights issues, the judicial system, as well as the Ministry of Environment. She focuses on women's rights, honor killings, and climate change. Before that, she used to cover other beats such as Social Security news, Parliament, and the Ministry of labor. She also works also as Executive Manager Editor in Environment Letter magazine, preparing materials, investigations, and news reports relating to the environment in Jordan and the Arab States. She is a member of the Arab Science & Technology Foundation, which promotes the development of the Arab world through advancements in science and technology.



**Said Bahajin** is a native of Tangier, Morocco, who grew up with the image of intercultural dialogue and peaceful coexistence between people from different religions and cultures. He decided to choose peace and dialogue between cultures as the ultimate goal and field of work for his future endeavors. His diverse educational and working background, life experiences, and commitments to peace, as well as his numerous interactions with individuals, groups, and institutions across cultures, have helped enabled him to recognized within himself a better sense of acceptance and understanding of diversity in unity and therefore seek to influence the world differently. He believes that education is a tool of a peaceful change, and that is why he has worked as a teacher since 1997. At the same time, he pursued his studies in University and attained his Bachelor's degree in Spanish Literature in 2005. He was then accepted as a scholarship student in the International Master's Program in Peace, Conflict and Development studies in Spain, where he received his degree in 2008. Later, he started as PhD researcher in UNESCO Chair of Philosophy for Peace. Experienced in peace education projects, he is a the Young Leaders Visitors Program in Sweden, Peace Master Castellon Network, and the Power of Peace Network supported by UNESCO. He also writes regularly in "La Chronique de Tanger Newspaper."



**Mohammed G. Beshir** is an Egyptian Blogger (Gemyhood), Journalist, and Comics writer. He has worked at El Dostor Daily New as Website Editor in Chief. He is committed to freedom of expression and the importance of publishing online and sees the New Media and Social Networking tools as vital. He is therefore a professional trainer in the abovementioned fields. Mohammed is a former member of the Egyptian Federation for Scouts & Girl Guides, through which he has participated in various development projects in Egypt's villages and governorates.



**Manal Elattir** was born in a small Berber town in Morocco in 1983. She pursued her education at Gustavus Adolphus College, in St. Peter, Minnesota. In June 2005, she graduated with Phi Beta Kappa honors, earning a Bachelor of Arts in International Management with a minor in Chemistry. She was also selected to participate in the Washington Semester program in International Business and Trade in 2005. After working with Marketing Group Agency in Virginia and the Moroccan American Center in Washington, DC, Manal decided to return to her native country and continue in the field of development. For the past three years, she has worked as the country coordinator for the MEPI (Middle East Partnership Initiative) Alumni Network. Furthermore, she is a regional consultant as well as a researcher and lecturer on civil society issues, women empowerment, and youth development. As a civil society actor, Manal is the founder and president of IMDAD for social entrepreneurship, the first NGO in Morocco to tackle social entrepreneurship and introduce it as an essential tool towards social development. She is also the founding member of Junior Chamber International (JCI) and is currently serving as the president of JCI-Rabat.



**Emad Khalil** is a project coordinator at the Egyptian Center for Human Rights in Cairo. He is also the editor for Human Rights Issues at the Al Ghad newspaper. He specializes in covering Coptic Issues. He is well-versed in the dialogue among civilizations and has worked tirelessly in the NGO and civil society sector in Egypt. He is a fellow of the Cairo-based American Islamic Congress program entitled: Fearless Fighters for Faith Freedom campaign.



**Mohammed Tawfiq Obidallah** was born in Beit-Jalla, Palestine, and raised in Battir, an ancient village located four kilometers from Bethlehem to the southeast, and Jerusalem to the northeast. In the year 2002, he married his German wife and they have two lovely children: Muain and Hanaa. In the same year, he also obtained his B.Sc. degree in biology from the College of Science from the University of Hebron, and then moved to Germany. He attended a two-year international Master's Degree program in Environmental Sciences at the University of Cologne and successfully obtained his degree there in the year 2006. During his study at the graduate level, he researched and worked on a master's thesis entitled "The Middle East Hydro-Political Crisis: The Case of Palestine and Israel." In July 2008, he was awarded a scholarship from the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) for his double Master's degree in Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) for Arab and German Young Professionals, which is offered jointly by the University of Jordan and Cologne University of Applied Sciences. He currently lives between Jordan and the West Bank and his goal is to raise awareness on water issues in the Middle East and by doing so contribute to security and peace.



**Riad Hamodeh Yasen** is Head of the Culture and Communication Department at the Ministry of Education in Jordan. Having attained his graduate degree, with a major in History and a minor in Political Science from the University of Jordan, Riad went on to study towards an M.A. in Arabic and Islamic History at the same university. In 2008, Riad defended his doctoral thesis and was awarded the title of PhD with an Excellent degree (Honors) in History. He publishes his essays in various Jordanian and Arab journals and newspapers and is a member of the Editorial team of the Palestinian Encyclopedia. His interests in intercultural dialogue and development have inspired him to become involved in several projects, namely, Amman Forum at the Civilizations Renaissance Center for Cultural Communications and Development and the Jordanian National Commission for UNESCO. Riad likes to describe himself as a conflict resolver and has great respect for the other. He would like to continue to learn more and broaden his horizons.



**Nabila Maarouf Younes** is Deputy Manager at the Private Education Directorate of the Ministry of Higher Education in Syria. She oversees private universities, which is an emerging and rapidly growing sector in Syria. Having attained a Law Degree from the Damascus University in 2002, Nabila has pursued a degree in Political Science, majoring in Diplomacy and International Relations at the same University. Nabila is a member of the General Federation of Women in Syria and is currently pursuing an EMBA degree in English while at the Ministry of Higher Education.

