Hadhramaut Research Centre
Training, Research and Community Development

In Association with
the London Middle East Institute,
SOAS, University of London

Supported by
MENARC and the British-Yemeni Society

Present

Rediscovering Hadhramaut: Paradigms of Research

7th March 2015
Djam Lecture Theatre (DLT)
Main Building
School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS)
Thornhaugh Street
Russell Square
London WC1H 0XG
On the occasion of its first international conference in London on Saturday, 7th March 2015, the Hadhramaut Research Centre (HRC) is honoured to announce the appointment of a Board of Trustees and Associate Members.

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HRC’s conference ‘Rediscovering Hadhramaut: Paradigms of Research’ will be held at the London Middle East Institute, SOAS, University of London on Saturday, 7th March 2015 from 09.00 to 17.00. Distinguished academics from across the world will participate in panels covering topics on Yemen in general and Hadhramaut in particular.

We are grateful for the support of MENARC (MENA Regional Consulting Limited), as well as the British Yemeni Society (BYS), London. We are also inviting sponsors and support from all our friends in the Arabian Peninsula and the diaspora to make this conference a success. With the support of donors we can establish the HRC as an institution of excellence in Yemen, the region and wider world.

We look forward to your participation in the research centre.

With our best wishes,  
The Board of Trustees
The Hadhramaut Research Centre: an Introduction

The importance of the Hadhramaut can be attributed to its geographical position and the influential role it has played throughout human history. The region has long been inhabited and witnessed the rise of early civilisations. Hadhrami migrations to Africa, India, South East Asia and other parts of the Arabian Peninsula have had a strong impact on these regions, attracting the attention of researchers in different parts of the world. As a consequence, various conferences, workshops and seminars have been held over the years to study the region. The Indian Ocean and its strategic position have always had a unique history. With additional research both the Hadhramaut and Hadhrami migration are likely to be recognised as even more significant.

HRC is completely independent of any government funding or influence. It was launched in December 2013 in cooperation with Al Ahgaaf University, which is based in Fuwah, Mukalla. The university has provided an administrative office, an Administration Director, support staff and the use of its facilities for two years or until such time as the Centre is able to operate independently.

As an independent civil society centre, HRC has adopted a system of governance that is tailored to its aims and intended research functions. Its structure will facilitate (i) good governance, (ii) financial transparency and cost effectiveness, (iii) efficiency in the management of all its activities and (iv) flexibility and adapting to changing conditions as the Centre progresses and develops.

The mission of the Centre will be research and publication, as well as holding various training workshops to raise awareness among policy-makers. HRC will seek to provide decision-makers, the academic community and the public at large with first rate, well-resourced information and analysis. It will strive to establish high standards in academic research and the transfer of knowledge, inspiring much needed change.
08.45 – 09.15 Registration

09.15 – 09.30 Welcoming Remarks: Dr Noel Brehony

09.30 – 10.15 Keynote Speech: Professor Abdalla Bujra Al Nahdi
Chair: Dr Noel Brehony
The Importance of Research for Hadhramaut: the Role of the Hadhramaut Research Centre

10.15 – 11.00 SETTING THE SCENE:
THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF YEMEN AND HADHRAMAUT
Chair: Dr Iain Walker
The Current Political and Economic Situation in Yemen
Dr Noel Brehony (British-Yemeni Society, UK)

11.00 – 11.30 Coffee Break

11.30 – 12.45 PANEL 1
COMPARISON OF HADHRAMI EMIGRATION TO DIFFERENT REGIONS:
THE ARAB WORLD, EAST AFRICA, INDIA AND SOUTH-EAST ASIA
Chair: Dr Elisabeth Kendall

Some Thoughts on the Hadhrami/Yemeni Diaspora
Professor Leif Manger (University of Bergen, Norway)

Hadhrami Migrants in the Colonial Philippines
Professor William Clarence-Smith (SOAS, UK)

The Hadhrami Diaspora in East Africa
Dr Iain Walker (University of Oxford, UK)

Visualising the Homeland: the Atlas of Sayyid 'Uthman of Batavia (1822-1914)
Dr Nico Kaptein (University of Leiden, Netherlands)

12.45 – 13.45 Lunch Break
13.45 – 14.45  PANEL 2
THE DIASPORA:
ISSUES OF INTEGRATION AND OF RETURN TO HADHRAMAUT
Chair: Professor Abdalla Bujra Al Nahdi

The Connection between Hadhramaut and Southeast Asia:
A Case of Indonesia in 2014/15
Professor Kazuhiro Arai (Keio University, Japan)

Diaspora or Network? Hadhrami Merchants of the Red Sea in the 20th Century
Professor Philippe Pétriat (Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne University, France)

Identity Politics and Hadhrami Diasporas in the Horn of Africa
Professor Ruth Iyob (University of Missouri in St. Louis, USA)

14.45 – 16.15  PANEL 3
ANALYSES OF THE PRESENT LEVEL OF DEVELOPMENT OF HADHRAMAUT
AND STRATEGIES FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT
Chair: Muhammad Bin-Dohry

Current Development Challenges in Al-Mahra Governorate and the Implications for Hadhramaut
Dr Elisabeth Kendall (Oxford University, UK)

Role of the Hadramaut Research Centre (HRC) towards Health Care
Dr Adel Aulaqi (UK)

Hadhrami ‘Exceptionalism’: Attempts at an Explanation
Thanos Petouris (SOAS, UK)

16.15 – 16.30  Closing Remarks: Muhammad Bin-Dohry

16.30 – 17.00  Tea / Coffee