FOUNDATION NEWS

Arab and Western intellectuals to participate in the 15th Session of Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain cultural Foundation in Oxford



Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain Cultural Foundation announced the names of Arab and western speakers of its fifteenth session, entitled "Challenges of a Shared World", to be held in University of Oxford, on October 24-25.

The Foundation said in a press release that the speakers of the "Refugees and International Institutions" panel are: former Lebanese Prime Minister, Mr Fouad Siniora, Dr. Hazim Al- Naser Jordanian minister of water and irrigation, Mr. Filippo Grandi from Italy, former Commissioner-General and UN Under Secretary-General of UNRWA and former Speaker of the Parliament of Malta, Mr. Michael Frendo. The panel will be moderated by former GCC Secretary General Dr. Abdullah Bishara from Kuwait.

The second panel will discuss "Environment and Human Development", with Dr. Adnan Shihab-Eldin Director General of the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences [KFAS]; Dr Rima Khalaf , the Under Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia in Beirut; Dr. Jane Harrigan, Professor of Economics at University of London and Dr. Eckart Woertz, Senior research fellow at the Barcelona Centre for International Affairs while Professor Charles Godfray Head of the Zoology Department at Oxford University will chair the panel.

The third panel discusses the topic of "New Media and Social Networks" with the following speakers: Algerian Minister of Culture Ezzeddine Mahoubi, Dr.Thuraya Al-Farra Syrian media expert living in Moscow, Mr. Anthony Downey British academic and writer and professor Joseph Mifsud, Director of London Academy of Diplomacy . The panel is moderated by Lebanese TV presenter Paula Yacoubian.

"The challenges of Youth" is the fourth panel of the session and its speakers are: Professor John Gardner from Sterling University in Scotland; Juan Cole, professor of History at the University of Michigan; Abdelhak Azzouzi, Moroccan academic and intellectual; and Sarah Abu Fahd Abu-Shaar, renowned for her "Harvard Spring" speech that stunned the world in 2014. The panel moderator is Dr. Khaled Azab, Head of Central Projects & Services Sector at Bibliotheca Alexandrina in Egypt.

The fifth panel is about "The Urban Challenge" and its speakers are: Dr. Kelly Hutzell, Associate professor at Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh & Doha; Dr. Mohamed Kabbaj from Morrocco, Professor Nasser Rabat, an American architect and historian as well as Dr. Musa Shteiwi Jordanian academic. The panel is moderated by Dr. Leila, French professor of geography.

Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain Cultural Foundation holds this session in collaboration with The Middle East Center, Oxford University, and the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations. The Foundation has invited hundreds of academics and intellectuals from all across the world to attend and participate in the session's panels. The Chairman of the Foundation, poet Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain said that inviting this group of prominent intellectuals and thinkers was based on the diversity of the proposals adopted by the Foundation in order to provide plenty of new perceptions and solutions to the challenges facing the world. "The speakers of this conference have a good experience in the

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proposed topics; they have also presented research papers and studies in the theme that they are discussing, what gives credibility and make their participation and discussion very useful. The Foundation plans to issue recommendations at the end of the conference and it will be delivered to the concerned organizations, in order to contribute in developing different solutions, especially for who suffer from the scourge of war and displacement," Mr. Al-Babtain added.



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