



Saudi-German Cultural Dialogue

Monday, March 31, 2014, 5:30 pm

5:30 pm Welcoming note, Dr Abdulrahman Alhumedhi, Saudi Cultural Attaché in Germany

5:45 pm **Imagining the other: Arabs and Westerners across the divide**

Lecture by **Dr Saad Albazei**, moderated by **Prof Ulrike Freitag**

The lecture will focus on the evolution of various images and attitudes in both Arab and Western cultures. It will look at certain historical developments that helped shape such images, views and attitudes in various ways. Such developments can be divided into two groups. One group includes Colonialism, wars, and religious fanaticism, and the images these create tend to be more or less acrimonious and distorted. Simultaneously, however, a number of other and different developments appear over the years to have played and continue to play a significantly corrective role in that process. These include: increased and improved education, enhanced communication and commerce, renewed interest in dialogue, translation and travel. As neither of these two groups appears to be winning, one thing is clear: the tension will continue as each has enough energy to bolster its position. In Arab and Western thought as well as in current discourse on both sides, such a tension is on display in publications as well as in media discussion. Ultimately, it reflects a vital and inevitable need for both sides to cross a divide that is ceaselessly nourished by misconceptions and conflicting interests.



Dr Saad Albazei is a Saudi writer, translator, and critic and is currently a member of the Saudi Shura Council. Since 1984, and until his joining the Shura Council in 2009, he has been professor of English and comparative literature at King Saud University in Riyadh. His former capacities include: President of the Riyadh Literary Club, editor-in-chief of The Global Arabic Encyclopedia (30 vols.), and editor-in-chief of the Riyadh Daily, an English-speaking newspaper.

6:30 pm Oriental musical interlude

6:45 pm **The impact of the Arabic language on science and civilization**

Lecture by **Dr Abdullah Alwashmi**, simultaneous translation by **Dr Günther Orth**

The lecture offers a description of the impact of the Arabic language on science and civilization and the interrelation with other languages. It presents the most prominent features that describe the reality of the Arabic language and its movement in the Arab and Muslim community and the world. Moreover, Dr. Alwashmi will illustrate the efforts of the (KAICA) to strengthen the role of the Arabic language, and will analyze the initiatives of the center to follow up on the needs of the Arabic language both at the local and international levels and to provide services to individuals and institutions.



Dr Abdullah Alwashmi is the Secretary General of the King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz International Center for Arabic (KAICA), and a professor of Arabic Studies at the Imam Muhammad bin Saudi Islamic University. He obtained his master degree in literary criticism and his doctorate on rhetoric and literary criticism. He received the award of the Prince Faisal bin Fahd for poetic creativity. He is acting as cultural and Media consultant of a number of media and cultural organizations, and at the Ministry of Culture and Information. He is also a member of the Alqassim Literary Club.

7:30 pm Reception with oriental delicatessen

Venue: Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia in Berlin - Cultural Bureau, Bundesallee 22, 10717 Berlin