

# Amman forum seen as opportunity to advance efforts for Arab solidarity and interaction among political activists

By Christina Schlegl  
Special to the Jordan Times

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AMMAN — Representatives of dozens of Arab political parties, in and out of power, opened an unprecedented conference here on Monday vowing to make their meeting a major step towards restoring Arab solidarity and unity of purpose.

His Majesty King Hussein opened the three-day conference stressing the need to enhance collective Arab action as well as democracy, pluralism and human rights in Arab countries (see separate story).

Suleiman Arar, secretary-general of the Jordanian Al Mustaqbal party which organised the conference, thanked the King for hosting the gathering and expressed hopes that conferees will succeed in achieving a unified formula for future Arab action.

Mr. Arar, a former deputy prime minister, regretted that the situation in some Arab countries was distressing while others in the world had made their plans and secured the future of their peoples for the next century.

Only legal and licensed parties, 40 from Arab countries and 20 parties from



His Majesty King Hussein on Monday greets delegates attending a conference of Arab political parties in Amman (Photo by Yousef Allan)

Jordan, were invited to the gathering being held at Philadelphia Hotel. Illegal parties were not invited to avoid friction, organisers said.

It is likely that the issue of freedoms and human rights spark heated discussions among conferees but the King warned in his inaugural speech against appalling consequences if the same conditions of despotism and suppression continue to dominate the Arab atmosphere.

The King, who had personally approved the holding of the conference in Amman, stressed Jordan's consistent pursuit of and believe in collective Arab action.

Participants agreed that convening a meeting of political parties from all Arab countries for the first time was a much-needed development.

Delegates said it was high time for Arab states to have a unified stand, especially vis-a-vis the

Arab-Israeli peace process. They called for intensified pressure on Israel to fulfill the agreements that it has signed with the Arabs in the six-year old peace process.

"It is now 'peace for peace' instead of 'peace for land'. The peace process is in danger, and we have the right to defend the Arab Nation." Secretary General of the Islamic Action Front (IAF) Ishaq Ahmad Al

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 1)

Farhan stressed.

He added that there would be a war soon, not a violent but a peaceful and strategic one, emphasising that "the Arab World should not be sacrificed for the cause of peace in the Middle East."

Other crucial topics which will be tackled during the three-day conference are the enhancement of democracy, human rights situation and methods of coordination among Arab political parties.

There is general consensus that such meetings should be held on a regular basis.

"I hope that we can establish a committee, formed by participants from all parties, to organise follow-up conferences and ensure continuous cooperation."

Lebanese delegate Joseph Kousseifi, representing the Falangist (Kata'eb) Party, told the Jordan Times.

Iraqi delegate Sa'ad Qasim Hammoudi from the Arab Ba'ath Socialist Party, said he did not assume that the conference to "reach a consensus over one subject."

The meeting in itself is "already a big result," he told the Jordan Times.

"I see this conference as an occasion for a dialogue between all political directions, from rightists over leftists to Islamists," Mr. Kousseifi added.

He stressed that all parties in the Arab World were facing the same problems, such as the lack of freedom of opinion and dissatisfactory human rights situation.

He expected the conference to issue a commu-

niqué covering topics such as the Israeli occupation of a border strip in South Lebanon, and the Golan Heights and the embargo imposed on Libya by the United Nations.

Mr. Hammoudi stressed that the participating parties represent a variety of ideas and thus create a chance to discuss cooperation among the parties.

He also warned that the conference should not consist of speeches with "big words but no (concrete) results."

Mr. Hammoudi acknowledged at the same time he does not expect the meeting to come up with solutions to all problems discussed.

"That is why we have to continue with such gatherings in the future," he added.

Here is the list of partici-

pants to the conference:

Lebanon: Abdullah Abdul Hamid from the Peoples Leagues Committees Coalition; Munir Huj and Joseph Kousseifi from the Falangist (Kata'eb) Party; Qasem Saleh from the Syrian National Socialist Party; Sa'adullah Mazra'ani from the Lebanese Communist Party and Azmi Mansour from the Syrian National Socialist Party.

Egypt: Ibrahim Shukri, Talat Musallam and Khaied Yunis from the Labour Party; Hussein Abdul Razzaq from the National Democratic Coalition Party; Mohammad Ahmad and Nabeel Alqawi from the National Democratic Party and Mahmoud Ramadan from the Liberal Party.

Yemen: Abdul Wahhab



# Daimler Benz delegation in Amman for business talks

By Christina Schlegl  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — "To bring the old Middle East into the new world" is an urgent need to strengthen and push forward business ties between the region and Germany, head of a visiting German Daimler Benz delegation, Matthias Kleinert, stressed yesterday, quoting from His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan's speech delivered at an international conference in the Hague last Tuesday.

The purpose of the four-member delegation's visit, which arrived here Friday, according to Mr. Kleinert, is not only to hold business talks but also to give social and cultural support to Jor-

dan and the peace process within the region.

In an interview with the Jordan Times Saturday, Mr. Kleinert, who is Daimler Benz' senior vice-president, stated that his company will contribute to the peace process by intensifying business ties in the region.

"We see Jordan within the framework of the whole Middle East, which is strategically very important to us," he emphasised, comparing the region's significance to Southeast Asia's and India's.

The Middle East, he continued, is the crossroad between Orient and Occident as well as the link to Africa.

Daimler Benz, Germany's biggest industrial

group, started in 1994 a series of meetings with Jordanian officials on various fields of cooperation, basically land transport, water management, railway projects and technical cooperation.

The industrial giant is currently involved in such projects as the upgrading of the local railway network and the modernisation of the signal system between Aqaba and Shidia.

Dornier System Consult, 100 per cent owned by Daimler Benz, is working on a regional infrastructure development study aimed at linking the Egyptian city of Taba, the Israeli city of Eilat and Jordan's port city of Aqaba.

Moreover, "ADTRANZ", a joint ven-

ture between Arsean Brown Boveri (ABB) and Daimler Benz, forming the worldwide biggest railway system enterprise, is currently involved in a project intending to link two Jordanian cities, Aqaba and Zarqa.

The group's activities also include projects in the Palestinian self-rule areas, like the construction of an airport in Gaza in cooperation with Siemens.

Regarding the realisation of such projects and accretion of future ones, Mr. Kleinert said that "it is about time to bring the old Middle East into the new world and implement forceful steps and measures to strengthen business ties and make them more effective."

The German company would like to organise seminars and training programmes focusing Jordanians and then take advantage of its know-how, he expied.

"It is very important that the (Middle East) region is aware of the German companies' intent to invest and form joint ventures and increase at the same time their efforts to implement such projects."

Concerning the political stability within the region, Mr. Kleinert stated that "nothing can be done without taking it."

"We are of the opinion that the peace process in the region is irreversible. We followed development in the region and despite the problems the process facing right

now, we are convinced of its continuation."

Mr. Kleinert emphasised that Daimler Benz takes its business and social ties with the region very seriously and stressed the importance of the region.

"We here are not only to discuss business matters, but also for social and cultural support and for talks on scientific topics," he further explained.

During their visit, which ends today, the delegation was scheduled to meet also with officials at the Royal Scientific Society and the Higher Council of Science and Technology to tackle environment and energy policies.

## Dutch organisation to support Jordan to become a centre for regional trade

By Christina Schlegl  
*Special to the Jordan Times*

AMMAN — Jordan's first general export marketing and management workshop organised by the Jordan Export Development and Commercial Centres Corporation (JEDCO) aims at the establishment of a bilateral trade cooperation agreement between the organisation itself and the Dutch Centre for the Promotion of Imports from developing countries (CPI) to enter the European market.

The semi-governmental JEDCO, which was founded in 1972 as a joint venture between the Ministry of Industry and Trade, the Amman Chamber of Industry and the Federation of Chambers of Commerce mainly looks after small and middle-sized companies in the region.

"Jordan's trade balance is still very much in favour of

the European community," Ghaith Sharaiha, the head of JEDCO's international cooperation section told the Jordan Times Wednesday.

"The European market is a very potential one with a huge purchasing power," he said. "It is a challenging opportunity for the workshop's participants to face the possibility of being part of such a market and do (successful) business over there."

Mr. Sharaiha also stated that it is still a long way to go but the initial step was taken with the set up of the meeting.

During the workshop, the participants will be familiarised with the best way to promote their products taking into consideration con-

sumer behaviour, existing requirements and regulations and distribution channels in the European market.

Deputy Director J.C. Jurrjens said that upon the organisation's establishment in 1971 its original aim was to promote import from Third World countries to the Netherlands and was later expanded to the European Community.

The organisation works on the exporting countries' side in cooperation with local trade promotion organisations (TPO) aiming to boost their exports to Europe.

The association supports small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and trade exhibitions in devel-

oping countries in their promotion of exports to the European Union.

On the TPO's side — which equals JEDCO's position here — the association takes care of the workshop's organisation, which includes the rent of the space needed, the invitation of the companies and the bearing of the costs for the event itself, whereas the CPI organises the consultants and the lecturer's programme.

The whole lecturing-staff belongs to the CPI's general marketing consultants department and does not charge any money for the rendering of their services. It is funded by the Dutch's ministry of foreign affairs.

"This workshop", Mr.

Jurrjens explained, "has three targets: A promotional one for the JEDCO and CPI to show the willingness of cooperation, the transfer of knowhow to the seminar's participants and finally to find out under what circumstances a bilateral trade corporation agreement between JEDCO and CPI could be established."

"Our organisation," he continued, "is looking for possibilities to support JEDCO, and thus Jordan, to become a centre for regional trade in the Middle East. Although Jordan is a very small country, it may perform a major regional function."

To achieve this aim, he stressed, JEDCO first of all has to prepare Jordanian

companies to provide more and better trade within the region. CPI will then provide training and participation programmes to adjust them to the European standards and make them thus compatible for the regional market.

The one-year programme of CPI consists of seven major steps, whereby in Jordan they mainly concentrate on the integrated export promotion and the market information programme.

This programme is designed for six product groups which starts with a product market testing and offers its litigants an international trade fair participation in the European Union (EU) at the end, which is regarded as a great opportunity to meet with potential trade partners.

The expenses for such an programme are minimised as the participants only have to pay for their trans-

portation and accommodation. The information programme then gives the region access to relevant market news and publications, called 'telematic'.

During the process the CPI will work on an improved training programme according to the regional needs.

These are the setting up of a business plan, the familiarisation with the European trade requirements, the incoterms, international marketing, improvement of language skills and the access to data bases.

The suggested market-entry strategy by CPI for Jordan to set foot on the European market is either 'low profile' or 'niche marketing', where the product's promotion costs are ranging from affordable to low and the risk taken is reasonable.

According to Mr. Jurrjens, Jordan has to provide high-quality goods and services at a competitive price. He

said that the country's pharmaceutical and medical equipment as well as the Dead Sea products are standing the best chances so far.

The date for the signing of a three-year trade corporation agreement — which might be further extended after that period — is not set yet as it depends on a supply survey to be conducted by JEDCO and the companies that will participate in the programme.

A participation of at least 10 companies is required as otherwise the organisation's expenses will be too high.

The workshop is attended by 115 participants (nine participants are from the Palestinian territories) representing the service and manufacturing sector.

The four-day seminar which lasts from Sept. 9 until 12 takes place at the Forte Grand Hotel.



# Petra in danger of natural collapse, geologist warns; conservation group attempts to remedy situation

By Christina Schlegl  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Petra, considered the Kingdom's most attractive and certainly most profitable tourist site, is in danger of ultimately collapsing if not properly conserved and restored, Project Director of the Conservation and Restoration Center in Petra (CARCIP), Geologist Helge Fischer Wednesday warned in a lecture at the Goethe-Institut.

In his speech "Petra: Attempting to Institutionalize the Prevention of its Cultural Heritage," Dr. Fischer stressed that, out of the 3,000 original monuments in Petra, there are only 100 left whose original features can be discerned.

Although, he could not confirm one participant's assertion that Petra façades annually lose one centimetre of their superficies, Dr. Fischer urgently called for the immediate halt to their "accelerated decay."

"Earthquakes, water, humidity and to a lesser extent wind have caused, and are causing, severe damage to the monoliths," he admonished.

Groundwater penetrating the stones evaporates, the salt crystallises and the stone is destroyed, Dr. Fischer explained.

In an interview with the Jordan Times Thursday, he called for the conservation and restoration of the sites as otherwise a level of deterioration will be soon reached in which preservation will no longer be possible.

"The expanding tourism sector in Jordan," he added, "does not only demand new hotels, parking lots and road construction but also — or especially — a more careful handling of ancient sites, which will otherwise vanish and no longer be of use for the country."

The Jordanian-German Project, also called the "Petra Stone Preservation Project" (PSPP), was initiated three years ago and aims at the slowing of the deterioration process as well as the reduction of possible further decay.

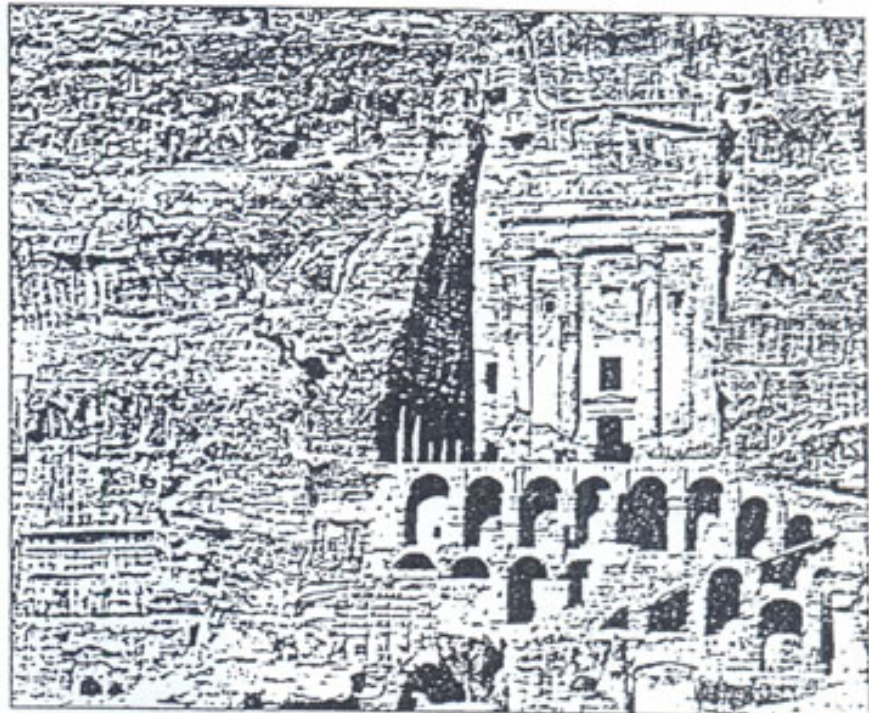
The German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ), a governmental organisation, implemented the project to establish a conserva-

tion and restoration centre in Petra, which is slated to be operated by Jordanian specialists and staff after the implementation of a training programme.

The project is currently in its second phase, focusing on the actual execution of conservation and restoration work as well as developing an appropriate infrastructure, the supply and installation of essen-

The project costs, which are estimated to total approximately JD 1.5 million each for the first and second phase have been underwritten by the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation.

This bilateral project was implemented by the GTZ with the Jordanian Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities acting as executing agency and with the support of the



The superficies of the ancient city of Petra are currently under threat of erosion due to such natural menaces as earthquakes, water, humidity and wind.

tial equipment and training programmes for personnel.

In his article "New Hope for Petra Façades," Dr. Fischer stated that according to a conservative estimate, more than 90 per cent of the once elaborately chiselled and decorated façades are weathered beyond recognition.

The reason for this, the article stated, are almost one and a half millennia of neglect, exposure and abuse combined with loss of interest and appreciation.

The main thrust of the article was that these effects, both chemical and mechanical, will sooner or later lead to almost a complete loss of the original structure.

Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology at Yarmouk University and the Higher Council for Science and Technology, currently working on its own design for a documentation system for Petra data.

"Preservation of cultural heritage is to a great deal dependent on public and institutional support, Dr. Fischer told the Jordan Times.

An increased awareness in relevant local institutions the public and the whole region, for the many problems related to the loss of unreplaceable cultural heritage, will have to be generated in order to strengthen preservation of monuments and sites," he concluded.



## Chirac stand on Middle East in harmony with EU line — visiting Austrian deputy

By Christina Schlegl  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The visiting President of the Austrian National Assembly, Heinz Fischer, confirmed that France's policy towards the Middle East conforms with the European Union's (EU) general stand on the region's most pressing issues.

"I am not an interpreter of the EU's political decisions," Dr. Fischer said in an interview with the Jordan Times Thursday, "but the French policy goes in the right direction."

Dr. Fischer was referring to statements made by French President Jacques Chirac during his visit to Jordan last Wednesday and Thursday, in which he expressed strong support for the Arab countries' rights to sovereignty and a peace process based on land for peace.

Still Dr. Fischer acknowledged that it is still too early to measure the "new French-Arab policy, which calls for an effective role for France and Europe in the Middle East peace process."

Dr. Fischer, who is heading a parliamentary delegation on a limited tour of the region, added that as a representative of Austria, he did not want to speak on behalf of the remaining 13 independent countries belonging to the EU.

Dr. Fischer sees the EU's future role as an "arbiter of the peace process."

The EU, he said, "plays an important role in international politics. It should take a stronger position in the future. It will be the community's task to show Israel in a diplomatic and understandable way, that it is also in the interest of the Jewish state to make a fair and comprehensive

peace."

This, he added, has always been Austria's policy to ensure the accomplishment of the peace process.

The EU states, he said, maintain many bilateral relations and good influential potential and should use this impact in favour of the Middle East peace process, even if Israel would voice its doubts against such a step.

"I am deeply convinced that the aim of accomplishing a fair peace does not mean, we are favouring the Arab countries, but it is in Israel's interest as well," he said.

Many problems would be solved much easier and positive results attained with such an attitude, he stressed.

Dr. Fischer also voiced Austria's concern about the current status of the peace process.

Even under [the late Israeli Prime Minister [Yitzhak] Rabin's premiership there were difficulties in implementing a comprehensive peace," he explained, "but now under the leadership of the new right-wing government of Benjamin Netanyahu, it is even more difficult, and the future looks less bright for the time being."

Netanyahu, he said, has taken positions from which he cannot easily withdraw.

The Israeli Prime Minister, Dr. Fischer added, took decisions which caused additional (unnecessary) problems, like the opening of the tunnel outside the "Harim" of Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem.

It would be definitely a setback for the whole process if [Palestinian President Yasser] Arafat would be a victim of extremism arising in the region because of dissatisfaction



Lower House of Parliament Speaker Sa'ad Hayel Sour and visiting Austrian National Assembly Member Heinz Fischer Friday speak to reporters prior to Dr. Fischer's departure from Amman (Petra photo)

with the ongoing peace process, Dr. Fischer stressed.

But Dr. Fischer emphasized that the EU will not give up hope on the accomplishment of peace.

"There are three reasons why the continuation of the peace process between Palestine and Israel as well as Syria and Israel is unstoppable," he stated.

"First of all, there is no alternative [to peace], no matter who is ruling the country [Israel]. Secondly, after the presidential elections, the U.S. will return to 'mingle' within the peace process in a more constructive manner than for the time being. The same applies to the EU," he concluded.

"And finally," he said, "history has proven that governments and persons, in the end, had to do what is historically required."

Dr. Fischer, who arrived

here last Wednesday from Syria, said that regarding the tense relations between Syria and Israel, the EU member countries are of the opinion that the "land-for-peace" agreement stipulated in the Oslo accord in 1993 must be fully implemented.

"It is a good concept," he said, "which both parties have to obey."

Regarding the ongoing seizure of South Lebanon by Israeli troops, he stated, that a solution for an independent and autocratic Lebanon must be found.

The re-organisation of the Middle East peace process elements was one of the main topics discussed during Dr. Fischer's meeting with His Majesty King Hussein, Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti and the speakers of the parliament Thursday.

During his visit to the House of Representatives

and the Senate, Dr. Fischer met members of the Par-

liament, such as the Middle East peace process and the experiences of the European Union concerning parliamentary life were discussed.

Dr. Fischer invited House Speaker Sa'ad Hayel Sour to visit Vienna next year.

The two parliamentarians also talked about the feasibility of a project inviting Jordanian deputies to Austria to familiarise themselves with Austria's parliamentary life.

Dr. Fischer praised the excellent mutual ties between Jordan and Austria, but acknowledged at the same time that bilateral visits on the highest political and legislative levels are still too few and should be increased in the future.

The Austrian parliamentary delegation ended its three-day visit Friday.

# Telecommunications conference ends on high note

By Christina Schlegl  
*Special to the Jordan Times*

AMMAN — The Arab States Telecommunications Colloquium in Amman ended Wednesday with the adoption of draft recommendations, issued by the participating groups, which are slated for formal approval by the "Arab States Regional Telecommunication Development Conference" (ARB-RTDC) to be held in Beirut in November 1996.

The meeting's final session was dedicated to the summation of the decisions taken and discussion thereof. Referring to several amendments suggested by the delegates, Director-General of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) Ahmed Laouyane stressed that the achievements reached are not final decisions and that this conference does not demonstrate any official declaration from the part of any government.

"This is a meeting of specialists and does not represent any particular state or government," he said.

"It was not the colloquium's aim to merely issue

recommendations or results but to exchange opinions and thoughts regarding the development of the telecommunication sector in the Arab region. "To benefit from the experiences given is the main objective of our meeting," Chairman Sami Basheer, director-general of the Saudi Ministry of Posts, Telegraph and Telephone stated during the opening of debate on the results reached.

"The conference aimed at the promotion of telecommunication through any means possible and at the seeking of financial resources to develop same," he continued.

Expressing an objection, Youssef Abdulmonem of the Lebanese delegation stated that the communication infrastructure in Arab countries not only needs improvement but also qualified staff to manage the sector, which must be included among investment priorities. According to Mr. Abdulmonem, such funds have to be raised from the private sector to be given a chance to enter the market.

He also saw the need for more accessible regulations to make investments easier

for the private sector and thus encourage it to do so.

Addressing this objection, Mr. Basheer said that privatisation is not the sole theory adopted to solve financial problems and that the ITU helps to undertake studies examining and solving telecommunication problems in the Arab region but does not take care of specific problems, such as privatisation.

The suggestions issued by the working groups during the meeting comprised draft recommendations on tariffs and the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) as well as on private sector participation and sources of financing other than government funds, like multilateral and bilateral lending, and finally on financing international, regional and technical cooperation projects.

It is the papers' purported tenor to encourage privatisation, to increase liberalisation — which equals transparency of government regulations concerning investment from the private sector — and to implement further commercialisation.

"We need to set up a legal

framework for foreign investments to give the private sector a guarantee of profit and needed facilities. A clear policy and goals on the part of the government is essential," Mr Laouyane stated.

Concerning tariffs, the working groups stressed the need to lower international ones to reduce illegal practices, like the call-back system which provides cheap phone calls to foreign countries, and also requesting the BDT's assistance to embark upon relevant research and ideally construct organisations to halt such practices.

The draft papers will be rectified by the ITU at a later date and then become part of the so-called "green paper" which will be presented by the Arab States to the Telecommunication Conference in Beirut, according to the director-general of the BDT.

In his closing speech, he praised the achievements which had been attained during the conference.

"We were able to assemble delegates representing the highest level of Arab telecommunication administrations as well as the

leading companies from the private sector who showed a willingness to invest in the Arab telecommunication market," Mr. Laouyane stated.

"I appreciated the very frank speeches focusing on the current situation of the telecommunication market in the Arab World which expressed feelings and beliefs towards its development," Mr. Laouyane continued.

During the meeting, he added, "several conclusions have been reached on the means of securing necessary funds and the involvement of the private sector concerning the telecommunication market."

In his speech he also stressed the progress made in the communication sector by the host country of the colloquium, Jordan.

"The presentation of the Jordan delegation," he said, "was a model for the modernisation of the telecommunication sector in the Arab World."

He also praised the presentations from other delegations and private companies and said that the forthcoming telecommunication conference in Beirut will be

crowned by success if the participants are able to keep their current level of expertise and involvement and thus meet the challenges of the 21st century, which he titled the information century.

He then thanked the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications and the Telecommunication Corporation (TCC) for their interest and continuous support which helped ensure the conference's success.

"The results are very promising and you can be sure of full support from the BDT," concluded Mr. Laouyane, addressing the Minister of Posts and Telecommunications Jamal Saraireh who attended the conference's closing remarks.

The minister, in his turn, thanked the organisers for their efforts and emphasised the linkage between telecommunications conferences held in the past and the future — the last one took place in Damascus — and assured that the Ministry and the TCC will do their best to improve the sector and secure its financing.



# Organisation urges cessation of wildlife trafficking

By Christina Schlegl  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The encouragement of Arab countries to participate in the convention of endangered species as well as promoting the reduction of traffic in endangered species, were the major themes which emerged from the recent three-day Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

Head of Research and Survey Department of the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN) Adnan Budieri described these and other aspects of the conference to the Jordan Times Wednesday.

CITES, he said, is a tool to protect endangered species, formally established in 1973 by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and signed by Jordan in 1979.

The Kingdom, he confirmed, was the first Arab country to sign the agreement and the requested signatures of other countries are being looked upon as a major step towards the implementation of conservation measures in the Middle East.

The meeting also covered illegal traffic of endangered species for which, in many cases, Jordan serves as a transit point, Mr. Budieri stated, affirming that such illicit actions seem to be on the increase.

"It is very difficult to control [this kind of] criminal practice, as custom officers at the border are not trained in species identification,"

he explained.

According to a national report presented at the meeting, at least 13 cases of smuggling raptors through borders shared between Jordan, Syria and Iraq, were documented last year.

The report also faulted a recently approved environmental law for not clearly stipulating the issue of trade in endangered wildlife, both in Jordan as well as on regional and global levels, thereby weakening legal recourse in combating illegal wildlife trade.

Jordan is currently seen as the geographical centre of the Arab World in the trafficking of endangered plants and animals from Europe, East Asia and the Gulf countries, Mr. Budieri said.

"This is particularly acute in the cases of raptors, like falcons, which are exported mainly from Iraq and Syria to the Gulf States for falconry," he added.

Many of the trafficked animals are listed not only on the CITES Convention as highly endangered species but also under other conservation conventions such as the Biodiversity Convention and the Red Data Book of Endangered Wildlife, published by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, Mr. Budieri stressed.

"It is very hard for Jordan to implement the convention on a regional level due to the relatively small number of Middle Eastern countries, joining the CITES convention," Mr. Budieri said without specifying which countries have joined and which have



Dr. Das, the Indian delegate, gives a presentation of his country's national report on the endangered species situation. From left to right: Dr. Das, Jack Pernny, delegate of CITES, Adnan Budieri from the Jordanian CITES Management Authority and Hideki Tsubata, representative of the CITES Standing Committee (Photo by Christina Schlegl)

declined.

It is well known, he continued, that illegal wildlife traffic is conducted between countries which have not signed the convention, as thus they are not impelled to follow its regulations.

In Jordan's national report, presented Monday, the Kingdom urged the Asian CITES communities as well as non-signatory countries to support the country's drive to strengthen implementation of the convention in the region and specifically address what they titled as "existing loopholes" in the regulation of local and global trade of endangered species.

"Jordan has already con-

tacted certain Middle Eastern countries to encourage them to join the CITES community and has offered technical help in implementing the convention [should these countries opt to join]," Mr. Budieri stated.

A first concrete result of such efforts is the establishment of relations between Jordan and Yemen, he continued.

Mr. Budieri further emphasised that Yemen has since sent several conservationists to Jordan in order to analyse different conservation issues, such as public awareness, research, establishment and management of protected areas, and, he stated, these have demon-

strated Yemen's inclination to sign the convention.

Another positive sign was the first-time participation of three countries: Lebanon, Oman and Yemen, he added.

He acknowledged that "Jordan is worried about endangered species trade and feels that the decision making process to determine appropriate prevention measures is taking more time than it should."

The convention's result will be submitted within week, Mr. Budieri stated.

However, he added that the delegates have decided on the issues to be submitted to the next convention scheduled to be held in Zimbabwe in 1997.