



Featuring an interview  
with the Moroccan American  
writer Laila Lalami

Interview with  
Faouzi Sefrioui

# Jaridati

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## *AMPA Management message: Word from Bouchra Adyel*



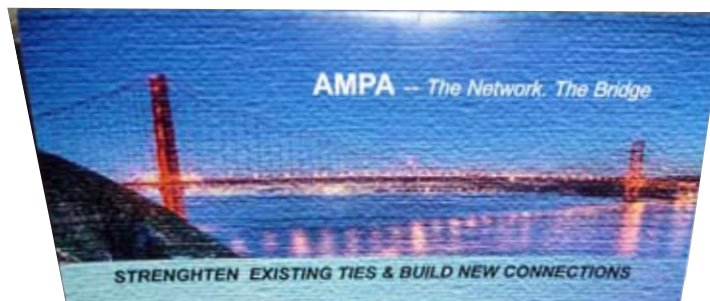
Dear AMPA Member,

The idea of the March Networking Month came about at one of our Conference calls; we wanted our members to have an informal get together before our Morocco event in June. While organizing & coordinating between all the cities, the response was overwhelmingly good and several members volunteered to help.

The March Networking Event was an opportunity for members to meet & connect with Moroccan professionals in their area, and to learn more about AMPA and its Membership benefits. Furthermore, our members exchanged business ideas, trends in Morocco & the US, shared success stories, discussed regional topics, and provided valuable input to the management team about the 2009 events. The 8 events were as different as the cities were because they each adapted to the members' needs in that particular area. The common theme however was the networking between Moroccans with similar interests; and the repeated suggestion was to hold more frequent AMPA Networking events throughout the year. The management team has heard its members loud and clear and promises to organize another Networking Event in the upcoming months.

Overall, 156 members and guests attended the events in: Seattle, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Houston, Atlanta, Washington DC, New York, and Casablanca. Some parts of the country did not have networking events; so if you are interested in organizing one in your area, email us at [events@amp-usa.org](mailto:events@amp-usa.org).

Once again, thank you to the organizers in all 8 cities for a job well done and look forward to more successful events.



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# Moroccan American Bridges 4<sup>th</sup> edition

Association of Moroccan Professionals in America



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# Interview with Laila Lalami

by Karim Chaqchaq

## Introduction:

Laila Lalami is a renowned Moroccan American novelist. She has written many essays and articles to several major newspapers in the US and abroad. Her two books have enjoyed wide commercial success in the United States.



## Tell us please a brief summary about Laila Lalami and her journey from Morocco to the US ?

I was born and raised in Rabat, Morocco. I was educated at Université Mohammed V in Rabat and University College in London. I came to the United States to do a doctorate in linguistics at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles.

## When and why did you begin writing? Have your personal experiences affected your writing?

I started writing when I was about nine years old, but really didn't take up writing seriously until I was in my mid-twenties and in graduate school. Many different things have influenced my writing—not just my personal experience, but also all the literature I've read, the music I've listened to, the art I've seen, and so on.

## What inspired you to write your first book Hope and Other Dangerous Pursuits?

I was experimenting with the short story form at that time. After reading about the journey of a group of har-ragas in a newspaper, I was inspired to write a story about a young man who is pushed to that choice. The book grew from there.

## Can you share some of your current work with us?

I have a new novel, *Secret Son*, which came out in the United States on April 21. It's about Youssef, a young man from a Casablanca slum, who finds out that his mother's stories about his dead and respectably poor father are in fact lies. His father is very much alive and is a wealthy businessman. Youssef sets out to find his real father and enters his Westernized world, setting off a chain of events with disastrous consequences.



## What is the message you want to reveal to readers in your debut novel Secret Son?

I don't believe that novels should deliver messages. I think it is enough if the reader experiences the life of the characters.

## What challenges did you encounter when writing your books?

There are so many—artistic (in trying to tell a story in a compelling and engaging way), personal (in finding the time to do this while also having a full time job as a university professor), professional (in getting an agent and finding a publisher), and so on.

## Do you think about how to cater to your audience when writing? Are you targeting a particular audience?

I try to keep readers out of my head when I am writing as I do not wish to censor myself for anyone's sake. I write the kind of book that I would want to read. As for audience, I hope the book will reach anyone who is interested in my characters—be they Moroccans or non-Moroccans.

## Do you hear from your readers much? What do they say?

I hear from my readers all the time!! Most of the emails are extremely positive and congratulatory; some are funny (for instance, from high school students in the U.S. who are assigned my book in class and want help with their homework); and a few are a little negative, but that is life.

# Interview with Laila Lalami

by Karim Chaqchaq

Any Moroccan author(s) whose writing style particularly interests you?

I'm particularly fond of Mohamed Choukri because his work exhibits such courage and desire to tell the unadorned truth. I also like Leila Abouzeid and Driss Chraïbi.

Your top three all time favorite books? (Any language)

J.M. Coetzee's *Waiting for the Barbarians*; Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*; Tayeb Salih's *Season of Migration to the North*.



What do you recommend for aspiring AMPA members to write and publish their first book?

Take your time (i.e. do not to be in a rush to publish), have faith (in your work and in the story you're telling), read a lot (because reading feeds writing) and be persistent.

What do you hope to achieve in the future as a writer? What are your future projects?

I am working on a few short pieces at the moment, but I haven't yet started on a new book. My only hope as a writer is to grow and to keep improving.

What do you like to do when you're not writing?

Reading!

For More information on Laila Lalami check out her site at [www.lailalalami.com](http://www.lailalalami.com)

## Contribute to Jaridati

AMPA members are encouraged to submit profiles, articles of interest or research papers for future issues of Jaridati. Please contact us by email and send any contributions as a Microsoft Word attachment to [jaridati@amp-usa.org](mailto:jaridati@amp-usa.org). Also, do not hesitate to send us your feedback on this issue at [jaridati@amp-usa.org](mailto:jaridati@amp-usa.org).

We would like to hear from you on ways to make Jaridati your favorite newsletter

# Featured Members

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Chaouki Zahzah

Chaouki Zahzah was born in Asilah and was raised in Tangier and Rabat. He has over 9 years experience in business intelligence, customer management, and business development. After finishing «Les classes preparatoires» in Rabat, he joined the «Institut National Polytechnique de Grenoble» in France. Before coming to the US, he worked for France Telecom and joined Business Objects in Paris. He was then transferred to Atlanta to manage the support operations for the East Coast. In 2003, Chaouki was transferred to San Jose - California to manage the North America Support operations, a total of 60 people across 4 different locations. Chaouki is currently managing the top tier program consisting of fortune 100 customers for SAP Business Objects. He was awarded the certificate of excellence multiple times during his 9 years with SAP. Chaouki lives in Santa Clara and works in Palo Alto - California.

In his free time, Chaouki enjoys soccer, windsurfing and horseback riding; he is also coaching in a youth soccer league. Chaouki can be contacted at [chaouki.zahzah@gmail.com](mailto:chaouki.zahzah@gmail.com).

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Bouchaib Benmira

Bouchaib Benmira is originally from El Jadida, raised in Derb Sultan, Casablanca where he attended school then moved to France to study Genie-Electrique at the Bordeaux Institute. He also holds a Bachelor's and an MBA degree in Finance from San Francisco State University.

Prior to coming to the US, he worked at Maroc-Phosphore in El Jadida as an instrumentation Supervisor.

Joined Chevron in 2000 as a Financial Analyst, Benmira currently works in San Ramon, CA where he manages the maritime insurance and capital expenditures within the Maritime Shipping Division.

Benmira is married and father to 2: Yusuf and Adam aged 9 and 6; He spends a lot of his time involved in their sports and academic activities. He also makes sure that they stay connected to the beautiful Homeland: Morocco. So far, they love 2 things, the Moroccan food and Dima Raja (Moroccan football team from Casablanca); that's a good sign!

Benmira enjoys working and living around San Francisco, where he loves meeting the nice Moroccan Community.

## ANNOUNCEMENT:

If you are an AMPA Member who lives in Morocco, please email [events@ampusa.org](mailto:events@ampusa.org) to be added to our Morocco List.

We will have more events and announcements pertaining to our members in Morocco in the coming year.

# Interview with Faouzi Sefrioui

By Imane Bentaouet

Faouzi Sefrioui is a real estate developer, businessman since 1972. He is a commissioner at The Washington State Housing Finance Commission and a Vice-Chairman at The African Chamber of Commerce.



## 1. Could you please tell us about yourself?

Faouzi Sefrioui was born in Fes, Morocco. He is a Graduate from the University of Washington in Business Administration. He is the CEO of A & Y property investments and Evergreen point Development, Vice-Chairman of the African Chamber of Commerce of the Pacific Northwest in Seattle, Washington

Mr. Sefrioui is the Founder of "Sefrioui- Badissy Foundation", which provides computers and computer technology to impoverished Moroccan and African schools.

He was appointed by the Washington State Governor in 2005 to the Washington State Housing Finance Commission's board of commissioners.

## 2- How did the Sefrioui-Badissy Foundation start?

The Sefrioui-Badissy Foundation (SBF) was established in Redmond, Washington as a 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization in October 2005. SBF's mission is to "give underprivileged children in Morocco and Africa the motivation, the tools and the skills necessary to succeed in a globally connected and technology dependent world". SBF primarily aims to provide free access to IT in underserved public schools and neighborhood youth centers across Morocco and the African countries. I believe that this can successfully facilitate the elimination of the digital divide.

## 3- What are the challenges in narrowing the digital divide?

In Morocco, the need for computer education is enormous and expanding. Since 2005, our foundation provided over 1000 computers to over hundred of schools throughout Morocco. We believe that a substantial investment by the public and private sectors is needed to facilitate the elimination of the digital divide and to give students the most critical opportunities to learn IT skills and tools in schools, in order to successfully compete in the global economy driven by Information Technology.

As we all know, modern economies are driven by technological innovations that are rooted in Information Technology. In the developed world, for example, economists estimate that more than 80 percent of the GDP growth in the last 20 years is a result of technological advances.

Take the example of Malaysia. Under strong state leadership and local private investment, Malaysia has heavily invested in providing the population with technology education, health care, and utilities, all of which led to creation of a quality workforce as a foundation for its successful economic growth. Malaysia currently attracts foreign investment to continue developing the nation.

There is no reason why Morocco could not follow similar concept.

I invite young professionals in Morocco to help us build the infrastructure and take up the challenges ahead to build the modern Moroccan society.

## 4- What are Sefrioui-Badissy Foundation's future plans?

Beyond the provision of IT education for Moroccan and African youth, Sefrioui-Badissy Foundation has a long-term goal of promoting business and employment opportunities in Morocco and Africa. SBF is currently exploring ideas to support high school graduates and their families to engage in businesses utilizing IT education; creation of business

# Interview with Faouzi Sefrioui

By Imane Bentaouet

computer centers, business training and microfinance services are among them. Once community-based computer centers are established, they can offer other services through them utilizing the network and capacities developed at the centers.

I may also add that we are seeking more local implementation partners who can play a key role in what essentially is an “adopt a school program” that will involve business leaders and professionals to support each center, for a minimum of three years. SBF and the local implementation partners will facilitate the relationship between the local support network and the school-based center.

SBF will continue building partnerships and collaboration with any parties interested in increasing computer education and IT access for Moroccan students.

Successful outcome of this project will encourage governmental education authorities to develop school curriculum for computer education. Microsoft and the University of Washington are our key partners in this initiative.

I would like to take this opportunity and thank our Partners in Morocco for sharing our vision and support for our computers for schools program, especially the Al Jisr foundation.

For more information about our work in Morocco and other African countries, please visit our website:

[www.SBFoundation.net](http://www.SBFoundation.net)

## What's AMPA to you?

First, my congratulations to AMPA founders, directors, staff and volunteers for their commitment and hard work to facilitate and enhance the trade between the United States and Morocco.

Because of their strategic alliances in Morocco and the US, AMPA is able to bring their members (myself included) value-added relationships through referring them to the right individuals or companies in order to help them solve all of their personal and business dilemmas - whether it is an import question, export, a tax question, housing, social projects, or any other question related to the business between the two countries.

AMPA access to resources and connections makes it a key player in business building strategies for young Moroccan professionals.

Finally, my thanks to AMPA staff for assisting SBF with our computers donation to rural schools in Essaouira and to the “Comite de Soutien a la Scolarisation des Filles Rurales”.

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# March event pictures and Comments



City: San Francisco, CA  
Organizers: Karim Chaqchaq, Karim Latifi, Chaouki Zahzah & Amina Mezouar



City: Washington, DC  
Organizers: Maria Chkeri, Abderrahim Agermoune, Imane Bentaouet



City: Los Angeles, CA  
Organizers: Karim Sijlamassi, Ali Benmoussa, Mohamed Bennani

# March event pictures and Comments



City: Casablanca, MA  
Organizer: Hicham Kabbaj



City: Atlanta, GA  
Organizer: Jawad Bisbis



City: Seattle, WA  
Organizer: Yazid Boutejder



City: Houston, TX  
Organizer: Bouchra Adyel



City: New York, NY  
Organizers: Narjis Rachad, Merieme Rhout, Mohamed Badissy

# March event pictures and Comments



Houston, TX

the game of moving people around to network with others! I hope we can have more events like these in the future! Narjis, Merieme, and Mohamed: GREAT job!"

Sumaya Ibourk

"Just wanted to use this opportunity to thank you very very much for taking the time out of your busy schedule to plan and coordinate yesterday's event. It was an absolute success. My brother and I enjoyed it very much and I am sure others did as well. So, thanks again and congratulations on a job well done."

Sanaa Belbagri

"Such a nice opportunity to get together, Thank you!!"

Adnan Ouassini

"Thank You Karim for a very enjoyable evening..... Job well done."

Tarek Hoballah

"Thank you for getting the Moroccan community together, the setting was great; and the event was very successful. Thanks to you Karim and to the Event committee for a great evening"

Marcel M. Babaki

"Kuddos to Maria and Abderrahim for a great DC event :)"

Khalil Jai Hokimi

"Great Job Ba Karim"

Omar Sary

"Thanks for the great event! More inclusive this

## Testimonials:

"Dear Bouchra, I would like to thank you for the effort you have put in the last event. Without exception, I got to meet some great new professionals and made new friends. That said I have chosen to formally become a member and wanted to send payment."

Reda Yamani

"Shout out to Bouchra for a great job on the Houston event. It was a success on many levels: organization, logistics, attendance, feedback, members and future members input for the upcoming Morocco and DC events"

Nada Elmajdoub

"I just want to congratulate the three of you on a spectacular event! I joined AMPA back in January 2006 and yesterday's event in my opinion was the best by far! It was very well-organized and I really enjoyed



New York, NY

time"

"Great Job, More events, more frequently!"

"Well organized event. Look forward to More"

San Francisco guests

## Morocco records 5.4% economic in 2009

afrol News, 12 May - The Moroccan economy has achieved a growth rate of 5.4 percent in 2009, despite the international financial crisis, compared to 5.7 percent in 2008, according to the latest forecast from the African Development Bank (AfDB).

The AfDB in its report on economic prospects in Africa in 2008-2009, said despite the crisis, the Moroccan economy registered a positive growth rate.

According to AfDB, good rainfall, the accuracy of the financial sector and sectoral development programmes in progress would allow the Moroccan economy to overcome the effects of the international crisis, although the recession has hit its main trading partners.

«It provides a slight downturn in growth in 2009, with a rate of 5.4 percent which should be maintained during the next year,» the report said.

However, according to the report, exports, foreign direct investment, remittances from migrants and tourism sectors are likely to be affected by the global economic meltdown.

The AfDB said that 2008 marked the return of the rains and a national average rainfall accumulated five times higher than normal, reversing the possible drought trends and fostering a new dynamic value of the agricultural sector, which increased by 12.8 percent in 2008.

The bank also added that growth in the energy sector continued, and that the sector of construction, which continued its steady progression, also played a major role on economic growth despite the crisis.

The ADB further noted that domestic demand continues to play its role as the engine of growth in Morocco, supported by the positive outcome of the primary sector of employment with an unemployment rate below the threshold of 10 percent.

The bank also said the Moroccan tourism sector outlook for 2009 remained generally favorable with the creation of resorts planned for the development of internal tourism. *By staff writer © afrol News*

## Morocco to modernize its educational system

afrol News, - The board of the African Development Bank (ADB) has approved a loan of €75 million to Morocco to support the efforts of North African country in modernising its education system.

The loan aims to support Morocco's efforts in the area of skills development, poverty reduction within the framework of the National Initiative for Human Development (NHDR) and the realisation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG), said the statement by the bank.

According to local news reports, the Moroccan education system is currently undergoing a major facelift and reform processes enshrined by the Draft National Charter of Education and Training November (CHARTE) of 1999.

The reports said the timetable for the reform which resumed in 2000 ending in 2010 was a decade earmarked by the North African state for the national education and training.

The ADB has 13 projects in Morocco with a total commitment of approximately \$1,247 million.

The current project will focus on extending education and training opportunities, improving its internal and external performance, as well as the better management of the human, financial and material resources provided to the ministry of education.

In 2008 the African Development Bank, which maintains its headquarters in Tunisia, gave Morocco a loan of 66 million and 20 years to finance the third phase of its programme of administrative reforms.

The ADB is the largest donor of Morocco, with commitments worth millions to finance development projects and programmes in the infrastructure sector.

The ADB has recently decided to give Morocco a loan of €45 million to finance the 2nd National Program of Rural Roads. The objective of this plan is to reach isolated rural areas of Morocco with the completion of 15,500 km of roads and upgraded tracks. *By staff writer © afrol News*

## Abu Dhabi Firms to Invest \$2b in Morocco Projects

14 May 2009

ABU DHABI - Two Abu Dhabi-based companies have agreed to invest a total of almost \$2 billion in Morocco, one in a 700-megawatt power plant expansion and

the other in a mixed-use real estate project. The Abu Dhabi National Energy Company, or TAQA, plans to invest \$1.2 billion to increase generating capacity at its Jorf Lasfar electricity plant in the city of Fez. Property firm Al Maabar International Investments, meanwhile, has broken ground on a \$750 million development in the Moroccan capital, Rabat.

The companies announced their agreements on Wednesday during a three-day visit to Morocco by General Shaikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces. TAQA announced its investment in a filing to the Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange; a company official speaking on condition of anonymity confirmed the value of the deal. Al Maabar announced its investment in a Press release.

General Shaikh Mohammed chaired a signing ceremony for the power plant expansion in Fez. He also joined the ground-breaking of the real estate project together with Morocco's King Mohammed VI of Morocco and Crown Prince Moulay Rachid.

In Fez, TAQA's subsidiary Jorf Lasfar Electric Company, or JLEC, will build, own and operate two new generating units of 350 megawatts each. JLEC will design and finance the power units and maintain them under a 30-year agreement once they come into operation in 2013, TAQA said. JLEC owns the Jorf Lasfar electric plant, which currently has a capacity of 1,320 megawatts.

For its part, Al Maabar International Investments launched the next phase of its Bab Al Bahr mixed-use development in Rabat on Tuesday. The project, located near the Bouregreg River and the Atlantic Ocean, is set for completion in 2012.

The project will have access to Rabat's marina and overlooks national landmarks including the Grand Mosque of Sale, the Old Mosque of Casbah, and the Minaret Hassan. Al Maabar is developing it in a joint venture with L'Agence pour le Développement de Bouregreg of Morocco.

Al Maabar is joint venture between six Abu Dhabi investment companies: Mubadala, Al Dar Properties, Sorouh Real Estate, Reem Investments, Reem International and Al Qudra Holdings. It also has projects underway in Qatar, Jordan, Libya and Iraq.

*By Haseeb Haider © Khaleej Times 2009*

## In Morocco, breaking down barriers in the Arab world (Boston.com)

For the past five days, a group of Moroccan students and young-adult activists from Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Jordan, Egypt, Kuwait, Lebanon, Tunisia and Algeria have been working intensely together in workshops building bridges among themselves and improving skills for creating interfaith community programs in their own countries. From working to ease interfaith tensions in Egypt and Yemen to advancing women's rights in Saudi Arabia, these activists are dedicated to sharing their expertise and acquiring new skills on how to effectively plan events, launch campaigns, and secure funding for their field work to promote religious and political freedom in their countries. The workshops emphasize how to translate their online activism to real-world organizing and leadership skills that participants can put to work in practical ways in their home communities. Ironically, some participants were unable to attend because their visa applications were not approved in time, or, in the case of a prominent Baha'i activist from Egypt, it became too dangerous for her to travel. The empty seats were a stark reminder of the lack of religious and political freedom in most Arab countries. Jesse Sage, Nasser Weddady and Lauren Murphy from Hands Across the Middle East Support Alliance, a Boston-based nonprofit, and I organized and are facilitating the conference, "Interfaith Leadership Seminar: From the Virtual to the Real World," at Al Akhawayn University, an English-language college in Ifrane. Jewish in the Arab world. During the conference the participants met Moroccan Raphael Elmaleh, believed to be the only Jewish tour guide in the Arab world. He is also a founder of the only Jewish museum in the Arab world in Casablanca. Elmaleh's passion in life is to research the Jewish heritage of Morocco and restore the synagogues and other sites that were left behind by the Jews more than 40 years ago. "I'm proud to be a Jew in an Arab country," he says. On Sunday, all the participants had a chance to visit Fez while he showed us the old Jewish Quarter and the cemeteries and the synagogues left behind. For many, this was the first time they had been exposed to the Jewish heritage in an Arab country. By the end of the day, the bond that he created with the rest of the group was heartening. At first, he acknowledged he was nervous talking about his work to a group of Arab young people from across

the Middle East whom he had never met before. But working with the group for two days has changed his mind and he is excited to talk about how Jews and Muslims coexisted peacefully in Morocco and what that means for the future. During dinner yesterday, all of the participants gave him a standing ovation for his dedication while the Moroccan students sang the national anthem. The expression on Elmaleh's face was invaluable. (...) Through the last few days, I've seen them work together, debate their differences, sing and dance together. They have created a support network for each other. They are all invested in each others' success because they all are committed to religious and political freedom in the Arab world. What they have experienced together as a team will stay with them for the rest of their lives. As they go back, they will face obstacles and there will be times when they will want to give up. My only hope is they will remember the solidarity they experienced this past week and keep soldiering on because they are the future leaders of the Arab world. Fatema Haji-Taki is a resident of Arlington, Mass. and a program associate with the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee in Cambridge. She traveled to Morocco where she and three other Boston-area civil liberties activists are leading a series of workshops intended to build interfaith and intercultural bridges in several countries across the Middle East.

By Fatema Haji-Taki

## Etisalat to bid for Morocco Meditel stake

Sweimeh, Jordan, May 15 - Emirates Telecommunications Corp will bid for a stake in Morocco's Meditel as it looks to expand in the Middle East and Africa, the telecom chairman said on Friday.

Emirates Telecom (Etisalat) will also continue to pursue the telecom licence in Iran it was stripped of last week, Mohammed Hassan Omran told Reuters on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum at the Dead Sea in Jordan.

"We are looking for opportunities in the Middle East and Africa, especially at this time there are some good assets," Mr Omran told Reuters Television. "Assets are becoming cheap ... we see them becoming more cheap in coming months."

"We are expecting (to get) Morocco ... We are participating in the bid for Morocco ... Meditel and we are working hard for Syria and Lebanon," Mr Omran said, without giving further details.

Portugal Telecom has appointed Morgan Stanley to sell its 32 per cent stake in Meditel, Morocco's second-largest telecoms company, people familiar with the matter said earlier this month.

The telecom operator is facing stiffer competition in its home market of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), where some analysts are predicting there will be more job cuts and a decline in the population, which will weigh on the earnings of Etisalat and rival du.

When asked if Etisalat was likely to be able to match the 4 per cent rise in profit it achieved in the first quarter, Mr Omran said: "We are working hard to maintain that and even get it better."

He said the UAE market was becoming more difficult because expatriates were leaving, but Etisalat expected growth in Saudi Arabia, where its affiliate Etihad Etisalat was doing "better than expected".

Etisalat Egypt, the third mobile phone operator to enter the Egyptian market, was also performing "better than competitors", Mr Omran said.

Saudi Arabia is the most-populous Gulf Arab country and Egypt has the largest population in the Arab world.

The chairman said the company was not giving up on its lost bid for Iran's third mobile telephone license.

Iran took the license away from Etisalat and its consortium partners in May, saying it "had not fulfilled its obligations".

The company said in January when it won the license that it planned to invest up to \$5bn over five years in its Iranian operation. "In Iran, we made the best bid. Our partner could not continue and that ended up disqualifying the consortium," Mr Omran said. "We are evaluating the possibilities. It is the big market and it has a lot of potential. But it is complex. The game is not over for us in Iran." © Reuters Limited

# Announcement

## PEACE CORPS MOROCCO CONSULTANCY SOUGHT Extension of Bid Submission Date

### General Description:

Peace Corps Morocco (PC/M) seeks a Contractor to conduct an Impact Study in 7 regions of Morocco that will document the impact of Peace Corps Volunteers working in the area of Community Health Education (CHE) on the Host Country Nationals (HCNs) with whom the Volunteers live and work.

PC/M is seeking to conduct this study during the timeframe of late May to no later than mid July, 2009. The contract will be a fixed-fee performance-based contract, paid in Moroccan Dirhams. The Contractor will work in his or her own work space and with his or her own telecommunications equipment. The PC/M contract will also cover costs associated with travel, e.g, transportation and per diem, as allowed under Peace Corps regulations. The Peace Corps will not assume any liabilities not explicitly stipulated in the contract.

The contract will be supervised by the PC/M Program and Training Officer (PTO), representing the Country Director (CD). The Contractor, through the PTO, will also communicate with and receive information and guidance from the representative Peace Corps Office of Strategic Information, Research, and Planning (OSIRP) in Washington, DC. This communication will occur via telephone conference calls.

The Contractor chosen for the Morocco Impact Study will have the academic preparation and demonstrated social research skills to accomplish the objectives of the project in a timely and efficient manner.

For more details, please address your questions to:

Mr. Gordon Mengel: [gmengel@ma.peacecorps.gov](mailto:gmengel@ma.peacecorps.gov) . Tel.: 0537 683 780