The NYU Conference on the Africa–Arab Gulf Relationships will be held on March 3–4, 2009 in Abu Dhabi. The event is organized as part of NYU Africa House’s initiative to explore the relationship between contemporary Africa and the rest of the world. The conference seeks to examine the modern relationships between Africa and the Arab Gulf. The lectures and discussions will focus on modern interactions as well as future possibilities of the relationship.

NYU Africa House is an inter-disciplinary institute devoted to the study of contemporary Africa with a concentration on politics, economics, culture, language and social science. In the past, Africa House has hosted a variety of events, seminars, and presentations featuring panels of African Heads of Government, scholars, diplomats, professors and ambassadors.

Africa’s own relationship with the Arab world is centuries-old. Oman was once part of an influential political presence headquartered in Zanzibar off the coast of Tanzania, and a significant part of East Africa’s population is of Arab descent. Swahili, the language of East Africa, even has linguistic connections with Arabic. The ancient West African kingdoms of Ghana, Mali, Songhay and Kanem are all marked by historic partnerships with the Arab and Islamic world.

Today, the Arab influence is poised to become an even stronger presence in Africa and vice versa, as the Gulf is becoming a hub for intra-African and international travel and business. Politically, there is also increasing desires for an examination of the potential for the development of stronger South-South relations, with Africa and the Arab Gulf becoming closer allies in the international political arena.

These possibilities, both economic and political, are topical issues that demand thoughtful consideration and debate, which is where the Africa–Arab Gulf Relationships conference hopes to step in and facilitate provocative conversation and discussion.
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**DAY 1**
**TUESDAY MARCH 3, 2009**

8:30 – 9:00
Registration and Coffee

**INTRODUCTIONS & KEYNOTES**
9:00 – 10:30
Mariët Westermann, Vice Chancellor, NYU

HE Abdullah A. Al Saleh, Director General of the UAE Ministry of Foreign Trade

Tariq Youssef, Dean, Dubai School of Government

Yaw Nyarko, Director of Africa House, NYU; The Africa Gulf Relationship: History, Politics, Economics

Dean, African Ambassadors, UAE
10:30 – 10:45 Break

**AFRICA AND THE GULF: HISTORIC TIES, CONTEMPORARY TRANSFORMATIONS**
10:45 – 12:15
Panel Chair: Philip Kennedy, New York University

Topics:
Emmanuel Akyeampong, Harvard University
For Prayer and Profit: West Africa’s Religious and Commercial Ties to the Gulf

Edward Alpers, University of California, Los Angeles
Image and Reality of East Africa’s Ties to the Gulf and Arabia

Matthew S. Hopper, California Polytechnic State University
The African Presence in Eastern Arabia: Globalization and Diaspora in the Age of Empire*
12:15 – 1:15
Lunch Break

**AFRICA AND ARAB GULF TOURISM RELATIONS**
1:15 – 2:45
Panel Chair: Judith Aidoo, NYU Africa House Board and Caswell Capital

Panellists:
Shamsa Mwanganga, Minister of Natural Resources & Tourism of the United Republic of Tanzania and President of the Africa Travel Association

Edward Bergman, Exec. Director, Africa Travel Association and NYU Africa House Board

Ogo Sow, Special Advisor of Africa Travel Association, Television and Radio Personality

Representatives of Tourism Boards in the Arab Gulf and in Africa*
2:45 – 3:00 Break

**AFRICA AND THE GULF: THE ECONOMICS OF THE RELATIONSHIPS I**
3:30 – 5:00
Panel Chair: Kasirim Nwuke, UN Economic Commission for Africa

Topics:
Ibrahim Elbadawi, Dubai Economic Policy & Research Institute
Economic Links between Sub-Saharan Africa & the Arab Gulf: Recent History & Future Prospects

Leonce Ndikumana, African Development Bank
Options for transforming transitory income from natural resources into permanent income

Hippolyte Fofack, World Bank
Africa and Arab Gulf States: Divergent Development Paths and Prospects for Convergence*

* FOLLOWED BY A Q & A SESSION

**DAY 2**
**WEDNESDAY MARCH 4, 2009**

8:30 – 9:00 Coffee

**PANEL: ISLAMIC MICROFINANCE & BANKING**
9:00 – 10:30
Panel Chair: Lemma Senbet, University of Maryland, College Park

Topics:
Mahmoud El-Gamal, Rice University
Islamic Finance and Microfinance in Sub-Saharan Africa: Economic-Development Goals and Potential Pitfalls

Dean Karlan, Yale University

Ralph Chami, International Monetary Fund
Macroeconomic Consequences of Remittances*
10:30 – 10:45 Break

**PANEL: AFRICA AND THE GULF: THE ECONOMICS OF THE RELATIONSHIP II**
11:15 –1:15
Panel Chair: Ismail Genc, American University of Sharjah

Topics:
Jemel Zarrouk, Arab Monetary Fund
The Impact of the Global Financial Crisis on Africa–Arab Gulf Trade Relations

Mwangi wa Githinji, University of Massachusetts, Amherst
Dhows to Airplanes: Trade and Development Relations between Africa and the Gulf

12:15 – 1:15
Lunch Break

**PANEL: POLITICAL ECONOMY AND LAW**
1:15 – 2:45
Panel Chair: Paul Wachtel, New York University

Topics:
Hassan Fattah, The National
Anver Versi, African Business Magazine
Africa and the Arab World: Business environment now ripe for epoch-making expansion

Kevin Davis, New York University, Law
Legal Remedies for Corruption in Government Contracting
2:45 – 3:00
Closing Remarks