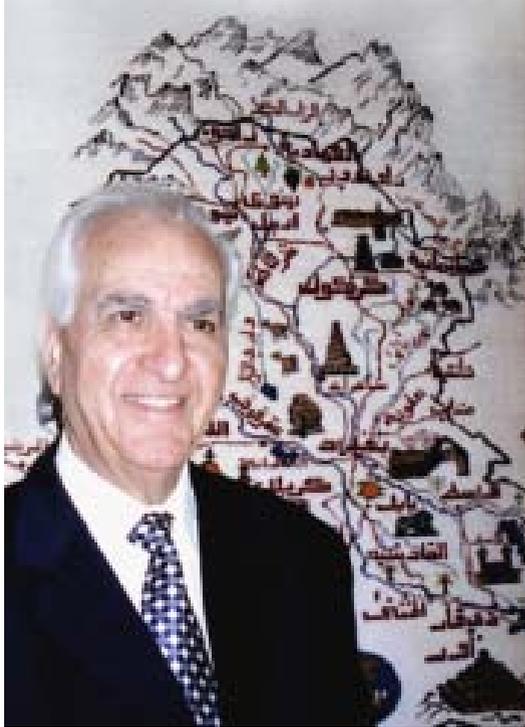


# Mechanisms of Communication and Mutual Acquaintanceship between Nations



Throughout the ages this noble verse has echoed from the highest pulpits and has been quoted repeatedly by reformers. It has been interpreted by legal scholars who have expounded on its meanings and has been discussed

*“O mankind, indeed We have created you from male and female and made you peoples and tribes that you may know one another. Indeed, the most noble of you in the sight of Allah is the most righteous of you. Indeed, Allah is Knowing and Acquainted.”*

*(Surah 49:13)*

in thousands of pages of exegetical works. In recent times, dozens of conferences with various titles have been held and are still being held, in the interests of bringing schools of thought, religions and people closer together so that peace, love and respect may prevail among mankind. Everything that has been explained about this noble verse and all that has been written to draw insight from its

valuable meanings has so far, however, amounted to no more than words without action. It has become a slogan for every gathering or project calling for people to come together and improve communication. But they all have yet to come up with any work methodology or system for developing or making these words a reality so that their humanitarian aspects can be put into practice, aspects which the Almighty intended to serve as a general constitution and foundation for human behaviour. Now I think the time has come for the scholars, thinkers and reformers of our age to work on drawing up rules for how to spread the consciousness and values that were revealed in this verse, in the interests of promoting dignity and mutual acquaintanceship. This would be based on the following main pivots:

**Pivot One:** Business and industry

under the banner of integrity in word and deed.

**Pivot Two:** Tourism under the banner of mutual acquaintanceship and communication.

**Pivot Three:** Piety and beneficence under the banner of mercy, care and beneficence.

**Pivot Four:** Conferences and seminars to draw up new knowledge programmes and to disseminate new rules for human behaviour with respect to mutual acquaintanceship, communication and cooperation.

**Pivot Five:** Idea generation workshops to brainstorm ideas, develop them and put them into practice.

**Pivot One:** Business and industry

Since the dawn of mankind and

throughout the ages, people have interacted and learned about one another by way of traders who travelled between cities and across continents. It was through these journeys that cultures and ideologies as well as goods and raw materials were transferred from one place to another. Raids and wars were even sometimes launched to ensure control of these economic and cultural movements.

It is my own travels that have had the most powerful effect on my ideas and human relationships, which have been characterised by warmth and respect and built on a foundation of integrity in word and deed between myself and the dozens of companies and hundreds of individuals with whom I have come into contact or had dealings in the various countries I have visited. I have kept hold of their business cards to this day

and still hold the fondest memories of these times. My name used to grace visitor lists at the specialised exhibitions that I have attended over the past fifty years. Writing this article brought back memories of the past and also rekindled some of its sorrows. I remember one time when I was visiting a small factory that specialised in manufacturing moulds. The factory owner was preoccupied with current events as the situation in Iraq was highly tense on the international level. Every time I tried to speak to him about work he would draw me into a political debate. Eventually my patience ran out and I said to him: "I've come all this way to do business with you, and you're talking politics to me! Business wins friendships while politics only creates divisions and animosity. Now, which one are you trying to achieve? And so, throughout my dealings around the world I used not to get involved

in anything that did not benefit my work or personal development, or bring happiness to both sides.

These meetings and the knowledge and industry experience I gained culminated in my publication of AlHidhaa Magazine for shoes, leathers and materials, and AlRidaa Magazine for sewing, clothes and textiles. Both magazines, which were published in Arabic and circulated internationally, were in print for ten years. Their pages were filled with close to eighty of my articles, in addition to hundreds of reports and industry news updates that formed the content of both the magazines and the Industrial Prospects website: [www.industrial-prospects.com](http://www.industrial-prospects.com). It was with them that this industrial chapter of my life, which spanned almost 50 years, came to an end.

All this money and effort put in by

both myself and those with whom I worked, was in order to foster a culture of communication among the millions of workers and traders in these professions, and to foster the exchange of knowledge between Arabic speakers and the rest of the world by means of the second language used by the magazines which was English. In this way the values that I have tried to live out, of getting to know and cooperating with people, became embodied in me.

Let us thank God for His blessings and guidance.

**Continued in Issue 67.**

May God grant us success.

**A. S. Shakiry**