



U.S. – Islamic World Forum
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Press Release:

**The Next Generation: New Media, the Economy and Social Change
The 2007 U.S.-Islamic World Forum in Doha, Qatar**

Participants at The Next Generation: New Media, the Economy and Social Change Task Force at the 2007 U.S. Islamic World Forum, a global leaders' conference hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Qatar and the Saban Center at the Brookings Institution discussed the challenges facing this generation's Islamic World youth, including employment, health, and educational issues. Hady Amr, Fellow and Director of the Brookings Doha Center, chaired the Task Force. Today's session included presentations by Fowziyah Abdullah Abu-Khalid, Ahmad Humeid, Nisreen Shocair, Abdelouahab Rezig, Mark Ward, and Tarik Yousef. The final session of the Task Force will take place tomorrow, and will include presentations by J. Scott Carpenter, Stephen Heintz, and Randa Jamal.

Participants discussed the fact that today's generation of youth often turn to "new media" (the Internet, blogs, etc) for information and to express their opinions. Participants also addressed the fact that many youth graduate university and are unable to find employment in their areas of study. Because the cause of this problem is not the same in every Muslim country, solutions must be creative, adaptive, and should stem from the country itself and have youth-input. Recommendations included developing communication lines between employers and educational programs so that educational programs match the need of employers. In addition, participants voiced the opinion that youth are often the most innovative and creative regarding technology. Therefore, many agreed on the need to support youth programs that enable younger people to develop technologically-related ideas that can lead to profitable ventures.

About the U.S.-Islamic World Forum: The 2007 U.S.- Islamic World Forum is a global conference bringing together American and Muslim world political, business, media, civil society, science, arts and cultural leaders. The Forum seeks to serve as both a convening body for American and Muslim world leaders and as a catalyst for promoting more positive relations between the U.S. and Muslim states and communities. The theme of the 2007 Forum is "Confronting What Divides Us." The U.S.-Islamic World Forum has quickly established itself as the premiere meeting ground for serious engagement between American and Muslim world leaders.

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<http://www.us-islamicworldforum.org/>

For more on the Brookings Project on U.S. Relations with the Islamic World:
<http://www.brookings.edu/fp/research/projects/islam/islam.htm>