

Special Appendix on Hadhramaut Governorate

Great Achievements in the Post-Unification Era

**On the occasion of organizing the main celebrations in
Al-Mukalla**

Historical Synopsis

Hadhramaut is the name of an ancient Yemeni tribe, as well as the name of the kingdom established by the tribe in its territorial domain. The kingdom expanded and its influence extended to surrounding tribes. Also, some chroniclers believe that Hadhramaut was named after one of the sons of Qahtan Bin Amer Bin Sam Bin Noh. Hadhramaut is a cherished part of Yemen, in both ancient and modern times. It is the legend of history and a deeply rooted civilization that extended for thousands of years.

A highly refined culture emerged in Hadhramaut, and its reputation spread far in the ancient Yemeni centers of civilization, especially during the prosperity brought on by the frankincense and incense trade. Frankincense and incense were considered holy goods, and are still made from the agricultural produce of Wadi Hadhramaut. They are grown around the famous dams and springs, especially Al-Khalaqa Dam, which is near the Tomb of Prophet Hud (Peace be upon him). The ancient Seaport of Qina, Hadhramaut also played an important role throughout history.

Yemeni people settled in the land of Hadhramaut from way back in time to the dawn of history. The historical ruins in some sites of Wadi Doan, in the Thamoud and Al-Abr Districts of Hadhramaut, indicate that human life in the region goes back to the Early Stone Ages. There are also preliminary findings that date back to the Seventh Century B.C.

Hadhramaut was the cradle of numerous civilizations, such as the First Ad Civilization and the Civilization of Thamud, which were both cited in the Holy Quran. Chroniclers did not record any people who settled before First Ad and after the Great Flood. The region of Hud is situated in the Wadi of Al-Ahqaf in East Hadhramaut, a distance of 90 km from the City of Tarim, and where one of the most famous Arab markets exists since Pre-Islamic times. This region is also visited by thousands of Moslems coming from all over the world, to pay tribute to the Tomb of the Prophet Hud (peace be upon him). The tomb is situated in the mountain, where several small grooves are carved out for the visitors to rest in. Upon completion of the rituals of the visit, the pilgrims head for the Rock of the She-Camel, which is believed to have been formed by the She-Camel of the Prophet Saleh (peace be upon him). The government has taken note of the importance of the visits to the Tomb of the Prophet Hud to encourage religious tourism to Yemen, and agencies overseeing tourism have prepared an ambitious plan to direct attention to tourist areas that have religious affiliation.

Hadhramaut reached considerable advances in architecture, military and economic progress. Ancient cities were built along the old trade routes crossing Hadhramaut. The cities of Mudun, Shibam, Seyoun and Tarim were mentioned in the ancient Yemeni inscriptions dating back to the Third Century AD. With the advent of Islam in the Arabian Peninsula, the tribes of Hadhramaut converted to Islam in the 10th year AH. The Hadhramis played a major role in the Islamic conquests. Among them appeared Commanders of the Islamic Armies, such as Al-Asha'at Bin Qais Al-Kindi. Some

Hadhrami cities, like Tarim contributed to spreading out Islam to distant locations of the world. During the Islamic rule, Hadhramaut was under numerous governments, at times independent and other times subjected to foreign interventions, such as the Portuguese invasion of the City of Al-Shihr and Socotra Island, and similarly to British colonialism. Both the Kathiri and Qa'aiti Sultanates, which continued to rule until the independence of the Southern Part of Yemen from the British in 1967, are considered the last of such governments. In 1967, the scattered sultanates and emirates of South Yemen became united under the People's Republic of South Yemen. In May 1990, all of Yemen became under one umbrella by virtue of the blessed unity and the declaration of the Republic of Yemen. Hadhramaut is a part of this united state.

Location and Population

Hadhramaut Governorate is situated between latitude 14° north, at the southern border thereof, where it overlooks the Arabian Sea and 19° North, at its northern border with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. It also lies between Longitude 48° East, on the western side, which faces the Governorate of Shabwa and Longitude 51° East, on the eastern side, facing the Governorate of Al-Mahara. Hadhramaut is the largest governorate in Yemen, with an estimated area of 167, 749 km², thus constituting 36% of the total area of the country. It is divided administratively into two parts; the first part consists of 16 districts situated on the coastal strip and the highlands, including Socotra Island. The other part consists of 14 districts along Wadi Hadhramaut and the desert area.

The estimated population of the governorate is about 1,029,000 inhabitants, with a population growth of 3.09% per annum. The labor force comprises 23.1% of the population.

The Climate and the Topography

In summer, the climate of Hadhramaut is hot in the coastal areas and moderate in the plateaus. The summer monsoon winds have a moderating influence on temperatures in the coastal areas. Temperature in Al-Mukalla reaches about 30°C. In winter however, temperatures tend to be warm and range between 20-23°C. The governorate is split into 4 distinctive geographical regions. These are the Coastal Plains, Mountains and Plateaus, Wadi Hadhramaut, and the Desert Plains.

The Coastal Plains

The Coastal Plains is an extension of the southern coast of Yemen overlooking the Gulf of Aden and the Arabian Sea. It extends across six districts starting from the Village of Bir Ali in Shabwa Governorate westward to the Village of Hadhatihim in District of Al-Raida and Qusai'ir in the East. The elevation of the Coastal Plains gradually rises to 500 feet above sea level near the internal mountain range. The Coastal Plains crosses the wide

wadis that spring out of the mountains and the runoff beds and pour into the sea. The most important of these wadis are Wadi Hijr, Wadi Al-Kharba, Wadi Boais, and Wadi Howairah from the eastern side. From the east are the Wadis of Sam'oun, Araf, Khard and Dhinbat. In view of the abundant fish wealth that characterizes the coasts, people of this area are predominantly engaged in fishing. Significant fishing centers include Al-Shihr, Al-Hami, Al-Mukalla, Eastern Al-Dais, Al-Raida, Qusai'ir and Al-Musaina'ah. People also engage in trade, while livestock grazing takes place by the Bedouin nomads living in the versants of the interior mountainous area and the depths of the eastern wadis.

The Mountains and Plateaus

The coastal mountains and the Southern and Northern Plateaus of Hadhramaut have an elevation of 200 meters above sea level. The highest mountain peak, Koursaiban reaches about 669 meters above sea level. This area includes the Ghail Bin Yamin, Al-Dulai'ah, and Yab'uth Do'an. The region is characterized by livestock rearing, honey production and some limited agricultural products.

Wadi Hadhramaut

Wadi Hadhramaut is one of the biggest wadis in Yemen. It constitutes a distinctive topographical phenomenon. It flows parallel to the southern coast of the Arabian Peninsula about 200 km away from the coast. It then deviates towards the southeast, cutting through the coastal heights across Wadi Al-Museila, with its seasonal flows pouring to the Arabian Sea at the City of Seyhout in Al-Mahara Governorate. In Wadi Hadhramaut, there are branch wadis that cut through the southern plateaus of the Wadi. These subsidiary wadis are the Wadis of Dahr, Rakhia, Amad, Bin Ali, 'Ainat and Wasna. Also, from its northern plateau flow the Wadis of Haidhan, Ni'am, Ju'aimah, and Thaby. This area is known for its agriculture produce, especially dates, cotton, vegetables and fruit. The area is also characterized by its high-rise mud architecture, manifested in the Shibam-Hadhramaut buildings, and the castles of Seyoun and Tarim.

The Desert Plains

The Desert Plains is situated in the edge of the northern plateau of Wadi Hadhramaut, extending westward to Ramlat Al-Sab'atayn. These plains form the territory that the desert districts sit on. These districts are Thamud, Al'Ibr, Rima wa Al-Qif, Zamkh, and Manoukh. The northern area is famous for the livestock grazing and livestock rearing. The peripheries of the area converge with Saudi border and some of the overland international inlets, such as Al-Ibr/ Al-Wadi'ah/ Al-Bude'i. The Most Significant Cities of Hadhramaut Governorate include:

- 1) **Al-Mukalla**, which is the capital city of the governorate. It lies on the eastern part of the Yemeni coast, a distance of about 620 km from the capital city of Sana'a. Al-Mukalla

means the port or the dock. The city is surrounded by a group of medium range mountains in the form of a circle. Between 1600-1886, Al-Mukalla was under the rule of the Al-Kasadiyah Dynasty, when most of the inhabitants were engaged in fishing. During this period, the city witnessed a construction boom and relative expansion, which was accompanied by commercial and administrative activities after it fell under the rule of the Qudai'i Dynasty from 1886-1967. In 1915, the administrative capital shifted from Al-Shihr to Al-Mukalla, due its advantage of having a deep natural harbor and port suitable for large ships. After the blessed unification of Yemen, Al-Mukalla experienced extensive construction, commercial, and development activities in all fields, which extended from Foah to Al-Rayyan. Numerous strategic and infrastructure projects were undertaken there. Important landmarks of the city include the Al-'Uwaizy Castle, the Sultan's Palace, and the Sultanate Library.

2) **Al-Shihr**, which some call Su'ad and Sam'oun. It is a historical city that goes way back to ancient times. It is situated on the Coast overlooking the Arabian Sea, about 60 km from Al-Mukalla on a wide and open coast through which Wadi Sam'oun flows. The people of Al-Shihr are famous for their fishing. It is the largest producer of fish and marine life in all Yemen, and the exporter of the best fish to the European Union and the rest of the world. The total number of individual and cooperative fishermen exceeds three thousand fishermen, and annual output exceeds 14,000 tons of fish. The old landmarks of the city include the City Wall, both the Northern Gate (Saddat al-'Aidarous), the Southern Gate (Saddat Al-Khour), and the Castle of Bin Ayyash.

3) **Seyoun**, which is the capital of the Wadi and Desert Districts and the largest city of Wadi Hadhramaut. It was the capital city of the Al Kathir Dynasty prior to independence. Seyoun is about 320 km from Al-Mukalla and occupies a large area characterized by the high walls of its buildings, which stand out from the remaining cities and villages of Wadi Hadhramaut. Its significant landmarks include the Old City Wall, with its three gates, the Sultan's Palace, which is also one of the most famous landmarks of Hadhramaut.

4) **Ghail Bawazir** (Bawazir River), which is a small town about 40 km from Al-Mukalla. In Ghail Bawazir, there are many springs and flowing waters. The area is famous for its tobacco and henna cultivation. Significant landmarks include the Al-Azhar Castle, Eastern Saddat Al-Ghail, and Al-Bagh, which is a park with two Indian style palaces.

5) **Tarim**, which is one of the most important cities of Wadi Hadhramaut. Tarim is situated southeast of Seyoun at a distance of about 35 km from it. A mountain overlooks the city from the east, while the date palm farms surround the city from the west and south. The city became famous for its mosques and scholastic leagues. The oldest of these leagues is the Tarim League and the most modern is the Mustafa League. Its most famous landmarks include the Mohdhar Mosque with its towering minaret, which rises to a height of 175 feet; and the Al-Ahqaf Library, which contains a big collection of rare handwritten manuscripts. There is also the Al-Qubbah Palace. In the past, the people of Tarim set out to propagate Islam in the Far East and Southeast Asia. Today, students

come to the city from all over the world to learn various Islamic fields of scholasticism. The city was built by Tarim Bin Saba more than 2,400 years ago. It was the religious capital of Wadi Hadhramaut and became famous for adherence to the Sufi cult. The gates of the city differ from those of other old Yemeni cities, where its columns are made of tree trunks and their ceilings are weaved from palm leaves and tree ranches.

6) **Shibam-Hadhramaut**, which is situated west of Seyoun at a distant of 19 km from it. The city began to emerge in pre-Islamic times. It was mentioned in the collection of ancient Yemeni inscriptions. The city is surrounded by fortified walls and a magnificent gate, which is the entrance to the Old City. Shibam-Hadhramaut is known for having the first skyscrapers in the world, and is characterized by its distinctive architectural style and the mud houses. Houses are built by mud brick reinforced by straw, and are plastered by limestone (noura). The buildings rise in parallel to heights ranging from 23-24 meters. The number of old buildings is estimated at 500 houses, which date back to 800 years. They have undergone renovation and maintenance at different times. Facing the houses are the government castle, Al-Najdy Palace and the gates of the city.

The Grand Mosque of Shibam sits in the middle, with its high minaret. It was built in the period of the Abbasid Caliph Haroun Al-Rashid. There is also the al-Khouga Mosque, which was a center of the Abadhi Sect. The wall surrounds the city from all sides, which is built in the old style, with only one gate locked at night. The city got its name from the King of the city, the Younger Shibam Bin Hadhramaut Bin Saba. UNESCO has considered the city to belong to the list of Human Heritage Cities, and many projects have been carried out to preserve the city from destruction.

Post-Unification Hadhramaut: Development and Achievements

Post Unification Hadhramaut experienced an unprecedented movement towards development in all fronts. The signs of reinvigoration of economic and development activities began to take place from the first day of the Unified State of Yemen. The signs appeared on the development map as Hadhramaut Governorate was transferred into a real workshop, in which the bounties and achievements of unification are being reaped. Over the last 15 years, Hadhramaut witnessed considerable improvement in standards of living and extensive growth in services. Many projects have been undertaken in education, health care, water and electricity, transport and communications services. The growth of the agricultural and industrial sectors led to reducing gaps between urban and rural areas. Projects implemented during the 1990–2004 period in all development fields amounted to 1,734 projects at a cost of YR 105.2 billion plus \$ 101 million. They were financed by the government, in addition to external, private and self finance. Seven strategic projects were also implemented with other governorates costing YR 21 billion plus \$ 170 million. The most prominent of these include the Safir-Hadhramaut Road, the Tarim-Thamud-Shahn Road, preparation of the study for constructing ports in Brum, the protection of the marine environment, and the proliferation of agricultural seeds and inputs.

Electricity

The electricity sector is one important sector in the national economy. It is an essential pillar for accelerating the development process and for attracting foreign investments. In Hadhramaut, the electricity sector has witnessed a qualitative transformation, especially in the second half of the 1990s after the implementation of 92 projects at a total cost of YR 22.5 billion plus \$ 18.6 million. The most important of those projects include the construction and installation of the Central Power Station at Rayyan with total capacity of 40 MW, and the reinforcement of generating capacity in Wadi Hadhramaut. These projects have contributed to improving the bad situation experienced by the sector in the previous period, and were able to meet the growing demand. Financing of new electrical power resolved the limited power generation capacity and the obsolescence of the transmission lines. The electricity generation capacity has risen from 49.4 MW in 1990 to 143 MW in 2004. Subscribers also rose from 50,063 to 117,145 subscribers over the same period. Work is underway in 35 projects with approved allocations of YR 1.2 billion for 2005, the most significant of these is improving distribution in Al-Shihr, electrification of the villages around Al-Mukalla, reinforcing the grid in Hadhramaut Governorate and in Wadi Hadhramaut, and electrification of Seif and Wadi Sirr.

Water and Sanitation

During the last decade and a half, the water and sanitation sector witnessed noticeable improvement. Investments amounted to YR 3.2 billion plus \$ 51 million to implement 231 projects. The most important are the Greater Mukalla Water Project, Seyoun Water Project and the Tarim Water Project, in addition to the expansion of the rural water supply project. Volume of water production in the coastal areas of the governorate and in Wadi Hadhramaut rose from 21.1 million m³ in 2000 to 25.3 million m³ in 2004, and consumption from 13.6 million m³ to 17.9 million m³ during the same period. Work is still proceeding in the implementation of a number of projects at a total cost of YR 2.1 billion in 2005. The most prominent include reduction of water losses in Al-Mukalla Water Network, the Wadi Hadhramaut Water Networks, Improvement of Water Supply and Sanitation Services in Al-Mukalla, Hudaibo Water supply and Sanitation Project, the provision of water sources for Al-Shihr, and the Seyoun, Tarim and Shibam Sanitation Projects.

Manufacturing

The industrial sector experienced noticeable growth during the last 15 years. Mining and manufacturing operations were established in the areas of building materials and food processing, in addition to ice plants and fiberglass boat production. Moreover, interest and investments in expansion of small carpentries took place as well as in aluminum and furniture workshops. Number of projects in this sector reached 94 projects at a total cost of YR 5.9 billion, the most significant is the Sponge Factory in Al-Mukalla, Al-Mukalla Factory for Chemicals, and the Concrete Asphalt Production Plant in Al-Rayyan. These

projects have contributed to growing industrial activities and in providing 1,449 job opportunities.

Oil and Mineral Resources

Oil exploration efforts covered Hadhramaut Governorate, which culminated in the discoveries of Al-Museila fields, making Hadhramaut an oil producing governorate. A port was constructed in Al-Shihr for exporting oil to world markets. The General Survey and Geological Authority implemented a number of projects, which are the Mineral Resources and Industrial and Construction Rocks Survey, and the completion of building the compound for the Authority in Hadhramaut, in addition to providing the electricity network for the governorate branch of the Authority.

Agriculture

Agriculture in Hadhramaut occupies an important place among the economic sectors. A large percentage of the labor force in the governorate is engaged in agriculture. The arable land is estimated at 34,657 hectares in 2003. Fruits constitute 38%, animal feed 26%, cereals 24%, vegetables 9% and other crops 3%. Agricultural production is concentrated in Wadi Hadhramaut and in Wadi Hijr. The most significant agricultural produce is wheat, dates, sesame, lemon, tobacco and henna.

The sector has witnessed the completion of 32 projects during the period 1990-2004, at a total cost of YR 2.3 billion plus \$ 1 million. Two further strategic projects shared with other governorates cost YR 3.2 billion. The most prominent completed projects is the Wadi Hadhramaut Agricultural Development Project (Second Stage), the Wadi Hijr or Hijr Development Project, and the Development of the Agricultural Cooperatives in the Eastern Region. These projects have contributed to almost doubling the arable land over the last 15 years. Productivity also increased due to the construction of dams and water installations, the provision of agricultural equipment, and support to agricultural extension. Other prominent projects are the Wadi Hadhramaut Agricultural Development Project (Third Stage), and the Southern Regional Rural Development Project which is implemented in participation with other governorates at a cost of \$ 45 million.

Fisheries

Hadhramaut has a coastal strip extending for 750 km cutting through six districts, in addition to the Coast of Socotra Island. These coasts are characterized by diversified and abundance of fish and marine life, especially tuna, sardines and lobsters. The governorate saw the implementation of 9 fisheries project within the annual investment programs at a cost of YR 443 million, and 2 joint projects with other governorates costing YR 489 million. The most significant of these projects is the Fisheries Cooperative Development

Project in the Eastern Region (Fourth Fisheries Project), which provided facilities for fishermen in six locations. These projects include the construction of modern halls for receiving and preparing fish, cold storage rooms and ice making plants. The Fish Canning Factory in Al-Mukalla was upgraded to increase production to 19.8 million cans in 2004.

The cooperative associations and the private sector played a vital role in the development of the fisheries sector. Number of associations rose from 4 in 1990 to 24 in 2004, including five in Socotra Island. These associations helped regulating activities and improving productivity of fishermen. Fish production of these associations amounted to 75,000 tons in 2004. The private sector also executed 28 projects at a total cost of YR 2.6 billion; the most significant is building 2 fish canning factories, a number of cold storage facilities, and ice making plants, in addition to establishing fish export companies. Work is underway in a number of vital projects; the most important is the Fish Export Dock in Al-Shihr.

Roads

The roads sector witnessed noticeable developments, as a result of constructing modern asphalt roads and the implementation of interconnection projects between districts of the governorate. Also, a number of internal roads have been asphalted, paved and lightened, in addition to other roads that underwent maintenance. During 1990-2004, 78 projects were implemented at a total cost of YR 25.4 billion; the most prominent project is renewal of Al-Mukalla-Seyoun Road at a length of 300 km. Strategic interconnecting roads were also implemented, such as the Safir Hadhramaut Road of 310 km linking the Capital City of Sana'a with the governorate. The Tarim-Thamoud-Shahn Road of 510 km, which is the Eastern Gateway and a trade inlet linking Hadhramaut, in particular, and Yemen in general with the Sultanate of Oman and thence the Gulf states. The widening of the eastern and western entranceways to Al-Mukalla, at a length of 28 km were completed, as well as the laying of the Moary Qalnasiyah Road and the widening and tree lining of the Airport Road, streets of Al-Mukalla, Ghail Bawazeer, Al-Shihr, Al-Hami, Al-Dais Al-Sharqiyah (Eastern Dais), Seyoun, Tarim Al-Qutn, Shibam, etc.

Currently, a number of road projects are under implementation. The most significant are the Hijr-Al-Dhali'ah-Doan Road, Al-Dhalia'ah-Al-Mukalla-Doan Road at a length of 192 km, and the first phase of Khour Al-Mukalla, in addition to the first stage of the Rabwa Khalf Project, the asphaltting of the streets of Rawkab, Boais, etc. The lengths of the asphalted roads have increased from 761 km to more than 2,500 km. The Public Works Project contributed to the implementation of 14 road projects at a cost of \$ 1.2 million. The Social Fund for Development contributed to the implementation of 8 projects costing \$ 610,000. The Ministry of Oil contributed to financing 52 projects costing YR 2.9 billion.

Telecommunication

Since achieving reunification of Yemen, Hadhramaut Governorate realized qualitative leaps in telecommunication as a result of constructing modern networks for the cities and rural areas. Telephone services were made available in most regions of the governorate. Mail services have been improved. Around 113 projects were implemented in the sector at a total cost of YR 13.9 billion; the most prominent are the installation of central switchboards in the major cities, such as Al-Mukalla, Al-Shihr, Seyoun, Tarim and Al-Qutn. Moreover, 22 Yemen Mobile stations and rural communication stations were constructed in a number of regions, in addition to building modern post offices in some cities and the rehabilitation of two post offices in Al-Mukalla and Seyoun. These projects reflected positively in increasing the ready capacity of telephone lines from 10,000 lines in 1990 to 134,766 lines in 2004, and the operating capacity from 8,506 lines to 76,076 lines. The number of post offices also increased from 28 offices to 34 offices.

Transport

Eleven projects were completed in the transport sector, at a total cost of YR 743 million plus \$ 170,000; the most significant is the construction of Socotra international airport, which ended the isolation of the island through connected Socotra with the homeland and thus with the world. Building and improving the facilities in Seyoun Airport were completed, in addition to finalizing the second phase of Al-Mukalla/ Khalaf Port and conducting the Brum Port study. Currently, work is proceeding in a number of significant projects, including building the sea marine dock in Socotra and improving facilities in the Al-Mukalla International Airport. Number of ships coming to Hadhramaut has more than doubled from 155 ships in 1990 to 346 ships in 2004, while the volume of merchandise multiplied from 4.3 million tons to 12.2 million tons.

Social Services and Social Affairs

Over the period 1990-2004, social services in all fields, developed considerably. Around 935 projects were implemented at a total cost of YR 20 billion plus \$ 26.9 million. These projects were financed from different sources and covered education, health, population, higher education, endowments and guidance, culture and tourism, youth and sports, and social affairs. Social Affairs' share was 9 projects at a total cost of YR 192 million; the most prominent are the Orphanage House and the premises of the Social Welfare Fund in Al-Mukalla. Currently, work is preceding for the completion of the social care premises in Al-Mukalla.

Education

Around 422 educational projects were completed during 1990-2004 at a total cost of YR 6.1 billion plus \$ 18.7 million. These were 232 schools for basic education and 32

schools for secondary education, in addition to furnishing and renovating some schools and the completion of the printing press for school textbooks.

Education Indicators

Indicators	Basic Education		Secondary Education	
	1990/1991	2003/04	1990/1991	2003/04
Schools	239	525	13	45
Classrooms	2766	5253	232	497
Students	108,460	190,078	9,628	19,327
·Males	...	113,055	...	14,314
·Females	...	77,023	...	5,013
Teachers	4,804	8,548	453	1,366
Students/ Classroom	39	36	42	39
Students/ Teacher	23	22	18	14

Technical Education and Vocational Training

Technical education and vocational training witnessed the implementation of 20 projects in Hadhramaut Governorate, at a total cost of YR 830 million; including the construction of the Industrial Institute in Al-Mukalla and the rehabilitation of the existing institutes. Work is proceeding in the construction of a number of institutes; the most prominent are the Fisheries Institute in Al-Shihr and the Agricultural Institute in Al-Qutn. Number of institutes has increased to 4 institutes during 1990-2004, and number of students has almost doubled from 415 students to 932 students.

Higher Education

Two major academic edifices were constructed in Hadhramaut Governorate; these are Hadhramaut University for Science and Technology and the private Al-Ahqaf University. Both have contributed to providing opportunities to acquire knowledge in various specialized fields. The government gave considerable attention to Hadhramaut University, where 28 projects were implemented at a total cost of YR 1.5 billion plus \$ 12.8 million; including the studies and designs for the university campus, and the construction of the Faculty of Engineering and Technology and the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences. Number of faculties increased over the period 1996-2004 from 6 to 14 and the departments from 21 to 50. Number of students also increased from 2,052 male and female students to 7,640.

Health and Population

Around 208 projects were completed in the health sector at a total cost of YR 2.1 billion plus \$ 1.5 million. These comprise the Central Laboratory in Al-Mukalla, the construction of 6 hospitals, 17 health centers and 102 health units, in addition to expanding and equipping health facilities in the various districts.

Health Indicators

Indicators	1990	2004
Hospitals	6	12
Beds	345	1,401
Health Centers	11	28
Health Units	142	244
Maternity and Childhood Centers	21	53
Human Doctors	125	338

Culture and Tourism

Culture and Tourism in Hadhramaut Governorate saw significant development. Around 27 projects were implemented at a total cost of YR 4 billion. The share of the private sector was 17 projects at a total cost of YR 3.3 billion. The most prominent projects were the Cultural Center in Al-Mukalla and the construction of a number of hotels and chalets. Hotels increased from 49 in 2000 to 79 in 2004. Also, a number of tourism and transport agencies have been opened to facilitate services provided to tourists in general and stimulate domestic tourism in particular.

Youth and Sports

Youth and sports realized the implementation of 20 projects at a total cost of YR 337 million during the past period; including the closed hall in Mukalla and the construction of a youth hostel in Al-Mukalla, Seyoun and Socotra Island. Work is in progress on the implementation of a number of projects; the most important is the construction of the Seyoun Sports Stadium at a cost of YR 1 billion.

Local Administration

Thirteen projects were implemented in local administration field, at a total cost of YR 562 million. The most significant of these projects is the government complex in Seyoun,

Al-'Abr and Qalnasiyah. Work is in progress in a number of other projects, including the government complex in Al-Mukalla.

Various Projects in Hadhramaut Governorate

Field	No. of Projects	Project Cost	
Presidency of the Republic	1	43,812	COCA Premisis
Fiance and Banking	6	135,654	Completion of CBY
Supply and Trade	2	136,559	Economic Corporation Premisis
Justice	4	296,842	Shibam and Al-Qutn Court and Prosecution
Endowments and Guidance	151	170,869	Commercial and Hotel Complex
Inforamtion	5	170,742	Radio Transmission Station
Planning and International Cooperation	2	60,415	Both MPIC coastal and Wadi Hadhramaut

Investment in Hadhramaut Governorate

Government's economic policies are based on liberalization, the gradual transformation to a market economy and the removal of all obstacles in the way of national, Arab and foreign capital that contribute to building the national economy and to achieving development. The government took certain measures to reinforce credibility of those policies, including restitution of nationalized property and rights to their original owners, or payment of a just compensation thereof, based on the principle of no damage and loss. The local authority in Hadhramaut Governorate has been able to overcome this problem, notwithstanding its complications and imbrications, thus contributing to restoring confidence of Yemeni investors, especially those expatriates. Investors' activities have already begun to appear in development, and the number of projects are increasing year by year.

Available Investment Opportunities

There are large investment opportunities in Hadhramaut and in various fields, especially agriculture, fisheries, industry, tourism, oil and mineral resources, in addition to the finance and business sector.

The governorate has vast cultivable and unexploited land, estimated at 8,843 hectares, especially in the districts of Wadi Hadhramaut and Hijr. There is also the possibility of reclaiming additional land to grow new crops, including dates, sesame, potatoes, onion and garlic in the districts of Wadi Hadhramaut and Al-Qutn. Honeydews (watermelons) and dates can be grown in Al-Hijr District. Brum/Maifa'a and the rural periphery of Al-Mukalla are famous for growing Mangoes and lemons. Similarly, tobacco and henna are grown in Ghail Bawazeer. Shareholding companies can also be established for exporting surplus agricultural produce such as tomatoes, dates and onions. These products can be processed and packed. Companies can also set up storage facilities to preserve surplus quantities. There are also investment opportunities in the production of animal feed, livestock and poultry rearing, in addition to breeding bees and honey production to meet local consumption and exports.

Hadhramaut Governorate is characterized by its long coastline rich with diversified fish wealth. Coupled with continuous increase in foreign markets and local demand, the governorate can exploit the many opportunities in the fisheries sector; the most significant of these are:

- Establishing fishing and manufacturing companies to meet the needs of the local market and for export;
- Investing in fishing fleets and provision of cold storage facilities and the improvement of fish processing and handling;
- Setting up fish and marine life breeding farms;
- Establishing fishing boats, net factories, and other fishing tools;
- Establishing fish mill units for providing agricultural fertilizer and poultry feed.

Several mineral ores are available in Hadhramaut Governorate, of which gold, copper and nickel. There are also raw materials and industrial and construction rocks that are major ingredients for cement manufacturing, marble and granite production, in addition to the provision of raw materials for glass, limestone, paints, plastics, sanitary ceramics and building materials. The most important investment opportunities can be summarized in cement and salt erosion resistant cement, plaster production, as well as glass, granite and marble production. Similarly, some manufacturing plants, which depend on primary raw materials available locally, can be set up such as sesame oil, starch and glucose from potatoes and the canning of fruits, vegetables, legumes and tomatoes. There is also the possibility of packing dates and bottling honey. Investment opportunities may also include manufacturing agricultural spraying equipment, the establishment of mills to take advantage of the waste and residue of fish such as exploiting the fish waste products to make agricultural fertilizer and poultry feed. In addition, production of chemical fertilizers and the manufacture of some detergents and pesticides are feasible.

Like other governorates in Yemen, Hadhramaut has large reserves of metallic mineral ores, such as in Wadi Madin. This area is currently open for local and foreign investments. Ores are estimated to amount to 962 thousand tons, with a concentration of 12.5 grams/ton of gold; and 7.8 grams/ton of silver. In addition, non metallic ores including fluorite or fluoride exist in Al-Mukalla, which can be used in making Fluoric

Acid used as a paint remover, and in cleaning steel, in uranium processing, and in ceramic and glass manufacturing. There are also other non-metallic ores, such as limestone, dolomite, gypsum and black sand.

Hadhramaut Governorate has an attractive and clean shorelines that contain numerous and rare species of fish and mineral life to encourage scuba diving tourism. Tourism attraction factors in the governorate are diversified; starting with the old historical cities and their unique architectural style such as Shibam, Tarim, Seyoun, and Al-Shihr. Archeological remains are widespread throughout the governorate. There are also fascinating natural mineral and therapeutic waters, which are found in the coast, the plateaus, and the mountains. There are the green wadis and deserts, not to forget the Socotra Archipelago and Socotra Island. Socotra Island is the largest Yemeni island and is known for the dragon's blood trees (*dracaena cinnabari*) and frankincense tree (*boswellia*). The archipelago is characterized by its rare biodiversity and varied environment.

Socotra - The Dream Island

Socotra Island is almost a virgin Island, and named the Dream Island. The enchanting beauty of the island is attributed to its mysterious secrets, which have yet to be revealed. Experts agree that the island contains natural and rare sanctuaries with trees, plants and birds that have not settled anywhere else in the world. Socotra is the sweetheart of tourists and the cynosure of those searching for natural beauty. The island has become a workshop for tourist, economic and environmental activity to which visitors from everywhere are swarming.

The island was mentioned in classical sources by Bellini in the book “Natural History” and the book of Al-Tawwaf on the Eritrean Sea, who mentioned that Socotra is a large island, with a mixed population of Arab, Indian and some “Romans” and is under the rule of the King of the frankincense country. Historical references indicate that the Island of Socotra, since the beginning of the First Millennium BC, was one important center for the production of holy goods used in worship in the ancient world. There was a prevalent belief that the land that produces holy goods is a land blessed by the gods. The island was also cited in the books of ancient travelers and geographers. Socotra was also mentioned in the book “Description of the Arabian Peninsula” by Al-Hamdani as one of the islands of the Yemeni Sea.

Geography of Socotra

The Island of Socotra is situated in the east of the Gulf of Aden, at a distance of 380 km from Ras Firtak in Al-Mahara Governorate, which is the nearest point to the island from the Yemeni coast. The distance to the island from Aden is 884 km. The population of Socotra Island, according to the results of the 2004 Population Census, is about 42,842 people. The terrain of the island is divided between mountains, plains, plateaus, wadis and bays, as follows:

The **Central Plateaus**: This plateau occupies most of the area of the island and overlooks the coastal plains in gradual descending form. It is split by Wadi Di ‘Azrou into two sections the Eastern Plateau and the Western Plateau.

The **Northern Coastal Plains**: These are divided into different separate areas such as the Ras Mudhahin Plains, the Wadi Dirba’a Plains, Wadi To’an and the Hudaibo Plains.

The **Southern Coastal Plains**: These are divided into the Wadi Daif’arho Plains, the Wadi Dai’azaho Plain and the southern coastal plain of the Qitriyah Mountains, which is called the Nojad Plain and the Qa’arah Plain. These plains extend from Ras Marma in the east of the island until Ras Show’ab to the west of the island. They include rich soil that is cultivable, while fine sand dunes spread near the coast.

The **Mountains**: The Mountains are distributed in different directions from the Central Plateau. The most significant of these mountains is the Hajhar Mountain Range, with the

highest peak reaching 1,505 meters. These mountains extend from the northeast to the southwest for a distance of nearly 24 km. They become higher in the middle and in the east, while they are narrow and descent in the west.

The **Wadis**: There are many wadis in the Island of Socotra. These wadis take numerous courses and directions. There are also a number of rocky peaks in the island, some of which extend to the sea, such as those in the north, east and west of the island, which are different from those in the south of the island. There is a small group of bays in the island that can be used as safe natural ports, especially when the island is exposed to the strong winds that hit the Hudaibo Plain and the Eastern and Western Parts of the island, starting from early June until late September.

A hot sea climate prevails in the island with temperatures ranging from a high of 26-28°C to a low 19-23°C. Temperature is significantly lower in the mountainous area.

Administrative Division

The island is split into two districts, which are Hudaibo District and Qalnasiyah and Al-Koury District. Administratively, the island was attached to Aden since 30th November 1967. It was later attached to Hadhramaut Governorate by the Republican Decree No. 23 for 1999. Hudaibo District is the administrative center for the Island of Socotra. It is situated in the Northern Plain of the island and is being overlooked by the Hajhar Mountain Range from the Northern side. Thick forests surround the district with palm trees along the wadis that have water flowing in them through out the year. There are some modest services in Hudaibo. There are a number of villages that fall under Hudaibo; the most significant is Qadhib situated along the road from Moari Airport. The airport has been recently equipped with advanced tools and instruments to provide services and receive all types of large aircraft. Qalnasiyah District situated in the western coastal strip of Socotra Island is the second urban community after Hudaibo.

The name Qalnasiyah goes back to the period of the Portuguese occupation of the island in 1507. The houses of the city consist of one-story only and predominantly white in color, which gives the city a picturesque view. The City of Qalnasiyah is surrounded by a number of beautiful beaches and village communities that depend on fishing and sheep grazing for livelihood. This district is considered as a reception point for the fishing vessels that are coming from Hadhramaut Governorate.

The Socotra Archipelago

A number of isles fall under Socotra Island. These small islands are situated in the western side, including Abd Al-Koury, Samhah, Darsah, Kara'il, Fir'oun and Siyal. Abd Al-Koury is the largest and the most densely populated. It lies about 320 km northwest of Socotra Island. The surface formations of the island are similar to those of Socotra Island.

In the southern coast of the island, there is a small dock which is called Bandar Saleh. The highest peak in the island is 1,750 feet above the volcanic rocks. The people of the island are engaged in fishing and diving since the island is rich with pearls. The islands in the Archipelago comprise the most significant areas for biodiversity.

The Unique Natural Diversity

The Island of Socotra enjoys a rare biodiversity, which contains 750 species of plants. Some of them are useful in herbal medicine and for the treatment of many ailments. Experts confirm the existence of more than 900 rare species of trees and plants, of which 300 species are only found in the island such as the Al-Jarraz and Euphorbia Plants. There is also the Afanh tree, which is unique due to its growth pattern and form. The island is famous for the strange and rare Dragon's Blood tree, the Desert Rose (Trimot) and frankincense. There are also numerous species of birds that reach 105 species. Thirty of these species breed in the island, six are settled and three are threatened with extinction. The latter are the Socotran Zirzor, Socotran Hazijah and Socotran Thresher birds. The island contains a high percentage of settled or domiciled birds, in addition to birds rarely found elsewhere such as the Egyptian Dakhma bird. A study in 22 important bird locations in the Socotran Archipelago has recorded 179 species, these include 41 resident species. The study also recorded 88 migrating bird species that migrate on a regular basis and 50 species that are displaced.

The Socotran Sparrow is the most wide spread in the Archipelago, estimated at around 200,000, followed by the Socotran Tamir with more than 30,000, Socotran Songbird with about 20,000, the Socotran Souadiyah with about 14,000, the Socotran Chiffchaff and Socotran Thresher, both of which are the rarest and least widespread species of birds in the Archipelago.

The sea gulls migrating to the island from the far north, especially the yellow legs sea gull, are the most widespread birds in Socotra Island. The numbers of transiting Kharshana species increase during the winter. There are about 39 natural sanctuaries in Socotra, of which 27 are marine and coastal sanctuaries and 12 are land sanctuaries. There are cows in the island that descend from the famous Gharisian species, which was brought over by the Portuguese when they occupied the island. Similarly, there is the small-size long-tail Socotran Goat. It descends from the well-known sheep breed of Europe and Russia. There are also large numbers of camels, sheep, goats, rabbits and the Socotran Civet Cat, from which musk is extracted. There are no predator animals in the island.

The significance of the Dragon's Blood forests, for which there is no equal except in the Canary Islands, which has lost this kind of forest. Studies show that the Dragon's Blood plant used to spread in a large geographical area starting in the Canary Islands and including the Mediterranean Basin, south and central Europe up to even Russia. Socotra Island is considered the third important island in terms of its unique biodiversity, with biodiversity reaching 34%. The first phase of the study has produced remarkable results that open the door wide for scientific studies and research in order to explore more of the

secrets and unique natural treasures kept by Socotra. The island presents those treasures as natural history preserved for humanity, which has lost its link with characters of first creation of plant and animal life.

Socotra Island is considered a museum of natural history with its rare biodiversity. The island is accorded considerable attention by the government, in order to take advantage of its diversified inventory, its natural properties and its economic advantages. These constitute unique elements for attracting tourists, while benefiting from the international attention and efforts to conserve the Island as natural habitat. Socotra is also accorded world attention by UNESCO and the international environmental agencies. This attention focuses mainly on the conservation of the island as a natural habitat. Recently, Socotra Island and the islands attached to it have been declared natural sanctuaries. The international attention was translated into the financing of the “Biodiversity Protection of Socotra Island and the Socotran Archipelago” Project. Any deterioration that may occur to the natural environment due to the rapid pace of economic and population activity are forbidden. There are currently several projects to protect the environmentally sensitive species and areas, so as to ensure sustainable development in a balanced manner and the protection of the natural sanctuaries.