



Baghdad eTour

Iraq 10 years on: Reporting the Development Challenge

International news media will descend on Baghdad in March to cover the 10th anniversary of the start of the Iraq war and will raise important questions to do with the justification of the invasion by US, British, Australian and other allied forces.

A key part of any comprehensive assessment of the war must note the impact that the war and the forces unleashed have had on the people of Iraq, and the development challenges – social, economic and environmental – that Iraq now has to deal with.

APJC's Baghdad eTour aims to provide a videoconference window on these development challenges, including how the ordinary people of Iraq are trying to pick up the pieces amidst the on-going conflict and instability in Iraq and the region more broadly.

The one-day program, to be held at the APJC in Melbourne on Saturday 2 March, will provide a special opportunity to do live interviews by videoconference with speakers in Iraq representing the development sector, local NGOs and the community.

The eTour program will start with an orientation session that includes in-field video from an APJC representative in Iraq and briefings from Middle-East specialists and members of the Melbourne Iraqi community.

The program is aimed primarily at early to mid-career journalists who have an interest in the Iraq story, have an interest in international development issues, and are keen to gain experience in writing on international development. Some places are available for journalism and development studies students with an interest in these areas.

The focus of the program will be on Iraq's development needs. Speakers in Iraq are likely to cover topics such as health care, human rights, security, infrastructure, justice and peacebuilding, the psychological impacts of war, environmental repair, displaced persons, refugees and humanitarian issues.

The program is a collaboration with Deakin University's Centre for Citizenship and Globalization, which on 14-15 March will hold a conference *Australia and Iraq 10 Years On: Invasion, Occupation, Withdrawal and Beyond* – contact benjamin.isakhan@deakin.edu.au. This conference will contribute speakers to the APJC eTour's briefing sessions.

DRAFT AGENDA

[a more detailed program will be provided to participants]

- 9.30 am gather for coffee and informal introductions
- 10 am Welcome by APJC director
- 10.10 am Orientation: contemporary in-field video clips from Iraq, presentations from academics, development sector, Iraqi community, others
- 12.30 pm lunch (provided), networking, individual interviews
- 1.30 pm Presentations continue
- 3.30 pm Briefing on videoconference protocol
- 4.00 pm [8am Baghdad time] Videoconference cross to Baghdad for presentations and opportunities to interview speakers regarding topics of health, mental trauma, environmental repair, displaced persons, refugees and humanitarian issues. Baghdad panel facilitated by an APJC representative
- 6.00 pm dinner (provided)
- 6.30 pm Baghdad videoconference presentations/interviews continue
- 8.00 pm Program close

APPLICANT REQUIREMENTS

Applicants should have an interest in the Iraq story, an interest in international development issues and be keen to gain expertise in learning and reporting in this area.

Applicants should fill in the form below and return it to laura@apjc.org.au by 26 February 2013.

Lunch, dinner and refreshments will be provided by APJC.

Participants in the program are expected to attend the complete program.

For further information contact APJC project officer Laura Gilmartin on (03) 9387 9740.

APPLICATION FORM

Section A: to be completed by applicant

Name:

Position:

Office telephone:

Mobile:

Email:

Number of years in journalism:

Statement of interest in the project: (no more than 300 words)

I understand that if my application is accepted, I will be expected to attend the full-day program.

Signature

Date:

Section B: to be completed by supervisor (if applicable)

Name:

Position:

Office telephone:

Mobile:

Email:

Brief statement of support:

Signature

Date:

Please return this form to APJC by 26 February 2013 – to laura@apjc.org.au or Fax. (03) 9387 9750