



**World Federation Newswire, 07 June 2006**

***In the name of Allah, the Most Kind, the Most Merciful***

## **News and Events**

### **Influence the direction of the World Federation**

When the World Federation was formed in 1976, the world was a different place then. Emigration to the West was increasing and our community was thus forming its structures. In this environment, nineteen people came together and conceived the vision of forming the World Federation. On 15<sup>th</sup> October 1976, some 40 delegates from around the world gave their assent to the first constitution and the World Federation was formally established.

Over the decades, that vision has been revisited many times by the leadership. While the leadership was always cognizant of the needs of the community and steered the World Federation accordingly, the advent of the Strategic Plan 2003-2008 was the first time where the grassroots had a formal opportunity to influence the direction of the World Federation. Over the past two years, a number of changes have been brought about by the World Federation namely the Strategic Plan and the Presidential Manifesto and the focus on the delivery of these plans. This necessitated a change in the modus operandi of the Secretariat and the Boards/Desks.

Today, the World is again a different place. Our community institutions are stronger in some areas, developing and emerging in others. The capacity of leadership in the institutions varies and the environment in which we operate has changed.

Given that our values, based on the teachings of Ahlulbayt (AS) are unchangeable, how do we best we address our challenges in this fast changing world to ensure that the World Federation continues to serve the future generations. What should be the vision of the World Federation in this rapidly changing environment?

To discuss this subject, in March 2006, the World Federation invited a group of individuals from various countries to come together to give us an insight on the direction to aim for. These individuals were a cross section of the community members, not necessarily leaders of organizations. With their collective insight, experience, appreciation of the challenges this community is facing at a grassroots level, and based on the output of this group with qualitative feedback from the

existing strategic plan, a potential draft vision and mission statements were crafted:

**Vision Statement:** *Spiritually enlightened and economically vibrant communities acting as role models and patrons for humanity.*

**Mission Statement:** *The World Federation is dedicated to the practices of the Islamic Shia Ithna-Asheri faith, thereby enabling our men and women to improve the well-being of our community and humanity.*

We need your input and will appreciate your views and thoughts on these two draft statements by 30th June 2006. Please send your comments directly to Abbas Kanji at [abbaskanji@post.harvard.edu](mailto:abbaskanji@post.harvard.edu)

### **Consultation meeting of Shia organisations held at Dar al Tableegh, London, UK**

In order to unite and converge the Shia response to the issue of the government proposal of a working group entitled MINAB (Mosques and Imams National Advisory Body), the Islamic Education Board of The World Federation organised a meeting of Shia organisations at its head office, Dar al Tableegh, on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2006. For a complete report, visit the WF website.

### **Open day at Dar al Tableegh Children's Islamic Library, London**

The WF's Islamic Education Board recently held open days on May 20<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> for mothers and children at the head office of Dar al Tableegh. Islamic cartoon, arts and crafts, coloring, story-time, were some of the many activities offered. For a complete report, visit the WF website.

### **IEB Launches Baab ul Ilm Summer Short Course**

For the third year, IEB, together with the Shia Ithna-asheri Madressa of Stanmore, is organising a cultural and religious trip to Iran from 17-27 August 2006. The trip will include 10 days of discussions, question/answer sessions, meetings with high-ranking religious scholars, recreational and leisure activities and ziyarats in the holy cities of Mashad and Qum. Participation is open to boys and girls aged 14-17. The total cost of the trip is £499.00, inclusive of flights from London Heathrow, food and accommodation. The deadline for application is 15 July 2006. Visit the WF website to access the application form.

***To view the full newswire or to register, visit [www.world-federation.org](http://www.world-federation.org) To share comments or views, please email [secretariat@world-federation.org](mailto:secretariat@world-federation.org)***