

Stockholm, December 19, 2012

Report on WKC2012

To:
His Excellency Nechirvan Barzani, Prime Minister of KRG
and
His Excellency Falah Bakir, Minister of Foreign Relations (Diaspora)



World Kurdish Congress 2012
**Dreaming Kurdistan and the Mission of Diaspora:
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World Kurdish Congress 2012
Reflections and Report:
Dreaming Kurdistan and the Mission of Diaspora

The goals of the *World Kurdish Congress* since it was created in 2011 have been:

- to mobilize the Diaspora in support of its people and inspire the new Diaspora generation
- to build a bridge between scholars within Kurdistan and outside Kurdistan; and
- to support government institutions and universities in Kurdistan through science and culture.
- to implement the research ideas and practical knowledge generated by Kurdish and non-Kurdish scientists worldwide for projects the KRG currently supports.

Through the *World Kurdish Congress 2012* the Kurdish leadership was offered scientifically-based guidelines and long-term strategies for dealing with vital issues for all Kurds and Kurdistan.

Introduction

The WKC seeks to organize and mobilize the Diaspora to meet the current and future challenges to support the Kurdish people and inspire the new Diaspora generation; to ensure their involvement in nation building and also that they participate in creating freedom for Kurdistan with their intellectual capacity. The WKC is building a bridge between scholars in Kurdistan and outside of Kurdistan and through science and culture supporting government institutions and universities within Kurdistan.

The following is a report of the *World Kurdish Congress 2012* compiled by Alan Dilani, with significant input from the WKC Scientific and Organizing WKC Committee Members. The contributors analyzed and summarized the successes of the Congress, as well as its challenges, taking into account the feedback received from many of the 600 delegates who attended.

The goal of this report is to critique the event as a whole – its many successes and its weak areas. The report will review both what worked and what did not work. This report is offered as a reflection of what the Congress achieved, what can be improved and what are the next steps for the future Congress.

This analysis will cover many aspects of the Congress – from inception, to production, to completion. It also lays out an overall critical analysis of the Congress: organization, strength and weakness, lessons learned and how to avoid in the future what did not work.

The final part of the report outlines the *Next Steps* with an eye to improving the upcoming WKC2013. It discusses the future direction, how we should reorganize the WKC with new directives and an organizational structure that inspires and involves as many intellectuals as possible so our commitment to attain freedom for all Kurdistan will continue.

This report also describes actual projects presented at the WKC 2012. Some are already underway in Kurdistan; other projects are waiting for a response from different ministries in Kurdistan to move forward.

Overview of WKC 2012

The 2nd *World Kurdish Congress* was held in Erbil from October 11-14, 2012. It was a highly successful event. Accolades have streamed from countless international participants. Many of these remarks are included in this report. The Kurdish media lauded the WKC for its groundbreaking vision and scope. There is no doubt that the WKC is bringing new hope and movement to the region of Kurdistan.

The participation of Kurds from all parts of Kurdistan sent a strong message to neighboring countries that Kurds are united. The presence of many TV-channels, local Kurdish, Turkey and Arabic, also sent a clear message that the Kurds are focusing on the science.

Our aim is to further strengthen the impacts of future *World Kurdish Congress* events to bring real and lasting innovation. An event of this scale requires seamless building blocks to create an optimal effect. According to the overall evaluation and objective review provided by many delegates – who in their reviews were asked to honestly and proactively keep in the forefront of their critiques the need to improve future activities.

The WKC2012 presented a tremendous opportunity for the KRG and for those in attendance. More than 600 scholars came together from the Diaspora and Kurdistan and created an environment of informative scientific dialogue and international networking. Much enthusiasm was generated. Connections were made – with the shared goal to set forth projects and bring their professional knowledge in support of the Kurdistan Regional Government, institutions and universities.

The generosity of the KRG in funding the Congress cannot be emphasized enough. Economic support provided by the government enabled the WKC to expand in countless ways. The delegate base grew; competent presenters who would have otherwise have been unable to attend gratefully traveled to Erbil. It became an international event. Seeds were cast that are now germinating within 32 countries. The Kurdish cause rose to the forefront. Solutions were presented. Possibilities are now becoming realities.

In his opening speech on the first day of the Congress, President Massoud Barzani said that it was important to work together for the improvement of the region: *“We hope with your knowledge and expertise and in partnership with the requisite authorities that you can apply your experiences to eliminate the shortcomings in Kurdistan.”*

Foreign Minister Falah Bakir also referred to President Barzani’s opening speech: *“As our President said, we should not be focused only in constructing buildings, but also in building human values, democracy, justice and social welfare.”*

Starting with the call for paper we received more than 100 papers. Once registration was opened for delegates the international response was enormous. There were 53 presenters and 52 posters displayed.

Among the delegates we had several MP’s from Canada, Sweden, two American Generals, diplomats and a delegation from Israel.

Successes of the WKC2012 include:

- A brighter future was focused upon for Kurdistan and disseminated globally through all the Congress participants.

- Awareness expanded re: areas needing improvement
- High level participants from UK, Canada, Australia, and Scandinavian countries
- Political involvement of the KRG was a plus, including the session with KRG ministers and universities
- Diasporans left the WKC eager to offer more to Kurdistan. Some want to return; others are offering their knowledge in projects that will benefit the Region.
- Vast expansion of Kurdish networking
- Dissemination of knowledge to enhance life in Kurdistan – practical, informational, current, relevant

Appreciation Emails

“Like many others at the conference who were inspired I am also currently thinking of going back to Kurdistan to complete my PHD. The reason why I am sharing this with you is because no way in million years I would have considered going back to middle-east to do any work. BUT thanks to you now we see a different side of Kurdistan and many reasons why we should consider helping to rebuild a nation that struggled for many years. ”

Afsaneh Jolan, poster, Australia

“I am writing to thank you for your vision, hard work, generosity and hospitality. The meeting was great. I met many people and learned many things from the conference attendees and also as a result of being in Kurdistan. I congratulate you all for succeeding in bringing together scholars from Kurdistan and Diaspora.”

Diako Ebrahimi, speaker, Australia

“Thanks very much for your efforts to organize such a valuable conference. I enjoyed the days I attended and took very valuable notes from the lectures and presentations of the participants. I hope that this Congress is going to continue and progress, and hopefully by the conference next year, I will be able to participate with a scientific research.”

Jihan Sindi, Advisor at the Presidency of Council of Ministers of the KRG

“First of all I would like to thank you all for your courage in arranging this event, bringing the Kurdish people together in the capital of Kurdistan from the entire world. Without KRG’s economic support, that large number of participants from abroad would not have been possible. I have to mention that personally this is the first time that I have participated in such a huge, scientific Congress, where Kurds and non-Kurds from all over the world were gathered.”

Mariwan Baker, speaker, Sweden

Weak and Challenging Areas

- Logistics of Congress Program
- Lack of Respect for Organizational and Congress Timelines
- Reimbursement Process
- Poster Displays
- Lack of Professionalism in Congress Event

The WKC 2012 had two organizers: (1) the WKC team abroad and (2) the Department of Foreign Relations in Erbil. Responsibilities were divided between these two main organizers.

The WKC was responsible for creating the content for the Congress including the website. It communicated with the participants and set up the scientific content/program of WKC.

The KRG was responsible for the Congress logistics which included: monetary assistance to countless participants, Congress welcome, entertainment, hall set-up including technical areas of audio and visual, budget, accommodations & flights, and reimbursements of tickets.

The report will address the different aspects of the conference from the call for paper to the development of the conference. It will focus upon the ways each area worked and recommendations for future improvement.

ORGANIZATION OF WKC PRIOR TO CONFERENCE

International Promotion- The conference promotion was very successful due to:

- Website announcement and call for paper which was sent to the WKC mailing list and media which generated interest
- Timely response to emails sent to the WKC account by organizing committee

Organizing Committee- The OC made an enormous effort and was successful in getting the conference rolling. A team traveled to Kurdistan to work with DFR in order to gain clarity about the needs and direction of the KRG for this event.

However, it did fall short in several key organizational aspects:

- Actual roles and responsibilities of the Organizing Committee team were not clearly communicated
- Some of the members of the Organizing Committee were not available at times and did not respond to emails
- Though communication with local organizing committee took place, there was a lack of clarity regarding specific roles and responsibilities
- Communication with the local Kurdish team happened through only one channel, creating an excessive amount of work for Alan.

Recommendation:

- Set up an Agreement Form with clearly defined roles and responsibilities for each Organizing Committee member to sign
- For future conferences in Erbil, request an organizational chart with names including specific areas of responsibility so the different members responsible for these areas can communicate directly with their counterpart in Erbil.

Abstract Submission Process

The presentation of variety chosen subjects among the hundreds of speakers was the rewarding contribution to the Congress from Kurdish scientists. There is no doubt that the majority of papers presented were of a high quality. They held relevance to the Congress and were beneficial to the growth of Kurdistan as a nation.

- More than 100 abstracts were submitted and subsequently evaluated by the Scientific Committee.
- The majority of abstracts submitted for the Congress were evaluated anonymously and selected by the Scientific Committee. ****NOTE:** Hoping for the best quality presenters, some speakers were accepted without going through this process. Others were included later because they were candidates who were offering quality presentations such as Jamil Mardukhi and others were members of the Organization Committee.
- Exceptions and flexibility are part of any event. Having said this, some of the speakers in the process sent their abstracts and bios at the last minute. This created additional work for the staff working on the program.
- Such timeline delays created stress – starting with the Evaluation Process. Some members of the Scientific Committee did not return their evaluations within the established timeline.
- Since the WKC was 2 weeks late in responding, an unnecessary influx of anxious emails ensued from more than 100 applicants. This evaluation delay created an unnecessary rush and long hours of work.
- As a result the publication of the *Preliminary Program* on the website was delayed-- an essential component for general registration

Recommendation:

- To avoid this situation in the future, timelines need to be respected by all involved.
- The Executive Producer (Organizing Committee) will need to procure a serious commitment from everyone involved that responsibilities and timelines will be respected.
- If someone feels they will not be able to comply because of their professional and personal commitments, they should not be involved in these committees. Such people can be involved later on in the process.

Consequences of Failed Timelines for WKC 2012

A general timeline for the WKC was created. In retrospect the first announcement was made too late in the year – leaving too much to do in the prescribed timeframe. As stated above, it is essential that all members of the Organizing Committees on both sides of the aisle agree to respect timelines.

The Council of Ministers approved the budget a few weeks prior to the conference which left the Department of Foreign Relations paralyzed and incapable of responding to countless emails coming its way. This created a snowball effect. The DFR team was too busy responding to emails to give attention to other essential organizational aspects.

The local organizing committee was able to start working only two weeks prior to the WKC since they were awaiting approval from the Council of Ministers to move forward with the Congress.

Approval was sent one week prior to the WKC. Despite more than 8 months of preparation from the WKC organizers outside Kurdistan, many e-mails regarding logistical details lay unanswered by the Local Organizing Committee. Such delays are preventable. They undermine confidence in the professionalism of the WKC by potential delegates and presenters.

Recommendation

- Budget must be approved early on so the organizers can move forward easefully with their tasks

Local Participation

The major challenge of the Congress was to involve as many delegates as possible from Kurdistan. A wide variety of people from different universities and government institutions attended the WKC. However, there were numerous complaints from academicians within Kurdistan that they were overlooked and never received an invitation.

More attention needs to be given to this crucial academic area for future Kurdish WKC. Despite the invitations sent by the local organizing committee in Kurdistan from the office of the Department of Foreign Relations, these were not well received and acknowledged or not well prepared in advance.

Recommendation:

- DFR can begin creating a list for future conferences of specific departments within universities and institutions that should be to the WKC.
- In this way, they will not need to wait until the organization begins to create it.

Quality of Actual WKC Presentations

The topics presented during the WKC included the latest research in the fields of health and medical science, agriculture, higher education, economics, politics, human rights, sustainable and healthy development and the necessary infrastructure to support the Kurdistan Regional Government in its mission

There were different opinions regarding the quality of the presentations. Overall delegates expressed recognition of the erudite subject matter and high quality of material.

Testimonial

“Interesting and high standard presentations, even though there were a few presentations which were not of such a high standard. Most of the topics were scientifically informative.”

Mariwan Baker, Sweden

Session with Ministers and Universities

Several KRG ministers attended the WKC to discuss current issues in their respective fields and to present their strategies regarding the challenges ahead. Among them were the Minister of Foreign Relations Falah Bakir, the Minister of Agriculture Prof.

Serwan Baban, the Minister of Natural Resources Dr. Ashti Hawrami, the Minister of Health Dr. Rekawt Hama Rasheed, the Minister of Education Dr. Asmat Muhamad Khalid, the Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research Dr. Ali Saeed and the Minister of Planning Dr. Ali Sindi. In the afternoon session, representatives of the universities of Dohuk, Salahadeen and University of Kurdistan Hawler discussed the vision and missions of their universities.

Testimonial

“The participation of the ministers and directors of the universities, with opportunity to direct questions to them was highly appreciated.”

WKC ORGANIZATION DURING CONFERENCE

Both *infrastructure* and *organization* are key to the production of a conference of this size and complexity. These elements can make or break a gathering. If participants leave the conference remembering logistical details that were lacking, rather than carrying away the main message of the program, this is most unfortunate. Future WKC programs must pay greater attention to these critical areas.

These logistical areas need improvement to facilitate the inclusion of an ever-growing international participation. This will enable the WKC to continue drawing upon the global stage in the future. Basic structural elements need to be sound and effortless. When there is such professional content, learned speakers and impeccable organization, the result is an outstanding and successful conference. All these aspects run parallel.

Therefore, as well as drawing broad strokes, this report has had to focus upon not only an overview of the successful goals of the WKC2012, but also delineate several important organizational and infrastructural aspects with an eye to future improvement.

Logistical and Technical Shortcomings The technical aspect of the WKC2012 in Erbil was weak. Testing of the audio equipment was overlooked prior to the actual event with unfortunate consequences. Such a routine conference procedure is essential in a basic logistical checklist. Without this, the professionalism of the Congress is compromised.

The Executive Director went to the hall the day prior to the Congress to check the Power Point set-up. He was told by the Technical Team that it was all ready. In fact, it was not. The embarrassment of the first moment when President Barzani and the entire audience were awaiting the National Anthem to be played could easily have been avoided had the system been properly tested.

Recommendation:

- One person from the Organizing Committee – notably the Program Director – is responsible for overseeing the overall technical needs for the program.
- This includes keeping an overview of the Congress schedule and people involved.
- The Program Director would oversee the Technical Manager who would be responsible for all technical aspects of the program to ensure the proper functioning during the entire Congress, from start to finish.
- Power Point presentations are up to par and are working
- One person can be in touch with the speakers prior to the Congress to ensure that their PPP is well set-up and respectful of allotted time.

Conference Schedule

The schedule of the sessions was organized to give everyone 15 minutes and leave 10 minutes for discussion. However, on countless occasions, the presenters ran overtime. They did not respect the allotted time. This resulted in delays for subsequent sessions. Respect for time must be observed in a large gathering that involves the participation of hundreds of people.

Discussion Periods

On the plus side, delegates participated very actively during discussion time. Networking took place – one of the primary goals of the WKC – and much positive feedback came in regarding this program component.

Delegates were highly interested in these sessions. They were able to interact, share ideas, come up with creative solutions and make contacts.

However, the WKC program stated there would be time for discussion in these sessions which did not take place in all sessions. In many instances, this time was dedicated only to questions and some delegates complained that they were expecting a discussion, as well as responses.

Recommendations:

- Be clear in the program if there will be a discussion at the end or simply a Q&A.
- Program Director ensures that the Chair connects with the speakers prior to the Congress to make sure their presentation will follow the allotted time frame.

Other Recommendations from Delegates:

- The presentations could be converted to PDF-file (takes only 1minute) at the end of each day (DAY 1, DAY2, DAY3, DAY4), and could be uploaded instantly to the WKC-website (takes some seconds). The last day, all presentations could be burned in one DISC (takes only some minutes), and copy to hundreds of DISCs (takes only 3-4hours). The discs could be distributed on the last day at the end of the music event, and copies could be sent to all of the universities in Kurdistan.
- A fast video camera could be placed in the hall. This could record all the presentations, and later burned on DVD-disc. Hundreds of copies could be distributed to the universities in Kurdistan. This process would disseminate the WKC Program Content much more widely. This could be even uploaded to YOUTUBE
- Have parallel sessions on different subjects
- Most participants and speakers were from the Diaspora. More local participants would enhance the conference.
- Small percentage of women participants, as both speakers and delegates. Their participation needs to be expanded in future Congresses.

Poster Display

The 50 individuals who submitted papers and were not accepted as speakers were invited to bring a poster to present their research paper. These participants put much time and energy into creating their beautiful and thorough poster displays. They felt honored and grateful to be able to participate in this way.

In his last trip to Erbil before the Congress, Alan reviewed the Poster Display Area and Set-Up with the Department of Foreign Relations Organizing Committee.

This team was responsible for preparing the display space for the posters. The instructions given to the

delegates were to hand in their poster when they registered. The DFR Committee was to set them up. Upon arrival, the WKC Committee discovered that there were no tripods/stands or materials for the setup of the posters. The proper communication had not been passed along to the Registration Team. No one was held responsible for this logistical task.

As a consequence, WKC members had to improvise with the person in charge of the hall and asked the delegates to put up their own posters. It was quite chaotic. This situation did not honor the efforts that the 50 Congress participants had put forth to create their posters. The end result, which could have been an impressive and informative exhibition within the WKC, fell terribly short.

****NOTE:** The delegates were genuinely interested in these posters. During each coffee break, much dialogue took place with the authors. So this is a program element that is highly successful and needs to be professionally handled in the future to further enhance its value.

Again, attention to this one simple detail could have greatly enhanced this research aspect of the WKC 2012.

Recommendations:

- An Event Coordinator (see chart) needs to be responsible to ensure that the Poster Display is aesthetically presented and given its due import.
- Someone with design skill could be appointed so the display is both pleasing and impressive.
- We need to ensure that in the future there is a space in the Congress location that is suitable, not only for poster displays, but also for the authors to make short showcase presentations of their work.

Recommendations for Future Poster Display from Delegates:

“The stands for posters were missing. After the presentations, posters are the next most important in a conference. The posters should be arranged to attract the attendants’ attention. Zigzag placing, with parallel has shown to be elegant and attracts participants. Choose the best posters and award them prizes. A prize for each field, such as health, politic, economy, culture ...etc. could be given. This would give some meaning to the posters. It would also be good idea to arrange 5min poster-presentations, which could take place during the coffee/tea break.” Mariwan Baker

Ticket Reimbursement

No clear procedure had been set up by the DFR regarding reimbursement for airline tickets. Hundreds of delegates had been informed they would be reimbursed upon arrival. They had been asked to send their ticket invoices ahead of time to facilitate this process.

None of the particulars for reimbursement had been prepared upon the beginning of the WKC event. The process that ensued was highly chaotic and stressful. It unnecessarily pulled the delegates away from the Congress sessions because they had to spend hours waiting.

Personnel had not been put in place to take care of this crucial element. The staff was improvised in the moment. Again, this simple organizational element could have been effortless.

Recommendations:

- Should reimbursement be required in the future, recipients could receive an envelope upon registering with their reimbursement enclosed.
- Recipients will have sent their invoices prior to arrival
- Assigned personnel will handle financial repayment before the Congress starts.

Media Coverage

A press conference organized at the DFR brought the local media who were present during the event. Their coverage was several Kurdish TV Channels

Prior to the conference Roni Alasor from ANP (Ararat News) posted a series of articles:

<http://www.araratnews.net/nuce.php?aid=602> / <http://www.araratnews.net/nuce.php?aid=603>
<http://www.araratnews.net/nuce.php?aid=613> / <http://www.araratnews.net/nuce.php?aid=615>
<http://www.araratnews.net/nuce.php?aid=616>

During the Conference: <http://www.araratnews.net/nuce.php?aid=617>
<http://www.araratnews.net/nuce.php?aid=620> / <http://www.araratnews.net/nuce.php?aid=618>

Post Conference

<http://www.araratnews.net/nuce.php?aid=621> / <http://www.araratnews.net/nuce.php?aid=622>

Additional Media on WKC

Turkey National TV

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wKBo6S1NvFc>

The parts about Congress start from around minute 14.00

<http://www.mesop.de/2012/11/08/world-kurdish-Congress-2012-iraqi-kurdistan-a-dream-within-reach-manuel-martorell/>

After the conference, several negative articles appeared in *Rudaw* and *MESOP*. However, overall the WKC coverage was positive.

WKC Positive Outcomes

As previously stated, one of the main outcomes of the Congress was extensive networking that took place among the delegates. Communication also took place between delegates and governmental departments and universities within Kurdistan.

Two months following the WKC 2012, several projects resulting from network dialogue and inspiration are already taking shape:

World Wide Directory of Kurdish Businesses

“The first ever World Wide Directory of Kurdish Businesses, Professionals and individuals is due to release early 2013. After 2 years of hard work and dedication, finally Kurdish communities around the world can enjoy their own network of networks. This is the first of its kind in the world, Kurdish Directory / Kurdish Ancestry is dedicated to serve Kurdish nation in Kurdistan and Diaspora, with first-class inherently secure networks of individuals, businesses and professionals all in one place.”

Farzad Sanati, Speaker, Australia <http://farzadsanati.blogspot.com.au/> .”

Kurdish Studies Network:

Many members of the Kurdish Studies Network met for the first time during the WKC. The Congress provided a platform for them to meet one another and network with other Kurdish scholars, enabling them to bring forth new ideas and projects.

“The *Second World Kurdish Congress* in Erbil was the first time some of us actually got to meet face to face,” Zeydanlioglu told *Rudaw*. He added that it was at the conference that the decision to establish a journal for Kurdish studies was made. “At the moment, no journal of Kurdish studies exists that meets international academic requirements and standards, while other fields can have several journals,” Zeydanlioglu said. “The second World Kurdish Congress in Erbil was the first time some of us actually got to meet face to face,” Zeydanlioglu told *Rudaw*. He added that it was at the conference that the decision to establish a journal for Kurdish studies was made. “At the moment, no journal of Kurdish studies exists that meets international academic requirements and standards, while other fields can have several journals,” Zeydanlioglu said.

In *Rudaw*: <http://www.rudaw.net/english/kurds/5367.html>

For Welat Zeydanlioglu, the KSN is a tool and platform that “will benefit the scholars who study the Kurds and in turn Kurdistan and the wider region. This is especially so for the scholars in Kurdistan those do not have the same privileges as us in the West. Through the Kurdish Studies Network which now has evolved into a scholarly network with 700 members, made mostly up of scholars active in the field, it has become easier for scholars from Kurdistan and elsewhere to access their colleagues in the West without the usual hurdles and hierarchies. We want this to increase and intensify and for there to be more collaboration as this will assist the progressive development of Kurdistan.”

Below are some concrete results of Networking during the WKC2:

Transfer of Columbia University’s Project on Conflict Resolution and Social Harmony to Universities in Kurdistan Regional Government

Mostafa Khezry from Washington DC met in Erbil with Dr. Ali Saeed Mohammad and proposed the transfer of Columbia University’s semester-long course on “Conflict Resolution and Social Harmony” to universities in Kurdistan Region and Kirkuk. To initiate activities, Columbia’s Program on Peace-building and Rights at Columbia University’s Institute for the Study of Human Rights will work with the KRG’s Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research in Erbil to organize a training/transfer of the curriculum to educators from public and private universities in the Kurdistan Region, as well as Kirkuk. Columbia University has agreed with my proposal and is waiting to hear from the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research of the initiation of the project once the ministry expresses its interest for the project. Adoption of this program will also facilitate further collaborations between Kurdish universities with all the colleges at Columbia University, which is one the top university in the world.

Background

Supported by the U.S. Department of State, Columbia University prepared a curriculum on “Conflict Resolution and Social Harmony” with Sri Lanka’s Ministry for Higher Education for use during the orientation of incoming university freshman across the country and as a semester-long course. Discussions are underway to transfer the curriculum to educators in Myanmar, South Sudan and

Macedonia. The curriculum provides a comprehensive experiential course incorporating theoretical and practical lessons on communication, empathic relations, non-violent conflict resolution and consensus building. Participation in the course provides an opportunity for students to:

- Develop self-awareness and awareness of others.
- Understand how conflicts and problems arise, and how they can be constructively solved.
- Improve effective communication skills to prevent and resolve conflict.
- Learn and practice the basic skills of collaborative problem solving.
- Identify ways each individual can contribute to social harmony in their communities.

Activities

The proposed project will establish the curriculum at universities in the Kurdistan Region and Kirkuk University. The curriculum is also offered in a 3-day seminar format, which can be made available to politicians, trade union members, businesspersons, and tribal and religious leaders in the Kirkuk area.

The following activities are envisioned:

- *Assessment Trip:* Columbia faculty/personnel will visit the Kurdistan Region of Iraq and Kirkuk to conduct a site assessment and finalize project implementation.
- *Curriculum Review:* Participants will review Columbia's curriculum with Columbia educators in Erbil to offer adaptations to conditions in KRG and Federal Republic of Iraq.
- *Trainer Selection:* Two to three qualified educators from each university will be selected to participate in the Training of Trainers to be conducted in Erbil.
- *Training of Trainers Preparation:* The KRG Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research will arrange all in-country logistics, including local participant travel, venue, catering, and materials for the training workshop. (Cost-sharing arrangements are being explored).
- *Training of Trainers:* Columbia University trainers will lead a 3-day Training of Trainers on the adapted curriculum in Erbil.
- *Curriculum Adaptation and Implementation:* Columbia personnel will work with participants to adapt and implement the curriculum as either a 3-day workshop or as a semester-long course at their respective universities.
- *Engaging Kirkukis:* Through its outreach program/activities and in a close collaboration with the Governor Office in Kirkuk, Kirkuk University will organize workshops for politicians, members of trade unions, tribal and religious leaders, journalists, and civil servants working in ethnically mixed communities in the Governorate of Kirkuk.

Institutions

Columbia University is one of the top academic and research institutions in the world, conducting path-breaking research in medicine, science, the arts, and the humanities. It includes three undergraduate schools, thirteen graduate and professional schools, and a school of continuing education. Founded in 1754, it is the oldest institution of higher learning in the state of New York and the fifth oldest in the United States.

Institute for the Study of Human Rights (ISHR) was the first academic center in the world to be founded on an interdisciplinary commitment to the study of human rights. ISHR is also renowned for bridging the study and practice of human rights on both a national and international level. ISHR seeks to promote dialogue between scholars and practitioners through human rights research, education, lectures, conferences, and capacity-building activities.

Program on Peace-building and Human Rights is an applied research endeavor taking a comprehensive approach to peace building through humanitarian assistance, human rights, economic development, and political participation. In addition to Sudan, the Program operates in Iraq, Turkey, Sri Lanka, the Balkans and the Caucasus. Activities involve dialogue initiatives, educational exchanges and curriculum reforms that reduce hostile perceptions, as well as cooperative projects with practical social and economic benefits.

*****Desired Outcome:**

Mr. Khezry is waiting for a response from Minister Saeed Ali Mohammad to move forward with this project. **A response is timely.** Columbia will cover most of the cost and it is of utmost importance that the KRG move soon; otherwise there is a chance of losing the invaluable involvement of Columbia University.

Mr. Khezry has also sent a proposal to Minister Falah Bakir on the following:

- a) Given the progressive changes and development in KRG, your Department may decide to send off a few outstanding students every year for graduate studies at the best American universities, to be trained as diplomats and international lawyers. I am now a visiting scholar at Colombia University (after working with UNHCR for 20 years) and once you select the students, I will be happy to guide them through their application process and adjustment at Columbia.
- b) On international recognition of *Anfal* as genocide, I think that this needs to be somehow coordinated through your office. I field-researched the genocidal dimensions of the operations in Iraqi Kurdistan for 6 months in 1992 for Human Rights Watch and the research results was published under: *Iraq's Crime of Genocide: The Anfal Campaign Against the Kurds*, Yale University Press, 1995. I will be happy to discuss it with you as how best we can develop the diplomatic and legal frameworks in pursuing the recognition of *Anfal* as a genocide by governments and the United Nations.
- c) Assisting Hawlar University to further develop its courses on regional and international studies -- in political sciences, political economy, international law, and regional and international organizations. Again, I will be happy to help KRG on these themes.
- d) I would be grateful if you could help arrange for Professor Wheeler Thackston of Harvard University to visit KRG to review his book on Kurdish grammars with local native speakers before it can be published - **Harvard University Press will most likely published once the the content is vetted among the native speakers** in Kurdistan. He is one of the greatest linguists of our time and has never visited Kurdistan, but produced one of the best grammar books on the Kurdish language.

http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~iranian/Sorani/sorani_1_grammar.pdf

http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~iranian/Kurmanji/kurmanji_1_grammar.pdf

Creation Consultancy firm for Advisory

“I suggest that we send a joint letter to two of the KRG ministers proposing the formation of a consulting firm in Erbil to undertake design review for major projects in the KRG. The proposal is to set up a consortium/ joint venture/ association of top experts to carry out the design and expert review of major building and infrastructure projects. It can include experts from Canada and Europe together with internationally recognized Kurdish speaking experts for this venture.”

Jamil Marduki, Speaker, Canada

Additional Testimonials from Congress Delegates:

“I found it very interesting and a worthwhile trip. The day after the Congress I went to Duhok University and made a presentation to the faculty and students of architecture and civil: they found it interesting. I told them that I could help them with their university contacts and needs in Canada.”
Jamil Mardukhi Canada

“I will be in touch with my new friends whom I met during the Congress and it would be my intention to be present in Kurdistan in order to establish new business venture there. I would like to thank the KRG for their warm hospitality. Their kindness and generosity was second to none and frankly speaking was beyond my expectation. Thank you very much.”

Most delegates mentioned the warm hospitality and active participations of all the KRG ministers and directors, as well as the university rectors.

“I would like to express my gratitude and appreciation on inviting me to the second world Kurdish Congress in Erbil- Kurdistan. I was impressed and overwhelmed by Kurdish regional Government warm hospitality. I also would like to thank you and your dedicated committee in organizing and running this wonderful scientific event in our beloved Kurdistan.”

“First of all I would like to thank your courage to arrange this event, bringing the Kurdish people together in the capital of Kurdistan from the entire world. Without KRG’s economical support, that large number of participants from abroad would not be possible. I have to mention that personally this is the first time that I have participated in such huge scientific Congress, where Kurds and non-Kurds from all over the world were gathered. ”

Mariwan Baker, speaker, Sweden

WKC2012 PUBLICATION

One of the valuable outcomes is the publication of the first WKC 2011 by NOVA Science Publisher, USA. The book includes the contribution of 20 Kurdish and non-Kurdish scholars that deal with important issues in Kurdistan, as well as a recommendation chapter to KRG as a result of the first Congress. Almas Heshmati, Alan Dilani and Serwan Baban were the editors of the book. They are currently working on evaluating, selecting and organizing papers for this year’s WKC volume. Twenty-seven full papers have been submitted.

Below is the link to Nova publishers where you can order the book:

https://www.novapublishers.com/catalog/product_info.php?products_id=37803

FUTURE OF THE WORLD KURDISH CONGRESS

The following are recommendations made by the WKC Organizing and Scientific Committees regarding the World Kurdish Congress 2013:

1. Next year the WKC will be held in Stockholm, Sweden from October 12-14, 2013
2. Invite different stakeholders and private investors to form a broader network and become part of the future development of Kurdistan.
3. Establish a reference group for different specializations that will serve as advisors to different ministries of the KRG.
4. The WKC will be held one year outside Kurdistan and the next within Kurdistan.
5. Establish a mechanism that supports networking and strengthens relations among universities in Kurdistan and other universities around the world.
6. Establish necessary branches for the WKC to form a permanent organization that is engaged in activities to promote the Kurds in Diaspora and development within Kurdistan.
7. The *First Announcement and Call for Paper* for the 3rd World Kurdish Congress 12-14 of October 2013 will be released with the following timetable:

- <i>First announcement and invitation call for paper</i>	<i>January 2013</i>
- <i>Deadline for abstract</i>	<i>15 May 2013</i>
- <i>Author notified of the decision of paper acceptance</i>	<i>1st July 2013</i>
- <i>Preliminary program and call for registration</i>	<i>30 July 2013</i>
- <i>Complete manuscript of full paper to WKC2013</i>	<i>30 September 2013</i>
- <i>Book of abstract and final program WKC2013</i>	<i>October 2013</i>
- <i>3rd World Kurdish Congress in Stockholm</i>	<i>12-14 October 2013</i>

Information will be available on the WKC website
www.kurdishcongress.org

Proposed Structure for WCK 2014 and Beyond

In order that the statutes of the World Kurdish Congress continue to be realized, (see Appendix A) Alan Dilani as President of WKC suggests that part of the last day of the next Congress in Stockholm be dedicated to holding the First Annual WKC Meeting.

Topics to be Included in Annual Meeting includes:

- Nomination of a new WKC President for 2 years that replaces Alan Dilani and he will serve as past president after the Congress. Express of interests will be available in the website and promote by nomination committee.
- Nomination of a new WKC Board to bring forward the vision and mission of WKC
- All delegates will be invited to submit qualified nominations for future President of WKC. This person must be qualified, motivated and committed to serve for two years.
- Everyone has the right to nominate a candidate who is qualified and motivated to serve as President for the next 2 years.

- Following is a proposal for the new committees for the WKC2013 to enhance the future of WKC and its activities.
- Readers of this report are welcome to suggest and improve the list.
- Included in the below list are short descriptions of the roles and responsibilities for each committee.
- Once the WKC Committees are created, members will be asked to help develop their roles and responsibilities within the stated purpose of each committee, keeping in mind the needs of the WKC.

Suggested Preliminary Lists TBC

Organizing Committee- The OC is responsible for overseeing the development and functioning of the WKC.

Each member will be responsible for overseeing different areas of the Congress.

Mrs. Shadiye Heydari, Member of Parliament, Sweden
Prof. Alan Dilani, Ph.D. Architect/ Public Health, Sweden
Mr. Herish Mahmud, KRG represent in Sweden
Dr. Carol Prunhuber, Ph.D. Journalist and writer, USA
Mr. Chia Madani, M.Sc. Computer Science, Stockholm, Sweden
Mr. Halkwat Ali, Council of Swedish Government, Stockholm
Mr. Jangir Maddadi, Designer, Kalmar, Sweden
Mrs. Lawen
Mr. Mariwan Baker, PhD Candidate, Herlev Denmark
Mr. Tawfiq Rahman, Department of Foreign Relation, KRG, Kurdistan
Mr. Diyar A. Amin, Department of Foreign Relation, KRG, Kurdistan

Scientific Committee: The SC is responsible for reviewing the abstracts submitted and selecting a variety of speakers for the WKC

Prof. Alan Dilani, Ph.D. Architect/ Public Health, Sweden
Prof. Almas Heshmati, Ph.D. Economics, Seoul- Korea
Prof. Serwan Baban, Ph.D. Minister of Agriculture, KRG, Kurdistan
Prof. Nawzad Saleh, MD. Ph.D. Karolinska Insitutet, Stockholm, Sweden
Prof. Tara A. Yahiya, Ph.D. Computer Science Research Laboratory, University of Paris, France
Prof. Ass. Jaffer Sheyholislami, Ph.D. Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada
Dr. Koestan Gadan, Ph.D. University of Oslo, Norway
Prof. Fereydoon Rahmani Ph.D. University of Sallahaddin (Kurdistan/Canada)
Dr. Welat Zeydanlıoğlu, UK
Dr. Diako Ebrahimi, Faculty of Medicine, UNSW, Sydney, Australia
Dr. Barzoo Eliassi, Ph.D. Lund University, Sweden

Editorial Committee: The EC is responsible for the review and organization of the papers that get selected for the WKC publication

Prof. Almas Heshmati, Ph.D. Economics, Seoul- Korea
Prof. Alan Dilani, Ph.D. Architect/ Public Health, Sweden
Prof. Serwan Baban, Ph.D. Minister of Agriculture, KRG, Kurdistan

Communication and Media Committee: The CMC is responsible for all communication with the public from the WKC including the media

Halkwat Ali- Press releases, organization of press conferences

Rahim Rashidi-
Roni Alasor –
Chia Madani-website
Carol Prunhuber- oversees, coordinates and handles all
communications that come to WKC email
Shadiye Heydari, Member of Parliament, Sweden
Prof. Alan Dilani, Ph.D. Architect/ Public Health, Sweden

Nomination Committee: Is responsible for promoting and nomination of people to be involved for the board and different committee

Dr. Khalid Khayati, Ph.D. Linköping University, Sweden
Dr. Carol Prunhuber, Ph.D. Journalist and writer, USA
Mrs. Shadiye Heydari, Member of Parliament, Sweden
Prof. Alan Dilani, Ph.D. Architect/ Public Health, Sweden

Hospitality Committee: Is responsible for welcoming and supporting delegates during the congress regarding accommodation and other function such pre congress or post congress or study visit.

Alex Atroushi- outreach to Kurds to participate
Ali Barhoon
Mrs. Shadiye Heydari
Prof. Alan Dilani,
Lawen
Hamide
Kobra Karimi
Jangir Maddadi

Advisory Board- Is responsible for supporting WKC and giving good advices

Program Committee: Is responsible for the development and logistics and practical arrangement of the WKC program in all its aspects

Content Manager- Oversees and is responsible for the development of the content for the Congress program. Selects and interfaces with the speakers, MC's and other people involved in the program. Ensures all speakers and participants follow time requirements; ensures speakers send their full paper prior to the Congress

Operational Manager- Oversees and is responsible for the functioning of all technical aspects including audio, lights and Power Point presentations and Interfaces with the technical staff.

Another Suggested Preliminary Organizational Structure TBC

Organizing Committee: The OC is responsible for overseeing the development and functioning of the WKC. (See Chart)

Each member will be responsible for overseeing a specific area of the event.

Areas to include:

Executive Producer: Responsible for the WKC and oversees the whole Congress production. Also responsible for finding members for the committees and different roles.

Program Director: Responsible for everything that happens within the conference hall.

- Cannot be a speaker.
- Needs to be free to supervise all these areas and hold the overview
- Oversees entire Congress schedule and ensures it is posted daily for Congress

participants

- Oversees content, speakers and chairs. She/he ensures that the whole program comes together.
- Works with Assistant Director, who is hands-on.
-

Assistant Director: Assists the Director by executing necessary tasks to make the program flow smoothly.

- Is a liaison with technical staff who are responsible for video/PowerPoint, audio, translation, hall set-up
- Makes changes to schedule

Event Coordinator: Responsible for all that transpires outside the hall

- Hospitality, welcome, transportation, accommodations, etc.
- Posts the Daily Congress Schedule, including extracurricular activities
- Poster Displays – in coordination with Program Director, including showcases

PR/Communication Director: Oversees the following:

- PR Overview of all WKC Communications
- Communication with participants
- Media Manager
- Website Manager

APPENDIXES

Appendix A: WKC's Goals, Organizational Structure and Statutes

Appendix B: WKC Program Chart

Appendix C: Other Delegate Suggestions

Appendix A: WKC's Goals, Organizational Structure and Statutes

In the past years, several scientists have tried to establish networks in order to mobilize research resources to provide scientific evidence and to promote public awareness about the national needs of the Kurdish people. There are several thousand Kurdish scientists who have Ph.D. degrees or are professors and are actively engaged in various universities and research centers outside of Kurdistan. These are Kurdish intellectual capital that has not been considered yet for the development of our nation. KRG has not yet developed any mechanism to benefit from them or how to integrate them as a valuable resource to serve Kurdistan efficiently.

It is perceived to be a major concern for the Kurdish scientists to establish a network with an annual meeting as a non-profit, non-partisan and non-political organization established by Kurdish academics and scientists to develop and promote science and development through the following activities:

* Identifying and establishing a multidisciplinary network among Kurdish and non- Kurdish scientists, prominent businessmen and throughout the cultural community

- * Promoting public awareness about Kurdish issues by writing articles in nationally and globally distributed mass media
- * Providing opportunities for interaction and close cooperation among Kurdish researchers and the business community
- * To actively participate in the formation of institutions and the capacity of individuals with regard to governance and international relations
- * Advancing awareness about national and international relations among decision makers in different countries for Kurdish human rights and national identity
- * Organizing a world congress and symposium, workshop and presenting popular scientific seminars for the Kurdish people both in Kurdistan and abroad
- * To serve as a link between the business community and the regional government and provide professional advice on issues of vital national interest – in particular matters of international law and politics
- * Through various channels, to promote capacity building in different areas both inside and outside Kurdistan in closed collaboration with KRG represent in abroad
- * Form an academic and politically independent committee to provide the leadership in Kurdistan with a long-term strategy of studies for Kurds and Kurdistan (a ‘Think Tank’ type committee)
- * Form an academic and politically independent committee to provide the leadership in Kurdistan with long-term business and development strategies for Kurdistan

Mission

WKC mission is to identify and establish a network among Kurdish and non-Kurdish scientists and key businessmen to develop high quality research projects and scientific policies, as well as good business practices in Kurdistan. Other major tasks include providing expertise to assist Kurdistan’s institutions and government to be developed.

Vision

The vision of WKC is to transform the ideas and knowledge generated from networking and lobbyist activities to bring about global awareness towards Kurdistan as a highly developed nation and to assist Kurdistan to become an active part of the modern and successful society.

Philosophy

WKC’s philosophy is to meet academic and business needs of the people of Kurdistan, and to providing opportunities for national development through networking and lobbyist activity worldwide.

Statutes of Association World Kurdish Congress CONSTITUTION

§ 1 Declaration and the association's name

The name of this organization is to be the "World Kurdish Congress" hereafter referred to as "WKC". WKC will be a non-profit organization, one that is not bound to any political parties or to any religious groups, which unifies different Kurdish and non-Kurdish academic, cultural and business communities, as well as individuals and groups. It will focus upon questions leading to the development of Kurdish society throughout Kurdistan and become a functioning and authentic lobbyist organization within Kurdish society everywhere.

§ 2 Purpose

WKC aims are to establish a network between Kurdish and non-Kurdish people living abroad and in Kurdistan with various academic and professionals including professional organizations and institutions which will promote science and business within Kurdistan, as well as promoting awareness of the rights of Kurdish people worldwide to promote the business practices and scientific research in Kurdistan through:

- * development and contribution to industrial research and development activities of various kinds and to support the regional government of Kurdistan to promote better infrastructure, governance, health, education, technology, and economy as a whole.

- * creation of conditions for an interdisciplinary research and development collaboration among members of the network at various colleges and universities in Kurdistan and abroad for a wider sharing of the resources available to support the Kurdish people in their national affairs.

§ 3 Policy

The association shall be non-profit. The association's members are assumed to share basic values of society's goals. They may have differing views on how these goals will be reached.

Each member has the freedom to express themselves individually in a personal name and responsibility. Statements made in the name of the association shall be communicated to the board, which then examines the contents against the following criteria:

- * not to violate the basic values of society
- * be based on established science
- * balance the positive and negative aspects

§ 4 Membership

Eligible members of the association are people who have a formal master or higher degree from a recognized university and individuals skilled and recognized in their field. Application for membership shall be submitted to the Board. The Board may expel a member who clearly counteracts the society's objectives. In order to be elected on the board so requires, however, the corresponding Ph.D. exam. However, it is up to the board to select people with special skills in order to conduct its business effectively. All members who have registered are entitled to vote in different decisions at the annual meeting.

§ 5 Honorary Member

An honorary member of the association will be chosen during the annual meeting by the Board. This will be awarded to an individual who has promoted the association's purpose in an outstanding way.

§ 6 Annual fee

Members of the Society pay an annual fee, as decided by the Annual Meeting. Honorary members are exempt from annual fees.

§ 7 Organization

The activities of the association are organized into local branches. The Board may also decide on the establishment of working in various specialized areas.

§ 8 Board of directors and auditors

The association's affairs managed by a board consisting of President, Vice President, Secretary, Financial Manager, and an alternate.

The Board constitutes a quorum when at least three members are present. The association's name is signed by the President or the secretary and treasurer of the association. The association shall be audited by an auditor. For (s)he also is selected as an alternate.

The Board shall have its seat in Stockholm or other places when the board decides in an annual meeting.

§ 9 Election

Board members, including president, secretary, treasurer and deputies, elected for two years and may be reappointed. The term of office for half the Board members is terminated each year. The auditor and deputy auditor are elected for one year and are renewable.

§ 10 Division of labor

It is incumbent upon the President to at least two weeks prior to each membership meeting and at least one month before the annual meeting that, in writing or through the association's website, adding the association's members calling and agenda, and to the general assembly established customary documents. It is incumbent on the secretary who is responsible to keep minutes of all meetings of the Association. It is the economist/accountant who is liable to charge and account for annual fees, and to conduct the association's accounts.

§ 11 Voting

Voting for individual candidates is confidential, if someone requests it. Votes determine the outcome of individual candidates' election. Other questions are decided by open vote. In case of equal opinion, the Chairman will decide.

§ 12 Annual Meeting

The annual meeting takes place in during the congress. Any member who wishes to have items addressed at the annual meeting shall, by 2 months prior the congress submit their case to the Board for consideration.

In the annual meeting the following aspects are to be decided:

1. Board of Directors and President
2. The auditors' report
3. Question on discharge
4. Election of directors and deputy directors
5. Election of auditors and deputy auditors
6. Establishment of rules and activities for the coming year
7. Assessment of the past years activities
8. Annual fee
9. Other Association matters

§ 13 Membership Meeting

In addition to the annual meeting which takes place during congress, additional meetings may be held by the Board when requested by a minimum of 10% of the paying members to deal with specific issues. The actions and outcomes of the extra meeting should be communicated to the members within 2 weeks.

§ 14 Constitution

Proposed amendments to the statutes must be resolved in two consecutive membership meetings, one of which shall be an annual meeting. For the proposed amendment to be adopted, it must be passed by at least two thirds of the votes cast at each of the two membership meetings.

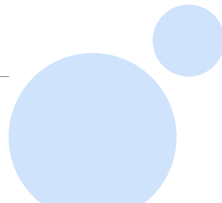
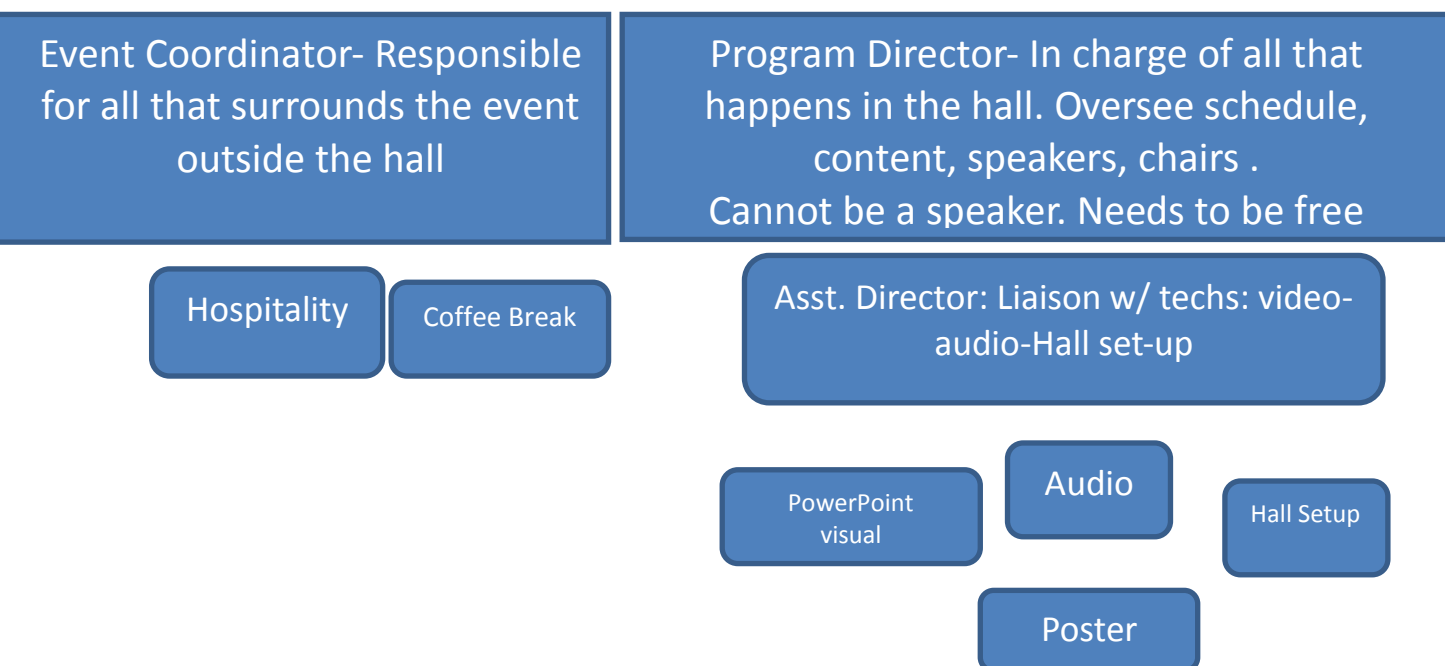
§ 15 Dissolution

Any decision to dissolve the association is taken by two consecutive membership meetings, one of which shall be an annual meeting. For the decision to be valid, it must be passed at each of the two meetings by at least two thirds of the votes cast. The association's assets will then flow to other purposes, consistent with §2 of the statutes of the association.

Appendix B: WKC Program Chart

Executive Producer

Has overview of the event & finds people to fill different roles. Has overview of budget and is not hands on. Keeps the overview



Appendix C: Other Delegate Suggestions

Education

“As an Educator I believe the only chances of Kurdistan to be successful regionally and globally depends on the education of its children... This is done with a great focus on teacher training programs in Universities. Both the Higher Education and Ministry of Education need to combine their roles, regulations, policies, responsibilities, and accountability (this should be done through regulatory professional associations) to design such models of education.”

Fahimeh Adele Rezai, Canada

Follow-up

“During the Congress, I was concerned that the results of the WKC, the presented topics, recommendations, research and noteworthy projects be actualized. All of the above need to be forwarded to related parties in the federal region of Kurdistan (to related Universities, Ministeries and organizations) and diligently followed up. . This follow-up is of a great importance in order that specific conclusions and recommendations find a proper use and connect relevant partners from outside and inside the country.“

Nazar Rasul, presenter, Germany

Book Exhibition Needed

A Book Exhibition could add extra spice for the atmosphere in the hall.

Importance of Accurate Spelling on Public Displays

Check, check and double check the spelling in public displays and materials. Both the website and email was misspelled in the WKC banner that hung as the background of the main stage.

Possible Extracurricular Activities during the WKC

“A city tour, for instance a short visit to the Citadel could be added to the Congress. The Citadel in Erbil should never be underestimated. It is the symbol of the capital, if not the whole of Kurdistan!”