



UN OCHA  
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## UN OCHA/ IRIN Humanitarian Reporting Workshop: 24 March 2008

Held in partnership with  
International Humanitarian City and the Dubai Press Club

### Agenda

- 08:30-09:00: Registration and welcome
- 09:00-10:00: Introduction to the international humanitarian system  
*Abdul Haq Amiri, Head of Office, OCHA Dubai*
- 10:00-11:00: Introduction to SPHERE; minimum standards in humanitarian response  
*Khaled Khalifa, Head of Office, IRIN Dubai*
- 11:00-11:15: Coffee
- 11:15-13:15: Technicalities of reporting 'from the field'  
*Ahmed Rajab, Head of Newsroom, IRIN Dubai*  
*Alimbek Tashtankulov, Humanitarian Reporter, IRIN Dubai*  
*Emmanuel Dunseath, Online Producer/Sub Editor, IRIN Dubai*
- 13:15-14:30: Lunch
- 14:30-15:45: Humanitarian response mechanisms  
*Anvar Munavarrov, Humanitarian Affairs Officer, OCHA Dubai*  
*Majed Abu Kubi, Information Management Officer, OCHA Dubai*
- 15:45-16:00: Coffee
- 16:00-17:30: Challenges to delivering humanitarian assistance  
*George Murray, Regional Disaster Response Advisor, OCHA Dubai*  
*Khaled Khalifa, Head of Office, IRIN Dubai*
- 17:30-17:45: Wrap up and conclusions
- 17:45-18:00: Presentations



## Trainers' Biographies

### **Majed Abu-Kubi**

Majed Abu Kubi is currently the Information Management Officer for OCHA's regional office in Dubai. He has a Masters in Remote Sensing and Geographic Information Systems, and has worked in the humanitarian and sustainable development sector for 11 years, within NGOs and the UN. Majed has had extensive field experience, most significantly in the occupied Palestinian territory and the OCHA Iraq office.

### **Abdul-Haq Amiri**

Abdul Haq Amiri is the Head of OCHA's regional office in Dubai. He has over 12 years experience with the United Nations in humanitarian response, including in Sudan, Indonesia, Tajikistan and Afghanistan. Abdul Haq was also leading the initial teams that responded to the 2003 Bam earthquake, and was part of the team that responded to the 2004 Tsunami, and 2004 floods in Bangladesh.

### **Emmanuel Dunseath**

Emmanuel Dunseath has been a writer and editor for various publications for 13 years. Nearly two years ago, he left the commercial journalism world and joined the UN as a humanitarian reporter for IRIN. For the past six months, he has been IRIN's online producer, updating, managing and embellishing the daily news website.

### **Khaled Khalifa**

Khaled Khalifa currently heads the United Nation's IRIN News Bureau that covers Asia and the Middle East. Khaled is a professional aid worker with more than 12 years of progressive experience. He worked in various settings in nine developing countries namely: Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Iran, Syria, Lebanon, Indonesia, Malaysia and UAE. His key areas of expertise include: project management, design of environmental programs, humanitarian relief and disaster reduction.

### **Anvar Munavvarov**

Anvar Munavvarov is the Humanitarian Affairs Officer for OCHA's Regional Office in Dubai. He studied Oriental Studies and International Relations at the Monterey Institute of International Policy Studies, USA, and since 2001 has worked in various positions with OCHA HQ and Regional Office in Geneva and Dubai. From 1994 to 2001 Anvar was in the diplomatic service with Tajikistan's Foreign Ministry.

### **George Murray**

George Murray is currently Regional Disaster Response Advisor for OCHA's regional office for the Middle East, North Africa and Central Asia. He has over 10 years experience in the humanitarian field, working for NGOs and the UN system, and his previous missions include South Sudan, Mozambique, Angola (twice), East Timor, Afghanistan (twice) and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

### **Ahmed Rajab**

Ahmed Rajab is the Head of Newsroom for IRIN's Middle East and Asia Bureau. He was educated at Birkbeck College, University of London, University College London and Sussex University and has worked for the BBC World Service, Index On Censorship, UNESCO, Africa Events and Africa Analysis for which he was editor for 20 years. He has reported from the then war-torn Angola, Liberia and Western Sahara and was for many years the chief commentator on African conflicts for both CNN and BBC World Television.

### **Alimbek Tashtankulov**

Alimbek Tashtankulov is Humanitarian Reporter for IRIN's Middle East/Asia Bureau. He has a degree in international relations and a Masters in management. After a spell working with Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty he joined IRIN-OCHA in 2003 and was initially based in Ankara, Turkey. Alimbek was one of the first reporters on the scene at Bam, Iran, following the major earthquake there in 2003. He has also reported for IRIN from northern Pakistan again following an earthquake there in 2005 and Afghanistan.