



Dr Fiona Hill *'Almanar' is Arabic for lighthouse*

Fiona Hill is an Anthropologist and Cultural Impact Coach and owner of Almanar Consultancy whose professional experience includes projects in Rail - Construction - Development - Education - Oil & Gas - HR - Philanthropy - Agribusiness - Tourism – Publishing – Recycling – and Digital Health working with business, NGO's, and Arab & Australian Governments in Saudi Arabia, Libya, Oman, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, the UAE, Kuwait, Tunisia, Morocco, and Iran.

She is current Victorian State Chair & Board Member of the **Australia-Arab Chamber of Commerce & Industry** (AACCI).

Her Anthropological research was amongst Bedouin communities settled along the banks of the Euphrates River in north-west Syria where she has lived for extended periods annually for over 30 years.

Granted an **Australian Endeavour Executive Award** in 2008 Fiona observed for 3 months at the Jeddah Chamber of Commerce & Industry - the largest and most influential Chamber in the MENA region - as the first Australian (and woman) to achieve such Australian Government support for building relations with the Arab region.

Fiona is an Honorary Fellow, School of Humanities & Social Sciences, at **Deakin University**; Co-Investigator in the **University of Melbourne** 'Australia-Syria Archaeological & Historical Research Collaboration Project' - more commonly known as the Qal'at Nejm Project; and an Australian National Committee Member of Syrian Heritage in Danger: an International Research Initiative & Network (SHIRIN).

In 2013 the UNHCR invited Fiona to Za'atari Syrian Refugee Camp in Jordan to provide expert guidance on camp governance; and in the same year she was appointed the Australia & New Zealand representative in the Kuwait Ministry of Awqaf & Islamic Affairs Project 'New Role for Oriental Studies Scholars & Civilisational Dialogue Specialists' to promote philosophical engagement with Muslim populations.

Fiona served 10 years on both the Executive Committee of the **Australia Arabic Council** – Australia's peak Arabic community advocacy group - and the Executive of **World Conference on Religions for Peace/Australia**, and two terms (2002 – 2008) with the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade **Council for Australian Arab Relations** (CAAR). In 2014 Fiona was

awarded the prestigious **Asia Institute Graduate Community Award** to acknowledge her 3 decades of voluntary service to Australian-Arab relations.

Fiona actively seeks out opportunities to increase English-speaking countries' awareness of, and positive engagement with the MENA countries in trade, education, and cultural exchange to mutual benefit.

In 2016 Fiona brokered the **first Australian Scouts Visit to an Arab country** with Scouts, Leaders and parents fully hosted by Oman Scouts & Guides Association under the banner of the World Organisation of Scouts Movement (WOSM) 'Messengers of Peace' initiative.

Select Publications

'Saudization Update' in ***Al Manakh 2:Gulf Continued*** Special Edition of Volume (Archis, AMO, C-Lab, Pink Tank, NAI) Abu Dhabi Urban Planning Council May 2011

'Australian Muslims: challenges and achievements' (Part I) in ***The OIC Journal*** Issue No. 9 October-December 2009

'Introduction: Seen and Unseen' in ***Sojourn in Syria*** (ed. Hill, F & Williamson, C) Euphrates Publishing 2008 (ISBN 978-0-646-49777-8)

'*Investigating Saudi Arabia: a modern Arab nation*' in ***STUDIES of Society and Environment*** Ryebuck Media & IWDP, March/April 2007

'The Gender of Tradition: Syrian Women and the Feminist Agenda' in Paul J. White & William S. Logan (Eds.) ***Remaking the Middle East*** Berg: Oxford & New York, 1997

'How Dark Were the Dark Ages?' in ***AGORA*** Vol.32, No.2, 1997

'Modern Tell Ahmar' Fiona Hill & Abdul-Khaliq Kazi in ***Tell Ahmar: 1988 Season*** Edited by Guy Bunnens ABR-NAHRAIN Supplement Series Vol.2 (Publications of the Melbourne University Expedition to Tell Ahmar Vol.1) Leuven, 1990

'Searching for the truth behind Syria's Civil War' 2014
<http://www.couriermail.com.au/news/searching-for-the-truth-behind-syrias-civil-war/story-fnihsrk2-1226800446105>