

## **Lutfia Rabbani Foundation activities 2014/2015**

During the past year the Foundation has expanded its activities in order to further its objective namely to promote Euro-Arab relations and understanding through education and cultural exchange.

We have been able to support over fifty students in furthering their educational ambitions. This support was realised not only through the various scholarship programmes that the Foundation offers to both Dutch and Arab students throughout the MENA region (please refer to <http://www.rabbanifoundation.org/scholarships>) but also through dialogue activities and cooperation with other institutions enabling the Foundation to bring people from different backgrounds together in the most efficient and effective manner.

### *Activities implemented 2014-2015*

- Over 20 scholarships were granted through the various scholarship programmes (various scholar narratives are available on our [website](#)):
  - [The Mahmoud Rabbani Scholarship](#) – a fully financed Master or Phd. Scholarship at a Dutch university or other institute for higher learning;
  - [The Vreede Scholarship for International Law](#) – for Arab students in international law, offered at the International Court of Justice in The Hague;
  - [The Travel Scholarship](#) – offered to Dutch Students and professionals seeking experience in the Arab World.
- The [2014 International Criminal Court Moot Trial Competition](#) took place on the 25<sup>th</sup> of October. For two consecutive years now, 2013 and 2014, the Lutfia Rabbani Foundation has been sponsoring the Palestinian team at the International Criminal Court Moot Trial Competition which presents an opportunity for universities to participate in moot court trials that simulate the proceedings of the International Criminal court. Students develop their skills as future international lawyers during an extensive 6 day educational and social programme that brings together students of diverse backgrounds and cultures together to challenge their skills. For one of their stories please click [here](#).
- [The Virtual Dinner Guest Project](#) is a movement aimed at creating a global cultural shift in the way people view their relationship to news media, from one of passive consumption, to one of collaborative production, at the local level, and on a global scale. Over a shared meal, the prevalent media stereotypes of “the other” are discussed and together they are deconstructed. After the shared dinner, the participants became citizen journalists by taking the questions from the discussion to the streets and interviewing everyday people. The outcome of the shared dinners are short films. On the 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of October, students from the Institute of Social Studies in The Hague., The Netherlands and students from the Cairo Institute of Liberal Arts and Science, Cairo, Egypt had dinner together via Skype and discussed their views on each other’s countries and communities. “It was an amazing and unique experience to have dinner via skype with people from another culture and to hear all their different perspectives about current issues.”

- On Thursday the 27<sup>th</sup> of November 2014 the Lutfia Rabbani Foundation organized the [2014 Euro-Arab Dialogue Forum](#) at the Peace Palace in The Hague. The conference titled as “The Arab Future and the Role of Europe ”, was all about European and Arabic cooperation in the fields of economics, culture and politics. The Minister of Foreign Affairs Bert Koenders, opened the conference with an inspiring opening speech. The keynote speaker of the Euro-Arab Dialogue Forum 2014 was Lakhdar Brahimi, former UN Peace Envoy to Syria. To view the conference please click [here](#).
- The Lutfia Rabbani Foundation collaborated with Dancing on the Edge and more specifically the first part of the dance co-production project, [PLASTIC: Artist in Residence, Coproduction & Exchange](#). PLASTIC is a special theater and dance project in 2014 and 2015. It is a coproduction of a number of artists from the Middle East in collaboration with a Dutch or Dutch based artist. The working title is *Plastic* and will deal with several urgent and relevant issues. The project is divided in 3 phases, comprised of 3 residencies and a performance that will be presented during the Dancing on the Edge festival in 2015.
- The Lutfia Rabbani Foundation has expanded its cooperation with and sponsorship of the [Nour Project](#) which is part of the global AIESEC student association and sends 20-30 Dutch students to the Arab World per annum of summer internships.
- The Lutfia Rabbani Foundation supported the first [3-days International Peace Conference organized by the students of United World College](#) of Maastricht on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of January 2015. The inaugural International Peace Conference, spanning three days from January 23rd to 25th, was the first stepping stone in the realization of peace. With over 250 participants attending from all spreads of the world, the three day conference was diverse, thought-provoking and inspiring.
- The [Arab European University Association](#) (AEUA), an initiative of the Lutfia Rabbani Foundation, aims to facilitate and stimulate collaboration between its member universities in European and Arab countries. After the relaunch of The Arab European University Association in 2011, together with University of Groningen and the Arab University Association in Amman, activities are currently being developed to organize workshops within universities and to organize dedicated university visits between Europe and the MENA region by university professors and managers.