

360 Architecture joins U.S. Chamber of Commerce and U.S. State Department panel on business engagement in Iraq

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2011

Kansas City, Mo. – 360 Architecture’s work in Iraq is the basis for a special U.S. Chamber of Commerce panel discussion with the national media scheduled for July 13.

Initiated in association with the U.S. Department of State, the panel, titled U.S.-Iraq Business Engagement, will take place at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C.

The discussion will focus on new business potential in Iraq. 360 Architecture and Abdullah A. Jiburi General Contracting Company, an Iraq-based builder, will share their firms’ experiences and perspectives based on their alliance on three major projects currently underway in the country.

The firms have forged a productive partnership. Since 2007 they have been working on Basrah Sports City, a multi-use development anchored by a 65,000-seat stadium and 10,000-seat secondary stadium under construction and on schedule to host the 2013 Gulf Cup – a prestigious tournament involving the eight nations of the Gulf. 360 and Al-Jiburi’s Anwar Soura contracting company were also recently selected for two new 30,000-seat stadiums, one in Al-Menaa, a suburb of Basrah, and another in the city of Najaf.

The projects were created by Iraq’s Ministry of Youth and Sport as part of a plan to help the country rebuild through a nationwide network of internationally competitive and community-focused athletics facilities.

With business growth returning to Iraq, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce launched an Iraq-focused business initiative to deliver targeted advocacy on behalf of American business. It has hosted a number of business delegations and economic stakeholders from Iraq, and several distinguished Iraqi officials, including President Massoud Barzani.

Speaking for 360 Architecture on the U.S.-Iraq Business Engagement panel will be Senior Principal George Heinlein. Heinlein has led the firm’s efforts in Iraq, overseeing the design of the facilities while also managing the projects’ start-up and business negotiations. Abdullah A. Jiburi company will be represented by its chairman, Abdullah Al-Jiburi. Panelists will also include:

- Ambassador Patricia Haslach – Iraq Transition Coordinator, U.S. Department of State
- Lionel Johnson – Vice President, Middle East and North Africa Affairs, U.S. Chamber of Commerce
- Susan Hamrock-Mann – Director, Iraq Reconstruction Task Force, U.S. Department of Commerce
- Naufel Alhassan – Commercial Counselor, Embassy of the Republic of Iraq

“Sport has a unique power to unite people across cultures and other divides,” said Heinlein. “Working in Iraq has some challenges, but the opportunities there and the potential for growth are tremendous. As American architects, we are privileged to support the Ministry and proud to partner with Al-Jiburi on these projects.”

360 Architecture is an innovative architectural practice widely recognized for excellence in planning, design and execution across a wide range of project types, including corporate and commercial office buildings, sports arenas and stadiums, mixed-use districts, recreation centers, residences, restaurants and municipal facilities. 360 Architecture is headquartered in Kansas City, Missouri and has offices in Columbus, Ohio, and San Francisco.