

## BIOGRAPHY OF H.E. THE SECRETARY GENERAL



**Iyad Ameen Madani** took office as the tenth Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) on 1 January 2014.

He was born to a well-known family in Makkah Al Mukarramah on 26 April 1946. His father, Ameen Abdullah Madani, is a prominent historian of the Arabian Peninsula, and his mother is Nathar Yahia Zakaria.

After completing his secondary school education at Taibah School in Al Madina Al Munawwarah, Iyad Madani moved to Arizona State University in the United States of America where he obtained his Bachelor's degree in production management.

In 1970, he went back to the Kingdom and served in various positions at Saudi Arabian Airlines, the last of which was the post of Director General of the Administrative Development Department. From management he shifted to the media and was appointed as the first Editor-in-Chief of Saudi Gazette newspaper in Jeddah before he was appointed as Director General of Okaz Organization for Press and Publication.

He was selected for the membership of the Shura Council and was appointed as Hajj Minister and, six years later, as Minister of Culture and Information.

During his career, Madani served as member of the Advisory Board of the Supreme Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC); member of the Board of Trustees of the Gulf University in Bahrain; Vice-Chairman of the King Abdulaziz Foundation for Development Housing Dedicated to His Parents; member of the Board of Directors of Banque Saudi Fransi; and member of the Board of Directors of the Department of Water and Sanitation and the Charitable Society for Social Services in Al Madina Al Munawwarah. He was also member of other institutions.

During his service in the various institutions, Madani displayed an avid interest in culture and thought as reflected in his numerous contributions to various fora and his many articles published in Arabic and English throughout his career. Some of those articles were collected in his book titled "*Sinnu Zarafa*".

He received a number of decorations, including in particular the medal of honor from China, the public service medal from Malaysia and the Second Class Order from the Sultanate of Oman. He received an honorary doctorate in international relations from the International Islamic University of Malaysia.