

Press release

The Danish House in Palestine appoints new director

Troels Dalgaard, 56, is the new director of The Danish House in Palestine, starting January 1, 2018. He replaces Lone Bildsøe Lassen who returns to Denmark after a little under three years in the position.

The Danish House in Palestine has found its new director. From January 1, 2018, Troels Dalgaard, an experienced manager and Middle East expert, will be at the head of the Ramallah-based NGO.

Troels Dalgaard, a 56-year-old Dane, has previously worked at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark, DanChurchAid, the Danish Refugee Council and, most recently, the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) in South Korea, where he has headed the team for strategy and external relations from 2014 to 2017.

In his new job, Troels Dalgaard will manage 10 Palestinian and Danish employees as well as a broad portfolio of cultural exchange projects. The Danish House is part of an independent Danish-based organization that aims to strengthen the mutual understanding and appreciation between Palestine and Denmark. The organisation has a Danish-Palestinian board and is primarily funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark.

Troels Dalgaard is already familiar with Palestine. From 1995 to 2000, he was Deputy Head of Mission at the Danish Representative Office, which was established in 1994 in Jericho and in 1998 moved to Ramallah. Among other things, he was responsible for the management of Denmark's development assistance to the Palestinian Authority.

"I'm delighted to return to Palestine, and I look forward to working on Palestinian-Danish culture exchange. Culture is among the most important fabrics of society and therefore a good starting point for promoting relations between Denmark and Palestine. The Danish House is in a good shape today and has strong relations with Palestinian partners. This is something I look forward to continuing and expanding," says Troels Dalgaard.

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Troels Dalgaard replaces Lone Bildsøe Lassen, 55, who has held the position since March 2015, making her the longest-serving director since the establishment of the Danish House in Palestine in 2010. She has spearheaded a significant increase in the level of activity. Today, the organization has a wide range of projects in the areas of culture, cultural heritage and media.

“I’ve put great emphasis on establishing equal partnerships with competent Palestinian organizations. This has resulted in a string of projects and activities, which have relevance for Palestine. At the same time, we have become a more relevant partner by strengthening our organization internally with improved workflows and training of staff,” says Lone Bildsøe Lassen.

After a little under three years in Palestine, Lone Bildsøe Lassen returns to Denmark to become an independent consultant. She has previously worked in the Danish Refugee Council, most recently as head of the Middle East and North Africa section.

Chairwoman of the board of The Danish House of Palestine Trine Pertou Mach says:

“The Board is delighted with the appointment of Troels, and we look forward to working together with him after good years with Lone in the position. The Danish House is in a new and more solid place now. We are very eager to use this as a starting point for strengthening the role of the House as a partner and to act as a platform for strengthening the cultural dialogue between Danes and Palestinians.”

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