

## Questionnaire Instructions

The questionnaire below includes some of the most commonly asked questions for Worldcon bids. Please email the completed answers to [wsfs@conzealand.nz](mailto:wsfs@conzealand.nz). We will post the answers on the CoNZealand website.

Please answer all the questions *in line* below. If a question doesn't apply to your bid, please state: N/A.

If the answer won't be known until some future date, please provide an estimate of when you will be able to provide an answer. For example, for the question about room rates you might answer "These are expected to be agreed by [date]. Current internet rates are X per night room only for a double or twin and Y for single occupancy."

## Question Time

All CoNZealand members will be able to submit questions for the "Question Time for 2022 Worldcon bids" prior to the online event and during the event on June 28, 06:00 NZT. Submissions will be anonymous.

Members may submit questions via this form:

[info@JeddiCon.com](mailto:info@JeddiCon.com)

*All submitted questions will be edited to remove any personal attacks. We will encourage questions to be hard, but we will not permit them to be insulting.*

We will follow the general format that has been used recently.

The focus of this Question Time will be the announced Worldcon bids for 2022 that appear on the Site Selection Ballot

We intend to be aggressive at sticking to schedule. Don't make us yank you from the stage! We will allow A/V presentations from the announced bidders only. Time spent on technical difficulties will count against your time limit, so make sure to meet with us in advance to ready your presentation.

**There will be a single, approximately 1-hour session on June 28, 2020, 06:00 NZT**

15 minutes will be allotted for each presentation and there will be a 30 minute questioning period of both bids to follow.

## QUESTIONNAIRE

### General

- **Name of Bid:**  
*JeddiCon*
- **What dates are you bidding for?**  
*4<sup>th</sup> May to 8<sup>th</sup> May 2022*

- **What is your proposed convention host city? Is your convention site in a city center location or a suburb? If a suburb, what are the transport options into the city center? How far is the site from the city center?**  
*Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. Cities in the ME are not laid out in the same way as western cities, so the City center/Suburbs dose not exactly apply, however the Convention site is located at King Abdulaziz University. It is about 15 min drive from Jeddah Old City.*
- **What are your main facilities? How far are your hotels from your main venue?**  
*King Faisla Conference Center is located at the center of King Abdulaziz University's campus. It has one large auditorium that can seat more than 2000 people, two smaller auditoriums, several lecture rooms and plenty of open spaces.  
We will also be using lecture building 535 that holds several more lecture rooms. And are still negotiating using the Sports' tent just across the street to hold the Art gallery and the dealers area. The nearest hotel is about 5 min drive from the center.*
- **Who is your bid chair? Who is on your committee? What experience do they have in general? In running Worldcons?**  
*Yasser Bahjatt is the Master of the Order, the other Jeddi High Council members are Khalid Alsameti, Rami Hamzah, Ahmad Sabbagh, Dr. Ashraf Fagih, Mohammed Albakri, Raneen Bukhari, Tamim Kashgari & Thamer Alturaif. Between them they have experience in all sorts of events of all sizes, and large team management. They have no prior experience in running Worldcons.*
- **If known, who will be the chair of the convention? What experience do they have?**  
*Yasser Bahjatt will remain as the Master of the Order for the convention. He has a long experience in running fan based eSports events across the multiple countries at the same time.*
- **Have you agreed to participate in Pass-Along Funds? Would you be willing to increase the percentage from 50% to 70% of surplus?**  
*So far it is our understanding that it would be hard to take part in that fund from a Legal/TAX point of view, but we are still trying to figure out a way to do so.*

## Travel

- **What is the typical current airfare to your closest airport from world cities such as London, Boston, Los Angeles, Tokyo, Melbourne etc ?**  
*London: 700 USD  
Los Angeles: 1300 USD  
Washington DC: 1100 USD*
- **Do international flights, as well as domestic, fly into your local airport? Which airlines? If not, where is the closest international airport? Are direct flights from the cities above flown into your local airport?**  
*Jeddah has an international airport (JED) with flights coming in from more than 100 cities around the world. It does have direct flights from London & LA.*
- **How far is your convention site from the nearest airport/train station and what is the likely cost of getting to the hotels by both public transport and taxi from that airport/train station?**  
*The convention site is less than 30 min drive from the airport, it is also 10 min from the airport's train station to the one next to the center. From the train station to the center is a 5 min drive.*

## Facilities

- What hotel(s) are being used for the convention? How many rooms, what type, do they accommodate accessibility needs, etc.?  
*The convention itself is not hosted in a hotel, however we have contacted several of the hotels around the center and will be able to secure about 1000 rooms spread across several hotels.*
- What are your hotel room rates? Do these rates include breakfast? Do they include internet access in the room? How firm are these rates? What additional taxes and fees are there?  
*The rates are about 100 USD per night inclusive of all taxes and fees, this including breakfast and Free WiFi.  
The rates are tentative and we are waiting to confirm hosting the event before we can get signed final rates.*
- What does parking cost at your main hotels?  
*Parking at most hotels in Jeddah is free.*
- What is the distance from the nearest door of your main hotel(s) to the closest entrance of the convention site? What are the transportation options for those who prefer not to walk or who have mobility difficulties?  
*You must use a car to get from any hotel to the center, the nearest would take less than 5 min drive. We will be providing shuttle service from the hotels we work with to the center on regular bases.*
- Where will your large events (i.e. Hugo Ceremony and Masquerade) be held?  
*In the main auditorium of the convention center.*
- Please describe the restaurant scene near your site.  
*There are two large malls with food courts near the center, additionally the same street the center is on has many restaurants and food chains that provide an assortment of many cuisines.*
- What arrangements will be made for evening socialising and party space? Do you have a corkage waiver?  
*There is a large outdoor area in front of the center that we are planning to use for many night activities. Additionally, the main hotel near the center will be providing halls for those who want to host parties.  
As for alcohol, Saudi Arabia prohibits the sale of alcoholic beverages.*
- Please describe the policies / laws regarding smoking in your hotel(s), convention Center, and city.  
*Smoking is generally illegal indoors.*
- Given the current pandemic, have you considered any arrangements have been made for social distancing and the health and safety of members? If you have, can you describe what your current plans are?  
*We have not.*

### Miscellaneous

- What type of weather can we expect during your convention? What is the average temperature during that time of year?  
*Weather in Jeddah in May is 24-36 C, a bit humid.*
- What are some of the main tourist attractions of your city?  
➤ *The number one tourist attraction in Jeddah is diving. Additionally, the old city is where it is claimed that Eve was laid to rest (the city name Jeddah in Arabic means Grandmother).*

- *Historic Jeddah, a UNESCO World Heritage site, an open museum of the old city that reflects its unique culture and architecture.*
- *Jeddah Corniche, the 30 km coastal resort area along the Red Sea, the corniche features a coastal road, recreation areas, pavilions and large-scale civic sculptures, King Fahd's Fountain, Al-Rahmah Floating Mosque, as well as many other coastal attractions.*
- *King Fahad's Fountain: the highest waterjet in the world according to the Guinness World Records at more than 300 m (1000 ft) high.*
- *Diving, The Red Sea Coast in Saudi Arabia is one of the most unspoiled underwater treasure troves in the world; with pristine reefs and marine life as well as wrecks. Jeddah (and nearby Al-Lith and Yanbu) would be diving dream spots.*
- *Museums, from the open museums of the Historic Jeddah, to the open art sculptures gallery along the Jeddah Corniche and in the city's roundabouts; there are several other museums that showcase the history and old culture of the city and the region.*
- *Shopping, decades before Dubai, Jeddah was the shopping hub in the middle east being the gateway of the holy city of Makkah, the shopping culture is still well rooted among Jeddies and Jeddah visitors, varying from traditional souqs and gold shops in Old Jeddah (Al-Balad), to the very modern and metropolitan mega malls such as the Red Sea Mall and Mall of Arabia with the freshly launched state of the Art cinem theaters.*
- *Jeddah Hiking, Jeddah falls between the Red Sea costal line and the Sarawat Mountains, offering the best of both worlds: Diving and costal activities and Hiking and camping.*

- **Are you planning to have any membership discounts for certain demographic groups, such as young adults, military, or seniors?**

*University students (since we are being hosted by a University), military & seniors, will all have special rates.*

- **Do you have a code of conduct? If so, is it available online and if so, where?**

*We are still developing it, and will reach out to the community to help us in shaping its final version.*

- **What changes or challenges do you expect the current pandemic to present?**

*Managing the space with Social distancing.*

- **Have you planned for a virtual component to your convention?**

*Yes, even before the pandemic, we were already working on virtual components of our convention and special virtual attendance pricing.*

- **What is a notable aspect of your local fan culture and how do you plan to incorporate it into your Worldcon?**

*Saudi Arabia's central geographic location and the existence of Makkah have made it (even more so Jeddah as it is the gateway to Makkah) a mixing pot of cultures from all over the world.*

*Saudis have grown up watching dubbed Japanese cartoons making some of those who dubbed them super stars. The also grew up watching American movies, exposing them to those two streams of SciFi culture. This we believe is one of the main notable aspects of Arabian and specifically Saudi fandom culture. Also, Arabia is the land where the 1001 Nights were collected sparking 1001 years of speculative fiction growth and influence.*

*We will work had on building a Worldcon that is well balanced from a cultural diversity point, focusing on the "World" part of the name. We intend to make sure we have strong presence of Eastern, Western and Arabian participants to showcase the amazing spectrum of "World" fandom cultures in all aspects of our Worldcon (Programming, Art show, vendors area, etc.)*