



IP Hall of Fame Academy Honors Abu-Ghazaleh in Chicago

Abu-Ghazaleh voted to join the world's most prominent figures in Intellectual Property by the IP Hall of Fame Academy as "A major IP figure in the Arab world and beyond"

CHICAGO --- 24th October 2007---
Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, Chairman and CEO of Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization (www.tagorg.com) was honored today by the IP Hall of Fame Academy (www.iphalloffame.com) as the first expert from the outside the G8 to join the world's most prominent figures in Intellectual Property at a special ceremony at the Field Museum in Chicago.

This prestigious celebration hosted by Ocean Tomo Auctions, the leading Intellectual Capital Merchant Bank awarded nine members of the global intellectual property community who joined last year's 23 prominent personalities from government, business and academia for their outstanding contribution to the development of today's Intellectual Property (IP) system.

"I owe my induction into the IP Hall of Fame to my distinguished peers who voted me in. I owe my name to my colleagues in Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property who, through excellence, built AGIP into a global leader. I owe my recognition to my valued clients and associates all over the world who honored me with their confidence. I salute the Arab world community who supported my leadership of Arab Society for Intellectual Property, the regional IP association. I am proud to be in such great company. I thank IAM magazine for launching this initiative to honor the IP profession worldwide." Abu-Ghazaleh who was voted at the top of the voting order said at the ceremony.

This came as a result of five-month-long nomination and election process involving 300 IP candidates from around the world and culminating in a final vote conducted among members of the IP Hall of Fame Academy

With this election, Abu-Ghazaleh added another title to his selected honors such as: Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur, France, Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters, Canisius College, New York, Decoration of the Republic of Tunisia, Coat of Arms of the Kuwaiti Association of Accountants and Auditors, Gold Mercury International Award, Bahrain, Decoration of Independence of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.



The IP Hall of Fame was designed by the leading Intellectual Asset Management (IAM) magazine as a not-for-profit exercise that focuses on individuals - from areas such as government, business, finance, the law, academia, the arts, and science and technology - who have played a major role in the creation of today's IP system. The first inductees were announced in 2006 and included historical and present day figures: former US presidents Thomas Jefferson and James Madison, celebrated French author Victor Hugo and inventor Thomas Edison, influential English jurist Sir Edward Coke, Commissioner of the US Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) Bruce Lehman and the first commissioner of the Japan Patent Office Korekiyo Takahashi.



In his election citation, Mr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh was recognized as a major IP figure in the Arab world and beyond; founder of Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property (AGIP), a leading global IP firm; author of the unique Arabic IP Dictionary and advisor to governments on drafting and enforcing IP laws; Founder and Chair of Arab Society for Intellectual Property (ASPIP), the regional professional society.

Abu-Ghazaleh: I am proud to represent Arabs in the prestigious IP Hall of Fame

Mr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, Chairman and CEO of Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization (TAGorg), expressed his pride to be the first expert from outside the G8 to join the world's most prominent figures in the Intellectual Property (IP) Hall of Fame. He reminisced on his long history with IP since 1960, and addressed the interest of Arab nations in IP concepts as these ideas are entrenched in the Arab culture, stating:



* I am gratified the larger world outside the G-8 is so recognized for the first time in my humble person. Accordingly I am humbled as a person, yet proud as an Arab and as citizen of the non-G-8 world.

* Upon my graduation in 1960 from the American University of Beirut, the words "Intellectual" and "Property" attracted my attention separately and jointly, so I went to books (in the pre-internet era), to educate myself and as a needy student who worked on translating books (among many other not white color) to fund my education, I chose to translate IP books, which of course were published in Arabic under names of well-known writers as translators for credibility. Thus, I became acquainted with work for hire in copyright. I think I wanted to become an IP expert.

* You need to remember that the entire Arab world is young. We have come out of an occupation period starting in the fifties of the 20th century. The strides since then are remarkable. The Arab world embraced IP protection because it has its roots in the Arab culture. My job in advising and assisting governments in the promulgation and development of IP laws was not only easy, but welcomed by the political decision makers. Similarly, my efforts were welcomed in capacity-building programs through training and qualification. I am amazed at the high level of awareness and enthusiasm for IP in region and accordingly the increasingly developed levels of protection.

* In 1965, I was summoned by the late Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Jaber Ahmed Al Sabah because I

sued him, in his capacity then as the Director of Finance under whose sovereignty was the Kuwaiti Patent Office and in my capacity as the agent for registration of Seven-up trademark, because the registrar refused registration on the bases that the words “Seven” and “Up” are generic. It was my lucky day; HH listened to my plea and was so generous with his time. We talked about IP and HH demonstrated great perception and captured that I was trying to protect that trademark in that shape, color, design..etc for that product and not the two words as words. I loved IP because it exposed me to that great leader in my early career life in Kuwait. There is no attitude problem in the Arab world.

* If there is one region in the world that is committed to the development of IP protection through legislation, enforcement and litigation, it is the Arab world. Ownership rights, including the so called IP rights, are not seen as law enforcement, but more as moral and principles to be respected. In far decades, this region moved as much as other countries did in centuries. Yes, expect to see more leaps in quality throughout time.

* The GCC is to be seen as the nucleus for an Arab regional harmonization body. It is a success story to be built on.

* WIPO’s role in this process should be applauded.

By forming the WIPO administered agreements and through WIPO’s Arab Bureau regional program, which I supported and partnered, development in harmonization will see the light. The Arab Society for Intellectual Property which I proudly founded and continued to chair, developed training and qualification programs based on the study materials produced by WIPO. We also partnered with WIPO on harmonizing IP legislation through the region.

* The Arab region is entering into an economic and wealth boom unwitnessed in history anywhere in the world. This boom will not only be the major source for capital worldwide, but also the major market for the world. The region needs everything; it now has the resources to acquire and is determined to reach the developed world levels in infrastructure and standard of living. WIPO is well advised to make this region a priority, in the interest of the whole world.

* Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property (AGIP) established in 1972 is now a leading global firm in 60 offices serving some 50,000 clients all over the world. My colleagues in AGIP made it in a developing region through state-of-the-art organization and a cutting edge knowledge including ICT, training, and a commitment to excellence. We are the evidence that the world recognizes performance equitably and with independence.



Abu-Ghazaleh Announces the Launch of Global Compact Centers in Jordan and Egypt



Ban Ki-Moon and Abu-Ghazaleh flanked by the members of the Board of Directors

NEW YORK -- November 1, 2007--- Mr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh , Vice Chair of the UN Global Compact (GC), announced on Thursday, the launch of the GC Centers in Amman and Cairo during the opening meetings of the GC Board of Directors by the UN General Secretary Ban Ki-moon.

“This is the second Global Compact Center to be inaugurated after the first one in Cairo,” Abu-Ghazaleh said.

He added that the plans to establish seven other centers in the Arab countries will be finalized in the near future.

The Global Compact Center in Amman was inaugurated October 29, 2007 under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Rania Al-Abdullah.

Mr. Abu-Ghazaleh chaired the sessions with the presence of the GC members as well as the leaders of the business community, civil society, businesses unions, human rights and international anti-corruption bodies.

In addition, Mr. Abu-Ghazaleh delivered a speech before the UN General Assembly highlighting the Global Compact’s achievements throughout the year, and he answered all the inquiries of the governments’ representatives.

In his speech, Abu-Ghazaleh stressed on the GC role it plays in strengthening relationship between the United Nations, civil society and the business community.



GC Board of Directors Meetings

Evian Annual Meeting Tackles World Trade System

Abu-Ghazaleh: The world is going through a transitional era



GENEVA --- November 4, 2007--- Mr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, Deputy-Chair of Evian Group, emphasized, during the annual meeting of the Group held in Geneva, that the world is going through a transitional era where a new trade system will replace the one that exists now.

“The era of cheap oil will no longer exist and prices will reach more than US\$ 100; however, in case a new war breaks in the region, the prices will increase dramatically to be between US\$ 200 and US\$ 1000 per barrel,” Abu-Ghazaleh said.

He added that the Arab region will witness economic revolution where a coalition will be formed among the region, China and India; in addition, a new free trade market known as (CHINAR) will see the light.

“Such a coalition will parallel the power of the two biggest markets in the world, the United States and Europe markets,” Abu-Ghazaleh stated.

According to Abu-Ghazaleh, the governments’ investment surpluses, mostly from the Arab region, will rise from four trillion dollars at present to more than twenty trillion within the next 15 years. That is in addition to the private sector surpluses, which will not be less than the said amount.

The annual meeting, chaired by Mr. Abu-Ghazaleh, was attended by representatives from international organizations, ambassadors, academics and intellectuals concerned with the World Trade System as well as representatives from the World Trade Organization (WTO).

The Evian Group, founded in 1995, is an international coalition of corporate, government and opinion leaders, committed to fostering an open, inclusive, equitable and sustainable global market economy in a rules-based multilateral framework.