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Al-Mehanieh

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TALAL ABU-GHAZALEH ORGANIZATION

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Abu-Ghazaleh Chair of the UN Global Alliance for ICT and Development

UNESCO and TAG-Org Sign Partnership Agreement



Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Center for Capacity Building Officially Launched



- TAG Refurbished Computers Project & Talal Abu-Ghazaleh's ICT Dictionary Officially Launched
- E-City for King Hamad Ibn Isa Al Khalifa Delegation Visits TAG-Org

UN Appoints Abu-Ghazaleh Chair of the UN Global Alliance for ICT and Development



UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and Mr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh

NEW YORK - Mr. Talal Abu- Ghazaleh, chairman and CEO of Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization (TAG-Org), has been appointed as the Chairman of the Global Alliance for ICT and Development of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA-GAID) to succeed Craig Baret, Intel CEO.

Mr. Abu-Ghazaleh received a letter from the Under-Secretary General of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) HE Sha Zukang inviting him to lead the Alliance, composed of representatives from public, private and civil society sectors as well as international organizations.

"You have played an outstanding leadership role in advancing the objectives of the World Summit on Information Society and in helping to promote and transforming vision for the universal and inclusive information society," noted HE Zukang.

In his letter, HE Zukang expressed his appreciation for Mr. Abu-Ghazaleh's strong commitment and important contribution as UNDESA-GAID co-chair over the past three years.

GAID was established by the UN Secretary General in March 2006, to meet the need for an inclusive, multi-stakeholder global forum and platform for policy dialogue and partnership building, to promote the use of ICT for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and to enable and catalyze multi-stakeholder partnerships for action under the GAID umbrella.

Since its inaugural meeting in Kuala Lumpur on 19-20 June 2006, the alliance has achieved good progress. However, a lot remains to be done particularly to address the slow pace progress towards the achievement of Millennium Development Goals in the least developed countries.

The ongoing world economic and financial crisis has added to the difficulties facing the least developed countries. During this changing time, UNDESA-GAID will focus on key message of how ICTs and innovation can be harnessed to meet key global challengers such as poverty eradication, the financial crisis, climate change, governance and mainstreaming gender within the broader United Nations Development Agenda.

Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Center for Capacity Building Officially Launched



HE Mr. Rousan opening TAG Center for Capacity Building in Gaza Camp, Jerash

AMMAN - Under the patronage of HE Minister of Information and Communications Technology Mr. Basem Rousan, the Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Center for Capacity Building in the Gaza refugee camp near Jerash was officially inaugurated on August 18, 2009 in the presence of Mr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, Chairman and CEO of Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization (TAG-Org), and Mr. Richard Cook, UNRWA Regional Director.

The Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Center for Capacity Building, informally opened since August 2008, will offer the Camp's residents the Abu-Ghazaleh Cambridge IT Skills Certificate program, in addition to English language skills training courses.

The Center was being established as an affiliate of a larger institution called the "Gaza Camp Community Development Center" operating under the supervision of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

In his opening remarks, HE Rousan said that the launch of a capacity building center in Gaza Camp complemented the efforts of the Ministry that seek to create knowledge development in accordance

with the vision of His Majesty King Abdullah II.

He also expressed his hope that the step would be a significant addition to the efforts of developing communities and was seen as a turning point in the lives of these communities and a new window to globalization.

"Jordan, represented by the ICT Ministry, is working hard to create a positive developmental effect on education and capacity building in the field of communication and information technology especially in areas deprived from such services," he added.

"Children and young people, whom we are meeting for their sake today, are the future agents and the most efficient and effective developmental investment, and when this category has access to the information and communication technologies through good training, it means we are helping them to progress," HE Rousan elaborated.

Mr. Abu-Ghazaleh expressed his pleasure with the launch since it would enhance to the qualification of young people in learning how to master computer and language skills, which are deemed to be the basic requirements for the labor market.



Mr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh



HE Mr. Basem Rousan



Mr. Richard Cook

"I believe that all the support provided by TAG-Org is part of its social responsibility towards the society," Mr. Abu-Ghazaleh said.

"This is only the start and I hope this project will move to other Palestinians living in refugee camps," he added.

In addition, Mr. Abu-Ghazaleh announced the projects of TAG-Org to serve the Arab society in the fields of Information and Communication Technology which include the following: Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Knowledge Society, Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Refurbished Computers Center, Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Encyclopedia (TAG-Pedia), Merging Information and Communication Technology into Education initiative.

schools in the camp and low-income groups under the 12/500 initiative.

Meanwhile, Mr. Cook commended the role of TAG-Org in making this possible.

"TAG-Org has set an excellent example of corporate social responsibility applied to sustainable community development. This has complemented and strengthened the existing community development program of UNRWA, as well as reinforced the core mandate of the Agency to meet the human development needs of the Palestinian refugee community in Jordan," Mr. Cook stated.

"This initiative will not only benefit this camp, but it is a unique situation here; there's very high unemployment rate at 39% of the population and poverty levels are consequently high, with 64% living on less than \$2 per person per day," he added.

On September 1, 2008, a cooperation agreement was signed between TAG -Org and the UNRWA in order to provide a donation to equip and commission a facility for e-training in the Community Development Center in Gaza refugee camp.

The newly established facility will provide qualification programs for the young participants from the Camp to obtain the Abu-Ghazaleh Cambridge IT Skills Certificate, and will conduct a training program that consists of subjects such as Introduction to Information Technology, Word Processing using MS Word, Presentations using MS PowerPoint and others; in addition to English language skills training and other training courses.

On the sideline of the venue, HE Rousan distributed Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Cambridge IT Skills Certificates for Gaza Camp trainers (First Class) and certificates for participants in the preparatory workshops for Gaza Camp Strategic Plan.



HE Mr. Rousan, Mr. Cook, and Mr. Abu-Ghazaleh

In respect of TAG Refurbished Computers Center, established in cooperation with the UNRWA in Gaza Camp-Jerash, a hall was set up to refurbish computers and build local capacities through the training of new graduates in the Gaza Camp. Moreover, new or used computers will be presented as a grant to

UNESCO and TAG-Org Sign Partnership Agreement

PARIS --- The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization (TAG-Org), the Jordanian-based international business services group, have recently signed a partnership agreement in Paris to work together on the building of inclusive knowledge societies and on the promotion of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) to support education, science and culture in the Arab region.

The agreement reflects the commitment of both TAG-Org and UNESCO to mobilize partners to build Arab knowledge societies, notably by increasing access to and measuring the use of ICT in different sectors of society, enhancing teacher training, and promoting Internet Domain Names in the Arabic script.

"The World Summit on the Information Society underscored the importance of a multi-stakeholder approach to helping people use the power of ICTs, to access the knowledge they need to improve their daily lives, and to achieve their full potential. UNESCO relies upon and welcomes partners such as TAG-Org to realize the vision of knowledge societies," stated Mr. Abdul Waheed Khan, Assistant Director-General for Communication and Information, UNESCO.

"As the Arab region grows in importance, it is crucial to TAG-Org and its regional operations in its 71 offices worldwide, to provide a credible profile of data in Arabic and English on the state of the Arab countries on ICT in education, science, culture, communication, and commerce. The availability of such data will assist local governments,



Mr. Khan and Mr. Abu-Ghazaleh



From the signing ceremony

institutions, and international organizations to understand gaps in ICT and to take a leading role in developing ICT infrastructure and in building ICT capacity and capability for sustainment in the context of the changing global environment," said Mr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, Founder and Chairman of TAG-Org. Such data, collected through digital surveys, digital reporting, and digital resources, will be available on a knowledge society portal created by TAG-Org in cooperation with UNESCO.

UNESCO and TAG-Org have agreed to develop an immediate action plan for the project; prepare a strategy to enhance multilingualism and internationalized Internet Domain Names; plan for implementation of UNESCO's ICT competency framework for teachers; work together to increase the availability of multilingual content on the Internet; and cooperate on a "TAG-PEDIA" project for increased local content in science and technology, literature, history, art, and many other areas.

Abu-Ghazaleh Speaks at UNCSTD Twelfth Session

GENEVA --- Mr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, Chairman and CEO of Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization (TAG-Org) tackled several global issues at the 12th session of the United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development (UNCSTD) recently held in Geneva, May 25-29, 2009.

Mr. Abu-Ghazaleh spoke at the inauguration session along with HE Ambassador Juan Eduardo Eguiguren, chair of the CSTD, who delivered the opening remarks, Dr. Supachai Panitchpakdi, secretary-general of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), Dr. Hamadoun Touré, secretary-general of ITU, Dr. Margarita Cedeño de Fernández, First Lady of the Dominican Republic, Mr. Jörg Frieden, assistant director-general of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

In his remarks, Mr. Abu-Ghazaleh tackled questions related to Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), financial crisis, innovations in IT and telecom, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) vision 2025, in addition to Intellectual Property (IP), innovation and R & D as the major weapons of economic power and competitiveness.

"We don't live in one world, the divide in more than one way is our major challenge," Mr. Abu-Ghazaleh said.

He warned that the gap between the developed and the developing countries is growing rather than narrowing adding that "we need to develop different paradigms for the developed and developing countries and we should be courageous about it," Mr. Abu-Ghazaleh stated.

According to Mr. Abu-Ghazaleh, Information Technology is moving faster than Telecom technology development.

"Industry needs to accelerate telecommunications technology development to catch up. I call on the International Telecommunication Union's (ITU) leadership to take the lead on this and to get business in full gear," he noted.

He called on governments and intergovernmental organizations to engage business as full and equal partners with equal responsibilities.

"Business is the major creator of knowledge and wealth and its role is crucial for all purposes. Thus, business should be seen as more than a subject or a tax payer for government," he added.

Mr. Abu-Ghazaleh also discussed the global financial crisis branding it an epidemic.

"The financial crisis attack has been reasonably absorbed. We now face the much more serious economic



Mr. Abu-Ghazaleh speaking at the opening session of the UNCSTD Conference

crisis attack. The first is like a hurricane. The second is like an epidemic," he said.

"The solution is not in avoiding protectionism, but is rather in a balance between liberalization and protectionism. Let us admit that this is what the developed countries are doing now," he added.

Mr. Abu-Ghazaleh will be also taking part in today's joint CSTD-ITU-GAID multistakeholders panel of discussion, a follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS).

Speaking at the same panel are HE Ambassador Eguiguren and Dr. Touré.

The 12th session of the Commission on Science and Technology will tackle development-oriented policies for socio-economic inclusive information society, infrastructure and an enabling environment, science, technology and engineering for innovation and capacity building in education and research and science, Technology and Innovation Policy (STIP) reviews. The opening ceremony was followed by two ministerial roundtables, one on science, technology and innovation, and another on the follow-up to WSIS outcomes.

The Commission, established in 1992, provides the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) with high-level advice on relevant issues related to science and technology, including ICT, through analysis and appropriate policy recommendations or options in order to enable those organs to guide the future work of the United Nations, develop common policies and agree on appropriate actions.

In 2006, the Commission was mandated by ECOSOC to serve as the focal point in the system-wide follow-up to the implementation of the outcomes of the WSIS.

The Commission meets annually for a period of one week, in Geneva, Switzerland.

TAG Refurbished Computers Project and Talal Abu-Ghazaleh's ICT Dictionary Officially Launched

AMMAN - Under the patronage of HE Eng. Basem Rousan, Minister of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) and Mr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh,



HE Mr. Basem Rousan



Mr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh

chairman of the UN Global Alliance of ICT and Development, the Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Refurbished Computers (TAG RC) project and Talal Abu-Ghazaleh's ICT Dictionary were launched on July 26, 2009 at Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Business Forum.



From the event

In his opening remarks, the Minister highlighted the private sector's contribution to achieving sustainable development "this is due to the Jordanian economic policies based on empowering the ICT sector and providing the necessary means to enhance the sector's competitiveness at the regional and international levels," Rousan said.

"The TAG RC Project and TAG's ICT Dictionary are the best examples of cooperation between the Ministry and the private sector," he added.

In addition, Rousan underscored the vision of His Majesty King Abdullah II stating that "technology is of a great significance in his Majesty's agenda since it is one of the major driving forces to achieve sustainable economic development."

Meanwhile, Mr. Abu-Ghazaleh, chairman & CEO of Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization (TAG-Org), commended the Ministry's ongoing achievements in the ICT sector pointing out that Internet penetration in the Kingdom has reached 26% and 22,000 job opportunities have been created in the ICT field adding \$2 billion to the national income.

"In my capacity as GAID Chairman, I would like also to praise His Excellency's plans to achieve a 50% Internet penetration creating 35,000 job opportunities by the end of 2011 in a strategy that incorporates the whole country and not limited to the cities only," he added.

In respect of TAG RC project, Mr. Abu-Ghazaleh explained that it aimed at renovating and utilizing old computers for educational purposes.

"TAG RC project is the outcome of the vision of Ban Ki-moon, UN General Secretary to launch the Refurbished Computers project globally and Jordan was one of the first countries where this initiative has been materialized," he explained.

The event also witnessed the signing of Talal Abu-Ghazaleh ICT Dictionary which is one of TAG-Org's initiatives that aims at standardizing and unifying the IT language and enriching the Arabic language with the modern terminologies.

On the sideline of the ceremony, Mr. Mutasem As-saf received Adel Al Sa'di Award for outstanding performance in the Arab Certified Public Accountant (ACPA) examination conducted by the Arab Society of Certified Accountants. Al Sa'di was one of the pioneering founders of the Society.

High-ranking officials, diplomats and government representatives in addition to a number of the concerned parties attended the event.

Assaf Receives ACPA's Adel Al-Saadi Award for Excellence



HE Mr. Rousan presenting Adel Al-Saadi Award for Excellence to Mr. Assaf

AMMAN - Jordan Minister of Information and Communications Technology Eng. Bassem Rousan presented Adel Al-Saadi Award for Excellence to the outstanding student Mr. Mutasem Naji Najib Assaf from Al-Khobar Center in Saudi Arabia for achieving the first rank in the 2008 Arab Certified Public Accountant (ACPA) examinations held by the Arab Society of Certified Accountants (ASCA).

Rousan presented the award, in the presence of Mr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, ASCA chairman, during the recent launching ceremony of Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Refurbished Computers (TAG RC) project and Talal Abu-Ghazaleh's ICT Dictionary which was held July 26, 2009.

Mr. Abu-Ghazaleh expressed his satisfaction with the achievement made by Mr. Assaf, & emphasized his continuous support for outstanding students in all fields.

Meanwhile, Mr. Assaf extended his appreciation for the organizers of this award saying that receiving the ACPA certificate is an important achievement in his career, which drives him for more creativity and excellence.

The award is named after Mr. Adel Al-Saadi as an appreciation for his efforts and in memory of one of ASCA's most prominent founders and a former Board member.

This award is considered one of ASCA's initiatives presented by its Chairman Mr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, who seeks to disseminate knowledge in the fields of accounting and finance.

The outstanding student is awarded a cash prize of five thousand dollars and a certificate of excellence for each course of ACPA examinations.

Abu-Ghazaleh Tackles ICT for Development, World Economic Crisis and GAID's New Mission at ESCWA Conference in Syria

DAMASCUS - Under the patronage of the Government of Syria, Mr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, chairman and CEO of Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization (TAG-Org), delivered the opening statement at the "Follow-up to the Implementation of the World Summit on Information Society (WSIS) Outcomes in Western Asia" conference which opened on June 16, 2009 in Damascus.

This event, organized by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), aims at tracking and revising the implementation of the outcomes of the WSIS, in addition to updating the regional plans of action to build the information society in Western Asia.

In his opening remarks, Mr. Abu-Ghazaleh, chairman, UN Global Alliance for ICT and Development (GAID), discussed various topics among which are Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) for Development, the world economic crisis, innovation and GAID's mission.

Mr. Abu-Ghazaleh who was recently elected GAID Chair announced a new mission statement to GAID's leadership.

"United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)-GAID shall act as an inclusive, multi-stakeholder global forum, composed of representatives from public, private and civil society sectors as well as international organizations, for policy dialogue and partnership-building to promote the use of ICT for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and to enable and catalyze multi-stakeholder partnership for action un-

der the GAID umbrella," he said.

"UNDESA-GAID should address the slow pace of progress towards the achievement of the MDGs at the heart of developing countries and the added difficulties by the ongoing world economic and financial crises," he added.

According to Mr. Abu-Ghazaleh, "UNDESA-GAID will focus its key message on how ICTs and innovation can be harnessed to meet key global challenges such as poverty eradication, the financial crisis, climate change, governance and mainstreaming gender within the broader United Nations Development Agenda."

The upcoming GAID Global Forum will be held Sept. 2-4, 2009 in Monterrey, where leaders from governments, the private sector, civil society and academia will get together for a focused dialogue on how to bring about innovation for education in policies and practices.

Mr. Abu-Ghazaleh also discussed the economic crisis by labeling it as an epidemic.

"The financial crisis attack has been reasonably absorbed. We now face the much more serious economic crisis attack. The first is like a hurricane. The second is like an epidemic," he said.

"I call on governments and intergovernmental organizations to engage business as full and equal partners with equal responsibilities. Business is the major creator of knowledge and wealth. Business role is crucial for all purposes. Business should be seen only as more than a subject or a tax payer for government, but as a partner," he added.

And on Innovation.

"Innovations in IT were ac-



Mr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh delivering his opening remarks at the Conference

celerated by business profit motivation. The freedom in cyberspace encouraged greater investment in IT," Mr. Abu-Ghazaleh said.

"Telecom is to be credited for its role as a medium for the Internet. Yet telecom should become more of a free space in itself rather than just a free space for IT. Governments and Business should jointly work towards that goal," he added.

In addition, Mr. Abu-Ghazaleh shed light on various initiatives launched by TAG-Org to help humanity such as the Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Knowledge Society (TAG-Knowledge) and TAG-PEDIA, an Arabic monitored content, Wikipedia like and virtual encyclopedia.

The conference will review developments in the ICT sector from a regional point of view, namely those concerning the implementation of WSIS outcomes, the Regional Plan of Action (RPOA) for Building the Information Society in Western Asia, and the Arab ICT Strategy.

It will give prominence to such issues as the promotion of the digital Arabic content industry and the online Arabic cultural heritage, as well as the progress and prospects on the Arabic Domain Names.

Participants in the conference include ministers, policy-makers and decision-makers who are directly involved in the implementa-

tion of WSIS action lines as well as regional and national plans in Arab countries in general, and particularly in the ESCWA member countries.

Conferees will discuss issues directly related to the recommendations, resolutions and action lines of the two WSIS phases (Geneva 2003 and Tunis 2005) and of similar national and regional strategies and plans of action. They will also identify new projects for inclusion in the RPOA and in other plans of action, including the updated Arab ICT Strategy. The conference is expected to underline ICT use for regional development and empowering marginalized groups.

ESCWA conference is held in partnership with the two main WSIS coordinators, the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Other partners include the League of Arab States (LAS), the Arab ICT Organization (AICTO), the Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics (AITRS), the Global Alliance for ICT and Development (GAID), Cisco, the International Development Research Center (IDRC), Microsoft, the Syrian Computer Society (SCS), and Syrian Telecom (STE), and Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization (TAG-Org).

UAE TANMIA and TAG-Org Sign MoU



From the signing ceremony

DUBAI - Mr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, chairman and CEO of Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization (TAG-Org) and Her Excellency Fadah Abdulla Lootah, acting director general of TANMIA, the national human resource development and employment authority, have recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) according to which TAG-Org will offer its training and qualifying services.

The MoU covers all aspects of cooperation in training; human development; management consulting services; information technology and translation services in addition to others.

"TANMIA aims at employing national human resources and decreasing foreign workforce; in addition to preparing and qualifying the citizens who wish to enter the job market," HE Lootah stated.

According to the MoU, both parties will cooperate in conducting a number of training courses related to the programs and certificates offered by TAG-Org. TANMIA will enlist all these programs in its training annual plans; meanwhile, the Organization will provide TANMIA with training expertise.

"My election as the Chairman of the UN Global Alliance for ICT and Development (GAID) paves the way for me to employ all the efforts and resources available to help TANMIA and the region as a whole," Mr. Abu-Ghazaleh said.

He, moreover, recommended the establishment of a regional center for GAID in the GCC region entitled "the GCC GAID Network Center" and to be based in the UAE.

In addition, Mr. Abu-Ghazaleh explained that the concept of both Talal Abu-Ghazaleh College of Business (TAG-College) and Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Confucius can be implemented in the UAE pointing out that TAG-Org can cooperate with TANMIA in this regard.

During the signing ceremony, Mr. Abu-Ghazaleh also shed light on the Islamic Finance certificate issued by TAG-Org in cooperation with the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA) in addition to the Arab Accounting Technician certificate and the possibility to benefit from these certificates in the job market.

Mr. Abu-Ghazaleh also suggested implementing a project to support small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) with TANMIA under the supervision of TAG-Org through SME's Tool Box.

An advisory board comprises of TAG-Org professionals will be established to provide consultancies and guidance to TANMIA on all areas and all planned future projects. In addition, a four-member committee will be formed that equally represents TAG-Org and TANMIA to follow up on the proper implementation of the MoU.

ASCA and Damascus University Sign Cooperation Agreement

DAMASCUS -- Damascus University and the Arab Society of Certified Accountants (ASCA) signed on June 17, 2009 a Cooperation Agreement to enhance collaboration between the two parties in different fields such as professional qualification and training.

Signing the Agreement were Mr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, ASCA president and Dr. Wael Mualla, president of Damascus University.

The parties agreed on considering the Accounting Practice Office at the Faculty of Economy - Damascus University the official body in implementing this Agreement through providing specialized training programs. In addition, the Office will be responsible for conducting training courses in the fields of legal accounting and auditing, workshops as well as seminars to promote ASCA's Arab Certified Public Accountant (ACPA) program.

Under terms of the Agreement, the Office shall also provide training means, materials and professional

staff in the fields of Accounting and Finance.

Moreover, the Agreement entails that the ACPA program shall be accredited at all colleges, institutes and training centers in different Arab countries. In this respect, the University and the Society will cooperate in convening ACPA's professional examinations in which they will both mutually supervise the process.

The two parties furthermore agreed on promoting and disseminating the professional publications translated into Arabic by ASCA and issued by the International Federation of Accountants, the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) and Wiley.

The Arab Certified Public Accountant (ACPA) program was developed in accordance with the accredited accountant qualification curriculum issued by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). The curriculum consists of



Mr. Abu-Ghazaleh and Dr. Mualla signing the cooperation Agreement

eight papers offered in Arabic except for the eighth paper, which is offered in English or French as an additional syllabus.

ASCA is an Arab regional professional society dedicated to the promotion of the highest accounting, auditing and ethical standards and to capacity building through the institution of globally recognized educational and examination qualification programs.

UN Official Calls for Utilizing ICT for the Peoples' Welfare

Khan Tackles UN's Role in Development at TAG-Business Forum

AMMAN - Mr. Sarbuland Khan, executive coordinator of the Global Alliance for Information and Communication Technology and Development (GAID), stressed that new technologies could serve the United Nations in its mission to develop health and education sectors and reduce poverty levels worldwide.

This call came during his lecture entitled the "United Nations Role in Development" at the Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Business Forum (TAG-Forum) / German-Jordanian University delivered on June 15, 2009, with the attendance of Mr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, chairman of the Global Alliance for ICT and Development of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA-GAID).

At the beginning of the lecture,



Mr. Abu-Ghazaleh and Mr. Khan during the lecture

Mr. Khan congratulated Mr. Abu-Ghazaleh for being appointed the new UNDESA-GAID Chairman.

"I am fully confident that Mr. Abu-Ghazaleh will succeed in leading the UNDESA-GAID towards progress and outstanding achievements," he said.

Meanwhile, Mr. Khan highlighted

the important role the UN plays in assisting the underdeveloped countries all over the world through coordinating emergency relief efforts across the globe by working in close collaboration with national governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the private sector.

Moreover, he discussed various issues among which are development, education and ICT stating that ICT should be employed for the welfare of the nations by using it in boosting healthcare, creating new jobs and promoting innovation. High-ranking diplomats along with officials from the UN organizations, government and NGOs; in addition to media representatives attended the event.

E-City for King Hamad Ibn Isa Al Khalifa Delegation Visits TAG-Org



Mr. Abu-Ghazaleh, Mr. Mohamed , Mr. Qarta and a number of TAG-Org executive directors and managers

AMMAN - A high profile delegation from the E-City for King Hamad Ibn Isa Al Khalifa discussed on July 27, 2009 various ways of cooperation with Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization (TAG-Org).

Headed by the General Secretary of the E-City Mr. Tariq Mohamed Alqudwa and the General Manager of Bahrain Center for Royal Studies at the E-City Mr. Ahmed Abedulwahed Qarta, the delegation tackled several key issues related to the work of the E-City and the various services presented by TAG-Org.

During the meeting with TAG-Org Chairman and CEO Mr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, both parties displayed means of cooperation in the fields of training, education and Information Technology.

Mr. Abu-Ghazaleh accepted their invitation to join the E-City's International Advisory Committee.

The high ranking representatives extended their congratulations to Mr. Abu-Ghazaleh for his appointment as the Chairman of United Nations Global Alliance for Information Communication Technology and Development (UN-GAID).

Mr. Abu-Ghazaleh stated that he will employ all the efforts and resources available in his capacity as the Chairman of the UN-GAID to enhance the ICT field in the Arab region in general and the Gulf countries in particular.

The Bahraini officials were briefed about TAG-Org's various services and companies such as TAG Information Technology International, TAG Real Estate, the Arab Quality Assurance and Accreditation Network, the Arab Knowledge and Management Society, TAG-Academies among others.

On the sideline of their visit, the Bahraini delegates met with high ranking government officials and ex-

perts and were introduced to the latest high-tech resolutions.

At Jordan's Ministry of Information and Communications Technology (ICT), the delegation met with HE Minister Basem Rousan who underlined his Ministry's current and future projects.

While at the National Information Technology Center (NITC), Engineer Nasser Khalaf, head of the Center, introduced the delegation with a brief about the Knowledge Stations project which was launched in 2001. This project is intended to implement IT in local communities in remote areas in preparation for the E-government process. The NITC was mandated with the execution of the project after it conducted a study on the best practice in selecting the sites for the Knowledge Stations in the different governorates and local communities. The Bahraini delegation expressed the need to transfer the Knowledge Stations' model to Bahrain.

The end of the delegation's tour was at the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) where they met with the managers of the technical units at the Society's Information Technology Center.

It is worth mentioning that negotiations are underway to sign a cooperation agreement between TAG-Org and the Center, therefore, any future collaboration between the Bahraini E-city and the RSS's Center will be conducted through the Organization.

The E-City for King Hamad Ibn Isa Al Khalifa is a national initiative which aims at providing academic and training programs, introducing the efforts of His Majesty the King in establishing solid ground towards a civilized and institutionalized society in addition to others.

LES-AC Chairman Takes Part in the 14th Al-Basel Exhibition for Creativity and Invention

DAMASCUS --- Mr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, chairman of the Licensing Executives Society - Arab Countries (LES-AC) took part in the 14th Al-Basel Exhibition for Creativity and Invention opened on July 15, 2009 at the Damascus Fairgrounds with the participation of 600 Arab and foreign inventors.

On the sidelines of the six-day exhibition, the Society organized a workshop entitled "Promoting Technology through Licensing" which was attended by government representatives, researchers, attorneys and researchers from the Arab and foreign countries that participated in the venue.

Throughout the workshop, the participants were introduced to the concept of licensing as a means for promoting technology; licensing as an effective tool to boost developing economies; and the licensing's role in enhancing productivity and improving services and competitiveness.

Mr. Abu-Ghazaleh highly commended Syria's efforts to support invention and creativity in the country calling for similar events and activities such as Al-Basel Exhibition to be organized throughout the Arab region.

At the end of the workshop, Mr. Abu-Ghazaleh handed certificates of attendance to the participants.

This exhibition, organized by the Ministry of Economy and Trade in cooperation with the League of Arab States, the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the Syrian Inventors Association, is a unique opportunity to bring together innovators, inventors and investors in one place.



Mr. Abu-Ghazaleh receives Al-Basel shield for Creativity and Invention from Dr. Lutfi

SAGIA Grants TAG-ITI License in Saudi Arabia

RIYADH - Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Information Technology International (TAG-ITI), a member of Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization (TAG-Org) announced on July 19, 2009 that the Saudi Arabia General Investment Authority (SAGIA) has granted the company a license in Saudi Arabia.

"This license is part of TAG-ITI's plan to expand in the Arab countries and it will enable us to reach out to our clients and offer them our services," Mr. Jamal Al Khalili, TAG-ITI executive director said.

"TAG-ITI offers various services such as IT audit, ERP, website development and audit and business solutions," Mr. Khalili added.

TAG-ITI provides its clients with professional services of outstanding quality, competence and objectivity, delivering the best solutions to fully satisfy clients' objectives in Information Technology.

About SAGIA

The Saudi Arabian General Investment Authority (SAGIA) Saudi Arabian General Investment Authority, was established in 2000 as part of the new foreign investment law in Saudi Arabia. Its purpose is to attract investment to Saudi Arabia and more recently its mandate has evolved to encompass the enhancement of the Kingdom's overall competitiveness.

SAGIA

plans to attract sufficient investment to achieve rapid and sustainable economic growth in Saudi Arabia, capitalizing on the Kingdom's competitive strengths as the global capital of energy and as a major hub between East and West.

During his visit to Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Knowledge Society

Jordan's ICT Minister Calls for Promoting the Society's Initiative throughout the Kingdom

AMMAN - HE Eng. Basem Rousan, Minister of Information and Communications Technology (ICT), visited on July 22 2009 Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Knowledge Society (TAG-Knowledge) headquarters.

The Minister emphasized the significance of utilizing ICT tools specially in remote areas due to its direct effect on accelerating social and economic growth and development.

In this regard, Rousan commended TAG-Knowledge's role in enhancing the university students' skills and experiences through research and studies available on the Internet in addition to strengthening social responsibility among them calling for exchanging expertise between the existing knowledge entities in Jordan and TAG-Knowledge.

Meanwhile, Mr. Tareq Hammad, TAG-Knowledge manager, welcomed the Minister's visit which represents cooperation between the public and private sectors in serving the higher education sector in Jordan.

Hammad revealed TAG-Knowledge's tendency to set up other branches for the Society in the Al-Yarmouk and Mu'ta universities.

Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Knowledge Society (TAG-Knowledge) is the latest initiative taken by Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization - the Arab organization for global professional services and the regional



HE. Mr. Rousan touring TAG-Knowledge



HE Mr. Rousan and a number of TAG-Org managers

professional leader with 71 offices in 29 countries & over 2000 professionals.

Targeting the Arab youth and striving at the aid of human resource development, TAG-Knowledge aims to grant modern tools and the latest in the information

and communication technology field. Its mission being the delivery of a larger number of well-rounded local professionals, with the competitive edge resulting from international exposure, all provided by a one-stop-hub under the support of TAG-Org experts.

Bahrain's E-City Delegation Visits TAG-Knowledge

AMMAN - High ranking officials from the E-City for King Hamad Ibn Isa Al Khalifa toured on July 27, 2009 the Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Knowledge Society (TAG-Knowledge) during an official visit to Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization (TAG-Org).

Mr. Tareq Hammad, TAG-Knowledge executive director, welcomed the delegation and explained TAG-Knowledge's role in enhancing the university students' skills and experiences through research and studies available on the Internet in addition to strengthening social responsibility among them.

Hammad revealed TAG-Knowledge's tendency to set up other branches for the Society in the Al-Yarmouk and Mu'ta universities.

During the visit, the delegation represented by the General Secretary of the E-City Mr. Tariq Mohamed Alqudwa and the General Manager of Bahrain Center for Royal Studies at the E-City Mr. Ahmed Abedulwahed Qarta expressed their satisfaction with the level of services the Society provides and called for future cooperation between the Society and the E-City.

The E-City for King Hamad Ibn Isa Al Khalifa is a national initiative which aims at providing academic and training programs, introducing the efforts of His Majesty the King in establishing solid ground towards a civilized and institutionalized society in addition to others.



Mr. Hammad , Mr. Alqudwa and Mr. Qarta



TAG-Capital Registered in Syria

DAMASCUS - Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization (TAG-Org) announced on July 28, 2009 that Abu-Ghazaleh Financial Services Company, LLC (TAG-Capital) has been registered in Syria after fulfilling the key requirements of the registration.

TAG-Capital Syria is a financial consulting company specialized in the management of Initial Public Offerings (IPOs) for joint stock companies.

"The legal and financial procedures for the registration of the company have been completed and it will obtain the official license soon to start its activity," Dr. Fadi Abdul Hamid, executive Director of Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Consulting (TAG-Consulting), a member of TAG-Org, said.

The registration of the Syrian company as a new member of the Organization is part of its plans to register financial consulting firms, including companies specialized in IPOs. TAG-Capital has completed the registration procedures and submitted a number of applications for registration in several Arab countries.

TAG-Org is a global organization in 71 offices and 180 correspondents, for all your business needs: auditing, valuation, management consulting, ICT development, business advisory, training, educational consultancy, capital services, human resources development, real estate consulting, translation, legal service, intellectual property rights protection and domain name registration.

TAG-Knowledge Highlights Social Responsibility during Voluntary Day

AMMAN - Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Knowledge Society (TAG-Knowledge) invited on July 4, 2009 university students and youth institutions to join in the Voluntary Day at Al-Hussein Cultural Center organized by Siraj Program and sponsored by Queen Rania Center for Entrepreneurship and the Technology Book Company.

Around 80 students and representatives from various societies took part in the event armed with voluntary ideas for a better social responsibility.

Several workshops, lectures and presentations were presented to the attendees focusing on skills of voluntary work, planning and strategy of voluntary work, developing the work of voluntary societies in addition to others related issues.

Mr. Tareq Hammad, Tag-Knowledge executive director expressed his satisfaction with the Voluntary Day saying: "It is a great team work by all volunteers who showed keen interest in their



From the workshop

work and presented several ideas that can be implemented for the future of voluntary work."

Mr. Hammad gave a presentation on the role of the private sector in developing the social responsibility in the society and also thanked all volunteers for their dedication and effort.

TAG-Knowledge Conducts First Training Course with IEEE/ Hashemite University Branch

AMMAN - Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Knowledge Society (TAG-Knowledge) conducted the first training course entitled "Effective Communication Skills" in cooperation with the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc. (IEEE)/the Hashemite University branch on July 25, 2009 at the Society's premises.

Earlier this month, TAG-Knowledge signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the (IEEE)/the Hashemite University branch according to which training courses will be conducted in the administrative, financial and technical fields.

The course addressed a number of issues most



Participants in the training course

important of which are the concept of communication process; its major elements; obstacles encountered in communication; means to solve them; written communication skills; and practical examples of written and oral communication.

Fifteen students from different universities attended the training and commended its high level.

ICANN and Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization Co-organize Domain

Names Meeting in Abu Dhabi

New IDN & gTLD programs unveiled



ABU DHABI - The Internet address system will soon be open to greater customization and localization through two new initiatives unveiled during a meeting held on August 4, 2009 in Abu Dhabi, UAE for the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN).

The Corporation's new Internationalized Domain Name (IDN) and the generic Top-Level-Domain (gTLD) programs reflect the growing ubiquity of the Internet on a global scale and demands for new ways to customize its application.

Abu Dhabi's meeting was organized in coordination with Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization (TAG-Org) represented by its member company, Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Information Technology International (TAGITI) in Abu Dhabi.

The event was part of a series of global meetings hosted by ICANN for members of the Internet, government and business communities to familiarize the Internet's users with the newly established programs.

The IDN program allows for the introduction of Internet address names comprised of non-Latin based language characters, including Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, Korean and Russian. Internet penetration in the Middle East is currently at 23%, representing user growth in excess of 1,250% since the year 2000. Growing use of the Internet has been further driven by availability of online Arabic language content and applications.

In conjunction, the new gTLD addresses - that portion of a web address name that appears to the right of the dot (i.e., .com, .org, .asia, etc) - will ex-

pand on the existing 21 domains available for registration. ICANN is proposing that the limitations and restrictions be lifted and the opportunity for new gTLDs be broadened to allow all varieties of names and words.

Such developments will enable the Arab world to have access to Arabic language domain names for the first time ever. Mr. Jawad Abu Jwaied, TAG-ITI manager, described the meeting and the introduced programs as a remarkable development and a historic turning point for the Internet into a new era with no barriers.

The impact of these new programs is expected to be significant on the Arab world, with growing numbers of people who will be able to completely access the Internet in their native language. The programs will also allow greater opportunities for local and international companies and brands that are considering extending their online presence in the region.

Companies will be able to establish their brands online in the names that are best known to their target audience in Arabic. In the past, they were forced to use English-language names which may not be familiar to a large segment of the public.

The new IDN web addresses are expected to be available later this year, with the gTLD application process expected to begin in 2010.

The ICAAN is a global not-for-profit public-benefit corporation that oversees the coordination of international IP addresses and domain names.

TAG-Org is the largest Arab group of professional service firms in the fields of auditing, valuation, management consulting, ICT development, business advisory, training, educational consultancy, capital services, human resources development, real estate consulting, translation, legal service, Intellectual Property Rights protection and domain name registration.

Qatar Charity Honors TAGCO- Qatar

DOHA - Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Consultants (TAGCO) –Qatar Office received on June 2, 2009 an acknowledgement certificate from Qatar Charity in appreciation for its efforts in developing the Charity's financial procedures and policies.

Qatar Charity held a closing ceremony to honor its accountants after receiving a training course on financial procedures and policies and completing a training course on accounting program called Microsoft (GP) Dynamics

During the course, accountants were introduced to financial procedures and policies in addition to the financial list prepared by TAGCO Qatar for external offices.

The training included unifying the financial system amongst the financial departments regarding the policies adopted in financial recog-



Participants in the training course

nition processes under the basis of accounting maturities.

The one week course was attended by the accounting department officers in Qatar Charity's offices located in Indonesia, Bangladesh, Sudan, Niger, Pakistan along with Qatar.

TAG-Recruit Participates in Different Job Fairs

AMMAN – The Abu-Ghazaleh Professional Recruitment (TAG-Recruit), a member of Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization, took part in the job fairs organized and held by the Petra and Al Zaytouna Universities.

In addition, TAG-Recruit in cooperation with Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Knowledge Society (TAG-Knowledge) participated in Philadelphia University's job fair.

TAG-Recruit's participation had a positive impact on helping newly graduates to prepare their curriculum vitae and be familiar with the know-how of job interviews.

TAG-Recruit aims at ensuring a greater under-

standing and in- depth knowledge of various sectors within each and every industry, having access to large amounts of resources of highly qualified candidates, and utilizing advanced methodologies to best assess and evaluate candidates and clients.

TAG-Recruit is a firm specialized in offering distinctive recruitment services to organizations and individuals through human resources and cadres trained and prepared for this purpose. It does not only recruit those qualified to fill available positions, but also goes beyond that to utilize the most ideal selection methods along with assessment, provision of advice and guidance and assisting in the explanation of their job duties.



Ms. Nivin Shehab receives an honorary shield from Dr. Abd Al Baqi, Dean of Arts Faculty/ Al Zaytouna University



TAG-Org's booth

ASCA Jordan Issues the IFRS 2009 in Arabic

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TAG-Org's booth

The course addressed a number of issues most important of which are the concept of communication process; its major elements; obstacles encountered in communication; means to solve them; written communication skills; and practical examples of written and oral communication.

Fifteen students from different universities attended the training and commended its high level.

ASCA Jordan Issues the IFRS 2009 in Arabic

AMMAN --- The Arab Society of Certified Accountants (ASCA) - Jordan has issued the approved Arabic version of the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) 2009". This edition includes changes made since 2008 which were incorporated in this edition of the IFRS volume.

Basic changes contained in this edition are summarized as follows:-

A revised version of IFRS 1 "First-time Adoption of International Financial Reporting Standards". The revised IFRS 1 is required to be applied from July 1, 2009. Earlier application is permitted.

Amendments to IFRSs that were issued as separate documents.

Amendments to IFRSs issued in the first annual improvements project.

Amendments to other IFRSs resulting from those revised or amended standards.

Three new interpretations for the International Financial Reporting Interpretations Committee (IFRICs) 15-17.

IFRIC 15 "Agreements for the Construction of Real Estate"

IFRIC 16 "Hedges of a Net Investment in a Foreign Operation"

IFRIC 17 "Distributions of Non-cash Assets to Owners"

ASCA -Jordan continuously seeks to develop the accounting and management sciences as well as the associated and relevant principles applicable to all or some of the professional services. The Society also endeavors to develop the competence, practice, and conduct according to the highest professional levels through updates in accounting and auditing professions.



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