

Resalatuna

Al-Mehanieh

February 2009



TALAL ABU-GHAZALEH ORGANIZATION

We Work Hard to Stay First



AFRO-ASIAN INITIATIVE A COUNCIL FOR BUSINESSES, ANOTHER FOR WISEMEN

Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization:
Professional Services in a Changing Global Economy Era

Academic Partnership
with the Naval Post Graduate School, Monterey

In Cooperation with Egypt's CAO A :
Ambitious Program to Qualify HR Officials



Association for Geographical Indications Protection, Another for Famous Brand Names



Issued by the Media Department at Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization (TAG-Org)

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

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Editor's Note

Afro-Asian Initiative: A New Challenge

As usual, the Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization has kicked off the New Year with a remarkable achievement, adding to its success and further enhancing its position in the international arena.

The "Afro-Asian Knowledge-Based Society Initiative" International Founders' Conference was highly commended by all the high-ranking delegates and officials in attendance. Crucial issues were tackled, touching on the lives of millions throughout Africa and Asia, with special emphasis on the needs of the underprivileged in this world.

The conference set the basic rules and principles and, to ensure proper implementation, Mr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh has been elected chairman of the initiative. After all, Abu-Ghazaleh has been the creative force behind the establishment of this initiative, and his chairmanship will facilitate its success due to his generous support, sound judgment, vast experience and extensive international connections.

The task won't be easy, yet the Afro-Asian peoples are looking forward to translating the results of the Conference into reality. This requires that decision makers in Africa and Asia take on the necessary means to create a suitable environment for the development of knowledge-based societies in their countries, according to the plans and programs set by the initiative.

Today, we are facing a challenge; however, we are full of confidence and faith that we can successfully overcome obstacles and promote the welfare of the Afro-Asian peoples.

Our mission will always be "Serving the Arab world yesterday, today and tomorrow". Everything we do today is just paving the path for what we will do tomorrow. We are looking forward to more effective developments in what we do and how we do it while the region witnesses more progress towards a knowledge-based society.

Talal Abu-Ghazaleh

Afro-Asian Wisemen Council to Be Established and Abu-Ghazaleh Elected Afro-Asian Initiative Chairman



Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Elected Chairman of the Afro-Asian Initiative

CAIRO – Under the patronage of Dr. Ahmed Nazif, Prime Minister of the Republic of Egypt, the Afro-Asian Knowledge-Based Society Initiative Founders' Conference was held in Cairo, January 11-12, 2009.

The event was organized by the Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organization (AAPSO) and the Arab Knowledge and Management Society (AKMS) in cooperation with the Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization (TAG-Org), with the participation of high-ranking delegates and experts in the field of information and communication technology (ICT) from both Africa and Asia.

Deputizing for H.E. Prime Minister Ahmed Nazif, Dr. Tarek Kamel, Minister of Communications and Information Technology, inaugurated the event.

Attending the Conference were Dr.

Boutros Boutros-Ghali, former UN Secretary-General and chairman of Egypt's National Council for Human Rights (NCHR) as well as a number of Arab and foreign ministers and ambassadors, representatives of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and high-ranking officials from Africa and Asia; in addition to AAPSO's committees and AKMS and TAG-Org's experts.

Establishing an Afro-Asian Network to Exchange Information

In his opening remarks, Kamel expressed his appreciation for this event that practically translates the decisions taken by the African Summit Conference convened in Sharm El-Sheikh last June.

"This event is inspired by the strategic historic inauguration speech delivered by President Hosni Mubarak, where he emphasized the necessity of establishing cooperation networks in economy, development and infrastructure fields," he stated.

Talal Abu-Ghazaleh was elected the Afro-Asian Knowledge-Based Society Initiative chairman.

The following results were reached:

First: Institutionalize the Conference to be convened on a regular basis to maintain communication.

Second: Considering participants at the Founders' Conference members in the temporary Founding Preparatory Committee; considering the Steering and Guidance Committee a permanent and stable mechanism to resume the efforts to convene conferences and



Mr. Ahmad Hamroush



Dr. Tarek Kamel



Mr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh



Dr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali



Mr. Abdel-Hamid Mamdouh



Mr. Abdul Waheed Khan



Mr. Said Kamal

seminars, and any other activities agreed upon by the Founders' Conference or stated in the Cairo Declaration.

Third:

- A) Building an Afro-Asian network to exchange information at a low cost, and involving communities from both continents in the information necessary to comprehend the latest technical developments
- B) Establishing advisory companies connected to international organizations
- C) Establishing companies that provide solutions to serve as extensions to advisory companies
- D) Establishing an Afro-Asian council to implement the decisions to revive the Bandung Principles issued during the Afro-Asian Summit held in Jakarta, April 2005
- E) Forming an Afro-Asian Wisemen Council that includes leaders, intellects and scientists who contributed to the development of both continents
- F) Representing the Afro-Asian Initiative in the Non-Aligned Movement Summit meetings to be held in July 2009 in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt
- G) Seeking to be a member at the UN Economic and Social Council
- H) Joining the TAG-Org and UNESCO

initiative to prepare a report and working plan to develop the Arab knowledge-based society to be expanded to include Afro-Asian countries

Fourth: Asking decision-makers in Asian and African countries to implement the necessary measures to create an environment that allows the development of "information societies" through regional cooperation between communities of both continents. AKMS experts can help achieve that by focusing on the following:

- * Facilitating access to and use of technical information sources.
- * Providing decision-makers with supporting and appropriate information.
- * Enabling business enterprises and the public to benefit from using information and knowledge.
- * Providing information flow for communication with all parts of the world.

Fifth: Participants recommended the development of an Afro-Asian initiative to achieve the knowledge-based economy; and this requires development and improvement in the following four major areas: Human resources, sources of information, institutional and administrative systems and technical resources.

And accordingly, the following is required:

- * Setting up and implementing a new educational plan for mastering IT including the Internet and multi-communications.
- * Establishing the infrastructure of the Afro-Asian Informatics.
- * Developing necessary legislation for the transmission of technology through licensing and franchise agreements and as a necessary transitional stage for the development of advanced national technology.
- * Developing an integrated and strict system for protection of Intellectual Property Rights for inventions, trademarks, copyrights and other components of knowledge.

In conclusion, the participants confirmed that the peoples of Africa and Asia stand today facing a new civilization challenge and affirm the confidence and ability to achieve victory, through work with determination and dedication; as development, progress and building, as we can see today, will be exclusive to knowledge-makers.



Cairo Declaration ... Responsibility and Commitment

We, the delegates of the African and Asian countries participating in the International Founders' Conference for the Afro-Asian Knowledge-Based Society Initiative in Cairo on January 11-12, 2009, declare and confirm our desire and commitment to build an Afro-Asian Knowledge-Based Society that will target all segments of society and provide them, wherever they are in the two continents, with access to information and knowledge that they will be able to use, share and exchange.

Our Conference offered a unique opportunity to educate our societies on the advantages and significance of information and communication technology (ICT), with its potential to make a valuable transformation in the activities and practical lives of all African and Asian peoples, enhancing their confidence in their future.

Accordingly, we confirm our determination to implement the recommendations of the Conference, and to embark and take every possible action to bridge the digital divide between our countries and the world. We reiterate that governments, the private sector, civil society, competent international bodies and the United Nations have roles to play, cooperating and taking action towards enabling the Afro-Asian people to build and enhance their ICT and knowledge infrastructure, and build human capacity in a manner which helps to achieve the objectives of the Conference in creating an Afro-Asian Knowledge-Based Society.

We also stress the right of the peoples of Africa and Asia to contribute to the creation of knowledge. We recognize that the revolution in ICT has become essential for sustainable development, achieving economic growth and development, increasing productivity and ensuring the

flow of investments. Further, ICT promotes the capacity of businesses and micro, small- and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), which represent the largest segment of the national economy and offer the greatest number of jobs.

Accordingly, in order to achieve and promote peace and security sought by the ICT revolution, we call on the global community to stand up to its duty of ensuring that the peoples of the Afro-Asian countries have affordable access to this technology so as to bridge the digital divide, and to give due attention and priority to vulnerable, marginalized, disadvantaged and isolated groups, and enabling attention to women.

We are convinced that by will and resolve, through cooperation and partnership between governments, private sectors and stakeholders supported by international cooperation and solidarity, these goals can be achieved. We will resolutely continue our efforts after this Conference to overcome and address the challenges in order to build a real Afro-Asian information society for the benefit of our people and organizations.

Therefore, the Conference has decided to consider the Steering Committee as a permanent mechanism that will follow up on the implementation of the resolutions and directives of the Founders' Conference for the Afro-Asian Knowledge-Based Society Initiative.

We are committed to the full implementation of the results of this Conference and the contents of this Declaration.

Issued in Cairo on January 12, 2009

Working Sessions

Session I : A Changing World Order: The Need for Creating an Afro-Asian Network

Chairperson: H.E. Ahmad Obeidat, former Prime Minister of Jordan

Speakers: - H.E. Mohamed Fayek, former Minister of Information of Egypt and Member of the National Council for Human Rights

- Mr. Al-Sayed Yassin, Adviser to Al-Ahram Center for Political and Strategic Studies and Professor of Political Sociology at the National Center for Social and Criminological Research in Cairo

- Mr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, President of the Arab Knowledge and Management Society (AKMS)

Rapporteur: Mr. Talal Awadi, Executive Director for Media, TAG-Org



Session II : Knowledge Society: Policymakers, Facilitating the Identification & Use of Technological Solutions & the Creation of an Enabling Environment

Chairperson: H.E. Ambassador Dr. Diery Seck, Director of the UN African Institute for Economic Development and Planning, Senegal

Speakers: - Dr. Salem Al-Agtash, ICT Advisor - TAG-Org

- Dr. Mona Zaki, Chief Executive Officer of Global Strategic Consultants, Egypt

Rapporteur: Mr. Roufan Nahhas, Editor in Chief, ag-IP News Agency



Session III : Enabling Environment Modules: Identifying Effective Modules for Promoting and Supporting Actions

Chairperson: Mr. Abdel-Hamid Mamdouh, Director of Trade in Services, World Trade Organization

Speakers: -Dr. Mahmoud Abdel-Fadil, Professor of Economics, Cairo University, Egypt

- Prof. Gillian Marcelle, Associate Professor of Strategy and Innovation, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa

- Dr. Ra'ed Awdeh, Talal Abu-Ghazaleh College of Business, Jordan

- Mr. Jawad Abbassi, General Manager of the Arab Advisors Group, Member of the Arab Jordan Investment Bank Group

Rapporteur : Mr. Khaled Abu-Osbeh, Regional Executive Director of Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Consulting



Session IV : ICT for Capacity Building: Prompting the Use of ICT for Capacity Building and Human Resource Development

Chairperson: Mr. Nii Quaynor, Chairman and CEO of Network Computer Systems Ltd.

Speakers: - Prof. Haroub Othman, Professor at the Institute of Development Studies, University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

- Dr. Konstantin Vinogradov, Research and Education Programs Director of the Russian Society for Solidarity and Cooperation of Afro-Asian Peoples', Russian Federation

- Mr. Abdul Waheed Khan, Assistant Director-General for Communication and Information, UNESCO

Rapporteur : Mr. Haitham Abu-Ghazaleh, Executive Director of Talal Abu-Ghazaleh & Co. International - Riyadh Office



Session V: Success Stories

Chairperson: Dr. Mona Makram Ebeid, former Egyptian Parliament Member and Professor at the American University in Cairo

Speakers: - Dr. Hoda Baraka, First Deputy to the Minister of Communication and Information Technology, Egypt

- Mr. Salah Abu-Osbeh, Regional Executive Director of (TAG-Academies)

- Mr. Won-Gyu Hwang, Professor and Advisor, Strategy and Policy Unit, Office of the President, Republic of Rwanda (South Korea)

Rapporteur : Mr. Bassem Al-Yusuf, Executive Director and Group Corporate Secretariat of the Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization



Egyptian PM Receives Abu-Ghazaleh and Hamroush

I hope that other business institutions will take TAG-Org as an example to launch such initiatives - Egyptian PM Dr. Ahmed Nazif

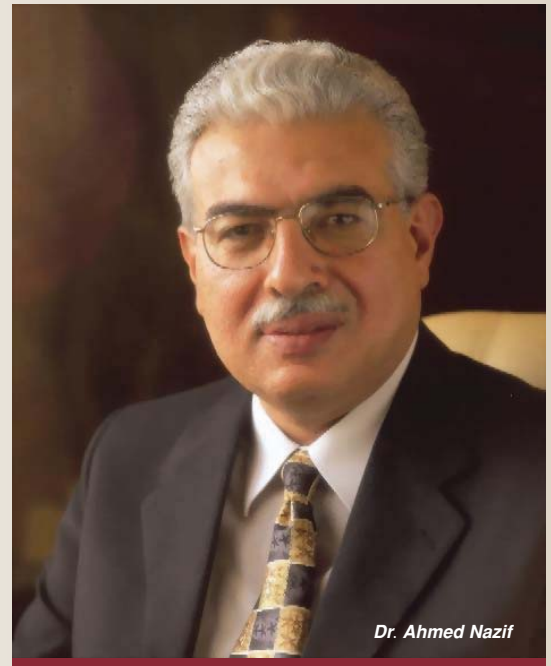
CAIRO - Following the conclusion of the Afro-Asian Knowledge-Based Society Initiative's International Founders' Conference, Dr. Ahmed Nazif, Prime Minister of the Republic of Egypt received Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, chairman and CEO of the Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization (TAG-Org), and Ahmad Hamroush, president of the Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organization (AAPSO), the Conference's Steering and Guidance Committee chairman.

Abu-Ghazaleh and Hamroush briefed Dr. Nazif about the results of the Conference, held January 11-12, 2009, and the mechanisms adopted to implement its decisions and recommendations.

From his side, Dr. Nazif expressed his appreciation for the efforts exerted by the Conference's organizers to serve the peoples of Africa and Asia, adding that "I hope that other business institutions will use TAG-Org as an example to launch such initiatives."

At the end of the meeting, the Premier confirmed his support to the Afro-Asian initiative to achieve its goals and mission.

Abu-Ghazaleh presented an honorary shield to the Prime Minister as a sign of appreciation for his full support and sponsorship.



Dr. Ahmed Nazif

Pope Shenouda Sends Delegate to Afro-Asian Founders' Conference

This initiative aims at building a knowledge-based society in Africa and Asia - Anba Boulos

CAIRO - Pope Shenouda III of Alexandria and Patriarch of All Africa on the Apostolic Throne of St Mark deputized the Anba Boulos to attend the Afro-Asian Knowledge-Based Society Initiative International Founders' Conference convened January 11-12, 2009 in Cairo.

Anba Boulos extended the Pope's thanks and appreciation to Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, chairman and CEO of the Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization, for all his efforts, particularly the Afro-Asian Conference initiative, because it addresses the needs of unprivileged societies in Asia and Africa.

"Pope Shenouda really wanted to be with you today; however, due to the aggressive Israeli attacks on Gaza strip, he could not attend," he said.

In addressing the Conference, Anba Boulos stated that "this initiative aims at building a knowledge-based society in Africa and Asia."

"Knowledge and information are the base for development and advancement; through which the new generation will be qualified and its skills will be enhanced; accordingly, nations and societies will flourish," he added.

In conclusion, Anba Boulos expressed hope that this initiative will find its way to success and be sufficiently supported by officials and institutions in the African and Asian countries.



Bits and Pieces from the Conference

- Talal Abu-Ghazaleh presented honorary trophies to Dr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali, former United Nations (UN) Secretary-General and H.E. Dr. Tarek Kamel, Minister of Communication and Information Technology in Egypt.
- The Ministry of Tourism held a dinner ceremony in honor of the participants and delegates at the Sheraton Hotel.
- H.E. Ahmad Obeidat, former Prime Minister of Jordan, participated in the Afro-Asian Conference and chaired its first session.
- A number of African students studying in Egypt attended the Conference as observers.
- The Egyptian media covered the sessions and activities of the Conference.
- Talal Abu-Ghazaleh held a press conference at the conclusion of the Afro-Asian Conference.
- Recommendations were delivered by H.E. Ambassador Hussein Kamel and the Cairo Declaration was delivered by H.E. Ambassador Said Kamal.
- The Conference's organizers extended their thanks to President Hosni Mubarak and Dr. Ahmed Nazif, Prime Minister of Egypt for their support and sponsorship.



Under “Our Professional Services in a Changing Global Economy” Theme

TAG-Org’s Annual Meeting Held in Cairo

CAIRO – Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, chairman and CEO of the Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization (TAG-Org), inaugurated on January 10, 2009 the TAG-Org’s annual meeting entitled “Our Professional Services in a Changing Global Economy” in Cairo, Egypt.

In his opening remarks, Abu-Ghazaleh highlighted the consequences of the global financial crisis from all its aspects, urging the attendees to be prepared to deal with the coming economic implications that may result from this crisis which is expected to last for ten years or more.

He called upon the participants, each according to his/her experience, specialization and duties, to continue offering TAG-Org’s high quality professional services in compliance with the professional ethics and standards applied by the Organization’s 71 offices.

“This Organization, with almost 40 years of experience, is proud to

contribute to many economic and social development programs in the Arab region with the best utilization of information and communication technology,” Abu-Ghazaleh stated.

He added that the Organization enjoys a good reputation in the Arab region and all over the world for its remarkable achievements and activities.

The two-day event tackled issues related to various programs, plans, administrative, financial and legal issues. Appropriate decisions were made in this regard.



Even Gaza Was There...



At the beginning of the meeting, Zuhair El Nazer, Gaza office executive manager, phoned Talal Abu-Ghazaleh. El Nazer couldn’t attend due to the continuation of the brutal Israeli assault committed against the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip.

El Nazer extended his thanks to Talal Abu-Ghazaleh for his support and stressed that the office will continue its work serving private and public institutions regardless of the difficult circumstances.



TAG-Org and CAO A Sign a Cooperation Agreement in HR



CAIRO – The Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization (TAG-Org) and the Central Agency for Organization and Administration (CAOA), an affiliate of the Council of Ministers in Egypt, signed an agreement in the field of developing human resources (HR) and managing governmental institutions.

In addition, the agreement emphasizes the importance of coordinating efforts between the public and private sectors in supporting the HR development.

The agreement was signed by Head of the Agency Dr. Safwat Al-Nahhas and TAG-Org's chairman and CEO Talal Abu-Ghazaleh.

Under the terms of the agreement, TAG-Org will organize conferences, workshops and offer administrative consultation due to its well-known role in conducting specialized training courses in finance, business, investment, information technology, marketing, accounting and human resources.

According to the agreement, TAG-Org is being accredited as

one of the training centers on the national level where it will be listed in a special guide issued by the Agency and distributed to the Agency units in Egypt.

"I am really proud of this strategic partnership with the Central Agency for Organization and Administration, and it is of high importance that all terms of the agreement shall be implemented within a certain timeframe," Abu-Ghazaleh said.

TAG-Org is
a remarkable example
of a specialized Arab
institution in the
field of HR

"TAG-Org is a remarkable example of a specialized Arab institution that enjoys high level of professionalism in the field of human resources," Al-Nahhas stated.

On another level, the Arab Knowledge and Management Society, in

cooperation with the Central Agency for Organization and Administration and Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Professional Training (TAG-Academies) launched a new initiative entitled "Qualifying Human Resources Officials" in Egypt.

This professional and specialized program aims at offering high-quality training and education to the participants to meet the Arab job market's needs. In addition, it will develop basic skills of setting up plans and programs to attract appropriate human resources and enhance their performance in a way that complies with the job requirements, rules and strategies.

The program consists of several scientific aspects, mainly: contemporary approaches in human resources management, organizational environment and its relation to HR, job descriptions and assessment and recruitment policies.

The eighty-hour training program will be designed and implemented by a number of experts in the HR field.

TAG-Org Launches Academic Partnership with NPS

Potential areas of cooperation fall under the umbrella of the Arab Hope and Social Advancement Network (AHSAN) spirit

MONTEREY, CA - Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, chairman and CEO of Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization (TAG-Org) accompanied by a high-profile delegation held talks with officials from the Naval Post Graduate School (NPS), in Monterey, California.

Abu-Ghazaleh, in his capacity as the Advisory Board Chairman of the Talal Abu-Ghazaleh College of Business (TAG-College), sought to establish academic collaboration among the Naval Post Graduate School (NPS), the German-Jordanian University (GJU)/Talal Abu-Ghazaleh College of Business (TAG-College) and TAG-Org.

Potential areas of cooperation between the three parties fall under the umbrella of the Arab Hope and Social Advancement Network (AHSAN) spirit, by promoting cross-civilization dialogue with an emphasis on addressing shared challenges of globalization, stability and security.

NPS, GJU, and TAG-Org agreed to develop a collaborative environment, with a mission to achieve large scale and sustainable impact by building capacity for sustainment at the regional level. For this to be materialized, the concerned parties will be working in cooperation with governments, military institutions and international organizations in order to promote education in governance, public policy, business management and information technology; enhance cultural exchange; increase economic growth and political stability; and foster global business and IT in the context of the changing global environment, human rights and with reduced disparity.

The collaboration is seen as occurring through joint workshops and meetings. These events will be regularly



held to pursue the development of potential academic programs such as dual/joint degrees, student placement, faculty exchange, conceptual and empirical research, joint efforts with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the UN Global Compact for further development of the Arab knowledge-based society.

In this regard, NPS and GJU will offer dual degree programs; GJU MBA – Information Technology, NPS M.Sc. Information Sciences and NPS M.Sc. in Defense Management Systems with GJU MBA core.

In addition, both NPS and GJU agreed to participate in a specialized student placement program where GJU students would enroll at NPS to study the MBA specialization requirements in IT or Defense Systems. On the other hand, GJU students may complete a study program towards a master's degree for one year at the NPS.

Abu-Ghazaleh Receives Letter of Appreciation from the Egyptian State Council

CAIRO - Talal Abu-Ghazaleh received a letter of appreciation from the State Council of the Republic of Egypt where Moataz Kamel Morsy, State Council vice president, expressed his sincere gratitude and appreciation to the valuable services Abu-Ghazaleh and his companies provide to protect Intellectual Property Rights.

Moreover, he extended his thanks for Abu-Ghazaleh's unwavering efforts in carrying out the procedures for registering "The Administrative Judiciary Guide" issued by the Copyrights Department of the State Council at the Ministry of Culture.

The letter was recited during the opening session of the International Founders' Conference for the Afro-Asian Knowledge-Based Society Initiative.





ASIP to Establish an Arab Brand Names Association

CAIRO – The annual meeting of the Arab Society for Intellectual Property (ASIP) concluded on January 9, 2009 in the Egyptian capital with a call to establish several key initiatives.

The attendees at the meeting headed by Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, ASIP chairman, expressed satisfaction with the role played by ASIP in protecting Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) in the region and in developing skills through its Arab Certified Intellectual Property Practitioner (ACIPP) program.

Abu-Ghazaleh stressed the urgent need to establish an Arab Brand Names Association (ABNA).

“The Association will work under the umbrella of the League of Arab States (LAS) and will jointly carry out its mission between the League’s Intellectual Property unit and ASIP,” he said.

“The Arab brand names are a treasure that should be cherished and protected, and ABNA will fulfill this mission,” he added.

Abu-Ghazaleh called for a similar mechanism to protect the Arab geographical indications

through the establishment of an association under the League and in cooperation with ASIP in compliance with the protocol signed between the two parties. The establishment of the new association will also be coordinated with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).

Meanwhile, ASIP briefed the attendees about its past and future activities related to IPRs which include the need to organize a second Arab Geographical Indications Conference and Moot Court Competition in addition to the launch of ASIP’s new website to serve its dedicated members.



ASCA Holds Annual Meeting in Cairo

CAIRO – The annual meeting of the Arab Society for Certified Accountants (ASCA) was held on January 9, 2009 in the Egyptian capital with the participation of all representatives from the Arab world.

At the beginning of the meeting, ASCA's chairman Talal Abu-Ghazaleh and the attendees observed a moment of silence in honor of Gaza's martyrs massacred by Israeli forces.

"What is going on in Gaza will not deter us from performing our duties and carrying out the initiatives that serve our Arab countries; on the contrary, we will keep exerting our best efforts to provide the region and particularly Palestine with the best of our services," Abu-Ghazaleh said.

Abu-Ghazaleh welcomed the distinguished guests and discussed ASCA's activities during 2008.

"We look forward to an excellent year in 2009 through the launch of several key initiatives and agreements that will be an essential part of ASCA's activities," Abu-Ghazaleh added.

Abu-Ghazaleh presented the Arab Certified Accounting Technician (ACAT) qualification targeting all Arab professionals working in all fields of accounting in



cooperation with the Chartered Institute of Management Accounting (CIMA).

Attendees were briefed on the preparations of issuing CIMA's Islamic Finance Certificate, which will be launched in the Arab region for the first time.

"This program will be launched in Arabic, and the first exam will be held before the end of this year; in addition, the Society will have the mission of conducting agreements with other institutes in the Arab world," he said.

AKMS Concludes Annual Meeting in Cairo

CAIRO – The annual meeting of the Arab Knowledge and Management Society (AKMS) was held on January 9, 2009 in the Egyptian capital with the participation of the Society's members from around the region.

Talal Abu-Ghazaleh welcomed the attendees and congratulated them on the efforts exerted in organizing the International Founders' Conference for the Afro-Asian Knowledge-Based Society Initiative, which took place January 11-12, 2009 in Cairo.

"This Conference will be an excellent opportunity to discuss key knowledge issues dealing with information and communication technology (ICT) and capacity building," he said.

"The human resources qualification program will be launched in cooperation with the Egyptian government and will be a great asset to AKMS achievements," Abu-Ghazaleh continued.

AKMS members discussed training programs and



future work, calling on all offices around the world to market the Society's training programs.

Several fruitful suggestions were introduced by AKMS members on how to market the Society's activities in various countries in the region.

The members also expressed the necessity for holding more training programs especially in Dubai.

Abu-Ghazaleh also discussed the Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Arab Management, where AKMS and the Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization held a seminar to introduce this Award to the public.



ASCA Launches ACAT Qualification for Accounting Professionals

CAIRO - The Arab Society for Certified Accountants (ASCA) launched at its Board of Directors meeting held in Cairo, the Arab Certified Accounting Technician (ACAT) qualification that targets accounting professionals.

The ACAT qualification will be offered as an Arabic version of the internationally recognized Certificate in Business Accounting designed by the Chartered Institute of Management Accounting (CIMA).

During the meeting, Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, president of ASCA said, "Many professionals hold accounting and/or finance positions in industry and commerce, whether in the public or private sector; however, they do not hold a professional accounting qualification such as the Arab Certified Public Accountant (ACPA) for various reasons."

Abu-Ghazaleh added, "Still, these professionals are considered integral to the accounting industry, and they should be able to get the accreditation they deserve. In a knowledge-based society, it is crucial that all individuals have the opportunity to improve themselves. For this reason, we introduced an accounting qualification equivalent to the ACPA."

Robert Jelly, director of education at CIMA stated, "We are delighted that ASCA has decided to use our Certificate in Business Accounting as the foundation for its new accounting technician qualification. This stands as another groundbreaking example of the

joint work we are carrying out in the Arab region."

According to Jelly, such cooperation aims at introducing the accounting professionals to the benefits of becoming members of a professional body such as ASCA.

To become a member of ASCA and use the designatory letters, ACAT candidates must fulfill three requirements:

1. Complete the online exam for the Arabic Certificate in Business Accounting.

2. Complete the online exam for the IT skills program, which is offered in the region by Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Cambridge IT Skills Center, followed by an Elementary Auditing exam offered by ASCA.

3. Demonstrate at least three years of experience in accounting.

In this respect, Abu-Ghazaleh underscored, "Not only will holding the new ACAT qualify people to become members of ASCA, it will also be one of the requirements to sit for the ACPA examinations."

TAG-Org Participates in the ICT Mideast Exhibition



AMMAN – Eng. Basem Rousan, the Jordanian Minister of Information and Communications Technology inaugurated the Middle East Information and Communications Technology (ICT) exhibition which was held December 18-20, 2009.

Rousan toured the exhibition and visited the booth of the Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization (TAG-Org), where he was briefed on the Talal Abu-Ghazaleh IT Dictionary, training programs and professional certificates granted by the Organization in the field of IT, such as Microsoft, Dynamic, Oracle, Java, ITIL and CISA.

CIMA's Islamic Finance Certificate to Be Offered in Arabic in Partnership with TAG-Training Academy

The Talal Abu-Ghazaleh College of Business within the German-Jordanian University will also be offering an MBA specializing in Islamic finance - Abu-Ghazaleh

AMMAN - The Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA) and the Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Professional Training (TAG-Training Academy) recently signed an agreement at Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Academies in Amman.

According to the agreement, TAG-Training Academy will be responsible for translating and delivering the CIMA Certificate in Islamic Finance in Arabic and English throughout the Arab world.

The contract was signed in Amman by CIMA's Director of Education, Robert Jelly, and Mustafa Nasereddin, executive director of TAG-Training Academy.

"We are delighted to announce this groundbreaking initiative in the development of qualifications in Islamic finance; this is a significant step that highlights both organizations' commitment to provide the financial, business and government sectors with the skills and knowledge required in this rapidly growing market," Jelly stated.

"This is a truly historic moment for CIMA as we offer the first of our qualifications in a language other than English and in an area - Islamic finance - where we have taken the lead in offering business and government the knowledge and skills necessary to their staff through the CIMA Certificate in Islamic Finance," he added.

"Due to our success with the English language version, we plan to launch further qualifications in Islamic Finance early in 2009," Jelly stated.

Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, chairman and CEO of the Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization (TAG-Org) said during the signing ceremony, "This is another step in our commitment to convert the Arab region to a knowledge-based society."

"This initiative is taking place at the



right time, where the world banking crisis has focussed more and more interest on Islamic banking and finance. The Talal Abu-Ghazaleh College of Business within the German-Jordanian University will also be offering an MBA specializing in Islamic finance," he stated.

*We plan to launch further
qualifications in Islamic finance
early in 2009 - Robert Jelly*

TAG-Training Academy, part of the Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization (TAG-Org), the Arab organization for global professional services, will provide examination services in its centers throughout the Arab region. According to the agreement, TAG-Training Academy will also provide its services in translating and delivering CIMA's Certificate in Business Accounting.

CIMA is the first chartered accountancy body to offer a global qualifica-

tion in Islamic finance. The Islamic finance industry is thought to be worth between £150 billion and £250 billion, and is growing at an estimated rate of 15 to 20% per annum.

The Chartered Institute of Management Accountants, founded in 1919, is the world's leading and largest professional body of management accountants, with 164,000 members and students operating in 161 countries, working at the heart of business. CIMA members and students work in industry, commerce and not-for-profit organizations.

CIMA works closely with employers and sponsors leading-edge research, constantly updating its qualification, professional experience requirements and continuing professional development to ensure it remains the employers' choice when recruiting financially-trained business leaders.

CIMA is committed to upholding the highest ethical and professional standards of members and students, and to maintaining public confidence in management accountancy.



TAG-Org Opens Its Cairo Premises and Launches TAG-IPR TV

CAIRO - Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, chairman and CEO of the Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization (TAG-Org) has announced the opening of its new premises in Cairo at the Smart Village in October 6 City, Egypt.

The announcement was made during the Afro-Asian Knowledge-Based Society Initiative International Founders' Conference, which was held January 11-12 in Cairo.

In addition, Abu-Ghazaleh announced the launch of the first Intellectual Property (IP) satellite television station, TAG-IPR TV, which will open a new window for serving members of the media society interested in IP.

"The decision to launch this station arose from the need to promote much-needed awareness on Intellectual Property Rights issues and information about IP in the Arab world," stated Abu-Ghazaleh.

The new satellite channel, reporting in both Arabic and English, will be a credible source of information that satisfies the growing interest in issues relating to Intellectual Property.

"The TV station will serve as an additional means for acquiring information along with our popular online news agency, Ag-IP-News, which provides comprehensive updates and articles on IP-related issues around the world," he continued.

TAG-IPR TV is a pioneering world satellite channel that will run specialized programs to raise awareness on the importance of protecting IP in the Arab region and the world at large.

LES-AC to Hold Conferences in Bahrain, Syria



CAIRO – The Licensing Executives Society - Arab Countries (LES-AC) will have a busy schedule in 2009 by holding two conferences in addition to other key events.

Bahrain will be the stage of the first conference, which will focus on licensing as a means of technology transfer in addition to another one in Syria that will tackle inventions' commercialization and the collaboration between universities and the industrial sector in the field of scientific research.

These decisions were finalized at the end of the Society's annual meeting convened on January 8, 2009 in Cairo under the chairmanship of Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, LES-AC president, and in the attendance of the Society's Board of Directors and members of the General Assembly.

The meeting came out with other decisions, such as the launch of a regional seminar to discuss the competition law and technology transfer in the Arab states, and another seminar about the Intellectual Property (IP) laws and licensing agreements to protect licensees in Egypt.

Another decision that emerged from the meeting was the necessity to establish and enhance collaboration ties with a group of international bodies to hold a technology transfer forum in Dubai in January 2010.

The Society's administration was assigned to prepare a professional qualification program in franchising to train and qualify businesspeople and those who aspire to establish a franchise within legal and practical frameworks.



The Society's programs and activities were discussed during the meeting, particularly in respect of the Arab Certified Intellectual Property Licensing Practitioner (ACIPLP) program.

On the other hand, all LES-AC specialized training programs will be uploaded and updated on the LES-AC website.

LES-AC will also offer a number of training courses throughout 2009 in collaboration with the Licensing Executives Society International (LESI).

TAG-Academies and ICFA Sign Cooperation Agreement

AMMAN – Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Academies (TAG-Academies) and the Institute of Certified Forensic Accountants (ICFA) have recently signed an exclusive cooperation agreement in Amman, Jordan.

According to this agreement, TAG-Academies and its sister companies at the Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization (TAG-Org) are granted an exclusive license for holding professional training programs in the fields of accounting, internal audit, international accounting standards (IAS), international financial reporting standards (IFRS), corporate governance and risks management in the Arab region.

TAG-Academies Regional Executive Director Salah Abu-Osbeh said, "TAG-Academies operating in the region through TAG-Org's offices will conduct training courses in the fields mentioned on a regular basis. In

addition, a timeframe will be determined for the participants' exam sessions."

Based on the agreement, participants who pass the exams held at TAG-Org's offices will be granted professional certificates accredited by ICFA and TAG-Academies.

"The courses and exams will start by the beginning of 2009 and will be offered in English, using training materials designed by ICFA in accordance with international standards," explained Qais Al-Khalafat, TAG-Academies executive director in Jordan.

Courses and examinations will be offered in Arabic by the first half of 2009, all over the Arab region.

The following certificates will also be



offered: Certified Forensic Accountant Professional; Certificate in Internal Audit Practice; Certificate in Fraud Auditing and Forensic Accounting; Certificate in Internal Audit and Business Risk; Certificate in International Financial Reporting Standards; Certificate in International Auditing Standards.

ICFA has chosen TAG-Academies as an exclusive cooperation party for its strong international reputation, professional accounting practices, wide geographical spread and distinguished expertise in the field of training.

Professor Gress Delivers Speech at Global Forum in New York

NEW YORK - On behalf of Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, chairman and CEO of the Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization (TAG-Org), Professor Edward Gress, senior advisor to Abu-Ghazaleh, delivered the opening remarks at the Global Forum on Principles of Management Education held in New York, December 4-5, 2008.

Entitled "Responsible Management: A New Frontier for 21st Century Management Education" Gress started his presentation stating, "This forum could not have occurred at a better time. With the global economy in turmoil and with so many parties to blame, this is certainly the time for our educational institutions, especially the business schools, to step to the challenge and instill the principles of responsible management in their educational programs in the hope that problems we are experiencing today are not repeated."

Regarding the exact causes of the financial crisis, Gress attributed them to "the greed of top management, their focus on immediate and short-term profits and their daily concern with the market price of their shares."

"The crisis calls for a change in the role of businesses and business schools. Businesses are challenged to accommodate the concepts of globalization, environment, societal responsibility and financial sustainability," Gress emphasized.



Dr. Gress

Speaking about initiatives launched to encourage businesses worldwide, Gress shed light on the United Nations Global Compact and its role in adopting sustainable and socially responsible policies, adding that "In support of this initiative, the concept of Responsible Management Education was unveiled at the UN Global Compact Leaders Summit in July 2007 with the goal of providing a framework for academic institutions to advance the broader cause of corporate social responsibility."

Gress also stressed the role of higher education and the integral role it can play in this context to prepare pioneers of the future workforce and citizens of the global market; by giving an example of Talal Abu-Ghazaleh College of Business (TAG-College) and its experience in this field.

In his conclusion, Gress underscored TAG-Org's commitment, through TAG-College and TAG-Org's 71 offices in the Arab countries and abroad, to work closely with other universities, government institutions, businesses and other stakeholders to promote, especially in the Arab world, the principles of responsible management education.

This collaboration, according to Gress, will improve the societies we live in, enhance the environment, foster innovation and contribute to the growth and sustainability of the Arab and global economies.

Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Knowledge Society (TAG-Knowledge) Activities

Amman Office Conducts Three Courses at TAG-Knowledge

The Amman office recently conducted three courses for social security employees in Libya for two weeks. At the end of each course, participants were granted certificates in Share Point, Oracle and SPSS.

More collaboration between the Amman office and TAG-Knowledge will take place in the near future to receive more trainees and conduct training courses.

TAG-Knowledge Conducts Lecture for AIESEC Students

Representatives from the Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Knowledge Society (TAG-Knowledge) attended AIESEC's seminar along with 100 students and their parents. Attendees were introduced to the international AIESEC project and its goals, branches and activities.

A representative of TAG-Knowledge briefed the attendees about the Society's services as one of the Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization's projects, established as a means to develop the Arab and local societies and as part of its corporate social responsibility.



TAG-Knowledge Meets Ruwad Initiative Students

A team from the Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Knowledge Society (TAG-Knowledge) delivered a lecture introducing the Society's activities to Ruwad Initiative's students. In addition, detailed briefs were given about Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Academies, the Talal Abu-Ghazaleh College of Business and Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Professional Training.

Save the Children Foundation at TAG-Knowledge

A working team from the Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Knowledge Society (TAG-Knowledge), in coordination with the Amman office, conducted a training course for 30 students from the Save the Children Foundation on sales and customer service skills.

The trainees enjoyed practical field experience at TAG-Knowledge on how to treat clients and offer services in the most appropriate manner.

Students' Tour at TAG-Knowledge

A working team from the Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Knowledge Society (TAG-Knowledge), in coordination with the Talal Abu-Ghazaleh College of Business, organized a special tour for a number of TAG-Knowledge students, introducing them to the College's facilities and specializations.

Qatar Office Conducts “Consolidation of Financial Statements and Business Combinations” Workshop



DOHA – Talal Abu-Ghazaleh International (TAGI), a member of the Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization (TAG-Org), held recently a workshop at the Al Jazeera Media Training and Development Center.

The gathering aimed at offering a comprehensive review of the general frameworks of the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) and the “Consolidation of Financial Statements and Business Combinations” International Accounting Standard (IAS 1), upon which other financial standards are based.

The workshop also gave a detailed explanation of the IAS 27 “Consolidated and Separate Financial Statements” that shall be applied in the preparation and presentation of consolidated financial

statements for a group of entities.

“This workshop comes in the context of Al Jazeera’s interest in developing the potentials of its technical, administrative and media staff due to our belief that investment in human resources leads to

positive results for individuals and institutions,” said Abd Al Aziz Alhorr, manager of Al Jazeera Media Training and Development Center.

Meanwhile, Samer Jamous, executive director of TAGI Qatar office explained, “Cooperation has already

been underway for years between TAG-Org and Al Jazeera in the field of Intellectual Property Rights. Today we are working to expand fields of collaboration to build human capabilities, hoping that more coordination will take place in other fields.”

*Investment in human
resources leads to
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and institutions*

TAG-Org Participates in the Third IGF in Hyderabad



HYDERABAD – With an overall concept of “Internet for all”, the Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization (TAG-Org) participated in the third Internet Governance Forum (IGF) held at Hyderabad International Conference Centre (HICC) in Hyderabad, India.

TAG-Org, the only private company from the Arab world to take part in the event was represented by Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property (AGIP) Executive Director Charles Sha’ban, a member of the IGF’s Multi-stakeholder Advisory Committee (MAG).

As a member of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) Business Action to Support the Information Society (BASIS) Initiative, TAG-Org took part in side meetings with the BASIS team, along with representatives from the US, Egyptian and Canadian governments as well as the EU presidency.

“Discussions centered mainly on the IGF format, the way forward, the next IGF in Sharm El Sheikh and how to get more members of the private sector – particularly in developing countries – to participate in the IGF,” Sha’ban said. He also represented the views of the private sector in respect of multilingualization and diversity.

The two previous meetings of the Forum were held in Greece in November 2006 and in Brazil in November 2007. The Forum will hold its 2009 session in Egypt.



Abu-Ghazaleh Speaks about the Global Economic Crisis

CAIRO – Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, chairman and CEO of the Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization (TAG-Org) was the main speaker at the Global Economic Crisis between the Present and the Future seminar organized by the Cairo-based National Center for Middle East Studies on January 4, 2009.

In the seminar moderated by Mustafa El-Fiki, chairman of the foreign affairs committee at the People's Assembly, Abu-Ghazaleh commenced his presentation by stating that this crisis, regardless of the names it is given, is a historic and strategic transformation of all the global systems and policies, saying that it will last for at least ten years.

“The world is moving towards the establishment of ‘reality’ markets, where it will expand from the Arab region to China, India, Iran and Turkey,” he stated, adding that “new economic lobbies and partnerships will emerge in addition to many other changing

powers in the global economic system, where the United States will witness a change from liberal capitalism to state capitalism.”

Moreover, Abu-Ghazaleh clarified that this change will lead to the plurality of the global currencies, and the US dollar will no longer be the only currency.

“Various other global financial centers will emerge, along with political centers, and the US will be just one of the countries to lead one of these centers,” he explained.

With respect to the effect of this crisis on the economy and productivity in the coming stage, Abu-Ghazaleh stressed that the United States will encounter a dramatic transformation in financial institutions and the global and regional sovereign funds.

“Global institutions will witness major reforms; however, the World Trade Organization will no longer be active, especially now

that it is going through the clinical death phase,” he added.

While concerning the effect of the global economic crisis on the Arab countries, Abu-Ghazaleh stated, “It will vary according to each country’s involvement with and connection to the international markets.”

He also warned that the world will be moving from a recession phase to a depression due to the continuous low demand of goods and services.

According to Abu-Ghazaleh, the most harm will be inflicted on Israel, which will witness a major economic crisis due to the war it launched against Gaza, which cost the Israelis US\$1 million a day, in addition to the losses that their economy will face.

However, Abu-Ghazaleh remained optimistic, saying that the Arab nations have a unique historical opportunity to flourish in the face of adversity.