

Resalatuna

Al-Mehanieh

March 2009



TALAL ABU-GHAZALEH ORGANIZATION

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Kuwait Declaration ... TAG-Org's Working Agenda



Abu-Ghazaleh and Syrian Vice-President Discuss Means of Cooperation

ACPA: an Arab Recognition and New Grants for Palestinians in Gaza

ARQAANE Holds Its First Conference in Damascus



TAG-College Accredited As IELTS Examination Center

TAGI Maintains Its FOF Membership As the Only Arab Company

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FORUM OF FIRMS





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.

Editorial Team

Talal A. Awadi
Editor-in-Chief

Suha S. Banna
Media Coordinator

Nouwar Abdul Majeed
Press Coordinator

Nada S. Zaitoon
English Language Editor

Created & Designed By:

Mohannad Sheikh Elaiwat



Publication & Distribution

Talal Abu-Ghazaleh International
Press & Publishing (TAG-Publication)

General Administration Building
P.O. Box: 921100 Amman 11192 Jordan
Tel. +(962 6) 560 9000
Fax: +(962 6) 560 9001

Editor's Note

Kuwait Declaration....

TAG-Org's Working Agenda

The Kuwait Declaration, issued in this edition, which aims at upgrading the living standards of Arab citizens, has become the working agenda for our Organization and one of the priorities of TAG-Org's activities, programs and services.

Since its issuance, the Declaration has been tackled with great attention and in-depth study by all TAG-Org's managers each according to his/her specialization and activities. Everyone started building and developing programs and strategies by utilizing our experiences and expertise in serving the Arab economy. We have invested our professional history and existence in all the Arab countries for four decades to serve the desired transformation and the wise vision to upgrade the living standards of the Arab citizens.

We have already set up the necessary projects that meet such expectations to achieve a transitional leap in all fields of business starting with the development of information and communication technology (ICT) system, financial systems, investment policies, capacity building, projects management, enhancing investment opportunities and boosting the intellectual property concepts.

We at TAG-Org pledge to be committed to our professional duties and declare our readiness to translate the Declaration with all its decisions into real programs depending on God, our integrated services and expertise and our geographical outreach in the entire Arab world.

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

Al-Attar and Abu-Ghazaleh Discuss Cooperation in Education

Syrian Vice President Receives ARQAANE President and Delegates



DAMASCUS - Dr. Najah Al-Attar, Syrian vice president, met with Mr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, the Arab Quality Assurance and Accreditation Network (ARQAANE) president on January 29, 2009.

Both parties discussed means of cooperation between ARQAANE and the educational institutions in the country to upgrade the quality of education and guarantee its output as part of the educational development process Syria is conducting.

"We believe that education is the key for development and the base to achieve knowledge economy and better management in accordance with the international quality standards," she said, adding that real procedures and steps have already been taken in this regard.

Moreover, Dr. Al-Attar highlighted the

importance of the projects conducted by ARQAANE to realize quality assurance and accreditation in education and culture.

"ARQAANE's conference is of a high importance since it introduces quality and accreditation concepts in education; thus, plans, programs and mechanism should be established to ensure that all these ideas are implemented on the ground," she stated.

From his part, Mr. Abu-Ghazaleh briefed the Vice President on the activities run by the Network and its future plans in the field of quality and accreditation whether by granting quality assurance certificates or conducting training sessions to link education outputs with the economy.

During the meeting, he also pointed out that ARQAANE is planning to

carry out various projects to achieve knowledge-based society and education accreditation in the Arab countries; in addition to transferring experiences to Arab universities with a lower cost.

Attending the meeting were President of the Office of High Education and Scientific Research Yasser Hourieh, the Syrian Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs HE Mr. Abdullah Dardari, President of Damascus University Dr. Wael Mualla and ARQAANE's delegates.

The Arab Quality Assurance and Accreditation Network (ARQAANE) organized, under the patronage of HE Mr. Abdullah Dardari, the "Excellence in Business Education" Conference January 28-29, 2009 at Rida Said Conference Hall, University of Damascus.

The Arab Quality Assurance and



Accreditation Network (ARQAANE) is an international non-profit independent association established in Belgium in July 2007 with the fundamental objective of raising the quality of education in the Arab world. *Source: SANA WWW.SANA.SY*

Hourieh: Steering efforts to obtain accreditation certificates

On another note, President of the Syrian Office of High Education and Scientific Research Yasser Hourieh, stated, during the meeting, that there are plans to upgrade the level of education and obtain the necessary accreditation certificates.

"Cooperation with foreign bodies in this field incurs high expenses; in addition, many of the accreditation requirements do not go along with the Arab environment and the status of the Arab universities," he added.

"Damascus University seeks to improve the level of education in its various faculties, and there is a number of faculties that already started working on the accreditation process," Hourieh said commenting on Damascus University President Dr. Wael Mualla's remarks.

Abu-Ghazaleh: An Arab program to develop education on the international level

From his end, Mr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh confirmed that ARQAANE is a pioneering Arab network that offers an Arab program to develop the

education sector on the international level.

"The decision to establish ARQAANE in Brussels was in order to give it an international attribute; thus, it will not be under any restrictions from outside parties," he explained.

In addition, Mr. Abu-Ghazaleh stressed on the importance of transferring foreign expertise to Arab universities by merging the Arab and the international requirements.

"We should be able to adapt the international requirements in a way that fits the Arab education reality; taking into consideration the high expenses required by the foreign accreditation institutions which are considered a burden and an obstacle for the Arab universities when conducting the accreditation process," he continued.

Mr. Abu-Ghazaleh also mentioned that ARQAANE has concluded several agreements with a number of institutions such as the Federation International for Business Administration Accreditation (FIBAA) and Education Teaching Service (ETS); in addition to a cooperation agreement that will be signed with the League of Arab States.

Intellectual Property Rights & Copyrights

Mr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh also

highlighted the efforts that Dr. Najah Al Attar has exerted in protecting copyrights and Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs).

"Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property (AGIP) has become one of the pioneering institutions on the international level in this field, and it is one of the first companies that carry out its business in China and other countries in the world to protect IPRs and copyrights," he elaborated.

In this regard, Dr. Al Attar pointed out the necessity to protect copyrights; however, publications should be made available for ordinary citizens for research purposes; to enrich the Arab library with various intellectual products that raise the level of Arab awareness and culture.

Afro-Asian Knowledge-based Society Initiative

Mr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh tackled the issue of the Afro-Asian Knowledge-Based Society Initiative International Founders' Conference that was held January 11-12, 2009. He asked Dr. Al Attar to join the Afro Asian Wisemen Council due to its importance in enhancing the role of Syria in supporting the Afro-Asian cooperation.

From her part, Dr. Al Attar welcomed the invitation and confirmed the importance of this initiative.

ARQAANE Holds 'Excellence in Business Education' Conference in Syria



DAMASCUS - The Arab Quality Assurance and Accreditation Network (ARQAANE) organized, under the patronage of the Syrian Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs HE Mr. Abdullah Dardari, the "Excellence in Business Education" Conference January 28-29, 2009 at Rida Said Conference Hall, University of Damascus.

The Conference, held in cooperation with Damascus University and the Arab Society of Faculties of Business Administration, was attended by Mr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, ARQAANE president and vice-chair of the UN Global Compact along with high ranking officials and academics in Syria.

In his opening remarks, Mr. Dardari stressed on the importance of excellence in education mainly in this stage, which requires highly qualified human resources to run public and private institutions internally and externally in a competitive economic era.

"I believe that quality and assurance in education is a vital issue to upgrade the level of education in

Syria, therefore, there will be fierce competition in attracting high-caliber potentials to teach in Syrian universities," he said.

Mr. Dardari commended ARQAANE's efforts in upgrading the level of higher education in the Arab region, which also supports the Syrian approach to achieve assurance in education and exchange expertise with other Arab universities.

This venue will create good opportunities to recognize the global modern approaches in education – Abu-Ghazaleh

Meanwhile, Mr. Abu-Ghazaleh stated during the opening of the two-day Conference that this event crystallizes ARQAANE's commitment in enhancing the quality of business education.

"This venue will create good opportunities to recognize the global modern approaches in education and in qualifying

business leaders through the exchange of expertise of the distinguished business administration faculties on the Arab and international levels," he highlighted.

Mr. Abu-Ghazaleh called upon all higher education institutions which devote their efforts to develop the skills of leaders in the business sector to effectively participate in a global business education program and for more coordination among all the concerned parties.

From his part, President of Damascus University Dr. Wael Mualla underlined the significance of the themes addressed by the participants and their positive impact on the development of education in general and business education in particular.

"The tenth five-year plan for the economic and social development in Syria urged the higher education sector in the country to implement new enrollment policies to open the door for additional number of students at the business administration colleges and faculties," Dr. Mualla stated.



HE Dardari commended ARQAANE's efforts in upgrading the level of higher education in the Arab region

He pointed out that the plan requires a nine percentage increase to provide the needed human potentials to upgrade the comprehensive educational development plan.

Dr. Mualla noted that the Damascus University currently seeks to establish global partnerships with reputable universities to come up with continuous educational and training programs in the field of business administration.

The Conference discussed issues related to the quality in business education; identifying a clear path to assessing quality in business administration education; fostering internal quality in management education.

In addition, quality of business education in faculties of business in the Arab world and the managerial relevance in business education and research were among the topics tackled in the event.

At the conclusion, the participants approved the recommendations and mechanisms introduced by Mr. Abu-Ghazaleh. These are:

- Calling for an annual meeting to guarantee a constant professional exchange of expertise among Arab business administration faculties with their international counterparts.
- Establishing a partnership between educational institutions, business sector, specialized educational bodies to unify efforts to upgrade the level of business education and administration skills.
- Establishing a quality system for business education on a regional level supervised by ARQAANE in cooperation with other business administration entities and accreditation committees in the Arab countries.
- Utilizing ARQAANE's potentials to serve the official accreditation

centers in the Arab countries by participating in quality assurance procedures and policies.

- Promoting the Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME) supported by the UN which aim at promoting social responsibility and sustainability in business education programs.



The Arab Quality Assurance and Accreditation Network (ARQAANE) is an international non-profit independent association established in Belgium in July 2007 with the fundamental objective of raising the quality of education in the Arab world.

ARQAANE Conference's Sessions

Session 1: Quality in Business Education

-What Constitute Quality in Management Education, Dr. Heinz-Ulrich Schmidt, Managing Director, Federation International for Business Administration Accreditation (FIBAA), Germany.

-Identifying a Clear Path to Assessing Quality in Business Administration Education, Dr. David Van Over, Dean, Faculties of Business and Management, University of Wollongong in Dubai.

-Fostering Internal Quality in Management Education: The role of assessment in support of a cultural of evidence, Dr. Van Lent Gerben, ETS Global, Netherlands.

• Chairperson: Dr. Tareq Al Kayyer, Deputy President for Administrative Affairs, Damascus University.

• Rapporteur: Dr. Byan Abdulhaq, Executive Director, The Arab Quality Assurance and Accreditation Network.

Session 2: Quality of Business Education in Faculties of Business in the Arab World

-Total Quality in Business Education, case of the Higher Institute for Administrative Development in Damascus, University, Dr. Saleem Hassanieh, Dean of the Higher Institute for Administrative Development, Syria

-Quality Assurance at King Fahd University of Petroleum & Minerals; Quest for Excellence, Dr. Saeed Al-Amoudy, Dean Academic Development KFUPM, Saudi Arabia.

-What is so New About Syrian Business Schools? Implications of quality development at Kalamoon University, Dr. Mohammad AlSakka, Dean, Faculty of Business & Management, University of Kalalmoon, Syria.

-Excellence in MBA Education- Dr. Mohammad Abu-Saleh, Dean of Graduate College for Administrative and Financial Studies, Amman Arab University for Graduate Studies, Jordan.

-Faculty of Business Administration at Gulf University Case, Dr. Muna Zayani, Gulf University President, Bahrain.

-Assessment of Business Administration Education in Arab Universities, UNDP Report, Dr. Ali Yaghi, Assistant Project Manager, Jordan.

• Chairperson: Dr. Fouad Dib, Dean of the Higher Institute of Business Administration (HIBA), Syria.

• Rapporteur: Dr. Hesham Al Gharaibeh, Dean Talal Abu-Ghazaleh College of Business, Jordan.



Session 3: Managerial Relevance in Business Education and Research

-Practical Application in Business Education, Dr. Mohammed Al Jafari, General Manager of Deposit Insurance Corporation, Jordan.

-Forging Corporate Connections and Interacting with the Corporate World, the Higher Institute of Business Administration Case, Dr. Fouad Dib, Dean of the Higher Institute of Business Administration (HIBA), Syria.

-Marco Marketing Applied on Promoting Lebanese Tourism, Dr. Alfred Riachi, Dean of Faculty of Business Administration, American University of Technology, Lebanon.

• Chairperson: Dr. Adel Zayed, Deputy President for Academic and Student Affairs, Cairo University.

• Rapporteur: Dr. Muna Zayani, Gulf University President, Bahrain.

Session 4: The Evolving Role of Business Schools

-Integrating Social Responsibility and Sustainability into Business Education, Mr. Mohammad Agha, Project Director, Global Compact.

-Valuation and Commercialization of Innovations, Mr. Ehab Daoud, Regional Executive Director, Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Valuation, Jordan.

• Chairperson: Mr. Abdulsalam Haykal, President of the Syrian Young Entrepreneurs Association, Trustee of the American University of Beirut, and of Kalamoon University.

• Rapporteur: Dr. Rashed Al-Ajmi, Dean, College of Business Administration (CBA). Kuwait University.

Questions and Closing

Workshops:

Workshop 1- Accreditation of Business School
Leader: Dr. Heinz-Ulrich Schmidt, Managing Director, Federation International for Business Administration Accreditation (FIBAA), Germany

Workshop II – The Search for Excellence in Business Education and Research

Leader: Mr. Brian Berry, Business Manager, Emerald Group Publishing, United Kingdom



"The Arab Quality Assurance and Accreditation Network (ARQAANE)"

The Arab Quality Assurance and Accreditation Network (ARQAANE) is an international non-profit independent association established in Belgium in July 2007 with the fundamental objective of raising the quality of higher education (HE) in general with particular focus on the Arab world.



Mr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh

Our dream is that one day our Arab universities will be one of the pioneers among well-reputed educational institutions in the world like Harvard, Cambridge and Oxford



Mr. Amro Musa

There is a dire need to conduct a comprehensive review for the educational system and develop it, and this particular issue has been enlisted in the agendas of many Arab summits.



Prof. Saleh Hashim

The quality of the higher education is the core of the Association of Arab Universities and one of its major goals.

To this end, ARQAANE will:

Establish links and work closely with international accreditation bodies to facilitate standards-setting, benchmarking, mutual learning and the dissemination of good practice across the Arab world and internationally.

Coordinate with local Arab accreditation agencies concerning accreditation standards and criteria.

Disseminate awareness for educational excellence in educational institutions in the Arab world.

Provide accreditation services to Arab HE institutions that will be highly acclaimed and regarded as the hallmark of excellence in education.

Oversee the establishment of a quality ranking system for Arab universities.

Establish a peer-based educational quality network that will allow for regular interaction and meeting of peers to discuss, share and benchmark their experience.

Disseminate mutual learning and good practice across the Arab world and internationally.

Partnerships and Relations

ARQAANE has signed several agreements among which is an exclusive

cooperation agreement with the Federation International for Business Administration Accreditation (FIBAA) and the Association of Arab Universities (AAU). In addition, ARQAANE has recently joined the European Quality Improvement System (EFMD) in Belgium as a full member.

Management Board

ARQAANE is managed by a Board of Directors whose membership includes academics, senior executives and experts in various fields of knowledge. The Board is chaired and presided over by Mr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, the founder of ARQAANE. His Excellency Dr. Amre Moussa, the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States is the Honorary President and Dr. Saleh Hashem, Secretary-General of the Association of Arab League is the Vice President.

The Board of Directors is entitled to take all and any decisions to ensure good operations of the organization including the creation and the composition of a Board of Trustees, Accreditation Board, Consulting Committees and ad hoc working parties.

Program Accreditation

ARQAANE program accreditation is a process of involuntary, non-governmental review of educational programs (both undergraduate and graduate) in various fields of education. Program accreditation is

conducted in partnership with The Foundation for International Business Administration Accreditation (FIBAA), a well established Swiss non-profit quality assurance agency which has been a member of the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA) and has been involved in the creation of the European Consortium of Accreditation (ECA) since 2003. (www.FIBAA.de)

The quality assessment is based on a rigorous and comprehensive peer review of the self assessment document, followed by a site visit. ARQAANE standards are based on FIBAA's and other international standards where around 100 quality criteria will be assessed.

The successful accreditation of a program shall grant it the Arab Accreditation label in addition to the international quality label.

Institutional Accreditation

Institutional accreditation reviews entire colleges and universities. The institutional accreditation process consists of a full review of an entire educational institution. The process does not only assess the university's certificate, it also includes all the activities and branches of the institution including researches and their connection with the various sectors of the society.

ACPA Certificate Accredited in Syria

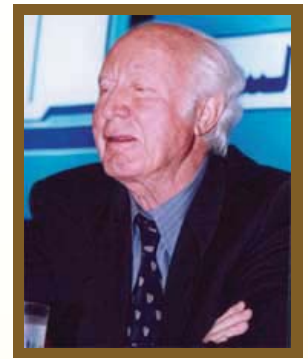
DAMASCUS - The Syrian Board of Commissioners of the Financial Markets and Securities Commission (FMSC) has accredited the Arab Certified Public Accountant (ACPA) certificate issued by the Arab Society for Certified Accountants (ASCA) and the University of Cambridge International Examinations for FMSC licensing purposes.

In addition, the Commission has accredited ACPA to be equivalent to the American Certified Public Accountant and the British Chartered Certified Accountant.

The ASCA management received an official memo stating the decision of the Board issued in its session No. 25 dated January 22, 2009 by Mr. Mohammed Imady, FMSC chairman of the Board of Commissioners. Accordingly, Syria has become the sixth country to accredit the ACPA certificate.

ACPA certificate is accredited by the University of Cambridge International Examinations and it has been recognized in different Arab countries like Jordan, United Arab Emirates, Palestine, Yemen, and Iraq. The Society has been enlisted among other professional auditing institutions and ACPA certificate has been recognized as a license to become a professional practitioner accountant.

Upon successful completion of ACPA exams, candidates will be granted ACPA certificate and become members of ASCA.



High-Profile Delegation Visits TAG-Knowledge



AMMAN - HE Thabet Al Taher, director of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Forum, accompanied by HE Issam Al Jalabi, former Iraqi Oil Minister and Abdullah Khalifah recently visited the Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Knowledge Society (TAG-Knowledge), the latest initiative by Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, chairman and CEO of Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization (TAG-Org), the Arab organization for global professional services.

"The delegation expressed satisfaction with TAG-Knowledge's achievements in the fields of knowledge and education by targeting the Arab youth and providing them with a state-of-the-art knowledge headquarters that provides its services free of charge," TAG-Knowledge's Executive Director Tareq Hammad said.

During their visit, the high-profile delegation commended the idea of having a place where students can learn, discover and share. The delegation also discussed means of cooperation with TAG-Knowledge and with Abdul Hameed Shoman Forum.

Abu-Ghazaleh's Scholarship for ACPA

Attracts Hundreds of Accountants in Gaza

GAZA - The Arab Society for Certified Accountants (ASCA) announced that the registration process for graduates of accounting and business faculties as well as the accountants in Gaza Strip who wish to benefit from the scholarship of Mr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh to become certified accountants is currently underway.

Mr. Zuhair El Nazer, ASCA representative and the manager of Talal Abu-Ghazaleh International office in Gaza said that this scholarship will qualify the registrants to obtain the Arab Certified Public Accountant (ACPA) certificate issued by the Society and the University of Cambridge International Examinations.

"The number of registrants has reached 400 within one week, and the number is expected to increase since many institutions and universities nominated their employees and graduates to benefit from this scholarship," Mr. El Nazer added.

Other procedures will be coordinated with the Palestinian Accountants and Auditors Society.

According to the scholarship, any accountant or accounting graduate from Gaza Strip has the right to register in ASCA to attain the ACPA certificate and Mr. Abu-Ghazaleh, ASCA president, will bear all the expenses including the registration, exams and curricula fees.

Oman Recognizes ACPA Certificate

TAG-Org's Arab Omani Institute to offer commercial and administrative training



MUSCAT - The Omani Ministry of Commerce and Industry issued a decision to add university degree students who hold the Arab Certified Public Accountant (ACPA) certificate to the accountants and auditors list. In addition, the decision entails their exemption from the training period stated in Article 7 of the Sultanate Decree Number 77/86 in respect of regulating the auditing and accounting profession.

This decision was preceded by the meeting held between Mr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, president of the Arab Society of Certified Accountants (ASCA) and H.E. Maqbool bin Ali Sultan, Omani Minister of Commerce and Industry, at his office on February 7, 2009.

Mr. Abu-Ghazaleh extended his appreciation to H.E. Sultan and Omani concerned entities for the efforts exerted in developing accounting profession in the country.

"Accounting has remarkably progressed in the Sultanate of Oman due to the valuable initiatives of the Minister of Commerce and Industry and the concerned officials to upgrade the level of this profession," Mr. Abu-Ghazaleh stated.

"The Ministry has developed and supported the national economy under the directions of His Majesty

Sultan Qaboos bin Sa'id Al Sa'id and this has become evident by the noticeable increase in the number of the certified accountants holding the ACPA certificate," he added.

The ACPA certificate is accredited by the University of Cambridge International Examinations and it has been recognized in different Arab countries like Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, Palestine, Yemen and Iraq. The Society has been listed among professional auditing institutions, and the ACPA certificate has been recognized as a license to become a professional practitioner accountant.

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

On another note, Mr. Abu-Ghazaleh, chairman and CEO of Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization (TAG-Org), briefed Minister Sultan on the arrangements to officially launch the Arab Omani Institute for Administrative Training as part of TAG-Org. The Institute is accredited by the Ministry



of Manpower to offer commercial and administrative training.

It is worth mentioning that the Institute has been recently recognized by the British Council to offer English language courses and examinations for non-native speakers. Moreover, the Institute has been accredited as the international representative of the British Cambridge University for the Information Technology Diploma and other professional societies such as; ASCA, the Arab Knowledge and Management Society (AKMS) and the Arab Society for Intellectual Property (ASIP).

Abu-Ghazaleh Discusses Cooperation in the Field of Training with Omani Al Busaidy

MUSCAT - Mr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, chairman and CEO of Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization (TAG-Org), discussed with H.E Abdulla Bin Hamad Bin Saif Al Busaidy, chairman of the Omani State Audit Institution, cooperation between the two parties in various fields.

Accordingly, the Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Professional Training (TAG-Training), the largest institution in the field of training, in collaboration with the Arab Omani Training Institute, will present its programs and plans for future training and continuous education targeting all Omani entities.

During the meeting, the two parties highlighted the professional services offered by the Organization in Oman and the Arab world especially the training activities provided by the Institute.

Attending the meeting were Mohammed Bin Hassan Bin Ali Al Shehi, head of Planning & Human Resources Development Office at the Institute and Mr. Mo'awiyah Khaleefah, TAG-Org executive manager in Oman.

Abu-Ghazaleh commended the efforts exerted by Oman represented with all its entities in remarkably contributing to the development of the local capacity building.



Meanwhile, Al Busaidy expressed his satisfaction with TAG-Org's potentials in the field of professional services.

In addition, Mr. Abu-Ghazaleh briefed the attendees on the Arab Quality Assurance and Accreditation Network (ARQAANE) established in Belgium in July 2007 with the fundamental objective of raising the quality of education in the Arab world.

It is worth mentioning that the Arab Omani Training Institute, a member of TAG-Org, has been recently recognized as a first-class training center in Oman.

Abu-Ghazaleh and Al Bakri Discuss Means of Cooperation to Support SMEs in Oman

MUSCAT -Mr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, chairman and CEO of Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization (TAG-Org), discussed with the Omani Minister of Manpower, Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasir bin Abdullah Al Bakri, means of cooperation in the fields of capacity building and the support of the small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the Sultanate.

Mr. Abu-Ghazaleh underlined the comprehensive array of the Organization's services in the fields of capacity building, governmental administrative programs, and the support of the SMEs in cooperation with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).

Attending the meeting were Dr. Abdul Kareem Bin Sultan Al Mugheeri, director general of the Vocational Criteria and Program Development at the Ministry and Mr. Mo'awiyah Khaleefah, TAG-Org executive manager in Oman and Mr. Majdi Al-Abiad, TAG-Business executive manager.





TAG-Org

TAGI Maintains Its FOF Membership As the Only Arab Company



The Forum of Firms

NEW YORK - Talal Abu-Ghazaleh International (TAGI) maintained its membership for the second year to be the only Arab company that has been listed as a full member of the Forum of Firms (FOF) and continues to report its adherence to the Forum's membership obligations.

The Forum, established by the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC), released on January 30, 2009 its 2009 members list that included two new companies; these are: the IEC and JHI along with nineteen other international networks of accounting firms that achieved full membership status in 2008.

TAGI has joined the membership of the FOF in 2008 after it met the Forum's membership standards; this includes reporting that TAGI has implemented a globally coordinated quality assurance program, had policies and methodologies based on the International Standards on Auditing (ISAs), and has met other specific ethics requirements.

The Forum of Firms is an association of international networks of accounting firms. These firms perform a major global share of the audits of financial statements that are or may be used across national borders. The Forum's goal is to promote consistent and high quality standards of financial reporting and auditing practices worldwide.

"The membership of the Forum demonstrates a commitment to meet the public interest responsibilities and the highest level of quality in auditing on an international scale," emphasized David Maxwell, chair of the Forum of Firms.

It is worth noting that Mr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, chairman and

CEO of TAGI, was the first Arab to be elected to the IFAC Board of Directors in 1992. In addition he was the Chairman of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Professional Qualifications Standards, Geneva, 1995-1998 and the Chairman of the UN Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting (ISAR), New York – USA, 1995-1996.

Mr. Abu-Ghazaleh was also elected the Chairman of the Committee for the Newly Industrialized and Developing Countries Affairs, the International Accounting Standards Committee (IASC), 1989-1992.

He also became a member at the Public Sector Consultative Group, International Federation of Accountants (IFAC), New York-USA, 2003- 2006, and a member of the Board of the International Accounting Standards Committee (IASC), London, United Kingdom, 1988-1990; in addition to his membership at the Board of the International Auditing Practices Committee (IAPC) of IFAC, New York, USA, 1987-1990.

IFAC is the worldwide organization for monitoring the accountancy profession. It is comprised of 156 member bodies in 114 countries, representing over 2.5 million accountants employed in public and private practices, government and education.

IFAC founded the FoF in 2002 with the purpose of enrolling these firms that perform transnational activities, adhere to international auditing standards, implement a quality control program on these transnational audits and meet professional ethical standards.

TAG-College Accredited as an IELTS Examinations Centre

AMMAN – The Talal Abu-Ghazaleh College of Business (TAG-College) signed an International English Language Testing System (IELTS) Accreditation Agreement with the British Council on January 14, 2009.

According to the agreement, the College has been accredited as an IELTS Examinations Centre.

Signing the agreement were Dr. Reem Rabadi, director of the Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Languages Academy and Ms. Ameera Manaa, the British Council Exams manager with the attendance of Mr. Bassam Abu-Ghazaleh, TAG-College executive director and Mr. Ahmed Al-Abed, British Council Marketing manager.

"The accreditation of TAG-College as an IELTS examinations centre would not have been possible without the guidance of Mr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, chairman and CEO of the Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization and head of the TAG-College Advisory Board," Dr. Al-Rabadi stated.

Moreover, she emphasized the significance of this accreditation for TAG-College and its students as a means for testing and developing their English language skills and performance.

Meanwhile, Mr. Bassam Abu-Ghazaleh welcomed the British Council representatives, while praising the current cooperation with the British Council.



TAG Training Center to be Established at BIDC in Syria

DAMASCUS – The Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Training Center will be established within the premises of the Business Innovation and Development Center (BIDC) in Der Ez Zor in Syria, according to an agreement signed by the Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization (TAG-Org), the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the State Planning Commission in Syria.

Mr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, TAG-Org CEO and chairman, Dr. Tayssir Al Raddawi, head of the State Planning Commission and Ismail Wild al-Sheikh Ahmad, the UNDP resident representative, signed the agreement.

According to this partnership, TAG-Org will be conducting a training session for trainers (TOT) on the use of the small and medium enterprise (SME) toolbox and the Abu-Ghazaleh Cambridge Information Technology Diploma.



Moreover, TAG-Org will recognize the BIDC as an accredited center to offer the Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Cambridge IT Skills diploma.

“I am really proud and pleased of this achievement since it aims at building and qualifying human potentials in Der Ez Zor; in addition, it will pave the way in establishing more partnerships

to serve the welfare of society,” Mr. Abu-Ghazaleh stated.

He also commended the UNDP officials for exerting their efforts to implement vital programs in Syria that aim at improving and enhancing human potentials in accordance with the State Planning Commission’s programs.

TAG-Org Participates in Cairo International Book Fair

CAIRO – The Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization/Cairo Office is taking part in the Cairo International Book Fair (CIBF), displaying more than 100 titles and publications.

Among the more recent publications is the Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Information and Communication Technology (TAG ICT) Dictionary, an English-Arabic publication of about 6,500 ICT terms. It was created to serve various goals, one of which is meeting the needs of ICT specialists and students in universities, colleges and vocational institutions by providing necessary explanations for various terms rather than merely equivalent meanings or synonyms.

The January 12-February 5 event, which was held in Nasr City and organized by the General Egyptian Book Organization (GEBO), was inaugurated by Dr. Ahmed Nazif, Prime Minister of the Republic of Egypt.

Over the past several years, the Cairo International Book Fair has become a great cultural event, and a spacious scene for conducting dialogue among intellectuals, men of letter and artists.

The CIBF, which rates second in importance after the Frankfurt International Book Fair, was first held in 1969 as part of

the celebrations marking the Cairo millennium. Since then, it has become an annual event providing an opportunity for displaying books, concluding publication and distribution contracts and exchanging copyrights.

More than 567 publishers from 72 countries are taking part in this event.

Attending the opening ceremony were a number of ministers and high-ranking officials.



ACQM Program Recognized by the Chartered Quality Institute



AMMAN – The Chartered Quality Institute (CQI) has recently recognized the Arab Certified Quality Manager (ACQM) program, conducted by the Arab Knowledge and Management Society (AKMS), to be equivalent to the D1 and D2 modules. These modules form part of the requirements to gain the grade of CQI member and the Chartered Quality Professional (MCQI CQP) designations.

The recognition was obtained after a thorough review of the ACQM curriculum and examinations by the Institute. Accordingly, the program was added to the list of professional qualifications recognized by the CQI, the only chartered professional body dedicated entirely to quality.

“Whoever passes the ACQM exam will be entitled to gain the chartered membership, provided that he/she has a recognized degree and the required experience for licensing,” said Mr. Khaled Abu-Osbeh, head of the Quality and Specification Committee at AKMS and its nominated representative at the ISO 176 Committee.

“This accreditation is an unprecedented achievement and recognition of the importance of the program which was launched and run by AKMS in 2007,” he added.

Meanwhile, Ms. Hanan Al-Hidmi said, “The ACQM certificate aims at improving the performance of professionals according to the international quality standards by offering specialized programs in different fields.”

The course consists of 90 training hours and targets managers of quality-focused organizations and professionals aiming to increase their effectiveness and productivity, as well as anyone interested in the field of quality.

Among the topics addressed in the program are essentials and tools of quality management, core concepts of leadership and people management, strategic planning in quality management, capacity building for competence, customer-focused for business excellence and supply chain management.

Meanwhile, AKMS will conclude a cooperation agreement with the CQI that entails the promotion of the Institute’s programs and certificates in a mechanism to attract more members to join the CQI exclusively from the Arab region.

In addition, the Institute is in its final stage to recognize AKMS as a training center in the Arab region to offer the CQI diploma programs.

This achievement is another addition to the Society’s accomplishments in the field of quality management, as it has been the only non-governmental body in the ISO Technical Committee No. 176 for the past 11 years and the only center accredited for international standards knowledge exams (ISTO).



Chinese Ambassador to Jordan Holds Talks with Talal Abu-Ghazaleh

AMMAN - The Chinese Ambassador to Jordan HE Mr. Yu Hongyang recently held talks with Mr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, chairman and CEO of Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization.

Attending the meeting were Mr. Luay Abu-Ghazaleh, vice chair of TAG-Org's Board of Directors and Lai Wan Zhu, cultural counselor of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China.

During the meeting, both parties discussed means of cooperation and other activities the Organization is conducting in collaboration with the Chinese government such as the establishment of Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Confucius Institute at the Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Academies' headquarters in Amman.

Mr. Hongyang also commended the role the Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Academy for Languages plays in teaching the Chinese language contributing to the exchange of knowledge and culture between the Arab countries and China. Moreover, he stressed the support of the Chinese government in initiating other means of cooperation.

From his part, Mr. Abu-Ghazaleh welcomed the Ambassador congratulating him on his new post as the ambassador to the Kingdom. He also expressed his satisfaction with the level of collaboration taken place



stressing that more vital activities shall be launched in the field of business.

In September 2008, an exclusive agreement was signed between TAG-Org and the HanBan Institute, the executive body of the Chinese Language Council International affiliated to China's Ministry of Education, to establish the TAG-Confucius Institute.

The agreement was signed between Mr. Abu-Ghazaleh and the former Chinese ambassador to Jordan HE Mr. Gong Xiaosheng.

Following this agreement, another

Memorandum of Understanding was signed (MoU) in December 2008 between the Organization and the Chinese governmental Shenyang Univ.

The Institute will offer Chinese language courses for non-native speakers, while hosting researchers and language instructors from China for this purpose, in addition to offering lectures and workshops for businesspeople and governmental sector representatives, which aim to enhance cultural knowledge & exchange.

The Institute will also offer Chinese language courses for school students.



Amman TAG-Confucius Institute

Amman TAG-Confucius to be Launched in April



AMMAN – Under the patronage of the Jordanian Minister of Culture, the Amman Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Confucius Center will be launched at the premises of Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Academies on April 1, 2009.

An invitation was sent to the Minister, a number of ambassadors, high-ranking officials, representatives of cultural centers, universities, institutes and the chambers of Commerce and Industry, governmental and private institutions, companies and banks.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on September 18, 2008 between Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, chairman and CEO of Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization (TAG-Org) and the former Chinese ambassador to

Jordan HE Mr. Gong Xiaosheng.

Following this MoU, another cooperation memorandum was signed in December 2008 between the Organization represented by Mr. Luay Abu-Ghazaleh and the head of the Chinese governmental Shenyang University.

The Institute will offer Chinese language courses for non-native speakers, while hosting researchers and language instructors from China for this purpose, in addition to offering lectures and workshops for businesspeople and governmental sector representatives, which aim to enhance cultural knowledge and exchange.

TAG-Org Shines in Jordan Web Award 2008

AMMAN - The Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization (TAG-Org, www.tagorg.com), the global professional firm with 71 offices and 180 correspondents for all business needs, scooped up the second place award for 'Best Website Design' in the Corporate category of the Jordan Web Awards.

The annual Awards Competition was organized by Media Scope and took place at the Grand Hyatt Amman Hotel on January 24, 2009.

"Our website is a reflection of the level of e-services we provide for our clients, and winning second place amongst all the competitors is an indication that we are excelling in our services to achieve our goals," Mr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, TAG-Org chairman and CEO said.

"We will not stop at this point, since our team of web developers and designers continue to exert their efforts to achieve the best results," he added.

Meanwhile, Mr. Ihab Abu Hilal, web development manager said, "We utilize our best efforts and expertise in developing the most creative and user-friendly websites for our clients – similar to the standards we implement on our website – providing them with high quality services in web development, website design and audit, search engine optimization and more."

A total of 150 websites competed in the event, in which the Arab Knowledge and Management Society (AKMS) won first place for 'Best Website Design' in Jordan in the Professional Societies and Associations category.

The Jordan Web Awards Competition was created to recognize excellence in web design and development skills in our Kingdom and is open to all designers and developers, giving them an opportunity to display their work and talent.

The Awards cover 27 categories in various sectors that include banks and financial institutions, e-commerce, education, fashion and clothing, governmental and non-governmental organizations, international organizations, health services, industrial sector, media and press, personal websites, travel and tourism, transportation and real estate, among many others.



TAG-Org and NARD Sign MoU for Training and Human Development

DUBAI - The Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization (TAG-Org), the Arab organization for global professional services, and the National Academy for Research and Development (NARD), the highly modernized academy developed to empower educational standard in UAE and GCC countries, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to cover various fields of interest.

According to the MoU, the two parties will cooperate in the following fields; training, qualification, human development, capacity building, administrative development, professional development and Information Technology services.

Mr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, TAG-Org chairman and CEO, and Dr. Najwa Diab, the National Academy executive director, signed the MoU.

The MoU provisions entail that both parties will conduct annual training courses in the financial and administrative fields; meanwhile, the Academy will recognize all the professional certificates issued by TAG-Org and its sister companies and societies like the Islamic Finance certificate, the Abu-Ghazaleh IT Skills diploma, the Arab Certified Quality Manager (ACQM), the Arab Certified Intellectual Property Practitioner (ACIPP) certificate and the Arab Certified Public Accountant certificate (ACPA).

In addition, TAG-Org will work on accrediting the National Academy as a licensed center where courses and IT Skills diploma examinations will be conducted.

A working committee will also be established with mem-



bers from the Organization and the Academy to set up mechanisms, plans and programs to implement the MoU provisions according to the highest professional standards.

The National Academy for Research and Development is a highly modernized academy developed to empower educational standard in UAE and GCC countries, due to the region's booming demand for professional education and the need for preserving both culture & tradition.

The Academy's diversity enriches our educational experience, promotes personal growth, strengthens our communities, ensures our competitiveness, and enhances the training of future leaders.

ARQAANE and HEAC Sign MoU in the Field of Accreditation

AMMAN - The Arab Quality Assurance and Accreditation Network (ARQAANE) and the Higher Education Accreditation Commission (HEAC) have recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enhance cooperation between the two parties in the field of technical support to ensure quality and accreditation in education.

According to the MoU, both entities will develop the quality standards of the higher education particularly in the areas of business administration and economy by providing training in respect of accreditation standards. They will also cooperate in developing information database for educational institutions and in conducting special researches in education and its quality particularly in business administration education.

Moreover, the MoU entails that both parties design programs for capacity building in higher education. ARQAANE and HEAC will also offer academic and educational consultations especially in respect of quality and university governance.

Signing the MoU were Mr. Ikhleif Tarawneh, HEAC president and Dr. Bayan Abdulhaq on behalf of Mr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, ARQAANE president.

The Arab Quality Assurance and Accreditation Network (ARQAANE) is an international non-profit independent association established in Belgium in July 2007 with the fundamental objective of raising the quality of education in the Arab world.



TAG-Knowledge Activities

A Training Course in cooperation with Madrasati

The Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Knowledge Society (TAG-Knowledge) conducted recently a training course on writing reports in English and Arabic in cooperation with Madrasati, an initiative spearheaded by Her Majesty Queen Rania Al Abdullah that brings together public, private and non-profit partners in an exciting and new grassroots effort to renovate public schools in urgent need of repair.

The course aimed at enhancing the potentials and skills of the participants in their professional life.

In addition, TAG-Knowledge held a discussion session about the future of accounting students at the Jordanian universities where a number of students in this field from different universities participated in the discussion. Professional and scientific certificates, the future of the accounting specialization and its field of work were the core of the discussion.



Intellectual Property Course

Due to the belief of the Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Knowledge Society (TAG-Knowledge) of the importance of spreading knowledge and culture among its members of university students, the Society held a training course about the concept of Intellectual Property, January 27-28, 2009 with the participation of twenty students.

The course concentrated on the definition of Intellectual Property and its phases of development; trademarks, patents and copyrights.

Human Resources Management Course

The Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Knowledge Society (TAG-Knowledge) held a training course entitled "Human Resources Management, January 24-26, 2009 with the participation of thirteen members from the TAG-Knowledge members. The course tackled various aspects like leadership skills, means of enhancing these skills, the concept of Human Resources and its main tasks, job description, performance evaluation and training process.



English Language Courses

English language replacement test was conducted on February 4, 2009 at the premises of the Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Knowledge Society (TAG-Knowledge) with the attendance of thirty candidates. The test is part of the cooperation taken place between the Society and Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Academy for Languages. The test was conducted at TAG-Knowledge due to the suitable training atmosphere it enjoys.

It is worth mentioning that several tests will take place in four different levels February 14,- March 31, 2009.

Participating in the Recruitment Day

The Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Knowledge Society (TAG-Knowledge) with other local and international organizations and institutions participated in the Recruitment Day held at the premises of the University of Jordan on February 4, 2009. This kind of activity aims at attracting qualifications to volunteer in the local community's services in all fields. It is also a good opportunity to promote the activities and programs of these institutions that focus on the local communities development.

Kuwait Declaration

Elevating Living Standards of Arab Citizens

Issued by

The Arab Economic, Development and Social Summit



State of Kuwait - January 20, 2009

"We, the leaders of the Arab countries who held the Arab Economic, Development, and Social Summit in the State of Kuwait Muharram 22 and 23, 1430 Hegira, corresponding to January 19 and 20, 2009, stress the close ties and joint goals of the Arab homeland. We also work to entrench, bolster, and steer these goals in a way that will develop the entire Arab societies, repair their situation, and secure their future based on modern, genuine Arab economic thought in compliance with the League of Arab States' Charter and the agreements concluded within the framework of the Arab League and the adopted strategies.

We also commend the Kuwaiti-Egyptian initiative stressing the relationship between Arab social security and peace on one hand and economic and social development on the other hand. The latter was activated by the resolution issued by the 2007 Riyadh Summit and the 2008 Damascus Summit with the aim of holding a summit to push the development process in the Arab world forward.

We have also made the necessary decisions to improve the living standard of the Arab citizen, give priority to the joint Arab investments, and provide a chance to the private sector and the civil society to participate in the economic and social development process and infrastructure projects in order to promote projects in the fields of production, trade, and services, as



well as environmental, electric grid, Arab land network, and water and food security projects with the aim of achieving Arab integration.

We stress the need to focus on the aspects of social development, foremost of which is education, as a basic factor for achieving the goal of a comprehensive development:

While monitoring the progress made by many Arab countries in the human development rates, particularly in the educational sector, the improvement of health services, and fighting poverty and illiteracy.

While following up the economic development process, particularly the establishment of the greater Arab free trade zone, what has been achieved by the Arab and regional economic groupings, and the progress made in cooperation with countries and international blocs.

Despite the achievements accomplished, the Arab world is still facing national and international challenges that affect the safety, security and

independence of its states as well as their social security among which on the national level are; poverty, unemployment, low living standards, low trade levels and inter-Arab investments, as well as the migration of capital and qualified workforce, weak infrastructure, inadequate education levels and incompatibility with labor market requirements, food and water security, climate change, energy, and inefficient use of resources. And in view of the repercussions and ramifications of the global financial crisis, many countries, economic blocs, and international financial institutions have called for finding suitable solutions to them and for limiting the damage.

Based on the above, we agree on the following:

Arab Economic & Social Integration: exerting double efforts to achieve comprehensive economic and social integration among Arab states and making it a means to achieve sustainable social and economic development and achieving the aspirations of the Arab nation for integration in global economy and dealing with international political and economic blocs.

Global Economic Crisis: following monetary and financial policies that boost the capability of Arab states to face the global meltdown and actively participating in international efforts to guarantee the world's financial stability, as well as activating the role of Arab financial institutions to increase inter-Arab investments and support Arab economy.

Investment: encouraging inter-Arab investments as well as providing a suitable environment and protection for these investments, facilitating the movement of Arab capital, and expanding the scope of the Unified Agreement for the Investment of Arab Capital in the Arab States.

Finance & Financial Institutions: boosting the role of joint Arab and national funds and financial institutions, developing their resources, relaxing conditions for granting loans, developing mechanisms for financing main inter-Arab projects in order to contribute to Arab economic integration, involving the private sector, providing credit facilitations for small and medium-sized enterprises.

Statistics: making data and accurate statistics available, saying that these were vital to planning and policy making, as well as decision making in



economic and social development, also developing and boosting the capabilities and resources of statistical bodies.

Private Sector: providing the economic and legal frameworks for the operation of the private sector and removing all obstacles facing its active participation in social and economic development in Arab states, boosting its role in building Arab social and economic integration, facilitating the movement of individuals, especially businessmen, and removing all obstacles in the way of transfer of capital among the Arab states.

Human Resource Development: working to increase the efficiency of Arab human resources within efforts to achieve the Millennium Goals by 2015, curbing poverty, expanding the empowerment of women and youth, creating job opportunities, improving the health and education sectors, and raising incomes.

Education and Scientific Research: developing education and learning systems to keep up with the fast-paced developments in science and technology, elevating the standards of educational institutions and making them more efficient, and supporting the educational and scientific research plan approved in the Khartoum and Damascus Summits (2006 and 2008 respectively). Also placing greater emphasis on scientific research and allocating budgets for it, easing access to knowledge, consolidating relations between Arab research centers, nationalizing modern technologies, encouraging scientists and researchers to benefit from their work.

Health Care: expanding basic health care projects in the Arab world, activating the role of joint Arab health institutions in order to raise service standards, paying special attention to

non-contagious diseases such as diabetes, and producing effective pharmaceuticals, easing their registration and thus creating pharmaceutical security in the Arab world.

Curbing Unemployment: enhancing the human potentials as they are the main resources and raising the level of education and linking it to the development needs, supporting the training and qualification programs in a way that curbs unemployment in the Arab economy, raising the level of efficiency and workforce productivity to meet the requirements of the Arab job markets, and providing more job opportunities in various economic sectors.

Women: Empowering women and raising the level of their economic, social and legal status, boosting their role in life, achieving equality and confirming the principles of equality and fairness in the society.

Youth: Setting up the necessary potentials to raise the level of the Arab youth, empowering and educating them to be qualified to proceed with the development process and activating their participation in development projects.

Immigration: Ensuring the rights of immigrants, taking care of the Arab immigrated qualified workforce outside the Arab world, strengthening their link to their homeland, working on providing a suitable environment to produce and nationalize knowledge in a way that utilizes all potentials in economic and social development in the Arab countries.

Housing: Taking into consideration the housing in the economic and social development plans for the Arab countries, enhancing partnership between governments, private sector and finance institutions within the framework of a comprehensive real

estate investment program in the Arab countries, and providing social housing with low costs for low-income people.

Agricultural Development and Food Security: Working on increasing the agricultural productivity, improving its rates, encouraging investment in agricultural development, taking the necessary procedures to provide suitable investment climate, accelerating the implementation of the agricultural development strategies endorsed by the Riyadh Summit 2007 to contribute to the achievement of food security and self-sufficiency as part of the Arab national security's priorities.



Industrial Development: achieving coordination, integration, variation in industrial production, boosting the productivity base, accelerating the implementation of industrial development strategies endorsed in Algeria Summit 2005.

Commerce: Taking immediate action to eliminate obstacles standing on the way of establishing the greater Arab free trade zone, before the end of 2010, paving the way to set up the Arab Customs Union in 2015 as a basic step to achieve the Arab common market by the year 2020.

Services Trade: liberating the services trade among the Arab countries due to the important role it plays in the economic development.

Information and Communication Technology: liberating the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) sector, enhancing the competitive capacity of Arab ICT companies, developing the legislative framework that covers all aspect of this domain and encouraging the private sector to invest in this segment.

Intellectual Property: setting up

national strategies to protect Intellectual Property (IP) protection, developing their legislation in accordance with international commitments, boosting the IP protection system to guarantee social, cultural and economic progress for the societies.

Tourism: The Arab tourism development policies should be drawn based on the best ideal investment strategies for the tourism potentials the Arab countries enjoy such as natural, cultural and historical resources through providing the necessary infrastructure to encourage tourism and investment taking into consideration the criteria of the sustainable tourism development,

developing tourism projects since they are one of the means to achieve economic and social development in the Arab countries.

Energy: enhancing Arab cooperation in the field of energy by improving its efficiency and saving it as a means to achieve sustainable development, enhancing and strengthening the Arab electricity grid, establishing an Arab market for electric power, enhancing and expanding the natural gas grid, increasing the private sector's participation in its management and investment, expanding the usage of regenerated power techniques and nuclear power for peaceful purposes in production processes.

Transportation: achieving a network linkage of the air, land and sea transportation among the Arab countries since they are the basic veins for trade, tourism, investment and employment, seeking to upgrade the competitive level of the Arab transportation means by liberating the transportation services among the Arab countries particularly by implementing the open skies program, also by developing organizational frameworks in order to attract a bigger portion of the interna-

tional transportation movement benefiting from the special geographical location of the Arab region.

Environment: Taking the necessary measures to preserve the environment and the natural resources, following the best utilization methods to benefit from such resources to achieve sustainable development since it is the core of all the economic and social development fields to improve the level and quality of citizens' life and working on eliminating the impact of the climate change and its repercussions on the Arab societies.

Water Security: Setting up an Arab strategy to achieve Arab water security, working on the national and Arab levels to face the water deficit since the water scarcity is one of the big challenges.

Civil Society: Stressing on the important role of the civil society in the economic and social development, providing facilities to encourage the establishment of civil society institutions to undertake this role, enhancing cooperation between government and civil society organizations.

Arab International Relations: boosting Arab international cooperation, enhancing the Arab countries' role in the regional and international institutions and organizations.

Institutionalization: enhancing and empowering the League of Arab States and its institutions to undertake their tasks and achieve Arab social and economic integration and enabling these institutions to implement the decisions issued by the League's Arab summits and ministerial councils.

In the conclusion...

We, the leaders of the Arab countries, decided to agree on the work agenda issued by the Kuwait Summit and confirm our determination to implement and follow up all the recommendations mentioned in this Declaration and its annexes.

We extend our thanks to Kuwait represented by its government and people, and to His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Amir of the State of Kuwait, for hosting the Summit, and his wise management of the Summit's sessions. We also express our pride for the continuous efforts and extensive deliberations of the League of Arab States represented by its various bodies to provide the factors of success for this Summit."