

## IN THIS ISSUE

### TAG-Org News

**Abu-Ghazaleh Invites WTO Director-General to Visit Arab Region, Updates Arab Ambassadors on Work Progress of WTO Panel**

### Education News

**TAGIUNI, an Authorized Partner for CompTIA**

### Societies News

**ESCWA Technology Center and LES-AC Sign MoU to Encourage Innovation**

### EPDF News

**Addressing the financial crisis will not be effective without a comprehensive, integrated and explicit strategy, said Dr. Jawad Anani.**

### News in Brief

**ASCA Launches Smart Phones Application on Android System and Soon on Apple-IOS System**



**HH Prime Minister of Kuwait Receives HE Dr. Talal Abu- Ghazaleh**



**Talal Abu-Ghazaleh University and the British Council Sign Aptis MoU**



**Abu-Ghazaleh Salutes H.H. Sheikh Nahyan' Leadership and Celebrates TAG-Org's 80 Offices**

## TAG-Org News

### HRH Saudi Arabia Crown Prince Salman bin Abdul-Aziz Honors Abu-Ghazaleh

JEDDAH - HRH Prince Salman bin Abdul-Aziz, Crown Prince and Minister of Defense honored HE Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, chairman of Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization (TAG-Org) in a special ceremony held at Ministry of Defense in Jeddah for its role in supporting the Prince Salman bin Abdul-Aziz Award for Young Entrepreneurs.

The ceremony also witnessed the honoring of a host of young Saudi entrepreneurs representing various business sectors, in addition to local companies and government organizations.



HRH Prince Salman bin Abdul-Aziz honors HE Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh

This prestigious recognition makes Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh the only personality from outside the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to be honored by HRH Prince Salman bin Abdul-Aziz.

Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh said: "It is a great privilege to be honored by HRH Prince Salman bin Abdul-Aziz and be presented with the Prince Salman bin Abdul-Aziz Award for Young Entrepreneurs. I consider this honor a great recognition to my life achievements."

He added that the support and encouragement of HRH Prince Salman have always inspired me to excel and to enhance the corporate social responsibility of our Organization. "This is a duty and the least to do to our societies and nations," he pointed out.

### TAG-Org Opens New Office in Malta

VALLETTA - Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization (TAG-Org) announced that it has recently expanded to open a new office in Malta.

The new office will provide all the services presented by TAG-Org to clients and investors from around the world.

Malta office can be reached at the following address:

**Talal Abu-Ghazaleh International .Ltd**  
**11 Triq il-Pluviera,**  
**San Gwann Malta**

**Post Code: SGN1931**

**Telephone number: + 356 21 373528**

**Mobile Phone: + 356 99 426180**

**E-mail: [Kdurah@tagi.com](mailto:Kdurah@tagi.com)**

**Malta**

## Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh Addresses WTO Forum, Participates in Panel of Experts Meetings

GENEVA - HE Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, member of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Panel to Identify 21st Century Trade Challenges, took part in a number of significant meetings and activities the Organization held for five days in Geneva.



HE Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh speaks during the open session of the World Trade Organization (WTO)

HE Abu-Ghazaleh took part in the second meeting of the WTO Panel to continue discussions of the challenges and future of the global trade and to find solutions. The Panel's members submitted their suggestions and visions including setting strategies based on the global changes mainly in terms of the global economic crisis.

HE Abu-Ghazaleh addressed the open session of the WTO Public Forum which was chaired by WTO Director General Mr. Pascal Lamy with the attendance of over 1,500 participants from civil society, universities, businesses and governments.

Lamy, in welcoming participants said: "While multilateralism is struggling in almost all spheres of global co-operation, I stand here before you with some optimism. We are after all gathered in the "house of trade". An international house that rose out of the ashes of two World Wars and which took some 60 years to create."

In his keynote speech, Abu-Ghazaleh talked about two main issues from the WTO perspective: the WTO built-in problems and the possible action to walk out the crisis.

Tackling the required possible action to encounter such problems, Abu-Ghazaleh briefed them into the following: To consider critical mass-type negotiations in cases of negotiations deadlock, the "Single Undertaking Principle" and allow for manageable agenda items, to complete the Doha Development Agenda (DDA) as priority (as a matter of principle) in parallel with new items, to consider negotiating an Internet Economy Agreement, to negotiate actively further liberalization of trade in services under the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) aiming at a multilateral outcome instead of the contemplated plurilateral agreement.

At the closing of his speech Abu-Ghazaleh applauded the WTO for the open and inclusive session saying: "Pascal Lamy's Panel of Experts is a commendable initiative to engage business and civil society and to provide decision makers with an opportunity to listen to views of stakeholders. WTO able leader and his committed and competent team can achieve much more if granted more executive authority as is the case in all other multilateral organizations."

## Abu-Ghazaleh Invites WTO Director-General to Visit Arab Region, Updates Arab Ambassadors on Work Progress of WTO Panel

GENEVA - HE Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, a member of the Panel on Defining Future of Trade at World Trade Organization (WTO), updated Arab ambassadors on the progress of the Panel as well as its suggestions and perceptions for the future of international trade and associated challenges.

Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh met with the ambassadors at the headquarters of the Arab League Mission in Geneva, upon an invitation from Dr. Abdel Aziz Bin Shafi Al Otaibi, Representative of KSA to the WTO and Coordinator of the Arab Group.



HE Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh during his meeting with the Ambassadors in Geneva

Throughout the meeting, participants exchanged opinions and suggestions on the future of international trade and necessary reforms, particularly in the working method as well as the topics listed on the agenda.

Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh sent a personal invitation to Mr. Lamy to conduct a business visit to the Arab region. A special program will be arranged for such a visit in support of the Panel's mission. Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh also commended the initiative by the Director-General in forming such a panel, as it engages business sectors and civil society in providing opportunity to decision makers to hear their voice and listen to the views of real stakeholders.

### TAG-Consultants to Provide Quality & HR Consulting to Al-Essra Hospital

AMMAN - Talal Abu-Ghazaleh & Co. Consulting (TAG-Consultants) signed a quality and HR consulting agreement with Al-Essra Hospital in which TAG-Consultants will work on restructuring the HR system, policies and procedures in the entire Hospital.



Mr. Mustafa Nasereddin and Dr. Nael Masalha.

The agreement, signed by Mr. Mustafa Nasereddin, executive director of TAG-Consultants and Dr. Nael Masalha, chairman and general manager of Al-Essra Hospital will also include all the hospital's departments, functions and activities.

*At Owners Forum Abu Dhabi 2012*

## **Abu-Ghazaleh Salutes H.H. Sheikh Nahyan' Leadership and Celebrates TAG-Org's 80 Offices**

ABU DHABI - Under the patronage of HH Sheikh Nahayan Mubarak Al Nahayan, UAE's Minister of Higher Education & Scientific Research and Chancellor of the Higher Colleges of Technology, the Owners Forum Abu Dhabi 2012 was inaugurated at Park Hyatt Hotel.

The October 13-15 event brings leaders of family enterprises and affiliated stakeholders together from throughout German-speaking Europe and the Middle East with a focus on issues of immediate relevance to family enterprises, such as leadership, governance, family dynamics and succession planning.

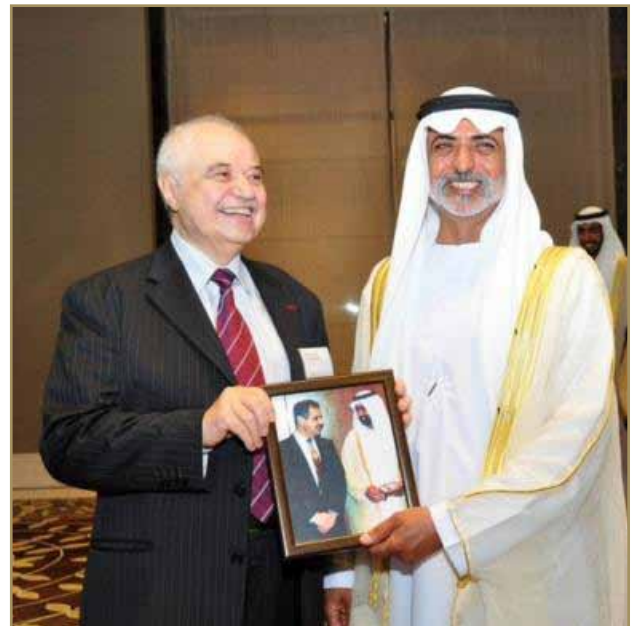
In his speech, HE Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, chairman of Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization (TAG-Org) reflected on the quick developments at TAG-Org due to its solid commitment by all to quality and excellence.

“We have now 28 specialized companies offering 50 professional, educational and business advisory services products. A total of 80 offices, staffed by nationals and 150 national representatives worldwide,” he said. “Our core values as a family reflects on our vision at work that is why we seek to develop our range of services and introduce new ones, commit to the latest technology and build new strategies for new markets,” he added.

At the end of his speech, Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh thanked HH Sheikh Nahayan Mubarak Al Nahayan saying:” Thank you for contributing to our success by giving us the chance to learn from your accomplishments, by supporting us, and by honoring me personally with your friendship.”



HE Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh and HH Sheikh Nahayan Mubarak Al Nahayan during the Owners Forum.



HE. Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh presents a souvenir to HH Sheikh Nahayan Mubarak Al Nahayan at the Owners Forum.

## HH Prime Minister of Kuwait Receives HE Dr. Talal Abu- Ghazaleh

KUWAIT - HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received HE Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, chairman of Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization (TAG-Org) at Bayan Palace.



HH Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah receives HE Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh.

The meeting focused on a presentation made by Dr. Abu- Ghazaleh, member of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Panel to Identify 21st Century Trade Challenges, regarding the outcomes of WTO meetings held in

Geneva last week. HH the Prime Minister reviewed the progress of the WTO panel assigned to identify the challenges faced by the global economy.

Dr. Abu- Ghazaleh emphasized to HH the Prime Minister that since he was selected as a member of the panel, he has dedicated his role and efforts to serve the Arab economic interests. He has also communicated with the Arab ambassadors in Geneva as well as officials in the Arab countries to hear their views, meet their aspirations and include them in the panel report that will be presented to the next WTO ministerial meeting.

Furthermore, Dr. Abu- Ghazaleh informed HH the Prime Minister of the deliberations of the meetings with ambassadors as well as the outcomes of the special meeting held in Geneva with the Arab ambassadors to the WTO.

Dr. Abu- Ghazaleh listened to some notes and directions in this regard from HH the Prime Minister who praised his role and efforts in serving the Arab interests.

## Canisius College Signs Cooperation Agreement with Talal Abu-Ghazaleh University

BUFFALO, NY - John J. Hurley, president of Canisius College and His Excellency Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, PhD, president of Talal Abu-Ghazaleh University (TAGIUNI), signed a cooperation agreement between the two institutions. Canisius will control admissions to the programs, student progress, and assessment. Instruction will be delivered online by Canisius faculty while TAGIUNI will recruit qualified students and provide academic services



Mr. John J. Hurley and HE Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh

such as advisement, positive identification of students, secure testing, and tutoring.

The agreement includes the following four online programs: Master of Science in International Business, Certificate in Educational Administration, Certificate in Educational Technologies & Emerging Media, and Certificate in Online Teaching and Training. The degrees and certificates will be awarded by Canisius but will also be co-branded and recognize the cooperation of TAGIUNI.

“This agreement affirms our interest in increasing our program enrollments from outside the United States,” said President Hurley. “This is one of the bridges we are building to extend our global reach. We are especially happy to partner with Talal Abu-Ghazaleh University and participate in the wide network of contacts the organization has. Talal has been a friend to Canisius College for many years, has recruited students for our classroom programs, and has an excellent reputation in business and education.”

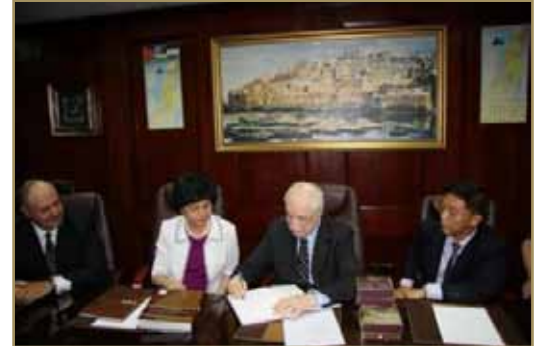
“We view cooperation with Canisius College as an important step towards building a strong online educational system to reach the rest of the world,” said Abu-Ghazaleh. “It is very important for TAGIUNI to be part of global educational institutions in cooperation with such outstanding institutions as Canisius College.”

TAGIUNI is also working on similar agreements with accredited universities elsewhere in the US and in Europe.

## Abu-Ghazaleh Hosts Chinese Hanban Confucius Delegation, Discusses Future Cooperation in Fields of Digital Education and Languages

AMMAN - HE Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, chairman of Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization (TAG-Org) held several key meetings with a delegation from Hanban (Confucius Institute Headquarters).

The delegation was headed by Director General, Hanban, China; Chief Executive, Confucius Institute Headquarters Ms. Xu Lin.



HE Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh receives Ms. Xu Lin.

The meetings focused on several key issues such as future cooperation between Talal Abu-Ghazaleh University and Confucius Institute in the fields of teaching Chinese language online, establishing TAG-Confucius branch in other countries, in addition to other related issues.

It was also decided to sign a Memorandum of Understanding in December 2012 between the two parties which will focus on cooperation in various domains.

The delegation had several busy days in Jordan with field visits to TAG- Confucius where they attended a graduation ceremony for students of Chinese language, Chinese Visa Center and others.

### Arabian Business Selects Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh among the World's Most Influential Arabs 2012

DUBAI - The prestigious Arabian Business magazine selected HE Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh within the world's 500 most influential Arabs 2012.

To recognize the most influential Arab personalities in the world, the magazine, the Middle East's best selling weekly business magazine, conducted a six-month thorough survey of all the sectors in the Arab countries including Economic, Business, Science, Sport, Education, Culture and Society, Arts & Entertainment, Media, Banking and Finance, Transport, Construction and Industry.

In addition to Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh, the list included a number of prominent leading figures and intellects from all sectors.

The magazine introduced a brief about Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh's course of life, accomplishments and role on the regional and international levels.

On this occasion, a glittering ceremony was held to honor the most influential Arabs at Dubai's Khalifa Tower. Ms. Gihan Tawfiq, Business Development and Media Manager at Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization/ UAE offices attended the ceremony and received the Award of behalf of Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh.

## TAG-Training and CADER Sign Cooperation Agreement on Training and Capacity Building

AMMAN - Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Professional Training (TAG-Training) and ChangeAgent for Arab Development and Education Reform (CADER) signed a cooperation agreement in the area of training and capacity building services at Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Graduate School of Business (TAGSB).

The agreement was signed by HE Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh and HE Dr. Muhyieddeen Touq; Director General of CADER.

According to the agreement, the two parties shall establish a joint team to examine the potential of implementing several activities and services mainly in the field of developing online training and educational programs and offering them including through Talal Abu-Ghazaleh University-Jordan. In addition, any diploma and future programs delivered by CADER shall be offered at Talal Abu-Ghazaleh University College of Business in Bahrain (TAGUCB).

HE Abu-Ghazaleh welcomed the signing of this bilateral agreement saying:

“We are pleased to cooperate with CADER in various fields. Talal Abu- Ghazaleh University was founded to provide the best online training and educational programs for the global community. We believe this agreement will lead to fruitful cooperation and future ventures.”

HE Dr. Touq said that CADER is well established as a distinguished professional development company that has successfully introduced an innovative model in the region and has empowered thousands of educators.

He reiterated that through this partnership many Jordanians and other Arabs will benefit and progress.

The two parties agreed also to offer Entrepreneurial & Leadership programs in addition to SME tool box to enhance the youth skills. While, through Talal Abu-Ghazaleh E-Solutions (TAG- E-Solutions), e-learning programs of existing curriculum shall be developed and also the two parties will cooperate in attracting tenders.



HE Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh and HE Dr. Muhyieddeen Touq sign a cooperation agreement



HE Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh and HE Dr. Muhyieddeen Touq exchange a cooperation agreement

## Abu-Ghazaleh Tackles ‘Democratization of Education’ at Oman Investment Forum

MUSCAT - HE Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, chairman of Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization (TAG-Org) and member of the World Trade Organization Panel of Advisors on “Defining the Future of Trade” took part in the Oman Investment Forum held at Al-Bustan Palace, The Ritz Carlton in Muscat.

The Forum gathers key decision makers including government officials, leading industry figures and the international business community at one united platform to facilitate the growth of Oman’s economy.

In his Democratization of Education opening speech, Abu-Ghazaleh stated that the technology we are witnessing today marks an unprecedented step towards human progress in which he gave an example that smart phones today have more computing power than the computer systems that guided Apollo 11 to the Moon over 40 years ago.

“Information technology has improved our lives in both measurable and immeasurable ways and has revolutionized nearly every system and industry around the world,” he said.

Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh who introduced Talal Abu-Ghazaleh University (TAGIUNI), a quality global e-campus university providing digital classroom education for every student on earth and will start accepting students in 2013 explained what does democratizing education mean?

“Imagine if there was a system in place that would take a ground up approach with students, so they could achieve their goals. A system that wasn’t interested in high student turnover rates, but one where success of educational outcomes was paramount; and the teaching of applicable skills was its primary focus. A system that attributed its success to its alumni and held responsible, institutions that inadequately prepared students for the workforce. Imagine it was accessible without leaving your home, without ever having to travel or needing a visa. This is a great need for people not only in developing countries, but citizens around the globe,” he added.

“TAGIUNI is my endeavor to democratize education, promote global citizenship, and empower citizens who have been disenfranchised by the technological revolution. My mission is to make accredited educational programs accessible to everyone, everywhere,” he stated.



HE Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh speaks during Oman Investment Forum- Muscat

*At the Arab Internet Governance Forum in Kuwait*

## **Abu-Ghazaleh Calls for the Establishment of an Arab Internet Governance Observatory**

KUWAIT - HE Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, chairman of Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization (TAG-Org) called on setting up an Arab Internet Governance Observatory, with the main function of monitoring key developments in Internet governance arrangements and policies.



HE Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh during the First Arab Internet Governance Forum held in Kuwait

In his speech at the First Arab Internet Governance Forum held recently at Kuwait Regency Hotel, Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh also suggested setting up a Working Group to study and analyze recent developments and make proposals for a well-conceived Arab position on key technical and public-policy issues.

At the Forum, Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh introduced TAG-PEDIA that has so far compiled more than 450,000 informative entries from across the Arab world on a variety of sciences and other topics.

“It is independent, free, supervised and revised. It is the first initiative of its kind that targets Arab academics, scholars and readers, and provides them with general knowledge from an Arabic cultural, historical, and educational perspective,” he said.



The participants of the First Arab Internet Governance Forum held in Kuwait

“TAG-PEDIA aims at founding a free-access database that delivers a broad variety of knowledge in all humanitarian sciences, with the highest standards of quality, integrity, and accuracy. It also gives the chance for readers/users to augment the content through contributing to the Encyclopedia without prejudicing the rights of its original author,” he added.

According to Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh, a team of researchers, academics, historians and language experts are behind the exciting work of TAG-PEDIA.

“We look forward to developing consensus on regional Arab Internet governance that can facilitate comprehensive access to resources, content, and tools, which will form the engine for innovation for the society as a whole,” he stated.

Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh concluded: “We also need to send a strong message against the fragmentation of the Internet. And pre-empt that Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) needs to expedite its multilingualization process. We want to see Arabic characters, on equal standing with the English characters, for the benefit of over half a billion users.”

*At Abdul Hameed Shoman Cultural Forum*

### **Abu-Ghazaleh: We will be in A Crisis if we do not Shift from Education to Learning**

AMMAN - HE Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, chairman of Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization (TAG-Org), delivered a lecture at Abdul Hameed Shoman Cultural Forum entitled “Democracy and Education”.

HE Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh defined democracy from his own point of view, saying that democracy means equality in education and work opportunities and in all human requirements that should be conducted on basis of parity and justice among all citizens.



HE Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh during a lecture at Abdul Hameed Shoman Cultural Forum

“Information Technology has contributed to the development of our lives and created a revolution at all levels and systems in all over the world. However, one system is still left behind and that is the education sector,” Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh said.

Meanwhile, he highlighted the global trend on learning saying “we have to move from the Education era into the Learning era as the latter achieves equality among our children who are looking to continue their higher studies at well-recognized international universities and realizes at the same time democracy in education.”

He stated: “This method of learning saves a lot of travel and accommodation expenses abroad for the students and saves them as well difficulties of acquiring visa for countries that is difficult to acquire. Therefore, the Talal Abu-Ghazaleh University (TAGIUNI), Democratizing World-Class Education, will be the new and only pattern of its kind global that delivers programs of the reputable universities. It’s a new revolution in education that seeks to change the education method globally.”

Abu-Ghazaleh defined TAGIUNI as an initiative to democratize education, enhance global citizenship and empower citizens who haven’t availed themselves of the technological revolution’s advantages.

“We are currently shaping the new educational facade that is full with challenges as we are also having an opportunity to unite our efforts towards developing a more comprehensive knowledge-based society for a prosperous future for our young generations. We have also a role to perform in making education accessible and reinforce creativity movement in the society as a whole,” he said.

Abu-Ghazaleh concluded by stating “We are in a crisis if we don’t move from the Education method into the Learning method and it’s about time to achieve some sort of democracy and equality in the university education at the highest levels.”

*Under the Patronage of HE Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh*

## **TAGIUNI Hosts Junior Chamber International 2nd National Convention**

AMMAN - Under the patronage of HE Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, the Jordan's Junior Chamber International (JCI) held recently its 2nd National Convention under the title "Sustain Ability" with the participation of 80 youths representing various educational institutions at Talal Abu-Ghazaleh University (TAGIUNI).



HE Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh during the 2nd National Convention for Jordan's Junior Chamber International (JCI).

For the 2nd consecutive year, JCI Jordan's Convention brought together prominent speakers and hosted a number of training sessions that allowed participants to elevate their belief in their abilities to create a better future.

In his keynote speech, Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh stressed on the role of the youth in making the right change and the right decisions in selecting the perfect initiatives for change. He also encouraged them to embrace the world of digital age and knowledge in order to have a better future. He cited an example of Finland and Jordan saying that "it does not make sense that Finland which resembles Jordan in its limited resources and population has a Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of 266 billion dollars while Jordan is only 30 billion dollars."

He also encouraged the attendees to change the name from Junior Chamber International to Youth Chamber and to become a knowledge society with links to knowledge economy.

He also applauded the participation of female attendees pointing out that this is really encouraging in the digital age. He also requested to have a group representing youth in the Economic Policy Development Forum.

For the first time this year, JCI hosted a debate contest where four teams competed in two rounds to come up with a national winning debating team.

## TAG-Org Completes Virtualization Infrastructure for First Private Cloud in the Arab World

AMMAN - Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization (TAG-Org), the leading firm of professional and educational services in the world, has completed its Virtualization Infrastructure as part of its objective to establish a private cloud. The completion of this milestone provides TAG-Org with the means to migrate all of its applications, systems, and enterprise software to a virtual environment in order to save power and resources, as part of TAG-Org's Green IT Initiative. Migration and integrating a Virtual Desktop Infrastructure (VDI) for individual users is the next step in the development process.



HE Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh heads the meeting of the Cloud & Infrastructure Systems Team at Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization

TAG-Org has selected VMware's Virtualization Products, the global leader in virtualization and cloud infrastructure, for developing TAG-Org's system, based on a very careful assessment of available products in the local market.

These elements are being engineered using VMware's products and are being led by TAG-Org's Cloud & Infrastructure Systems Team to provide a holistic infrastructure that meets user demands and provides a cost effective solution in a scalable manner.

HE Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh articulated his satisfaction with the team's achievement: "Today's milestone is indicative of the Cloud & Infrastructure Systems Team's dedication, and I anticipate that our Cloud will set the benchmark for the Arab world."

The objective of the TAG Cloud is to offer each user at TAG-Org and every learner at Talal Abu-Ghazaleh University (TAGIUNI), a global education provider with strategic alliances, with their own virtual machine. This would allow individuals to have remote access to their files, applications, and storage areas from any supported device at any time.

## **TAGITRAINING Honored by the Institute of Banking and Financial Studies Central Bank of Libya**

CAIRO - Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Professional Training (TAGITRAINING) Cairo office was honored with a shield in the name of the Central Bank of Libya - Institute of Banking and Financial Studies.

This honor came at the conclusion of training courses entitled (Identification of Training Needs and Assessment of Training Impact – Behavioral Skills for Secretaries and Office Managers- Development of Training Plans Using Computers). These courses were implemented in cooperation with Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization (TAG-Org) Libya Office Manager Mr. Qais AlDorra.



An Honorary Shield from the Central Bank of Libya to Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Professional Training (TAGITRAINING) Cairo office

Mr. Mohammed Ahmed AlEmam, Public Relation Officer who presented the shield in the name of the Institute highly praised the courses provided by TAG-Org and their advanced and professional level.

On his part, Mr. Mohammed Ala' Eddin, the training officer at TAGITRAINING Cairo office, explained that cooperation in these courses was made with a group of trainers and experts at the highest professional standards mainly with Dr. Adel AlMahdi, professor of economics and foreign trade, Dr. Ibrahim Salim, Dr. Mohammed Omar, and Engineer Haitham Salah.

### *Another success story at Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization*

## **A Service Department Employee at TAG-Org Acquires a Bachelor's Degree, Appointed Accountant**

AMMAN - Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization (TAG-Org) celebrated the graduation of Mr. Luay Hasan Sulaiman who acquired a Bachelor's Degree in accounting from Al Israa University.

HE Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, TAG-Org Chairman received Mr. Sulaiman at his office and congratulated him for his dedication and diligence and decided to hire him as an accountant and adjusted his salary accordingly.



HE Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh honors Mr. Luay Hasan Sulaiman.

## TAG-Org Receives Union of Jordanian Publishers Shield at the 14th Amman International Book Fair

AMMAN - The Union of Jordanian Publishers (UJP) presented Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization (TAG-Org), the global organization for professional, business, Intellectual Property, education and capacity building services, with an honorary shield for its continuous participation in the Amman International Book Fair which was held under the patronage of His Majesty King Abdullah II September 5th - 15th.



HE Minister of Culture Dr. Salah Jarar presents a shield to Mr. Ahmad Noubeh

HE Minister of Culture Dr. Salah Jarar presented the shield to Mr. Ahmad Noubeh, executive director of Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Translation, Distribution and Publishing (member of the UJP) in the presence of head of the Union Mr. Adnan Zahran.

## And Participates in the 14th Amman International Book Fair

AMMAN - Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization (TAG-Org), the global organization for professional, business, Intellectual Property, education and capacity building services, took part in the 14th Amman International Book Fair held under the patronage of His Majesty King Abdullah II September 5th - 15th.



The booth of Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization at the 14th Amman International Book Fair.

Organized by the Union of Jordanian Publishers in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture and Greater Amman Municipality, the Fair was inaugurated by Prime Minister Fayez Tarawneh.

Mr. Mustafa Hammad, Publication Department manager said: "We were really excited to show attendees our latest publications which include Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Legal Dictionary, the latest edition."

## TAG-Business Forum Hosts ‘Social Entrepreneurship: A Scope’ Seminar

AMMAN - The Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Business Forum hosted an exciting seminar entitled “Social Entrepreneurship: A Scope” focused on the role of young entrepreneurs in helping the society through various initiatives.

Rabee Zureikat, founder of Zikra Initiative, a modern-day treasure hunt initiative on an adventure to discover communities’ hidden gems that may be exchanged to trigger organic sustainable development, provided a comprehensive view of the work of the society through Zikra which concentrated on people’s strengths, skills, and heritage to create an equal and fair relationship for social development.

Meanwhile, Ali Dahmash, founder of Under My Olive Tree; a non-profit initiative that promotes social activism, volunteering and sustainable projects in less privileged areas in Jordan, said that life in some areas in the Kingdom worth a second look.

Mr. Laith Al Qasem, chairman of Arabian Business Consultants for Development moderated the seminar saying that these young talents can help make the world a better place.

### And Hosts “Internet Censorship in Jordan” Seminar

AMMAN - Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Forum hosted a seminar by HE Mr. Marwan Juma, former Minister Telecommunications and Information Technology, and CEO of Kinz.jo and dot.jo.

The seminar entitled “Internet Censorship in Jordan” and moderated by Mr. Jawad Abbassi, Founder and General Manager of Arab Advisors Group, tackled a highly controversial topic, especially with people looking to protect freedom of speech.



HE Mr. Marwan Juma speaks during the seminar.

“Imposing censorship on the Internet will send the worse message ever to investors and businessmen who selected Jordan to be the destination of their businesses,” Juma addressed the attendees.

The responsibility of using the Net lays on the users, according to Juma, who have the choice to ask the Internet Service Provider to filter their service, stressing at the same time on the role of parents of watching their children and their use of the Web.

“What we really need is collective awareness instead of wasting millions of dinars in useless attempts to impose censorship. Why don’t we use these sums of money to promote awareness and educate the parents on the role they should assume,” he wondered.

## Education News

### Talal Abu-Ghazaleh University and the British Council Sign Aptis MoU

AMMAN - HE Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, president of Talal Abu-Ghazaleh University (TAGIUNI), Democratizing World-Class Education and Mr. Marc Jessel, the British Council Country Director have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) at Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Graduate School of Business (TAGSB) by which TAGIUNI will offer Aptis, the British Council's new English language placement test, for its students.



HE Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh and Mr. Marc Jessel exchange a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

Launched in August 2012, Aptis is a flexible and adaptable English test for adults which can be used to assess ability in all four English skills (speaking, listening, reading and writing) – but can also be customised in order to test one or more specific skills. Aptis has been developed by testing experts and is based on the latest research in assessment,

HE Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh expressed his satisfaction in signing the MoU saying: “Signing this MoU with the reputable British Council enhances our trend for excellence in all our programs and courses mainly in our main field of expertise which is languages. TAGIUNI is led by gifted scholars, thought leaders and professors who provide an exceptional environment to study and acquire the skills needed to build rewarding lives and contribute productively to global society. The strength and power of TAGIUNI are our dedicated staff and talented students.”

According to the MoU, the British Council ensures TAGIUNI is professionally set up as an Aptis centre, and is provided with all the technical and management support and specifications needed to enable them to efficiently administer all test packages.

Additionally, TAGIUNI will incorporate Aptis in its e-platform, offering the test only for its candidates at the following TAGIUNI institutions: TAG University (TAGIUNI), TAG School of Business in Amman, Jordan, TAG University College in Bahrain, TAG Training Centers in Jordan and Bahrain, and TAG Recruitment Department.

Mr. Jessel, the British Council Country Director explained: “This partnership with such a reputable institution as TAGIUNI will enable us to increase our contribution to the personal and professional development of young people in Jordan and beyond. We believe Aptis will become the English language benchmarking assessment tool of choice for institutions and organizations globally, both in academia and business.”

## TAGIUNI, an Authorized Partner for CompTIA

DUBAI - Talal Abu-Ghazaleh University (TAGIUNI), Democratizing World-Class Education and CompTIA, the non-profit trade association for the world's information technology (IT) industry and the leading provider of vendor-neutral skills certifications for the global IT workforce signed a partnership agreement in the field of innovation and IT programs.



Mr. Salah M. Abu Osbeh and Mr. John McGlinchey signing ceremony of the partnership agreement

According to the agreement, TAGIUNI is now an Authorized Delivery Partner for Comptia's authorized partner program, CAPP.

Mr. Salah M. Abu Osbeh, TAGIUNI's Executive Director of Professional Partnerships and Continuous Education said: "We are really delighted to partner with CompTIA in this important field. HE Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, TAGIUNI president has always been a great supporter of the IT field as a way for a better generation in the future. TAGIUNI students will be exposed to the best programs by CompTIA which has 30 years of global perspective and more than 2,000 members and 1,000 business partners."

He added: "With their help and support we will be able to provide opportunities to disadvantaged populations to gain the skills they need for employment in the IT industry around the world."

CompTIA's Vice President for Europe and the Middle East, John McGlinchey, recognizes the importance of the agreement. McGlinchey says "We are excited about working with such a prestigious educational institution as TAGIUNI. In the IT industry IT certification is a clear differentiator when it comes to hiring, promotion and wages.

Employers rely on certifications when hiring IT staff because certified workers have a greater ability to understand new and complex technologies, are more productive and bring more insightful problem solving to the workplace. We are pleased to team with TAGIUNI for the delivery of our cutting-edge foundational certifications, which provide a comprehensive measurement of the core technology competencies and knowledge that should be in any IT professional's skill set".

## **TAGIUNI Holds First of Its Kind Online Training Course in the Region**

AMMAN - The Talal Abu-Ghazaleh University (TAGIUNI), Democratizing World-Class Education and its Australian partner the International Training & Development Group (ITAD Group) and Talal Abu-Ghazaleh professional training group organized a comprehensive online course considered the first of its kind in the region with participants from seven different countries.



The online course entitled “Organize Personal Work Priorities and Development”

covers the skills and knowledge required to organize own work schedules, monitor and obtain feedback on work performance, and maintain required levels of competence.

Talal Abu-Ghazaleh University (TAGIUNI) Executive Director for Partnerships Mr. Salah Abu Osbeh said:”This online course follows the vision of HE Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, TAGIUNI president who is personally interested in this type of training.”

He added: “This unique in its method and comprehensive in its content training course is an asset to all individuals representing different levels at any organization, it’s a more reliant and flexible approach in comparison to conventional in-class training. We are happy to partner with ITAD group, a full service end-to-end global training organization, with an in-depth expertise in the fields of training and development. With this partnership, we look forward to take our mutual and innovative offerings to the learning fraternity, and help spread the word of education.”

In July, TAGIUNI and ITAD group signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish a joint team for identifying and considering jointly undertaking future business opportunities.

## **TAGIUNI and Pearson Sign Partnership Agreement to provide students with the latest in learning technology**

DUBAI - Economies in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) are one step closer to achieving their goal of enhancing the competitiveness and productivity of their workforces, with a major new agreement signed between global education powerhouse, Pearson and the Talal Abu-Ghazaleh University (TAGIUNI).



Mr. Mark Andrews and Mr. Salah M. Abu Osbeh sign a partnership agreement.

The partnership agreement between the two parties that was signed this week will see internationally respected qualifications become accessible to a wide range of students all over the world. It is hoped the agreement will lead to an increased number of highly skilled professionals becoming available to local employers, and assist governments in the GCC to deliver on their promises of building increasingly knowledge-based economies.

Under the agreement, the world's largest education company, Pearson, will provide the Talal Abu-Ghazaleh University (TAGIUNI), Democratizing World-Class Education, with programs from its internationally acclaimed suite of Edexcel qualifications, some of which will be delivered online through the University's state of the art e-learning system. All short courses offered by TAG-Org and its franchised and partner companies and affiliated entities, will also be accredited to receive Edexcel Assured Status – a global mark of quality assurance. Edexcel is part of the Pearson family and is the United Kingdom's largest provider of professional qualifications, including the renowned BTEC programs.

Partnering with Pearson was an obvious choice for TAGIUNI, given Pearson's proven record of providing leading educational solutions to institutions all over the Middle East. The company works closely with governments and education providers in more than 65 countries to supply dynamic and engaging learning products and services from prep level, right through to post graduate degrees.

By partnering with a company of Pearson's magnitude, TAGIUNI will have access to a global network of educational experts that are also experienced in tailoring educational tools to meet the needs of learners in this region.

For more information about the products and services offered by both parties, please visit [www.edexcel.com/mea](http://www.edexcel.com/mea) [www.tagiuni.com](http://www.tagiuni.com)

## Talal Abu-Ghazaleh University Signs Agreement with E-education Regional Co.

AMMAN - The Talal Abu-Ghazaleh University (TAGIUNI), Democratizing World-Class Education, signed a cooperation agreement with E-education Regional Co. in the fields of education and training.

According to the cooperation agreement signed by H.E. Dr. Nabil Al-Sharif, and E-education Regional Co. Director, Mr.

Haitham Talli, the two parties agreed on the establishment of a partnership for identifying and considering jointly undertaking future business opportunities.



H.E. Dr. Nabil Al-Sharif and Mr. Haitham Talli sign a cooperation agreement.

The agreement focuses on TAGIUNI strategy in providing students with online language learning without having to travel or enroll at a physical university or institute through its language academy by holding the most stringent and professional criteria in full compliance with the highest international academic standards.

In addition the agreement will focus on E-education Regional Co. strategy in spreading and expanding easy-learning and neuro-language programs including online language teaching programs through Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Knowledge Center and Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization official offices around the world.

Dr. Al-Sharif said: "We are extremely happy to work with E-education Regional Co. in various fields especially languages and training. The vision of a better future as planned by Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh will soon come to reality."

Meanwhile, Talli said: "We are really proud to be part of the strategy of TAGIUNI, it is truly a vision of the future learning and education."

## Societies News

*In response to Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh's initiative*

### Voting for ASIP'S Famous Arab Trademarks Soars

AMMAN - Voting for the most famous trademarks continues in response to the initiative launched by HE Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, chairman of the Arab Society for Intellectual Property (ASIP).

According to the Arab Society for Intellectual Property (ASIP), a non-profit organization dedicated to raising the levels of awareness regarding Intellectual Property in the Arab region Executive Director Mr. Mutasem Al Dmour the response is unprecedented.



“The Society received enormous number of filled questionnaires from all the Arab countries. The voting process continues through the website ( [www.toparabbrands.com](http://www.toparabbrands.com) ) to determine the top 200 Arab trademarks into two categories, the first includes the most famous Arab trademarks generally and the second includes the most Arab trademarks according to sectors,” he said.

Al Dmour underlined the significance of this initiative which aims at highlighting Arab trademarks on an Arab and global levels, urging the public of all sectors (business sectors, chambers of commerce and industry, associations, professional unions, universities , and others) to participate. Awards will be presented to participants according to specific standards.

### TAG- Confucius Announces Additional Chinese Language Courses to Cope with Growing Demand

AMMAN - Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Confucius Institute (TAG- Confucius), the official testing center for China's Hanyu Shuiping Kaoshi or the Chinese Proficiency Test (HSK) announced additional Chinese language courses for all levels.

Mr. Tareq Hammad, TAG- Confucius executive director said:”We are happy with this announcement. The demand for these courses is phenomenal and we are glad to see registered individuals representing all ages.”

He added:” The Chinese language has recently gained a lot of interest by students and we would like to see more entering the amazing world of Chinese language.”

In June 2012, TAG- Confucius hosted the 2nd HSK Advanced Level Test for its students.

## ESCWA Technology Center and LES-AC Sign MoU to Encourage Innovation

AMMAN - The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) Technology Center and the Licensing Executives Society – Arab Countries (LES-AC) signed today at El Hassan Business Park a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to encourage innovation.



HE Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh receives the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) from Dr. Fouad Mrad.

The MoU, signed by HE Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, LES-AC chairman, and ESCWA Technology Center Executive Secretary Dr.

Rima Khalaf, stipulates the cooperation for expanding opportunities to correspond between innovators and investors in the ESCWA countries, and to disseminate information and enhance procedures for technology transfer on a regional level.

Moreover, the Memorandum shall strengthen partnerships with regional and international organizations and key stakeholders to plan and implement technology transfer projects along with launching national and international campaigns that support technology transfer initiatives on the regional level through joint efforts by all concerned entities.

Following the signing ceremony, HE Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh expressed his satisfaction for this partnership and cooperation. “This is a great day that we are cooperating with the United Nations represented by ESCWA and it is indeed a very exceptional partnership to achieve our joint goals stated in the MoU,” he said.

“We will exert all required and invest our expertise in the fields of licensing and technology transfer armed with the feasibility studies that meet the needs of the ESCWA members,” he added.

Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh highly commended the essential role played by Dr. Rima Khalaf in her capacity as the ESCWA Executive Secretary and praised her as a Jordanian woman.

Meanwhile, Dr. Fouad Mrad, CEO of the ESCWA Technology Center, stressed that through this cooperation “our mission will be easier in fulfilling the ESCWA goals and vision represented by enhancing economic and social development at the Western Asia region in accordance with the region’s special priorities.”

“We are proud to be partners in this economic development effort with LES-AC headed by Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh to benefit from his vast experience and joint vision to accomplish what was indicated in the MoU,” Dr. Mrad continued.

## ASCA a Golden Sponsor of Sharjah's Open Thinking Day

SHARJAH - The Arab Society of Certified Accountants (ASCA) sponsored the "Open Thinking Day" organized at Sharjah Chamber of Commerce.

ASCA showcased its professional publications, most prominently the Arabic versions of the International Financial Reporting Standards, International Standards on Quality Control, Auditing, other Assurance and Related Services, Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Dictionary for Accountants, International Finance Reporting Standards for SME's and International Public Sector Accounting Standards in addition to ASCA curriculum books, guides and brochures.



Participants at the "Open Thinking Day"

The event witnessed the participation of more than 200 representatives of different Arab and international organizations as well as ASCA's representative in the United Arab Emirates Mr. Esmat Fahmi, who participated in a seminar, entitled "The Future of the Accounting Profession".

## ASCA-Jordan Issues the Translated Arabic Version of the Guide to Quality Control for SMEs Practices

AMMAN - The Arab Society of Certified Accountants (Jordan) ASCA-Jordan issued the approved translated Arabic version of the Guide to Quality Control for Small and Medium-Sized (SMEs) Practices, issued by the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC).

This Guide was designed to promote consistent application of the International Standard on Quality Control (ISQC) 1, "Quality Control for Firms that Perform Audits and Reviews of Financial Statements, and Other Assurance and Related Services Engagements", as it introduces a practical approach of the method used by practitioner entities when developing quality control systems.

This Guide primarily assists small and medium-sized practices in providing high quality services to customers.



## Lebanon and Other Arab Countries Recognize ACPA Certificate

BEIRUT - The Board of the Lebanese Association of Certified Public Accountants (LACPA) decided recognize the Arab Certified Public Accountant (ACPA) certificate.

The Arab Society for Certified Accountants (ASCA) representative in Beirut Mr. Waref Kumayha received a letter in this regard from President of the Association Mr. Amin Saleh.



Mr. Amin Saleh presents Mr. Waref Kumayha a letter.

HE Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, chairman of the Arab Society of Certified Accountants (ASCA) expressed his gratitude to the Association and to its Board for this decision and highly praised the role of the Association in safeguarding the interests of the certified accountants and boosting the accounting profession in the country.

In addition to Lebanon, the ACPA was also recognized by Jordan, United Arab Emirates, Palestine, Yemen, Syria, Iraq, Oman, Qatar and Libya where ASCA was listed within the professional entities recognized to practice audit and its certificate recognized for licensing purposes and for practicing legal accounting profession.

HE Abu-Ghazaleh highly commended the efforts and achievements of LACPA that contributed to secure the stability of the financial and business sectors and develop national economy.

He pointed out that one of the indicators of this development is the growing number of certified accountants who seek to acquire the ACPA.

## Middle East Network Operators Group Conference Inaugurated, Hosted by ASREN

AMMAN - Under the patronage of HE Eng. Atef Al Tal, Minister of Information and Communications Technology and hosted by the Arab States Research and Education Network (ASREN), the Middle East Network Operators Group (MENOG) conference was inaugurated at the Four Seasons Hotel in Amman.



Dr. Salem Al Agtash, deputizing for HE Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, speaks during the (MENOG) Conference.

The October 7-8 MENOG meetings offer network engineers and other technical staff the opportunity to share their experiences and knowledge, and identify areas for regional cooperation.

HE Engineer Nader Thneibat, Deputizing for the Minister of ICT, indicated that this event is an important forum to discuss and learn latest technology innovation in communication infrastructure and network operations.

Meanwhile, deputizing for HE Dr. Talal Abu Ghazaleh, Chairman of ASREN, Dr. Salem Al Agtash, delivered a speech entitled “Prospects in Regional Research and Education Network” on behalf of Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh saying:”His majesty King Abdullah II has always been setting the grounds for us to work hard to promote technology and bring home all what is required to create platforms of innovations, boost communications infrastructure and build prominent ICT business and industries.”

“MENOG is an important venue that brings international experts, network operators, businesses, innovators and researchers together to discuss the challenges and solutions in this field and we are proud to be part of it,” he added.

### ASCA and UAE Accountants and Auditors Association Conduct Several Joint Training Programs

DUBAI - In cooperation with the Arab Society of Certified Accountants (ASCA), the UAE Accountants and Auditors Association (AAA) held a joint training course entitled “The International Public Sector Accounting Standards and their New Amendments”.



Participants during the joint training course.

The course focused on introducing participants to the development, objectives and importance of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS), providing them with the basic knowledge and necessary skills to apply these standards and identifying accounting characteristics in the public sector and its modern trends.

## Abu-Ghazaleh Receives Yarmouk University and Islamic Bank Delegations

AMMAN - HE Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, president of the Arab Society of Certified Accountants (ASCA) received Dr. Ahmed Omri, director of Queen Rania Center for Jordanian Studies and Community Service at Yarmouk University, Dr. Mufleh Al Jarrah, director of Jordan Islamic Bank, Irbid Branch and Dr. Shadi Al-Shaqran, head of Training



HE Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh receives delegations representing Yarmouk University and Islamic Bank.

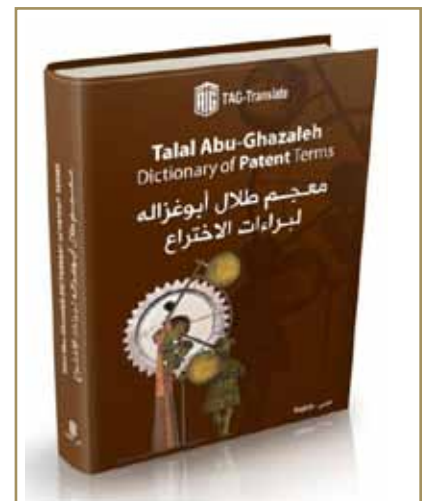
Division at Queen Rania Center. The meeting was also attended by Mr. Salem Al-Aouri, ASCA Manager and Ms. Rasha Abu-Afar, ASCA Officer at Yarmouk University.

The meeting discussed the possibility of providing services to students of Syrian universities through ASCA office at Yarmouk University by holding training courses and qualifying them to keep them updated with their educational progress until they can continue their regular studies in their respective universities. It has also been agreed that Syrian students wishing to participate in these courses pay out their fees in installments.

## Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Dictionary of Patent Terms Published

AMMAN - Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization (TAG-Org) has recently issued Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Dictionary for Patent Terms, which is the sixth in a series of specialized dictionaries conducted by the Organization.

The new Dictionary contains around 20 thousand words and terms, including a section on continuous controversy over the concept of patent, its legitimacy and application. It also comprises other sections regarding green patents, patent governance, patent portfolio management, analysis of information related to patents and patent audit, as well as a crucial section including the most prominent crimes concerning patents and another section on litigation and arbitration of patent disputes.



It is worthy to mention that in addition to the Patent Terms Dictionary, TAG-Org has issued five other dictionaries in the fields of accounting and business, Intellectual Property, information and communication technology, collocations and legal terms.

## Under the patronage of HH Sheikh Nahyan Bin Mubarak Al Nahyan Ankabut's Users' Meeting Concludes, Calls to Enhance Joint Research through ASREN

AL AIN, UAE - Under the Patronage of His Highness Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, UAE Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, the United Arab Emirates' Advanced Research and Education Network - Ankabut's Users' Meeting was held at the United Arab Emirates University, Al Ain, in conjunction with the meeting of the Arab States Research and Education Network (ASREN), and EUROMED.

The meeting was inaugurated by Ankabut CEO Mr. Fahem Al-Nuaimi who highly commended efforts exerted by ASREN and by its Chairman HE Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh on the Arab world level stressing Ankabut's support to the Network's work and goals related to building a high framework research and education network that connects all Arab universities and research institutions.

On behalf of ASREN Chairman, Dr. Salem Alaghtash, Managing Director of the Network in his keynote presentation tackled scientific research challenges and the significance of the research and education networks and technical links to mobilize joint research and become updated about the technological resources, cloud computing and its applications on a world level.

Alaghtash expressed ASREN's appreciation to the European Union's support for a number of strategic projects relating to EUMEDCONNECT and applications in research and education. He pointed out that ASREN will start technical linkage with a number of Arab research networks including the UAE's Advanced Research and Education Network – Ankabut.

From his part, Project Manager David West at DANTE which currently manages the



Dr. Salem Al-Agtash during Ankabut's Users' meeting that was held at the United Arab Emirates University, Al Ain.

EUMEDCONNECT2 program stressed on the importance of integrated linkage in the Arab region and the support provided by the EU in its endeavor to contribute to the technical and scientific development on the level of some Arab countries.

With the participation of Arab and international research and education representatives, the meeting reached to a number of conclusions that focused on establishing and enhancing technical linkage on the Arab region level. The main recommendations are:

- Joint cooperation to mobilize scientific research at the UAE through benefiting from experiences and best practices at the global advanced universities.
- Working to connect the UAE's Research and Education Network with ASREN through the EUMEDCONNECT2 project so that the UAE universities become part of ASREN not only on the level of the connected Arab countries but also on the level of the European and American universities and other global universities.
- Enhancing communication and cooperation between researchers at the Arab universities and working on research issues related to the region.

[www.asrenorg.net](http://www.asrenorg.net)

## EPDF News

*At the Economic Policy Development Forum meeting*

**Addressing the financial crisis will not be effective without a comprehensive, integrated and explicit strategy, said Dr. Jawad Anani.**

AMMAN - The Executive Committee of the Economic Policy Development Forum (EPDF) held its regular meeting under the chairmanship of HE Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh.

The Committee hosted Dr. Jawad Al Anani, director of the Economic and Social Council. He tackled the role and work progress of the Council, including capacity building, communication with decision makers and identifying imbalances and obstacles facing economic and social development.



HE Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh during the meeting of the executive committee of the EPDF

Dr. Anani also addressed Jordan's economic situation which is going through a critical phase with no signs of imminent recovery. He said that the only way to address the situation is through an integrated and explicit strategy that covers all aspects of the crisis.

Dr. Al Anani warned that if we do not follow such a strategy we would keep on moving from one crisis to another without success in solving any of them. He added that 42% of the Jordanian workforce serve in the public sector while the remaining 58% works in other sectors; and that excludes those Jordanians working abroad, for example in the Gulf region. However, these rates do not indicate productivity and we are in desperate need for studies on productivity, the speakers emphasized.

The meeting focused on discussing a work mechanism for developing and producing the Jordanian Economic Charter. A plan and relevant suggestions presented by Dr. Khaled Al Wazni in this respect were approved. Moreover, the results and outcomes of a number of EPDF committees as well as work papers were reviewed, and approved too.

The committee members participated in a discussion that resulted in significant outcomes and a future work plan.

## Forming a Committee on Taxes Chaired by Badran, Holding “Education for Business” Seminar in Cooperation with Al-Rai Center for Studies

AMMAN - The Executive Committee of the Economic Policy Development Forum (EPDF) has recently held its regular meeting under the chairmanship of HE Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh.



HE Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh and HE Ms. Reem Badran during the meeting of the Executive Committee (EPDF)

The meeting hosted HE Ms. Reem Badran, member of the Jordanian Parliament, who spoke about the Income Tax Law as well as the discussions that took place at the Parliamentary Financial Committee dealing with the Tax law.

Ms. Badran clarified that tax rates have changed over time; however tax policy has remained the same as the law mainly reflect financial policy rather than an economic policy.

The discussions tackled the potential effects of progressive taxes on industry, banks and other services, and whether they would affect competitiveness. Ms. Badran explained that such a progressive tax should be carefully studied rather than absolute in order for us to move from segment taxes to progressive taxes, and not to base our decisions on opinion.

She added that the Parliamentary Committee has also tackled the combination of segment and progressive tax and the minimum income limit, saying that, according to discussions, a ratio of income of the medium and small size enterprises is to be exempted and tax is to be imposed progressively afterwards on the higher incomes within certain sectors.

Based on a suggestion from Dr. Talal Abu Ghazaleh, the EPDF Executive Committee decided, to establish a specialized committee at the Forum that will be responsible for the taxation file under the chairmanship of Ms. Badran, with Dr. Ali Al Madadha as vice chair. In addition, a paper on taxation and its effects on all segments shall be prepared for a seminar on the subject at a later date.

On the other hand, EPDF President discussed the idea and stressed the importance of the Jordanian Economic Charter in supporting and reinforcing the economic development, emphasizing that the target now is to establish a standing institution for the Charter to develop policies and to form a working follow up team to ensure the implementation of such policies. At the meeting, Mr. Nabeel Al Talhouni talked about the arrangements reached with Al-Rai Center for Studies to organize the “Education for Employment” seminar, which is scheduled to be held on November 18th, 2012. The speakers and topics were all decided.

In addition, it was decided to announce the “Integrity and Transparency report” on October 4, 2012 in a press conference with the participation of Dr. Abu- Ghazaleh, Dr. Hisham Al Gharaibeh, Dr. Mohyi Aldeen Tooq and the report’s work team.

Furthermore, Dr. Al Gharaibeh was assigned to study the establishment of a competitiveness center with the Ministry of Planning.

## News in Brief

### **TAG- Confucius Conducts 3rd Chinese Proficiency Test**

AMMAN - Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Confucius Institute (TAG- Confucius), the official testing center for China's Hanyu Shuiping Kaoshi or the Chinese Proficiency Test (HSK) hosted the 3rd HSK Advanced Level Test for its students. TAG- Confucius prepared several lectures prior to the test in order to make it easier for students to sit for the exam.

### **Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Professional Training Holds a Workshop on the Egyptian Labor Law**

CAIRO - Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Professional Training (TAGITRAINING) /Cairo office, a workshop entitled "Egyptian Labor Law No. 12 for 2003". Mr. Badr Aldin Abd AlKhaliq, Cairo Office Manager, delivered this workshop over two days, explaining the responsibility and role of organizations toward workers and vice versa by discussing the following subjects: Individual work relations, Wages, Vacations, Workers' duties and accountability, Penalties and Work organization.

### **TAG-Knowledge Holds a Lecture on Small Enterprises at AlBayan School**

AMMAN - Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Knowledge Society (TAG-Knowledge) held an awareness lecture on small enterprises and their importance for the local society at AlBayan School. The lecture was attended by nearly 150 students from the secondary stage as well as a group of attendees representing faculty staff and students' parents. Holding such lecture comes in line with TAG-Knowledge mission of raising the students' awareness and spreading the culture of education and doing business. The lecture was delivered by Mr. Tareq Hammad, executive director of social responsibility at Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization (TAG-Org), who tackled many topics of interest to the students at this stage.

### **TAG-Knowledge Graduates the First Batch of Abu-Ghazaleh Training Diploma**

AMMAN - Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Knowledge Society (TAG-Knowledge) has recently organized a graduation ceremony for the first batch of Abu-Ghazaleh Training Diploma in Human Resources Management including 25 trainees and Abu-Ghazaleh Diploma in Translation including 10 trainees. Another 10 trainees in the field of Project Management are expected to graduate soon. The duration of the training diploma is five months consisting of 300 hours, where trainees are subject to several specialized workshops and courses on basic skills, as well as an intensive practical training inside and outside the Organization, each according to his/her specialization.

### **TAG-Org Sponsors Child Development Center in Oman**

MUSCAT - HE Dr. Talal Abu- Ghazaleh, chairman of Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization (TAG-Org), met a delegation from the civil volunteer project "Child Development Center" headed by the Center Manager Ms. Samiya bint Salim bin Hamad AlKalbani. The delegation praised the special donation by HE Dr. Abu- Ghazaleh to train and qualify 15 female members for the Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Cambridge IT Skills Diploma. The Head of Delegation gave a summary

on the activities presented by the Center to the people of the region especially that Moqniate town, where is the Center is located, is 50km far from the center of Ebri's district in AlThahira province and has a large population density. These activities include many services rendered on the basis of voluntary work to children and mothers. The Center currently accommodates 155 children due to modest capabilities, and provides training opportunities to mothers through simple workshops to train them on making clay, colors and handicrafts.

### **ASCA Launches Smart Phones Application on Android System and Soon on Apple-IOS System**

AMMAN - In order to keep pace with the accelerated developments in the information and communication technology, the Arab Society of Certified Accountants (ASCA) launched smart phones application through a program downloaded on any Android version. Such application allows members and students to access information, books, procedures as well as all ASCA news and services through smart phones rather than computer. ASCA application on mobile phones is considered one of the services presented to its members and other interested parties, in order to be able to access and interact with the available data and easily send requests. Upon using this program, ASCA members will obtain the latest data and developments via their mobile phone. It is worth mentioning that ASCA will soon launch its application on Apple-IOS system, so that it will cover about 90% of smart phones.

### **ASCA-Jordan Organizes Specialized Training Course for Employees of the Income and Sales Tax Department**

AMMAN - The Arab Society of Certified Accountants (ASCA)/Jordan held a specialized training course entitled "Basics of Financial Accounting" at the headquarters of the Income and Sales Tax Department. The training course, attended by 27 employees mainly from Legal Affairs and Tax General Prosecution Divisions at the Department, discussed several topics including Financial Accounting and its objectives, basics of accounting, definition of the accounting system, analysis of financial transactions, registration of financial transactions, bookkeeping, financial statements and their classifications.

### **TAG-Knowledge Receives CIEE Delegation**

AMMAN - For the fifth year in a row, Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Knowledge Center (TAG-Knowledge) received a high-profile delegation representing the Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE). The delegation toured TAG-Knowledge and met with students who benefit from the programs provided by the Center. They also thanked HE Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh for this amazing initiative which opened the door for CIEE students to mingle with the local society and learn Arabic language and traditions.