**GOING GLOBAL 2013**

**Dubai 4 – 6, 2013**

**Plenary Panel**

**Interventions of TALAL ABU-GHAZALEH**

Q 1 The world is investing in cross-border 10-100 gigabits per second dedicated links to connect universities, research centers, and hospitals at the regional and international levels. The Arab States Research and Education Network ([ASRENorg.net](http://asrenorg.net/)), a non-profit, GmbH, formed under the honorary chairmanship of the Secretary General of the League of Arab States (LAS) and with me as its chair, is leading an initiataive, jointly with the E.U., and in collaboration with a number of Arab national research and education networks (NRENs), including UAE, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Algeria, Tunis, and Sudan.

Our ultimate goal at ASREN is to establish a pan-Arab e-Infrastructure dedicated for research and education, provide networking services and applications, support the advancement of inter-Arab research and education, and promote cooperation with the world at large. ASREN will establish its first 155 megabit per second dedicated link, provide EU termination and peering at its router in the UK to Arab NREN links, facilitate access to world-class scientific resources, and support the development of advanced networks and services across the Arab region.

Similarly, the Arab Organization for Quality Assurance in Education ([AROQA.org](http://aroqa.org/)), also formed under the honorary chairmanship of the S.G of the LAS with me as its chair, has been leading the development of quality in education across the region. AROQA’s mission is to address quality concerns, promote awareness and implement quality assurance systems in educational institutions in order to enable them to produce workers for the global economy.

Q 2 Globalization of education has become a challenge. Online education is a major development, taking forms in ways we have never imagined and generating unprecedented opportunities for international collaboration and outreach to citizens worldwide.

Talal Abu-Ghazaleh University ([TAGIUNI.com](http://tagiuni.com/)) was created to embrace this online revolution with the strong belief that world-class education is a human right and should be available to anyone around the globe. This can only be achieved by partnering, rather than competing, with internationally acclaimed universities to bring their knowledge over the cyberspace to those who cannot afford it otherwise.

TAGIUNI has formed several partnership agreements with world leading universities. Students at TAGIUNI choose programs of their interest, register for courses online, sit for exams at TAGI Metric centers and acquire an accredited degree after completing graduation requirements. It is a corporate university supported and sustained by the resources of Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization (TAGorg.com) with 80 offices worldwide. Students pay only the listed fees of the university. At TAGIUNI, we also deliver language learning, vocational and professional qualifications, executive programs and capacity building for the public sector, all in partnership with accredited educational providers.

TAGIUNI is an innovative university approach to education; a gateway and platform for world-class education, an online delivery system, an e-payment gateway for students, a dedicated computer cloud (TAGCLOUD) environment – yet not any programs of its own!

Q 3 We need to answer the following questions:

How to make elite education (not just education) a human right? How to make it accessible to every human on the globe? How to provide it at affordable costs? How to overcome visa and dislocation handicaps? How to harness ICT capabilities for the delivery of education? How to move from teaching to learning in a knowledge environment? How to make the world-class universities worldwide virtual campuses? How to help with budgeting problems of universities? How to democratize world class education? How to educate for global employability? How to educate for global citizenship? How to face the knowledge “Tsunami” hitting Universities and School (Stanford)? How to survive the predicted “death of universities” as we know them today (Freidman)?

For answers, please visit TAGIUNI.com