It includes more than seven thousand students from various universities and colleges of Jordan

**Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Knowledge Society…**

**The Youth Window for Social Work**

**& A Core For Development Soul**

LIFE OF JORDAN YOUTH

BY Noor Jacob

**Tareq Hammad: "Our task is to produce a generation of youth who are capable to enter the labor market with efficiency and competency through training and development services & providing an appropriate atmosphere for creativity".**

Out of the belief in social and voluntary work, and based on realizing that Jordanian man is a real fortune which should be invested to the fullest extent, the idea of establishing Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Knowledge Society came as one of the most important educational institutions in Jordan to be a core for social work and help people of science and knowledge realize their desired objectives. To know more about this vital site, “LIFE OF JORDAN YOUTH’ met Tareq Hammad, the executive director of the Society, who said: "Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Knowledge Society is located in the Jordanian University street, opposite the main gate. It was established in October last year with a cost of more than half a million dollar funded by Talal Abu-Ghazaleh. It includes 7000 members so far of various universities & colleges students. Working hours are from 10 a.m. until 10 p.m. It is considered the first project of its kind in the Arab world & East Asia and it is listed among non-governmental organizations”.

Mr. Hammad added "the Society was established by an initiative of Mr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, the Chairman of Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization, as part of his social responsibility towards local community where many services are provided to university students in one place and for free to the members of Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Knowledge Society with free membership as well". He also indicated that the Society is composed of several halls including study halls, training halls, meeting room, in addition to stationery library, cafeteria and open places for studying.

**Services Provided by the Society**

Regarding services provided by the Society, Mr. Hammad said: “Free high-speed Internet services are provided. Training courses in basics are available at cost. There are also language clubs which teach students specialized languages with a view to providing a reactive environment that enables Society members to discuss and exchange ideas on several subjects and in all fields, in addition to an electronic library including 37.000 books and references and a consultancy office for recruitment.

**Society Mission and Achievements**

Mr. Hammad pointed out that the Society's mission is to produce a generation of youth capable of entering the labor market with efficiency where they are trained, developed and provided with a suitable atmosphere for creativity through the services provided by the Society. He also made clear that the Society held several seminars, the latest of which was entitled (Private Project or a job) presented by Dr. Qais Al-Khalafat where 60 students attended. Moreover, students participated in conferences such as UN Charter Conference. A meal was organized for a group of orphan kids in the holy month of Ramadan. A group of publications were donated to be kept in libraries of universities and colleges.

He added "the Society serves around 1000 students daily. The number of visitors to the site has reached approximately 195.000 since its establishment up to now. The Society also participated in several social services in order to develop the spirit of voluntary social work out of the belief that youth are the knights of change.

Regarding the free medical day, Mr. Hammad said: "A medical day has been arranged in Al-Khaldia municipality in Al-Mafraq governorate. It was organized by Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Knowledge Society in cooperation with the Jordanian Commission for Excellence and Development, with the participation of 180 volunteers of medical students from Jordanian universities; Al-Hashmieh University, Jordan University of Science & Technology.

The event was supported by the USAID Jordan Economic Development Program (SABEQ), the municipality of Al-Khalidiyeh, the King Hussein Zone of Development, the Blood Bank, the King Hussein Cancer Center and the Abu-Sheikha Medical Foundation.

The medical day included tests of hearing, speech, diabetes, blood pressure and others, in addition to lectures on disseminating awareness of cancer, mainly breast cancer of women. More than 1000 citizen received treatment in this medical day. His Excellency, Mahmoud Al Shiyyab, the Administrative Ruler of Northern & Central Badia, paid a field visit to the site of the free medical day, accompanied by the Director of Al-Khaldiah municipility & its Mayor Salem Nammur who praised the services provided.

Mr. Hammad explained "The Center seeks in the upcoming period to issue a free of charge student magazine to be distributed to members, which includes various aspects of culture & technology in order to serve students. The first edition of this magazine will be issued next September by the beginning of the new semester.

**MAZEN AL-A’KALIK: WORK ON BUILDING YOUTH PERSONALITY**

On the occasion of the free medical day, Mr. Mazen Al-A’KALIK, the representative of Jordan Commission for Excellence & Development, said "This Commission is a youth institution licensed by the Ministry of Social Development and aims at developing charitable and social work." He added that the Commission participated in the medical day out of its belief in the importance of the spirit of voluntary social work. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Knowledge Society participated in the medical day as the first specialized youth society in the Kingdom which aims at developing and training Jordanian youth and opening a window for voluntary work, through linking universities with practical skills after graduation and holding several courses and seminars which give students the basics of work in the local community.

Mr. Al-A’kalik indicated that this project aims at enabling employment of Jordanian youth through being qualified for the local market (psychological and moral qualification), building a conscious personality for youth and implanting the spirit of voluntary work in them. He also pointed out that he is ambitious to maintain permanent partnership with Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Knowledge Society in order to produce youth generations capable of coping with burdens of life and extend charitable voluntary work to other governorates and not only be limited to Al-Mafraq area alone. He also said that he is ambitious to encourage other institutions of the private sector to follow the same approach of Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Knowledge Society in order to create effective initiatives for voluntary work. Mr. Al-A’kalik also expressed his interest for the existence of media support from specialized youth platforms and for the support of other institutions to participate in investment of Jordan Youth.

*His Excellency President Jose Maria Figueres Olsen – former President of Costa Rica
Abu-Ghazaleh utilizes growth to fulfill his aspirations towards globalization*

Personally, I believe that there are three dimensions to the Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization (TAG-Org). The first dimension is represented in the activities that I expect to grow and develop, based on well-known and logical foundations. The Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization has come a long way in its activities and particularly in the field of services.

The second dimension is the employment of progress and advancement, in order for the aspirations of Mr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh towards globalization to be fulfilled. This is apparent in this organization’s success worldwide.

The third dimension is my personal vision of what TAG-Org does as far as services and activities are concerned. These have become a significant part of the regional economy’s elements and development, and have positively contributed to this economy and benefited from it. This is because TAG-Org has always been keen to keep up with everything new in the field of professional services and information, while having a strong desire to benefit from everything modern and developed in the world in all fields related to its businesses globally.

As a Successor of Craig Baret, Intel CEO

Talal Abu-Ghazaleh is Appointed Chairman of the Global Alliance for ICT and Development

The United Nations has recently appointed Mr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, CEO of the Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization as Chairman of the Global Alliance for ICT and Development (GAID) of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), as successor to Craig Baret, Intel CEO.

Mr. Abu-Ghazaleh received a letter from the Under-Secretary General of UNDESA, Mr. Sha Zukang, inviting him to lead the Alliance, composed of representatives from public, private and civil society sectors as well as international organizations.

In his letter, Mr. Zukang praised Mr. Abu-Ghazaleh’s special and pioneering role in developing the goals of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) and expressed his appreciation for the Abu-Ghazaleh’s strong commitment and important contribution as UNDESA-GAID co-chair over the past three years.

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

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

UNDESA-GAID focuses on how ICT and innovation can be harnessed –in light of the increasing difficulties facing the least developed countries because of the current economic and financial crisis- to meet key global challenges such as poverty eradication, the financial crisis, climate change, governance and mainstreaming gender within the broader United Nations Development Agenda.

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