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## Talal Abu-Ghazaleh & Co. Consulting Launches Renewable Energy and Real Estate Management Services



AMMAN - Talal Abu-Ghazaleh International Organization (TAG-Org), through its member firm Talal Abu-Ghazaleh & Co. Consulting (TAG-Consult), is launching an array of consulting services in the Renewable Energy and Real Estate Management fields in 2019.

The launch of the new set of services comes in line with the vision of HE Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, Chairman of TAG-Org, in providing comprehensive services in all fields to government and private sectors, civil society institutions as well as individuals in Jordan, the region and globally.

TAG-Org's approach in expanding the provision of consulting services in such specific fields comes as a pioneering step which contributes to achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG 7) for 2030 "Ensuring access to affordable, reliable and modern energy for all" by providing consulting services that keep abreast of environmental and economic challenges faced by governments and communities in a mechanism to find alternative energy sources.

Concerning real estate management consulting services, the provision of such services aims to

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meet the 2030 SDGs, especially Goal No. 11 that aims to “make cities and settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable” locally and regionally for the benefit of Jordanian and Arab communities.

TAG-Consult provides various investment-consulting services in the field of real estate management including following-up with the concerned authorities on all required procedures relating to building and project permits (license), public works permit applications and their renewal, following-up applications for acquiring professional licenses and their renewal among many other related services.

Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh pointed out that the provision of these consulting services aims to cope with international challenges faced by different sectors, especially the renewable energy and real estate management sectors, to introduce the best solutions and global practices that meet the needs of different sectors in Jordan and the region.

Talal Abu-Ghazaleh & Co. Consulting (TAG-Consult) was established in 1972.

Since then, TAG-Consult has become one of the most prominent professional consulting firms through its more than 110 offices worldwide in addition to its representative offices in Europe, Asia and North America to provide the best high-quality services for both private and public sectors.

For the last three decades, TAG-Consult has been providing high-quality professional services to meet the needs of the business community mainly those relating to Financial and Management Consulting, Management Systems, Information Technology Systems and Quality Management in addition to Environmental Management Systems, Risk Analysis, Critical Review Points, Human Resource Development, Feasibility Studies, Market Studies and Research, Training and other financial consulting services such as merger of companies, privatization , business valuation among others.

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## Egypt and France Sign 32 Agreements in Various Sectors during the Economic Forum for Investment

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CAIRO - On the occasion of the visit of the French president Emmanuel Macron to Egypt on Monday, 28th of January 2019, the Ministry of Investment and International Cooperation organized the Economic Forum for Investment in cooperation with the French Chamber of Commerce, the French Embassy in Egypt and Ministry of Trade and Industry.

The Forum was held in the presence of Dr. Sahar Nasr -Minister of Investment and International Cooperation-, Dr. Mohamed Shaker -Minister of Electricity and Renewable Energy-, Ms. Agnès Pannier-Runacher - State Secretary for Economy and Finance at the French Ministry for the Economy and Finance -, Mrs. Ghada Wally- Minister of Social Solidarity-, Dr. Khaled Abdel Ghaffar – Minister of High Education and Scientific Research-, Dr. Ali Meselhy – Minister of Supply and Internal Trade-, Dr. Hesham Arafat – Minister of

Transport-, Eng. Amr Nassar – Minister of Trade and Industry-, Eng. Amr Talaat -Minister of Communication-, Admiral Mohab Mamish - Chairman of the Suez Canal Economic Zone-, the members of the Egyptian-French Business Council and about 300 representatives from the French companies.

The Forum witnessed the signing of 32 agreements which included cooperation agreements and protocols, memorandum of understandings, declaration of intentions, investment contracts with investments in the fields of Renewable Energy, Transportation, Health, Social Protection, Supply, Entrepreneurship, Telecommunications, SMEs, Automotive Technology, and Women's Empowerment.

Dr. Nasr pointed out that the French President visit to Egypt reflects the deep ties and strategic relations between the

two countries, in which these relations are currently witnessing tangible development in all the fields under the constant auspices and concern of the political leadership of the two countries to ensure the continuity of the constructive cooperation that reflects the historical status of the two countries and the depth of their relations, noting that the number of agreements signed during this visit reached 40 agreements amounting 1.6 Billion Euros.

The Minister stressed that the current government spares no effort since sworn to work on creating an attractive investment environment and put Egypt on the map of global investments, believing in the pivotal role of the private sector in achieving development and job creation, and in this sense, we look forward to attracting more French direct investments in the priority sectors and the participating of the French companies in future projects that create job opportunities and rely on transfer of modern technology to enhance the cooperation horizons between the two countries which is consistent with the orientations and priorities of the Egyptian Government including, the national projects, which are considered huge investment opportunities in themselves.

She also affirmed that at the forefront comes the following projects; Development of Suez Canal Axis Project, the New Cities, the New Administrative Capital, New City of Al-Alamein on the Mediterranean Coast, the Establishment of Specialized Investment Cities and benefiting from the French experience in the development of the new

cities including the smart cities , the continuation of the infrastructure projects and support for the health, education, and scientific research sectors, the industrial sectors, including automotive industry, engineering industries, Food industries, SMEs.

Meanwhile, the State Secretary at the French Ministry for the Economy and Finance stressed that France is considered one of the largest investors in Egypt where the overall investments in Egypt exceeds 5 billion dollars and the number of the French companies operating in Egypt is about 160 company whereas the French investments diversify in different sectors especially the infrastructure, Transportation, Industry, Electricity and Renewable Energy, Telecommunications and Information Technology, and the Financial Sector. And since the ratification of the new investment law, the volume of the French investments has doubled whereas the investment of the current and future project amounts 2 billion dollars. The French companies have been keen to achieve the social responsibility through various initiatives such as the support for innovation, entrepreneurship, and women's empowerment.

In addition, she pointed out to the success stories of the French companies in Egypt, where recently, Orange Telecom increased its investment in Egypt by 750 million euro, providing training for the youth, supporting the innovation and entrepreneurship and creating job opportunities through training. Also, Schneider Electric increased its capital by 20 million euro, and creating new job opportunities, where the company's

Factory located in Badr City is considered the largest factory for the company over the world. Engie (as leader of the consortium with Toyota Tsusho and Orascom Construction) invested in the construction, operation and maintenance of a 500 MW wind farm in Ras Gharib in Gulf of Suez.

She assured that there are success models for the Egyptian - French partnership including Lactalis-Halawa group for dairy products which act as a model for the partnership between the Egyptian and French capital in which the French technology is invested together with the Egyptian market experiences to support the emergence of large Egyptian French entities with great potentials and capacities, where the group plans to invest

55 Million Dollars to expand its activities, hence creating 6000 job opportunities through the acquisition of 10 dairy factories, and Sab Zahran in the Industry sector through the establishment of a new entity to expand in the Egyptian market and strengthen the group's production base in the region and make Egypt the regional hub for the group exporting to Africa and Middle east with investments estimated by 30 Million Euros.

Source:

<http://www.miic.gov.eg/English/MediaCenter/News/Pages/Egypt-and-France-Signed-32-Agreements-in-Variou-Sectors-during-the-Economic-Forum-for-Investment.aspx>

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## TAGITI and UN-Habitat to Support Conflict and Post-conflict Arab Countries by Linking ICT and Sustainable Urbanization

Abu-Ghazaleh: We are placing our technological resources and our 110 global offices to serve our joint cause

Ali-Ahmad: We highly value UN-Habitat's partnership with TAG-Org and we believe it's an effective step to harness digital technologies for sustainable urbanization in the Arab region

AMMAN- The first phase of putting into operation the global agreement signed between Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Information Technology International (TAGITI) and the UN-Habitat, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme will take place in the Arab world with plans to expand to the rest of the world.

In 2016, UN-Habitat and Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization (TAG-Org) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to carry forward the "Network Eleven Initiative" which was launched under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) to advance the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 11 (SDG 11): to build by 2030 'inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable urban settlements and cities'.

HE Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, TAG-Org chairman highlighted the significance of the agreement and the results to be achieved saying: "We are proud to partner with the UN-Habitat in such a major operation and we are placing our technological resources and our 110 global offices to serve our joint noble



cause which focuses on linking ICT and sustainable urbanization. We thank the UN-Habitat for such an opportunity."

Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh, Chair of Consortium for Sustainable Urbanization (CSU) Honorary Council, and Co-Chair of UN-Habitat Network 11, has been heavily involved in the ICT world for decades through his role as Chair of the UN ICT Task Force and the UN Global Alliance for ICT and Development in forging the millennium development goals.

Zena Ali-Ahmad, Director of UN-Habitat Regional Office for Arab States, said: "we highly value UN-Habitat's partnership with TAG-Org and we believe it's an effective step to harness digital technologies for sustainable urbanization in the Arab region, especially in conflict and post-conflict countries as a pilot for the implementation of the signed MOU."

By using ICT and data, the activities taking place in Arab States will aim at supporting policies and planning in countries in conflict and post-conflict such as Yemen, Syria, Libya and Iraq. Through

integrating humanitarian, development/reconstruction and recovery planning, the projects will ensure that reconstruction efforts are prioritized, equitable, inclusive, sustainable and integrate peace, as well as provide the basis for evidence-based urban analysis and support and monitor stabilization and recovery.

Meanwhile, TAGITI, the technological arm of Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization (TAG-Org) will support the three pillars of the signed MOU and UN-Habitat programme in the above countries,

including urban analysis for evidence-based decision-making, actively-managed geographic databases and urban documentation especially on housing and land property rights.

TAGITI will also contribute in hosting forums, reports production, visibility and provision of ICT equipment and tablets in addition to others.

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## Tunisia: African Development Bank and EBRD Invest 150 Million Euros to Improve Sanitation in Small Municipalities

ABIDJAN - The African Development Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) have recently signed a loan agreement with the Ministry of Development, Investment and International Cooperation (MDICI) and the National Office for Sanitation (ONAS) to finance the sanitation program for small municipalities with fewer than 10,000 inhabitants.

Nearly 200,000 inhabitants of small municipalities in Tunisia will benefit from significant environmental improvements thanks to a 150 million euros loan granted to ONAS and co-financed equally by the two institutions.

This program is aligned with the strategies of both institutions in the water and sanitation sector, and will include the construction of 24 new wastewater treatment plants, the expansion by 862 kilometers of sanitation network systems and the construction of 30 new pumping stations. It will promote better conditions of health, hygiene, environment and economic development for 33 small municipalities spread over 19 governorates.

This improvement will help alleviate environmental pollution and health risks linked to the current low level of sanitation services. It will also increase the amount of treated wastewater by 7.71 million m<sup>3</sup> per year thus raising the availability of useable water in the area.

Incorporating a capacity-building component for the National Office for Sanitation (ONAS) and targeted communes, the program will help Tunisia sustain the management of its sanitation systems and support private sector participation in infrastructure. The program will contribute to a new dynamic of development and investment, a source of employment for young people in priority regions.

The signing ceremony at MDICI headquarters was co-chaired by HE. Zied Laadhari, Minister of Development, Investment and International Cooperation, Mohamed El Azizi, Director General of the African Development Bank North Africa Office, Antoine Sallé de Chou, Head of the EBRD Office in Tunisia and Abdelmajid Bettaieb, President and CEO of ONAS.

### About the Cooperation:

The result of close collaboration between the two institutions' teams, this program reflects the desire of the two development banks to strengthen their cooperation in North Africa. An agreement on this program has already been signed on November 8, 2018 at the Bank's Africa Investment Forum in Johannesburg, through which the EBRD is delegating project implementation to the African Development Bank.

The African Development Bank and the EBRD are identifying a portfolio of joint operations to be carried out in the region, particularly in the areas of agribusiness,



financial inclusion of small and medium-sized enterprises, entrepreneurship and public-private partnerships.

As part of this partnership, the African Development Bank and the EBRD co-financed in 2015 Nador West Med Port Complex Project in Morocco for an amount of about 313 million euros.

Since the beginning of their operations in Tunisia, the African Development Bank and the EBRD have invested respectively

\$ 9.5 billion (since 1967) and \$ 830 million (since 2012).

Source:

<https://www.afdb.org/en/news-and-events/tunisia-african-development-bank-and-european-bank-for-reconstruction-and-development-invest-150-million-euros-to-improve-sanitation-in-small-municipalities18911-/>

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## Abu-Ghazaleh Marks Global Expansion with Sydney Office, Receives Australian Ambassador to Jordan

AMMAN – HE Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh announced the opening of a new office in Sydney, the most populous city in Australia and Oceania, which will strengthen Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization's (TAG-Org) global expansion strategy represented by more than 110 offices around the world.



The office, located on O'Connell Street in the heart of the business district, surrounded by Sydney's most successful companies and amongst some of Sydney's finest Premium Grade buildings and stands out as a focal point of the Sydney central business district will provide a host of services including education and professional services, culture, language learning, information technology, Intellectual Property and vocational training.

Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh stated: "Our expansion strategy dictates us to have a strong presence in every major city around the world and we are proud that our Sydney Office will play a big role in providing our unique services to local clients and will also cover New Zealand."

"We have established our first office in China 25 years ago and now we have six offices in different cities across China. Just like we teach Chinese language in Jordan through TAG Confucius – the only partnership between private sector and the government of China – we teach Arabic language in China. The Australian market is very important for our services and we expect excellent

growth that allows us to expand more," he added.

Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh received Australian Ambassador to Jordan HE Miles Armitage in his office and discussed with him the next step; the Ambassador commended the move as "a step forward" and "the right moment" saying: "Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh vision has always been positive and his latest office in Sydney will open new opportunities and business ventures."

It's worth mentioning that Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization (TAG-Org) is the largest global group of professional service firms offering services in the fields of Accounting, External Audit, Internal Audit, Corporate Governance, Taxation, Educational Consultancy, Economic and Strategic Studies, Management Advisory Services, Professional and Technical Training, Technology Transfer Project Management, Real Estate, Management, Investors and Business Advisory Services, Human Resources and Recruitment Services, E-Government, E-Commerce, E-Education, IT and Security Audit, Web Design, Professional Interpretation

and Translation, Website Arabization, Domain Names Registration, ICT Strategic Planning, ERP Consulting Services, IT and Internet Skills Training and Examinations, Intellectual Property Rights Protection and Management, Legal Services, among others.

TAG-Org Australia office can be reached at the following address:

Address: Level 19/1 O'Connell Street, Sydney NSW 2000

Telephone: +61(2) 82491841

Mobile: +61 (4) 69862389

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