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## Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Global and Russia's Group-IB Sign MoU in Information Security and Cyber Education



ST. PETERSBURG– Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Global (TAG.Global), the global organization for professional services and education and Russia's Group-IB, an international cyber security company specialized in cyber-attack prevention and Intellectual Property protection signed an MoU to strengthen cooperation in the fields of Information Security, Cyber Education and Training worldwide.

According to the MoU signed on the sidelines of the 23rd St. Petersburg International Economic Forum held under the Patronage of the Russian President HE Mr. Vladimir Putin and in the presence of the Chinese President HE Mr. Xi Jinping with the participation of more than 17000 officials and business leaders, the two parties will focus on Intellectual Property protection which plays an important role in the economic progress,

Issue No. 53

June  
2019

and enhances intellectual potential and growth in addition to Cyber Education and Training.

It is worth noting that Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property (AGIP)," the global IPR leader has completed more than 500,000 trademark registrations worldwide and its Chairman HE Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh was inducted into the IP Hall of Fame for his outstanding contribution to the development of IP law and practice.

HE Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh, chairman of TAG.Global who delivered a speech at the Forum entitled "Promoting Russian-Arab Relations Economic, Educational and Cultural Relationships" with special focus on using Artificial Intelligence (AI) in various fields signed the MoU with Mr. Ilya Sachkov, Founder and CEO of Group-IB which will strongly focus on creating a safer environment for IP owners around the world and contribute to the delivery of educational services to impart essential cyber security knowledge and skills to ensure a stable and cyber resilient digital economy.

Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh said: "There are many opportunities and fields to cooperate in and we salute Group-IB for their dedication and professionalism. We are happy to share experience and work together for the benefit of our world. We have strong presence through our 110 offices around the world and I am sure we both can contribute significantly in providing the best service."

Meanwhile, Sachkov, Group-IB CEO and Founder said: "TAG.Global is the leading IP registration and management provider

in the Arab region and has a wealth of knowledge about the problems local customers face in the IP area. Companies in the region will be able to take advantage of the unique synergy between Group-IB's next generation Intellectual Property Protection technologies, and TAG.Global's experience and an outstanding record of success among its clients. We look forward to expanding our outreach in the region and are confident that the MoU signed with TAG.Global is a significant step in this direction."

Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh, who led the first United Nations multi-stakeholder Task Force, the UN ICT Taskforce which contributed significantly to bringing the IT and the development communities together and succeeded in putting technology in the service of the UN Development Goals and Mr. Sachkov discussed possible areas of cooperation include joint cybersecurity and IP protection initiatives on a global scale, and promoting unique intelligence driven IP protection technologies all over the world through cooperating in various sectors.

In addition, TAG.Global and the CERT-GIB (Group-IB Computer Emergency Response Team), a member of the FIRST and Trusted Introducer international associations, will cooperate in enabling local companies to eliminate IP violations online promptly and efficiently while minimizing financial and reputational damage to their brands.

#### **About TAG.Global**

Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Global (TAG.Global) is a global leading group for professional services, education, capacity building

and intellectual property. For over 47 years, TAG.Global has been developing the infrastructure of interaction between business communities of diverse countries. Today, TAG.Global is: 140 professional companies, 150 professional partnerships, 110 offices around the world, including Russia, 150 representative offices, over 1,000,000 clients (annual increase 25,000 clients), over 350 international awards, over 250 educational partnerships, over 150 professional partnerships, over 500 memberships in international organizations.

#### **About Group-IB**

Group-IB is a leading provider of solutions aimed at detection and prevention of cyberattacks, online fraud, and IP protection. Group-IB's Threat Intelligence system has been named one

of the best in class by Gartner, Forrester, and IDC. Group-IB's technological leadership is built on the company's sixteen years of hands-on experience in cybercrime investigations around the world and 55,000 hours of cyber security incident response accumulated in the largest forensic laboratory in Eastern Europe and a round-the-clock monitoring center providing a rapid response to cyber incidents—CERT-GIB. Group-IB is a partner of INTERPOL, Europol, and has been recommended by the OSCE as a cybersecurity solutions provider. Group-IB is a member of the World Economic Forum.

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[http://www.tagtenders.com/news.aspx?id=24970&group\\_key=news&lang=en](http://www.tagtenders.com/news.aspx?id=24970&group_key=news&lang=en)

## \$1.45b to Promote Inclusive Growth and Job Creation in Jordan

WASHINGTON DC, The World Bank Group's Board of Executive Directors approved a \$1.45 billion financing package to help Jordan stimulate inclusive growth and create more jobs for all. The Second Equitable Growth and Job Creation Development Policy Loan (DPL2) contributes through far reaching and progressive reforms to launching Jordan as a country Open for Business.

The new package is designed to disburse in two equal tranches to support the Government's new economic plan for growth and to allow adequate time for completion of necessary additional reforms that are central to the achievement of the program overall results. The package comes at a significantly lower financing cost than market rates and benefits from guarantees of \$250 million by the United Kingdom and \$200 million by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The terms of the loan are concessional, and the maturity of the loan is for 34 years. In financial terms, DPL2 provides significant advantage over market-based financing for budgetary needs.

Over the last decade, Jordan has endured external shocks and regional challenges, including a sudden halt in its main energy supply, an inflow of an estimated 1.3 million Syrian refugees, and a cut off of crucial trade routes through neighboring states. Jordan responded by conducting a massive fiscal consolidation while preserving its economic and social stability, growing

at approximately 2 percent annually over the past two years. "Jordan has displayed resilience to exogenous shocks, commitment to its reform process, and a determination to remain a bedrock of stability and hospitality throughout. But this has taken a tangible toll on Jordanian citizens, with unemployment at record high and a high current account imbalance," said HE Dr Mohamad Al-Ississ, Minister of Planning and International Cooperation and Minister of State for Economic Affairs. "The next period must be a shift towards equitable, sustainable, and tangible growth. This will be done through strategic, evidence-based reforms that drive growth and economic sustainability."

To this end, a crucial element of DPL2 is to energize private sector growth by supporting reforms that: promote foreign direct investments and exports in service sectors that are advantageous for Jordanians; streamline licensing and inspections to ease doing businesses, particularly for small businesses; improve credit infrastructure (through Insolvency and Secured Transactions Laws); and develop new regulations for public procurement to reduce fiscal costs and boost transparency. The reforms, which Jordan has already started, will strategically target economic elements in need of improvement. This comprises promoting broadband services to harness the potential of the digital economy for Jordan's youth and developing new legislation for public

private partnerships to institutionalize investment. It also includes addressing Jordan's energy costs through a Roadmap for Financial Sustainability of the Energy Sector, a structural transformation that deals with the sector's financial and operational viability and long-term regulatory environment.

"The World Bank remains committed to support Jordan in laying the foundations for a stronger and more outward oriented economy that maximizes its growth potential and provides better opportunities for the Jordanian people," said Saroj Kumar Jha, Mashreq Regional Director, World Bank Group. "We commend the Government of Jordan's commitment and efforts to opening its markets and creating opportunities for new investments in priority sectors of the economy".

On the social side, alongside Jordan's growth agenda must be a targeted, reliable social safety nets system. A National Social Protection Strategy was endorsed and the National Aid Fund expansion program was also launched: Takaful will increase social protection coverage to an additional 85,000 households by 2021. The program brings an improvement in the targeting system and adopts a digitalized payment system for better transparency. Furthermore, the government adopted a smart gender agenda. To encourage employment of women and youth, new legislation was passed to promote and regulate flexible work and facilitate the establishment of childcare centers at the workplace.

Gender related references were removed from labor laws and bylaws. Codes of conduct that address harassment in the public transport system and workplace were also adopted.

"The DPL2 will allow Jordan to build on the momentum and take its reform program forward", said Christos Kostopoulos, World Bank Lead Economist. "The program supports further improvements in the business environment and a simpler, less bureaucratic and more user-friendly investor journey. It will also promote the update of the legal framework for public procurement and the extension of the national broadband fiber access network. In addition, the DPL2 will allow the government to continue to expand and improve the targeting of social safety nets for the poor and vulnerable."

The DPL2 brings the World Bank Group's total commitments to Jordan to \$2.78 billion, of which \$228.2 million are financed by the Global Concessional Financing Facility (GCFF). Launched in 2016, the GCFF provides concessional financing to middle income countries hosting large numbers of refugees at rates usually reserved for the poorest countries.

Source:

<http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/04/06/2019/us-145billion-to-promote-inclusive-growth-and-job-creation-in-jordan>

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## Connecting the National Agricultural Research Center of Jordan to the Arab States Research and Education Network in London

Amman- Upon the instructions of His Excellency Dr. Talal Abu Ghazaleh, the National Agricultural Research Center of Jordan is now connected to the global research and education networks through the main point of presence of the Arab States Research and Education Network in London.

This point of presence is operated and managed by the Arab States Research and Education Network (ASREN) in cooperation with the European Research and Education Network (GÉANT) with funding from the European Commission under the EUMEDCONNECT3 Project and Talal Abu Ghazaleh Global.

His Excellency Dr. Talal Abu Ghazaleh, Chairman of the Arab States Research and Education Network said: "We are happy to support the research and developments at the Jordanian National Agricultural Research Center by connecting them to the worldwide R&E networks. This service will enable them to access research and education data and resources from around the world."

HE Dr. Nizar Jamal Hadad, General Director of the National Center for Agricultural research said: " We are working on developing and enhancing our research and interacting with similar centers and research institutions in the same domain. This connection will help us achieve that."

The Arab States Research and Education Network (ASREN) was established under the auspices of the League of Arab States and chaired by HE Dr. Talal Abu Ghazaleh.



ASREN works on establishing the pan Arab research and education network to provide network and application services to the Arab research and education communities and to connect them with their peers around the world. ASREN activities are funded and supported by the European Commission and Talal Abu Ghazaleh Group.

Established in 1958, National Agricultural Research Center aims at utilizing the outcomes of the agricultural research that is developed locally or devised from other sources for the purposes of increasing agricultural production, both plant and animal production, and improving it and its efficiency; (ii) conserving the agricultural natural resources and optimizing their use; (iii) serving the purposes of agricultural development; and (iv) preserving the environmental balance.

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## Islamic Relief USA Supports Vulnerable Palestine Refugee Children in Gaza

GAZA STRIP-In an atmosphere of ongoing hardship, thousands of vulnerable children living in the Gaza Strip are receiving a much-needed helping hand thanks to a generous donation from Islamic Relief USA (IRUSA).

The contribution of \$ 2,670,000 will enable the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) to implement the fourth phase of the "Support to Vulnerable Children" project, by complimenting and building on the previous three phases. The project aims to extend support to approximately 2,500 orphans and 700 children with disabilities through cash and in-kind assistance, capacity-building and psychosocial support that will help the targeted beneficiaries fulfil their basic needs and wellbeing requirements.

After 13 years of blockade, frequent power shortages and unreliable access to safe drinking water, refugees in Gaza face a life riddled with challenges. Unemployment among refugees stands at 52 per cent, among the highest worldwide according to the latest statistics from the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics. Limited job access leaves 68 per cent of households in Gaza experiencing severe or moderate levels of food insecurity. The IRUSA cash assistance enables Gaza refugees to purchase food and non-food items, providing crucial support to families living in poverty.

"Poverty levels among Palestine refugees continue to rise. They rely on UNRWA to



meet essential food needs and health care requirements," Director of UNRWA Operations in Gaza, Matthias Schmale, said. "For their sake and the stability of Gaza, we must ensure that our food distributions to more than one million people do not face any interruption."

Beneficiaries of the last phase agree the support from IRUSA has been invaluable. Intisar al-Kafarnah, the mother of a visually impaired child, said the organization's assistance, which included financial aid for her daughter's educational needs and psychosocial support for her and thousands of other parents, helped enhance her coping mechanisms.

"Our financial situation worsened further after my husband had an accident in the beginning of 2017 and became incapable of movement," she told UNRWA staff. "The sponsorship is covering some of the daily life necessities. After attending the sessions,

I became more able to manage things and I do not cry as much as I used to because of the life challenges.”

The psychosocial support sessions offered through the IRUSA project as well as in UNRWA schools provide a crucial mental health assistance to refugees struggling with increasing economic hardship and trauma from intermittent cycles of violence. Since the launch of the Great March of Return demonstrations in March 2018, more than 28,000 Palestinians were injured, and hundreds killed. Tensions caused by the demonstrations placed an increased burden on Gaza families.

Despite the Agency’s financial shortfall, UNRWA has managed to sustain its vital services, such as the mental health and psychosocial support program for the most vulnerable in Gaza. In 2019, while mental health programs especially in regions coping with intermittent hostilities remain a priority, the Agency’s ability to deliver most of these programs will depend on availability of funds.

UNRWA thanks IRUSA for its continuous support to Palestine refugees.

IRUSA was launched in 1993 and today spans the United States, Africa, Asia, Europe, the Middle East and Latin America. Its programs, aimed at alleviating world poverty, range from children and orphans to women’s initiatives, food aid, livelihood, education and health.

For 70 years, UNRWA has delivered effective and reliable humanitarian support to Palestine refugees. The Agency’s services include free health care and education, food and cash assistance and microcredit loans to 5.5 million Palestine refugees facing extreme hardship in Jordan, the Gaza Strip, Lebanon, Syria and the West Bank.

Source:

<https://www.unrwa.org/newsroom/press-releases/islamic-relief-usa-supports-vulnerable-palestine-refugee-children-gaza0->

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## Abu-Ghazaleh: ASCA (Jordan) Issues Arabic Version of Guide to Audits of SME

AMMAN -The Arab Society of Certified Accountants (ASCA/Jordan) issued the approved translated Arabic version of the Guide to Using ISAs in the Audits of Small- and Medium-Sized Entities (SMEs), issued by the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC).

HE Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, ASCA Chairman, stated that the Guide aims at helping practitioners conduct high-quality, cost-effective audits, enabling them to better serve SMEs and, in turn, the wider public interest.

The fourth edition has been updated to reflect the recent changes to the ISAs including the International Audit and Assurance Standards Board (IAASB) projects on Using the Work of Internal Auditors; the Auditor's Responsibilities Relating to Other Information; Auditor Reporting; Disclosures and Non-Compliance with Laws and Regulations.

This Guide can be used to:

- Develop a deeper understanding of an audit conducted in compliance with the ISAs;
- Develop a staff manual (supplemented as necessary for local requirements and a firm's procedure) to be used for day-to-day reference, and as a basis for training sessions and individual study and discussion; and
- Help ensure that staff adopt a consistent approach to planning and performing an audit.



The Guide has been organized into two volumes as follows:-

Volume 1 of the Guide, which provides an overview of the entire audit and a discussion of key audit concepts such as materiality, assertions, internal control, risk assessment procedures, and the use of further audit procedures in responding to assessed risks. It also includes a summary of ISA requirements with respect to:

- Specific areas such as accounting estimates, related parties, subsequent events, going concern, and others;
- Documentation requirements; and
- Forming an opinion on the financial statements.

Volume 2 of the Guide focuses on how to apply the concepts outlined in Volume 1. It follows the typical stages involved in performing an audit, starting with client acceptance, planning, and risk assessment, and then the risk response, evaluating audit evidence obtained, and forming an appropriate audit opinion.

It is worth mentioning that ASCA-Jordan continuously seeks to develop accounting and management sciences, as well as all related principles applicable to professional services. ASCA-Jordan also strives to improve competence and practice and strengthen the code of ethics in accordance with the highest

professional standards through the issuance of accounting publications and following up on the recent developments in accounting and auditing.

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## First Graduates from Beekeeping and Honey-processing Training Program in Iraq



ERBIL- Twenty beneficiaries have successfully completed a training program in beekeeping and honey-processing organized by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture and supported by the Government of Austria.

The beneficiaries - internally displaced persons and refugees in Harsham Camp, Erbil, in northern Iraq, - received their graduation certificates and beehive toolkits at a ceremony, which took place at the training facility next to the camp. The training will allow them to start their own small-scale honey-production businesses. The initiative supports income-generation, diversification of rural activities and fostering the self-sufficiency of displaced persons on their return to their homes.

Naqat Faesal Rashed, who was displaced, from his hometown Nineveh in 2014 said completing the training course is a new beginning for him and his family. "I was very happy to have participated in the beekeeping and honey-processing course because I have a great desire for future beekeeping when I return to Nineveh," said the father of seven. "Beekeeping is a science, work and a hobby, in addition to the economic aspect."

Female participants in the training course, including Eman Mahmud Khalaf, Fatema Abdulla Mujbl and Enham Qahtan Fathi, all from Haman Alil, Nineveh, are proposing to set up a women's association to work together to increase the quality of future produce and the number of beehives, and thus also increase income for their families once they return to their homes.

“When we will return, thanks to the know-how acquired and the tool-kits we have received, we are very much encouraged to pursue honey production and to increase the number of beehives throughout our women's association,” said one.

Following the success of the training program, UNIDO will replicate the initiative in the coming months. The training is part of the project, “Resilience-building through immediate livelihood and income generation for internally displaced persons, refugees, and host communities in Harsham Camp”, which focuses on youth and vulnerable people and supports technical and vocational training in agro-processing activities.

Other training subjects, among them fruit and vegetable-production in greenhouses, and the processing of fruit into marketable products such as juices and jams have been identified in the context of market needs in the region. The project is in line with 2019 Iraq Humanitarian Response Plan strategy to help people in need re-establish a livelihood, increase their income, and restore their economic self-sufficiency.

Source:

<https://www.unido.org/news/first-graduates-beekeeping-and-honey-processing-training-programme-iraq>

Article link:

[http://www.tagtenders.com/TenderNews.aspx?id=5520&group\\_key=tagitenders&lang=en](http://www.tagtenders.com/TenderNews.aspx?id=5520&group_key=tagitenders&lang=en)