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Opening Plenary

Learning for All in the Digital Age

By

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Keynote: Learning for All in the Digital Age

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ONE : “MDG eNabler” by GAID

- There has been a little hope that the MDGs will be reached by 2015.
- The notion of the *MDG eNabler* was proposed by Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, GAID Chairman, as a potential driver to advancing the achievements of MDGs.
- Basis - ICT is the true enabler that can accelerate achievement of MDGs.
- Secretary General Ban Ki Moon endorsed the *MDG eNabler* to advance the MDGs .
- The main components of the eNabler are:
 - o Matrix of ICT Solutions that captures knowledge about existing best practice ICT-based tools and solutions for specific development tasks
 - o A Computer-Aided Strategic Planner for developing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating problem-specific plans
 - o A Meta-Portal (“Yellow pages”) for quick access to key resources
 - o A Compendium of Excellence in ICT for MDGs
 - o Simulations and games that will help build relevant capacity

A Cross-sectoral and multi-stakeholder platform: ICT companies, Governments, NGOs

- *Education is one of the 8 MDGs*

Two : UNESCO – Education for All in the digital age

- Merging GAID’s Education for all in the digital age initiative with UNESCO’s Education for all programme.
- Joint Global Action Program towards better achievement of MDGs through ICT integration and innovations in Education system for 2010-2015.
- Based on the dynamics of cultural, social, and institutional changes; environmental

awareness; and sustainability in the social, economic, and cultural context.

- Provide coordinated support and resources to create an “enabling environment” for large scale ICT integration in education.
 - Policy support and resources
 - Knowledge sharing and capacity building programs
 - Coordinated infrastructure deployment
 - Software and content selection and dissemination, and coordinated research.

Global partners: UNESCO, UNGAID, UNDESA, Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization, Global e-Schools and Communities Initiative, International Commission on Workforce Development

Three : Talal Abu-Ghazaleh University College of Business – Digital University

- Premier higher education institution with rigorous academic programs in business offering the latest knowledge and technical skills that are required in today’s global economy
 - Partnership with world-renowned institutions and universities
 - Support free and open intellectual inquiry and expression with strong focus on skills in leadership, entrepreneurship and innovation, critical thinking and new tools
 - Case study methodology in teaching.
- Digital campus to support integrated access to e-learning materials and resources including lectures, readings, audiovisual, demonstration, practice, distance teaching, and other learning methods.
 - Facilitate blended, self, and life-long learning within a student support and management learning environment.
 - Accommodate global trends in e-Education offering in the form of blended learning, eExecutive education and an accredited distance education for a specific learner segment of the society.
 - Research based study.

Founder: Talal Abu-Ghazaleh

Four : Learning Innovation Arabia Conference

- LIA 2011: Quality Education and Training for the Arab World
 - The 1st International Conference on ICT for Development, Education and Training in the Arab World
 - first independent pan-Arabic networking event linking delegates from all over the Arab World and beyond in the field of innovative learning technologies
 - Pool efforts and energies,
 - Identify Strength, benefits and shortcomings in building a tandem across Arab borders
 - Strategic positioning and emphasis the importance of education in society
 - Innovative ideas, exchanges and partnerships

Partners: International Conferences, Workshops and Exhibitions GmbH, Arab Organization for Quality Assurance in Education, Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization,

Five : Arab States Research and Education Network - ASREN

- To build, maintain and consolidate sustainable regional Pan – Arab e-Infrastructures dedicated to e-Science and education across the Arab Countries
 - Facilitate the collaboration and cooperation among the researchers and academicians in the Arab region
 - Provide education/ research institutions with reliable means of communication at the regional level
 - Strengthen the notion of partnership and encourage joint scientific research at all levels.
 - Minimize the cost by using available research, academic and technical resources through a dedicated network with no need for duplicating investment.
 - uplift efficiency and productivity and boost the concept of creativity and innovation through the use of e-infrastructure and network available resources

Regional Partners: League of Arab States, European Commission – EUROMED Project, Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization, Arab National Research and Education Networks

Six : Learning vs teaching: a digital age panacea

- Contributing to enhancing creativity and innovation through learner centric approach, outcome orientation, and innovative learning and teaching methods
 - o Infrastructure, enabling environment elements, and network connectivity
 - o ICT capacity-building training and certification
 - o Cross-cutting orientation rather than discipline focus
- Increasing demand on eSkills in a new era with dramatic shifts in the context of e-Business, e-Leadership, e-Learning, e-Education, e-Governance, e-City, etc
 - o Active engagement in e-Content development
 - o Web publishing of information, knowledge, open learning materials, and sharing of global digital resources, products and services
 - o Motivate search and research skills

*Call for Partners****Seven : Our current educational systems were good for the past. We need to invent those for the future.***

- *Address the employability gap by developing student employment skills*
- *Re-invent vocational training in a digital environment*
- *Encourage digital self-knowledge by learner- centered students*
- *Re-invent continuous education digitally to address expiry dates of degrees and qualifications*
- *Use digital education to improve education itself*
- *Sustainable development (and MDG achievement) fueled by digital education. Use for digital education as an overall development tool*
- *Use the digital resources to develop research learning methodology*
- *Encourage digital case study methodology*

Finally : Instead of using our eyes to look for different scenes, we should have new eyes that can see new scenes