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## Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Global Signs MoU with Directorate of Education and Military Culture



AMMAN – Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Global (TAG. Global) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Directorate of Education and Military Culture (DEMC) offering expertise, knowledge and training in professional and educational fields conducted and managed by TAG.Global.

The MoU was signed by HE Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, chairman of TAG.Global and Director of DEMC, Brig. Gen. Mohammad Aref Abu Zaid.

Furthermore, TAG.Global provided the Directorate with 120 TAGITOP ( the first laptop produced with an Arab design and investment) devices to be used as knowledge stations at 12 schools affiliated with the DEMC where technical and educational training courses will be held for Directorate’s teachers.

Within the cooperation framework between the two parties, a ‘Training of Trainer’ course was organized which aimed at providing the teachers with the skills and knowledge that qualify them to work as educational trainers. (Petra)

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## US\$12.6 Million to Improve Land Registration and Modernize Services for Palestinians

WASHINGTON - US\$5 million was granted by the World Bank to improve access to registered land and property-related services for Palestinians. The new Real Estate Registration Project will also benefit from additional grants from multi-donor trust funds in the amounts of US\$4.6 million from the Global Partnership for Results Based Approaches and US\$3 million from the Palestinian Partnership for Infrastructure Development.

"Land registration systems are essential to enhance land tenure security and property rights which are fundamental for a well-functioning economy. The new project will contribute to the development of the Palestinian real estate markets, business development in a number of sectors including construction, housing, and agriculture, and increase access to finance through land collateral," said Kanthan Shankar, World Bank Country Director for West Bank and Gaza. "This new engagement will offer investment opportunities that will stimulate job creation and generate revenues for the Palestinian Authority."

To date, only thirty-eight percent of land in the West Bank is registered, with a significant portion of unregistered properties remaining in the urban centers. The limited access to registered land and real estate in the Palestinian territories remains one of the largest impediments to economic growth. A 2018 World Bank study conservatively estimated that the

collateral value of unregistered land in areas under Palestinian control ranges between US\$7 to US\$35 billion.

The US\$12.6 million project aims to reform the real estate market in the West Bank, contribute to the development of the mortgage market, and create space for increased private sector activity. The project will directly support the Palestinian Authority's ongoing efforts to register properties and automate real estate related services.

"Open and transparent access to land and real estate to protect women and vulnerable groups will be central to the project. The project will specifically target women in the registration process to increase awareness of their property rights as well as produce gender disaggregated data for monitoring. Not only will it have a direct impact on the tenure security of Palestinian women, but it will also create additional potential sources of income and economic opportunities," said Rafeef Abdelrazek, World Bank Urban Development Specialist.

Source:

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/22/07/2019/us-126million-to-improve-land-registration-and-modernize-services-for-palestinians>

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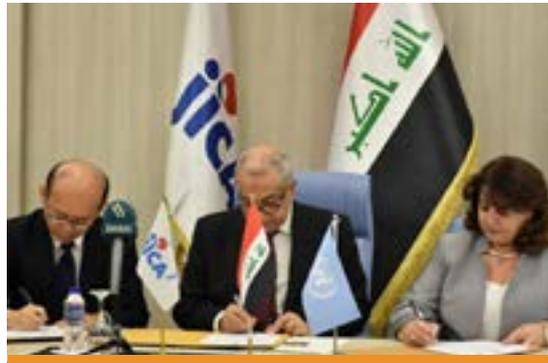


## JICA (Japan) and UNDP Partnership Agreement to Accelerate the Projects for Socio-Economic Development in Iraq

BAGHDAD - Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and UNDP announced a renewed agreement and commemorated the 10th anniversary for their partnership to accelerate the implementation of socio-economic infrastructure projects in Iraq to improve the economic recovery and living condition of Iraqi people in key sectors such as electricity, water and sanitation, oil, irrigation, transportation, industry, health and communication. The Government of Iraq (GoI) welcomes the reinforced partnership between JICA and UNDP.

Since 2008, JICA has signed 31 loan agreements, total amount of which is JPY 830 billion (equivalent to USD 7.7 billion), with Iraqi government for economic and social infrastructure projects and programs in Iraq to improve daily lives of Iraqi people. In order to ensure accountability, transparency and efficiency in project implementation, the GoI and the Government of Japan/JICA jointly established a monitoring mechanism called Monitoring Committee (M/C) in 2008. UNDP has undertaken the supporting role to assist and advise the M/C based on the partnership agreement between JICA and UNDP.

Under this partnership, UNDP has been working alongside JICA and the Government of Iraq on project monitoring and capacity development. UNDP identifies bottlenecks pertaining to project implementation, providing analyses and recommendations for action on cross-cutting issues to the M/C to accelerate project implementation.



The M/C is the longest continual committee in the GoI system as the 43rd M/C Meeting was held on July 4, 2019 in Baghdad with Iraqi ministries to update the progress and find the solutions for challenges that the projects face in order to accelerate the project implementation and deliver the public services to the Iraqi people.

The GoI, JICA and UNDP reconfirm all parties' continual efforts to enhance this tripartite collaboration mechanism to expedite the improvement of national strategic infrastructures, which will contribute to better public services as well as to the private sector development for more and better job opportunities.

Source:

[http://www.uniraq.org/index.php?option=com\\_k2&view=item&id=11348:jica-japan-and-undp-partnership-agreement-to-accelerate-the-projects-for-socio-economic-development-in-iraq&Itemid=605&lang=en](http://www.uniraq.org/index.php?option=com_k2&view=item&id=11348:jica-japan-and-undp-partnership-agreement-to-accelerate-the-projects-for-socio-economic-development-in-iraq&Itemid=605&lang=en)

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## Abu-Ghazaleh and RDCL discuss: Initiative for Lebanese High-Speed Network for Research and Education

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BEIRUT – During the meeting of the Association of Lebanese Business People in the World (RDCL World), HE Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, founder and chairman of Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Global (TAG. Global) launched an initiative to establish an integrated high-speed network to connect all universities and research centers in Lebanon.

The initiative aims at enhancing cooperation among researchers and academics at the national and global levels. It also aims at providing high-speed access to knowledge and computing resources available at international research and education networks.

The meeting was attended by presidents and representative of Lebanese universities and members of RDCL World's Board of Directors and Advisory Council. Dr. Fouad Zmokhol, Chair of RDCL World, stated that the world is rapidly evolving, stressing

the need to transform from a traditional economy to a more creative economy.

He pointed out that learning has become an important aspect of living and it is about viable methods of teaching other knowledge, passing expertise, and providing secrets for success. The objective is to become more productive and creative and that individual learning is not effective any more. Only through teamwork and collective learning, we can be efficient in our business.

For his part, Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh said: "The Arab States Research and Education Network (ASREN) has been launched in 2010 at the League of Arab States, with an objective to connect the Arab National Research and Education Networks in the context of EUMEDCONNECT and AFRICACONNECT projects that are co-funded by the European Commission in an effort to provide high-speed networks

for connecting universities and Arab research institutions”.

He also added that “ASREN provides a number of services for education and research communities to enable them to cooperate and access resources and data repositories that are available on global research and education networks.”

According to Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh, high-speed networks emerge to provide widely-used platforms embracing Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies that improve Internet access and support technological innovation as a means for wealth creation and economic prosperity in the Arab countries.

Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh concluded by underlining the aim of establishing the Lebanese Research and Education Network which is to facilitate communication and interaction between universities, educational institutions and scientific research centers in Lebanon to support research and academic community in the country, and to connect this national network with regional and global specialized networks.

Article link:

[http://www.tagtenders.com/news.aspx?id=25059&group\\_key=news&lang=en](http://www.tagtenders.com/news.aspx?id=25059&group_key=news&lang=en)

## Cairo Becomes 30th Participant in Fast-growing EBRD Green Cities

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LONDON - The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)'s fast-expanding €1 billion urban sustainability program, EBRD Green Cities, has reached a new milestone by signing the Egyptian capital, Cairo, as its 30th participant. Cities account for 70 percent of energy use and 80 percent of greenhouse gas emissions in the world, and represent a big opportunity to tackle climate change and environmental degradation. The EBRD Green Cities family is ever growing with the ambition being 100.

All participants in EBRD Green Cities embark on a trigger project to improve their local environment then, with EBRD help, work on a Green City Action Plan (GCAP) to create a tailor-made list of further environmental investments and policy changes most suitable to address their environmental challenges.

Cairo's planned trigger project supports the city governor General Khaled

AbdelAal's ambitious vision to modernize and transform the Cairo Transport Authority, the largest transport company in Africa, into an energy efficient company. Cairo will invest in new electric buses and introduce an electronic ticketing system. The EBRD will also support the company to develop a low carbon road map.

Cairo is the second Egyptian city to sign, following Alexandria, city number 24 in the program. Alexandria aims to buy electric buses and rehabilitate its tramline.

Addressing climate change and environmental degradation is urgent. This is particularly true of cities in the EBRD regions, where obsolete urban infrastructure is degrading the quality of life of citizens, increasing greenhouse gas emissions, and preventing communities from adapting to climate change.

Progress on the pioneering program has exceeded expectations. Launched in

2016 with just €250 million of funding, that was expected to last five years, EBRD Green Cities proved so popular that it was replenished within just two years. In October 2018, the EBRD approved a further €700 million of funding to cities with strong needs and strong commitment to improve their environmental performance. This raises the level of ambition. The Green Climate Fund (GCF) has also approved €87 million for concessional and technical cooperation funding to cities in nine countries.

Nandita Parshad, EBRD Managing Director of the Sustainable Infrastructure Group, said that the sustainable municipal projects to which participating cities sign up “have a real impact” on improving people’s lives through a better environment: “They reduce CO2 emissions by 372,000 tons each year, which is the equivalent of permanently removing 80,000 cars from the road; they provide better and cleaner transport;

they clean up drinking water, making it safe and improving citizens’ health; they ensure waste water is properly treated and discharged, and they reduce the cost of heating to the urban population. This has been recognized by other cities, and there are now 30 EBRD Green Cities.”

As well as Cairo, cities working with the EBRD Green Cities program so far are: Tbilisi, Yerevan, Tirana, Minsk, Sofia, Chisinau, Belgrade, Batumi, Zenica, Gyumri, Banja Luka, Sarajevo canton, Ulaanbaatar, Amman, Lviv, Izmir, Skopje, Pristina, Varna, Craiova, Kiev, Pinsk, Podgorica, Alexandria, Mariupol, Dushanbe, Bishkek, Balti and Pula.

Source:

<https://www.ebrd.com/news/2019/cairo-becomes30-th-participant-in-fastgrowing-ebrd-green-cities-.html>

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