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## TAG.Global Organizes Workshop on Value Added Tax in Bahrain



Manama - Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Global (TAG. Global) organized a technical workshop on VAT and its impact on the education and health care sectors, with the participation of more than 150 employees working in these sectors.

The workshop, which was held at the Talal Abu-Ghazaleh College of Business in Manama on February 14, represents the group's keenness to introduce this tax, which the GCC countries have agreed to implement at a basic rate of 5%. The Kingdom of Bahrain already began implementing it gradually since the beginning of this year, with some exceptions.

"The education and healthcare sectors are zero-rated, but many of the basic necessities and requirements falling under these sectors are subject to this tax," said Professor Sachin Sharma, Senior Tax Manager at Talal Abu-Ghazaleh & Co. International (TAGI).

He pointed out that the purpose of the workshop is to define the level of impact of the tax implementation on the two sectors and on citizens, and to clarify a simplified approach and ways to deal with them properly. It is also based on the role of Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization in developing the capabilities of employees to meet the new services required in the Gulf countries, and how to deal with it computationally.

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It is worth mentioning that Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization (TAG-Org) has a team of tax specialists in various countries, who can be contacted by e-mail: [ssharma@tagi.com](mailto:ssharma@tagi.com).

Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization (TAG-Org) is the largest international group in the fields of accounting, external audit, internal audit, corporate governance, taxation, educational consultancy, economic and strategic studies, website development and design, professional translation, domain name registration, strategic planning of information and communication technologies, consulting

services for resource planning, registration and protection of intellectual property, intellectual property renewal, protection and management of intellectual property rights, legal services (consulting and law firm) and public offerings.

Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization (TAG-Org) was established in 1972 and operates through its more than 100 offices and 150 representative offices around the world.

Article link:

[http://www.tagtenders.com/news.aspx?id=24622&group\\_key=news&lang=en](http://www.tagtenders.com/news.aspx?id=24622&group_key=news&lang=en)

## UNIDO and the Government of Morocco Sign a Program for Country Partnership

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RABAT - UNIDO Director General, Li Yong, has travelled to Morocco to open new avenues for collaboration between UNIDO and the Government of Morocco to promote inclusive and sustainable industrial development. To strengthen many years of successful cooperation between the Kingdom of Morocco and UNIDO, a Program for Country Partnership (PCP) has been signed by UNIDO's Li Yong and Morocco's Minister of Industry, Investment, Trade and Digital Economy, HE Moulay Hafid Elalamy.

At the signing ceremony, Director General Li thanked the Minister for his active leadership and engagement with the establishment of the Program for Country Partnership for Morocco. He has also commended "the Government for its industrial vision through its Industrial Acceleration

Plan 2014-2021, which underlines the importance of public investment to guide industrial transformation and the achievement of a more dynamic manufacturing sector in the country. UNIDO believes that the Kingdom has a unique window of opportunity to create high and inclusive growth. We will endeavor to support the acceleration of an inclusive and sustainable industrial development that contributes to the Kingdom's drive for increasing competitiveness."

Li added that the ceremony marked an important milestone: the finalization of the PCP Morocco programming phase. He noted that the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco and UNIDO have been working closely together for a number of months to develop a comprehensive program to unleash Morocco's industrial potential.

The PCP Morocco focuses on six priority components: industrial zones; agro-industry; energy efficiency; the circular economy; the fourth industrial revolution; and e-commerce, supported by cross-cutting components, namely: South-South and triangular industrial cooperation; multi-stakeholder partnerships; gender mainstreaming; and industrial statistics. The PCP will rest on a multi-stakeholder partnership led by the Moroccan Government. It builds synergies with ongoing government and partner interventions relevant to industrial development and has been designed to leverage additional investments in selected priority sectors. As such, it will be a model that facilitates the mobilization of partners and resources to achieve higher development impact in the country.

On behalf of the Government of Morocco, Elalamy thanked the UNIDO Director General for his strong involvement in the entire process of developing the PCP and congratulated his team for the work done during the programming phase. He further stressed his appreciation for the design of the PCP in close consultation and coordination with the various ministerial departments concerned, the private

sector and all additional stakeholders, ultimately contributing to the objectives of national strategies, particularly in the fields of agriculture, energy, environment and vocational training.

As a next step, the two partners will implement a portfolio of technical cooperation projects in the above areas of focus through voluntary contributions of the Moroccan Government and different UNIDO member states, as well as additional financial support provided by other donors and development institutions.

The signing ceremony was followed by meetings with the highest representatives of the Government of Morocco, namely with the Head of Government, HE Saad Eddine El Othmani, and with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, HE Mr. Nasser Bourita.

Source:

<https://www.unido.org/news/unido-and-government-morocco-sign-programme-country-partnership>

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## Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Global and Civil Status and Passports Department Sign Cooperation Agreement



AMMAN – HE Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, founder and chairman of Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Global (TAG.Global) and HE Mr. Fawaz Al Shahwan, Director of Civil Status and Passports Department (CSPD), signed a cooperation agreement with the aim of providing a set of professional services offered by TAG.Global to the Department.

The agreement, signed at the CSPD's headquarters, comes in line with the CSPD's objectives in developing its ICT-based services and activities, in its endeavor to transform into a digital-based department in addition to improving its professional and technological services and human resource capacity building.

During the signing ceremony, Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh affirmed that TAG.Global seeks to offer its professional services to the various government institutions, expressing TAG.Global's pride in providing

the CSPD with such professional services in light of the Department's essential role in providing its services to all citizens.

For his part, Al Shahwan expressed his gratitude and appreciation to Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh for his efforts, noting that his global companies are considered a Jordanian and global landmark and reiterating his pride in the partnership between the CSPD and TAG.Global.

Meanwhile, Al Shahwan pointed out that signing the agreement comes in line with government strategies to facilitate the provision and procedure of government services for citizens, and highly commended Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh's initiative for capacity and professional skills development of the Department's cadres in addition to developing and designing the official website of the CSPD by making it more interactive, as well as

developing smartphone applications which fall within the implementation framework of e-government.

According to the agreement, a joint working group will be formed with members of the two parties to discuss cooperation mechanisms in different services and activities, including updating and launching the English version of the Department's website, in addition to following up amendments to the graphic design of brochures, posters, as well as the design of its new annual report.

It is noteworthy to mention that, according to the terms of the agreement,

TAG.Global will provide the CSPD with 20 TAGITOP devices for the purpose of registering e-accounts for citizens at the Department's offices in addition to training its cadres on the basics of graphic design and publications at TAG.Global.

Additionally, TAG.Global will help the Department to assess the training needs of its employees, as well as establishing and developing an intranet Portal, smartphone app and developing a training management system.

Article link:

[http://www.tagtenders.com/news.aspx?id=24675&group\\_key=news&lang=en](http://www.tagtenders.com/news.aspx?id=24675&group_key=news&lang=en)

### Capacity WORKS



A new education and vocational training program is improving labor market opportunities and paving the way for the use of renewable energy.

Ibtihel Boughami is optimistic about the future. The 26-year-old works for a photovoltaic company in the Tunisian city of Sousse. After majoring in physics and energy at university, she was unemployed for more than two years. Then, thanks to a training course to become a photovoltaic systems installer, she found a job and is now a project manager. Boughami says, 'I'm really happy with my job and I hope that I will have a career in the photovoltaic sector.'

By 2030, Tunisia plans to cover a third of electricity requirements with renewable energy sources. The country enjoys more than 3,000 hours of sunshine a year, so conditions for generating solar energy are excellent. At present, however, 97 percent of electricity requirements are being met

with gas and oil, as there are still relatively few photovoltaic plants. Expansion in this area has been hindered due to the lack of a structured training program for solar energy professionals. Meanwhile, 30 percent of Tunisian graduates, many of whom have technical degrees, are currently unemployed. Needs-based employment programs are therefore a top priority for the Tunisian Government.

On behalf of the German Federal Foreign Office (AA), and working with local partners, the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH has developed an education and training system to recruit new installers and offer experts improved training opportunities. The new courses were developed in cooperation with the private sector. Since 2017, all photovoltaic installers in the country have had to complete 60 hours of mandatory training, made up of half theory and half practice. In addition to courses for newcomers and

those changing careers, there are also courses for skilled experts that build on their previous knowledge.

The new training system trains experts in Tunisia using a practice-based approach and to international quality standards. A number of training centers have partnered with private sector companies, allowing trainees to complete a dual apprenticeship that includes hands-on experience. The growth of the training system has also resulted in an increase in the number of training centers, from

just one in 2015 to a current total of 12. Graduate job seekers like Ibtihel Boughami have a further advantage: companies carefully select their future employees even before courses begin, with the aim of recruiting them once they have completed their training.

Source:

<https://www.giz.de/en/mediacenter/74675.html>

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## AGIP Receives MIP's Middle East IP Firm of the Year Award for 2019

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LONDON – Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property (AGIP) was awarded 'Middle East IP Firm of the Year 2019' at the Managing Intellectual Property (MIP) Annual IP Awards Ceremony held at the Royal Lancaster Hotel, London, on March, 2019.

The MIP Awards recognize achievements in IP work over the past year in areas such as prosecution, litigation, licensing or other works. According to survey results released last month, AGIP was ranked in Tier One for trademark, patent and copyright prosecution in all Arab countries.

This is the 10th year that AGIP has earned regional recognition for its outstanding IP practices in the Middle East and for its continuous efforts in providing its clients with the best-quality services in the field of IP protection.

Ms. Dima Naber, AGIP Counsel and International Business Development Executive Director, accepted the award on behalf of AGIP, saying: "We are very proud to receive this prestigious award, which we consider as a testament to the dedication and innovative approaches of AGIP to deliver above and beyond expectations."



"Over the years, AGIP has reached greater levels of success, and our clients have trusted us with the quality of IP services. This award recognizes their confidence and loyalty in our services," she added.

Managing Intellectual Property hosted the Annual IP Awards 2019 in front of nearly 380 IP professionals, representing 40 countries, 80 private practice firms, and including about 90 corporate/in-house practitioners.

It is worth mentioning that the MIP's 2019 survey is the largest ever, covering 75 jurisdictions, and that its results are based on extensive research and interviews with practitioners worldwide.

Article link:

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## EU-funded Program Launched in Iraq to Support Recovery and Stability through Local Development



BASRA – The European Union (EU), the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), and the UN Human Settlements Program (UN-Habitat) continue to work together to help the people of Iraq in their pursuit of recovery and stability. On March 28, 2019, representatives of federal and local authorities, community leaders, non-governmental organizations, businesses, academia, as well as implementing partners, gathered in the city of Basra, South of Iraq, to launch a new program.

With EU funding of €47.5 million over 4 years, the program aims at supporting the implementation of local priority actions, derived from the Provincial Development Plans and the Sustainable Energy Action Plans developed under the Local Area Development Program (LADP II), that address the top priorities of each governorate and pilot ways to translate policy into practice. In addition, supporting the decentralization of powers from central to local authorities, including through the development of institutional capacities, the optimization of revenue generation



systems, peer-to-peer partnerships with EU local authorities, the empowerment of civil society to advocate for local development causes, mobilization of additional resources, and improvement of donor coordination will be part of the activities.

Minister of Planning at the Federal Government of Iraq, Dr. Nouri Al Dulaimi, said: "Iraqi communities are eager to recover after years of conflict and instability, and we are doing our utmost to address their needs. Development at the local level is a step in the right direction. We are grateful that the EU, UNDP and UN-Habitat stand right by us in this difficult time."

Governor of Basra, Mr. Asaad Al Eidani, stated: "The people of Basra and other governorates across our country have rightful demands. They need adequate public services, plenty of jobs, and all the help they can get to build a better life for them and their children. We are committed to working closely with our government, local communities, and partners to maximize the impact of this

new EU-funded program and may be replicate with our own funds.”

Head of the EU Delegation to the Republic of Iraq, HE Ambassador Ramon Blecu, said: “The European Union is strongly committed to assist the Government of Iraq in its efforts to shape a more inclusive and accountable local development. This new EU-funded program will ensure better services and livelihoods opportunities for the Iraqi population, responding to the urgent needs affecting Basra and other Governorates across the country.”

Deputy Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General, Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator, Ms. Marta Ruedas, reiterated: “Creating job opportunities, improving living conditions, upgrading public services, and integrating eco-friendly practices are some of our top priorities when it comes to local development in Iraq. Women and youth are an integral part in this process. The EU support represents a lifeline for communities struggling to make ends meet, as well as to promote good governance at the local level.”

Officer-in-Charge of UNDP Iraq, Mr. Vakhtang Svanidze, said: “We will work shoulder to shoulder with the local communities and authorities to implement local development priorities that matter most to citizens. We are grateful to the European Union for their continuing commitment to our joint causes. Our end goal is creating a tangible, lasting impact on people’s daily lives, in addition to contributing to Iraq’s efforts to reach the national development objectives and the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.”

Head of UN-Habitat Iraq, a.i., Ms. Yuko Otsuki, thanked the European Union for its generous contribution to the urban recovery in Iraq, and stated: “UN-Habitat will implement priority urban recovery activities, such as the rehabilitation of housing, schools, and public spaces, repairs to secondary infrastructure, job creation, skill enhancement, and revenue generation.” Ms. Otsuki assured that UN-Habitat is committed to continue working, to promote recovery, resilience and reconstruction in Iraq.

The program will help the Government of Iraq strengthen the efficiency of the country’s institutions and renew the social contract between citizens and the state. It revolves around improving the ability of selected governorates to efficiently manage local government and public services. Economic growth and job creation are prioritized, with a focus on green projects involving youth and women, in addition to enhancing the living conditions of returnees and in conflict affected areas.

Building upon the momentum created by the recently concluded LADP II, the program will be implemented in the following nine Governorates: Anbar, Basra, Duhok, Erbil, Missan, Ninewah, Salah al-Din, Sulaimaniyah, and Thi Qar.

Source:

<http://www.iq.undp.org/content/iraq/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/28/03/2019/eu-funded-programme-launched-in-iraq-to-support-recovery-and-sta.html>

Article link:

[http://www.tagtenders.com/TenderNews.aspx?group\\_key=tagitenders&id=5510&lang=en](http://www.tagtenders.com/TenderNews.aspx?group_key=tagitenders&id=5510&lang=en)