



Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Information Technology International

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‘Abu-Ghazaleh Knowledge Forum’ Hosts Launch of 2021 National Youth Entrepreneurship Competition



AMMAN – Talal AMMAN – Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Knowledge Forum (TAG-KF), a member of Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Global (TAG.Global), hosted the launch ceremony of the 2021 National Youth Entrepreneurship Competition, under the auspices of HE Mr. Ahmed Al-Hananda, minister of Digital Economy and Entrepreneurship, in the presence of HE Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, chairman and founder of TAG.Global.

The competition, organized and launched by Entro Gate Company, aims to promote the entrepreneurial and innovative skills of school students aged between 12-17 years, as well as to provide them with necessary innovation tools to develop and transform entrepreneurial ideas into projects.

The ceremony was held in the presence of representatives of the strategic partners of the competitions including Ministry of Education/ Department of Professional Education and Production, Ministry of Digital Economy and Entrepreneurship

and Crown Prince Foundation/TechWorks, in addition to representatives of other supporters and sponsors including Al Amal Al Amer initiative.

Minister Al-Hananda said that the Ministry carries out several initiatives that contribute to supporting the entrepreneurial environment to achieve the vision in making entrepreneurship sector one of the main sectors in the Kingdom, noting that the Ministry supports the sector through the provision of basic needs.

For his part, Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh highly commended the effort exerted by the Ministry of Digital Economy and Entrepreneurship in supporting entrepreneurship during the rapid development of Information and Communication Technology (ICT).

Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh also affirmed that innovation and invention constitute the main tools to advance the national economy, calling for the expansion in the number of financing companies

that support innovation and inventions, reiterating that education should be for the purposes of innovation in all areas.

Ms. Samar Obeidat, founder and CEO of 'Entro Gate' and the National Youth Entrepreneurship Competition, highlighted the importance of teaching young people and children entrepreneurial skills since childhood which had become necessary to keep pace with development, calling for integrating entrepreneurship into the education system.

For his part, Mr. Fadi Daoud, Executive Director of TAG-KF, TAG.Global Education and Youth Consultant and founder of Al Amal Al Amer initiative, stated that TAG-KF's support to 'Entro for Kids' initiative is attributed to our belief in the importance of moving towards knowledge-based economy and introducing a new generation that embraces entrepreneurship and creativity.

During the ceremony, Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh inaugurated the Innovation Fair, which included nine innovative projects for students who won the 2020 Entro for Kids

contest, launched by Entro Gate, whose projects were supported by Entro Gate's business incubator.

In addition, Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh presented honorary shield to partners, and gifted the top three winners in the contest with Talal Abu-Ghazaleh for Technology (TAGTech) technological devices.

Meanwhile, Ms. Obeidat presented an honorary shield to Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh in recognition of his support to 'Entro for Kids' initiative.

On the sideline of the ceremony, a panel session was organized on the Importance of Youth Entrepreneurship, with the participation of Eng. Ismail Haqqi, TechWorks manager – one of Crown Prince Foundation's initiatives and Dr. Mohammad Al-Shaar, director of the Vocational Education and Production Department at the Ministry of Education, in addition to students: Fares Qteishat from Jubilee School and Ahalm Al Obaidi from Alzahra High School for Girls, two creative entrepreneurs.

In a message to the Awards Gala of the Consortium for Sustainable Urbanization: Abu-Ghazaleh Calls for Effective Use of Technology to Meet 21st Century Global Challenges



New York - The New York -based Consortium for Sustainable Urbanization (CSU) held its Annual Awards Gala virtually on March 18, 2021 with remote participation by Dr. Talal Abu Ghazaleh, Chairman of the CSU Advisory Board; Mrs. Maimounah Sharif, Executive Director; as well other senior U.N. officials and many well-known architects, urban planners, designers, engineers and academics from around the world.

In his message to the event Dr. Talal Abu Ghazaleh praised the vibrancy and dynamism of the CSU as a global network of urban professionals and policy-makers working together to support the implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 11 for promoting urban sustainability.

He paid warm tribute to the CSU President, Professor Lance J. Brown and Aliye Celik, its Chairperson for their dedication to the cause of urban sustainability and their commitment to making the CSU the success that it is.

He recalled his personal role in creating the CSU back in 2009 as the Chairman of the United Nation Global Alliance for ICT and Development under the umbrella of which it was created as a vehicle for dialogue between the United Nations and urban professionals and practitioners.

Dr. Abu Ghazaleh noted that the Covid 19 pandemic had laid bare, as never before, the fragility and vulnerability of our world in the face of adverse natural events. It had also shown that we are all vulnerable and that we are all in it together.

He lauded the unprecedented speed with which vaccines and therapeutics are being developed and called for universal leadership in using the full potential of science and technology in order to meet the global challenges of the 21st century.

Dr. Abu Ghazaleh concluded by reconfirming that new and emerging technologies must be applied to transform our urban vision, planning, architecture and design in order to make urban development more sustainable and resilient.

During the 3rd International Conference on Digital Transformation in Damascus Abu-Ghazaleh: Digital Transformation is an Integrated Strategy for Present and Future Survival



DAMASCUS – HE Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, chairman and founder of Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Global (TAG.Global), participated in the 3rd International Conference on Digital Transformation, that has been organized by the Arab Federation for e-Commerce in Damascus, under the title: ‘Syria and Digital Transformation: Opportunities and Challenges’. The conference was also attended by a large number of high-ranking Arab and foreign economic personalities and decision makers.

The conference, which is a periodic, scientific and a professional forum that gathers researchers and experts with decision-makers and investors, aims at enhancing international efforts to help countries’ efforts to achieve digital transformation, to succeed, as well as to shed light on the latest developments in the

technology field. The conference held its first session in the United Arab Emirates in 2017, and its second session in Egypt in 2018.

In his opening speech, Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh stressed that digital transformation is ‘inevitable’, warning that the countries that will not be able to keep pace with digital transformation would be left behind. He further pointed out that transformation should be achieved in three main directions: digital learning, digital economy and digital government, but most importantly, he affirmed, every citizen should know how to manage digital knowledge and its tools.

Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh stated that digital transformation is not just a business nor an e-government, but an integrated plan, expressing his optimism with the shift

of the Arab countries towards digital transformation. He therefore proposed to change the name of the Arab Federation for e-Commerce to become the Arab Union for Digital Transformation, considering the fact that e-commerce is one of the aspects of the digital transformation.

Furthermore, Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh called on decision-makers to develop a comprehensive and coordinated plan for digital transformation and e-governments to be carried out in coordination with traditional governments, pointing out that he is in the process of drafting Arab cooperation agreements on digital transformation.

During the sessions, participants discussed several topics such as the Digital transformation strategy in Syria; its Technologies role in sustainable development and the inevitability of implementation, regarding: opportunities, challenges, policies and indicators in the Arab Region, in addition to the effect of shadow economy, information security, blockchain, e-Payment and e-Commerce and their Impact on the economy; and public-private partnerships as well as monetary and banking policies.

The conference was attended by HE Mr. Iyad Al Khatib, Minister of Communication and Technology, HE Dr. Mohammad Samer Al Khalil, Minister of Economy and Foreign Trade, HE Dr. Kenan Yaghi, Minister of Finance, Dr. Hazem Karfoul, Governor of Syria's Central Bank, Eng. Adel Al-Olabi, Governor of Damascus, Dr. Ahmad Abdel Fattah Shehata, the Secretary-General of the Arab Federation for e-Commerce, and representatives of secretary generals of ministries and members of the People's Assembly of Syria, as well as representatives of Arab and foreign embassies in the country.

During the conference, Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh signed his latest book entitled 'The Inevitable Digital Future.... A World of Smart Cities' which discusses the technologies he sees as a fundamental pillars in developing real smart cities. The book also highlights the lessons that can be learnt from failed smart city initiatives. It also provides a blueprint that can be used to develop holistic Smart Cities of the future, and discusses a range of supportive elements from governance to citizen awareness that are essential in developing successful smart cities.

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