

**H.E. Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh interview during his participation as a keynote speaker at the Extraordinary Virtual Conference (ICESCO)**

Amman-Jordan

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**Presenter:**

Before we start with keynote speakers, I hope our speakers will adhere to the scheduled time to walk at a pace that is appropriate and considerate to all.

Your Highnesses and Excellences, the conference is honored with the participation of three keynote speakers. I am pleased to invite the first keynote speaker, His Excellency Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, the founder and president of Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Global to deliver an intervention on the future of knowledge in the digital world.

**Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh:**

Thank you, Highnesses, Excellences, distinguished chair Al-Ka'bi and friends, I salute you and express how much I am honored to be among such esteemed leaders, colleagues, scholars and educators, allow me to present to you a medley of thoughts for your consideration, it is not a speech; it is thought, our education system should be reformed away from teaching to learning, learning should be objective of innovation and not for acquiring certificates of learning, we need to graduate innovators who can employ others instead of graduates with certificates looking for jobs, just like the doctor who gives a patient the medicine which is appropriate for his Genes, we need education where students learn what is appropriate for their mental Genes, there are no two brains equal to each other to give them the same education, innovation is the future mean for knowledge creation and accordingly for wealth creation, we need tech advisors instead of teachers who feed us with information.

Personally; I do not remember anything I was required to memorize at school and at universities. College students graduate by an innovation and not by examination, our educational programs should focus on scientific, professional and vocational

capacity building, internet in a knowledge society is like the nervous system in human body.

The smart school bag will replace the traditional school bag, I used to carry for two hours to my school walking.

Incubators will replace school and university campuses, we do not need campuses in the knowledge era, scientific research should have innovation as its objective, the internet provide the only global environment where complete equality is achievable, accordingly; we have no excuse not to excel.

The online AI based education “Tsunami” will wide educational institutions who will not transform themselves to become knowledge universities, more than 200 universities as of today have already announced more than one thousand online programs, if we compare progress in mobile telephony or cars or any other field in the last 1500 years with progress in education, we should feel ashamed. Think with me, why our teachers are paid less than doctors or engineers or lawyers, Norway announced this year that very soon they will offer online university education at their institutions for students worldwide for free, if you want to watch future trends in education; follow the Scandinavian experiences.

AI at the basic education level should focus on applications of AI progress, it should focus at the university level, how to encourage students to innovate using artificial intelligence.

Covid-19 was a wake-up call to all of us that distance online learning and working are not a choice, they are inevitable in the new knowledge world, innovators are always leaders; because they have the power to create and change especially in the technological age – the 4<sup>th</sup> industrial revolution we live in.

Albert Einstein said: “many years ago, I failed in school and school failed me, it bored me, I felt that my thirst for knowledge was being strangled by teachers, grades were their only measurement”. Elon Musk whom you all know says: “skills are more valuable than degrees”.

On a final note, I would like to say that if we are serious about creating an educational eco system which can serve the digital revolution; it can be done, I call upon government bodies, academic institutions and private sectors to join hands and engage in a serious work to help make our region as great as it once was.

Thank you.