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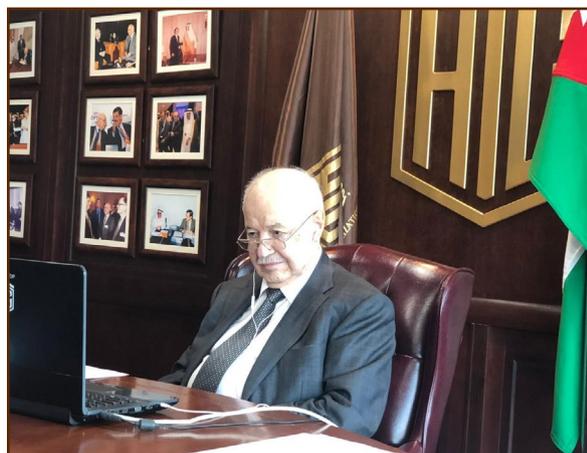
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Abu-Ghazaleh Proposes Mechanisms for AI Integration in Elementary, Secondary and University Education



AMMAN – HE Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, founder and chairman of Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Global (TAG.Global), took part in the 8th Session of the Arab Forum for Scientific Research and Sustainable Development, launched remotely by the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALESCO).

In his speech, titled “From Education to Learning for the Purposes of Innovation”, Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh said that ‘we have to embrace Artificial Intelligence (AI) starting from the elementary education to enable new generations to properly deal with AI techniques and lead them towards creativity and inventions” and he reviewed

a proposal to teach and integrate AI-related subjects into elementary, secondary and university education curricula.

“Starting from primary education, students should be encouraged to learn math, sciences, engineering and basic concepts of AI through interactive learning activities, in addition to learning software programming, Application Development and Building AI Systems in a systematic and advanced approach,” Dr. Abu Ghazaleh said.

In the next secondary stage of education, students should be motivated, according to Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh, to apply basics of computer programming and AI systems on real life examples through apps and contests, as well as programs that develop their creative learning, problem solving and teamwork skills.

Regarding the university education, Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh stressed his belief that students in this stage should be encouraged to design and innovate using AI technologies, develop specialized expertise, conduct exceptional scientific research, participate in forums and conferences to exchange experiences and review various practical examples of programming and AI apps.

He also underlined the importance of adopting a knowledge (digital)-based learning system to create a knowledge-based society, highlighting the need to change the direction of learning towards innovation in all fields. He also noted that innovation is the path to create knowledge and wealth. Further Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh reviewed some of TAG.Global’s achievements in the field of knowledge, referring first to the establishment of Talal Abu-Ghazaleh for Technologies (TAGTech) company which established the first factory for assembly lines of computers and technological devices in the Arab world using international advanced technologies, in addition to the establishment of Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Digital University where learning is completely conducted remotely, and the establishment of Talal Abu-Ghazaleh University College for Innovation (TAGUCI) which aims to graduate innovators. That is in addition to Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Academy which digitally offers hundreds of professional and training programs in business knowledge capacity building.

In conclusion, Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh affirmed that TAG.Global strives to offer its services at the highest available levels. Therefore, it worked through Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Information Technology International (TAGITI) on creating more than 100 electronic solutions in the fields of business particular, and the list of accomplishments goes on.

The Arab Forum for Scientific Research and Sustainable Development was established through the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALESCO) to build partnerships between education and scientific research sectors with other sectors concerned with development in the Arab world. It also strives to attract Arab scientists and experts to contribute to the transfer and indigenization of advanced technologies and to take part in improving development programs in the Arab region.

In a virtual meeting

‘Abu-Ghazaleh Knowledge Forum’ Hosts ISTD Director General to Highlight ‘Government Tax Measures under COVID-19 Crisis’

AMMAN - Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Knowledge Forum (TAG-KF) hosted Director General of the Income & Sales Tax Department (ISTD), Mr. Husam Abu Ali in a digital dialogue session entitled ‘Government Tax Measures under the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Crisis’, in a live broadcast through the Forum’s Facebook page.

Abu Ali affirmed that the ISTD seeks to become a leading department at the regional level; with an efficient management to collect taxes for the Treasury by strengthening voluntary commitment, raising awareness, promoting tax culture and improving business environment.



He also stated that the Corona pandemic had a major negative impact on the tax revenues, where the government public finances were badly affected due to two months of lockdown of all economic sectors, noting that taxes constitute more than 60% of public revenues.

Regarding the negative effects of the pandemic, the government, according to Abu Ali, made many decisions to deal with these losses, taking into consideration the economic impact on the impact of the closure on citizens and institutions. Therefore, Abu Ali stated that facemasks and hand sanitizers were exempted from the 16% sales tax to reduce their prices and make them available, affordable and accessible to all. Yet, to be considered as some of the production inputs of factories working in this field, they were subject to only 1% tax as per the request of the industrial sector.

Additionally, the period for submitting income tax returns was extended to two additional months (to June 30, 2020 instead of April 30, 2020) in accordance with Defense Orders Nos. (5) and (10), without imposing any tax burdens during the two months of lockdown where there were no commercial activities.

Furthermore, Abu Ali confirmed that all the Department's services are available electronically, urging taxpayers to use them for tax filing, updating personal data, submitting tax return applications, obtaining tax return statement, tax number, inquiring about transactions, submitting applications that incorporate information, deductions, receipts, ..etc., applying for settlements and reconciliation, e-payment, tax clearance certificate, tax refund and money can be transferred to taxpayers' bank accounts, among other services, noting that taxpayers would receive a text message on their personal phones once any action is taken by the Department regarding their tax files.

During the meeting, Abu Ali announced the launch of the so-called program "Golden List of Taxpayers" which aims at protecting taxpayers from being subject to tax fines, ensure the compliance with policies and procedures, ensure taxpayers get their tax refunds as soon as possible. He pointed out that the program aims also at building and enhancing trust between taxpayers including companies and enterprises and the ISTD, in addition to strengthening principles of real partnership between private and public sectors in applying tax collection legislation without delay.

Additionally, he emphasized that the program assists in depositing tax refund to each taxpayer who is eligible to joining the Gold List within 30-days of reviewing his income tax, provided that the was paid.

According to Abu Ali, the program is characterized by giving members on the Golden List the opportunity of postponing payment of the General Sales Tax on the company's imports. The membership of the Golden List will be considered instead of the tax clearance certificate for the purpose of obtaining tax return for the taxpayers at other ministries and departments, Abu Ali said.

"The ISTD will publish the names of the Golden List Taxpayers on its official website, to enable financial staff at different departments and ministries to verify the names for the purpose of promptly completing their transactions in accordance with the legislation in force," Abu-Ali further clarified.

He also pointed out that the Department is seriously and tirelessly carrying out tax reforms, solving problems and overcoming challenges it faces including tax evasion, weakness in some administrative aspects, lack of using technical tools at tax administration, in addition to a structural imbalance between direct and indirect taxes; which forced the government to make more than 38 amendments to the last Income Tax Law of 2019.

Additionally, Abu Ali stated that the reform plan which started this year was prepared according to risk management standards and a new methodology that defines sectors and activities targeted for audit, noting that the Implementing Regulations for applying billing and control system have been developed, and the ISTD has reached an agreement with all concerned sectors on the appropriate mechanism for implementation including from chambers of industry and trade, professional unions and associations.

For his part, Executive Director of TAG-KF and TAG.Global Education and Youth Consultant, Mr. Fadi Daoud, who moderated the session, pointed out that the digital talk with Mr. Husam Abu Ali was organized as part of a series of digital meetings and discussions in the time of Coronavirus crisis, conducted in a live broadcast through TAG-KF Facebook page.

Daoud stated that the timing of the digital meeting is highly important since it was held during the period the government offered citizens to submit their tax returns before the end of this month, indicating that the complete discussion session is available on TAG-KF Facebook page, along with answers to a number of questions and inquiries raised by followers and interested people.

‘Abu-Ghazaleh Knowledge Forum’ Hosts Minister of Planning in a Virtual Session Entitled ‘Post-Corona Economic Recovery’

AMMAN - Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Knowledge Forum (TAG-KF) hosted HE Dr. Wissam Rabadi, Minister of Planning & International Cooperation, in a digital session entitled ‘Post-Corona Economic Recovery’, conducted in a live broadcast through the Forum’s Facebook page.



During the session, the Minister stated that the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic forced the government to rearrange its priorities placing citizens health and protection of employees working in the most affected sectors on the top of its list. The government also considered as priority the settling of Jordan’s dues and repaying debts owed to international funding agencies as well as focusing on investing in sectors which proved their efficiency, including the agricultural and agro-industrial, pharmaceutical and medical equipment sectors, Rabadi said.

Rabadi expected that the most prominent effect of the pandemic would be the increase in the budget deficit up to JD2.5 billion as a result of significant decrease in tax revenue due to the closure of the economic sectors. At the same time there was a substantial increase in government expenditure on healthcare and social protection.

Additionally, Rabadi pointed out that the greatest challenge facing the government is to secure the required financing, adding that liquidity is a paramount necessity to help the government recover economically and cover its expenses and obligations in addition to supporting other productive sectors. Rabadi continued to say that the government is currently leading a special economic reform program through a special unit at the Ministry operating on a matrix of economic reforms in coordination with different ministries and government departments.

The Minister also emphasized that the Ministry strives to achieve sustainable and comprehensive development in Jordan by working with Jordan’s development partners, donors, international financial institutions and local organizations to provide the necessary funding through grants, soft loans and technical assistance to implement vital programs and projects; all in accordance with the government’s development plans and programs. Furthermore, the Ministry, according to Rabadi, coordinates the distribution process of available funds to the various development programs and projects based on geographical and sectoral basis in cooperation with donors and international financial institutions. During the session, Rabadi noted that the Ministry

oversees foreign funding directed to civil society institutions through a committee that includes members of different concerned authorities and stakeholders of each sector. The Ministry also helps various societies to secure the necessary grants and funding to establish productive projects, create jobs and achieve development.

Furthermore, Rabadi reviewed the crises that badly impacted Jordan's economy starting from the Global Financial Crisis in 2008, the Arab Spring and its consequences, the disruption of Egyptian gas supply, energy problems, the Syrian refugees and the closure of border crossings with Iraq and Syria which negatively affected Jordan's exporting capacity. He also pointed out that the government, throughout that period, worked on several reform programs in cooperation with the International Monetary Fund and achieved major reforms which anticipated economic growth (GDP) to rise from 2.1% in 2020 to 3.4% in 2024, noting that COVID-19 has hit the world economies including Jordan causing a recession of 3.7%.

Rabadi announced that the government signed a \$200 million agreement with the World Bank with the aim of increasing job opportunities for the Jordanian youth and expanding government digital services. He announced a number of upcoming projects to be conducted by several international donor institutions in the fields of competitiveness, supporting entrepreneurship and empowering women and youth.

On the other hand, Rabadi expected that many Jordanians may have to return home due to Corona crisis and the current economic conditions that negatively affected countries especially in the Gulf region, pointing to the need for investing in these human capitals, encouraging them to invest in the Kingdom, and providing them with stimulating environment. It is worth mentioning that the meeting, which was moderated by Mr. Fadi Daoud, the Executive Director of TAG-KF and Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Global (TAG.Global) Education and Youth Consultant, has gained great attention and interest from many people, during which Rabadi answered all questions and inquiries.

For his part, Daoud pointed out that the digital virtual session with Minister Rabadi was organized as part of a series of digital meetings and talks in the time of Coronavirus.

Entitled ‘From Coronavirus Crisis to Sustainable Development’ ‘Abu-Ghazaleh Knowledge Forum’ Hosts Senator Haifa Al Najjar in a Virtual Session

AMMAN - Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Knowledge Forum (TAG-KF) hosted HE Ms. Haifa Al Najjar, a member of the Jordanian Senate, in a virtual session entitled ‘From Coronavirus (COVID-19) Crisis to Sustainable Development’, conducted in a live broadcast through the Forum’s Facebook page.



Al Najjar participated in the session in her capacity as a Senator, a member of King Abdullah Fund for Development (KAJD) Board of Trustees, a member of the Council of Education in Jordan, a member of the Royal National Committee of the Higher Council for Curriculum Development and a member of the National Committee for Human Resources Development.

During the meeting, Senator Al Najjar affirmed that the Corona pandemic has brought great challenges at all levels, especially in the education sector, pointing out that the pandemic imposed the remote electronic learning, reconsideration of the educational system integrally based on full understanding of challenges and future trends as well as their accelerating development.

Furthermore, Al Najjar called for developing the current curriculum to keep abreast with the future of distance learning, noting that the crisis imposed the necessity of redefining the role of school and educational institution with a focus on vocational education to empower students and provide them with the necessary handicrafts and skills so that the school becomes a laboratory and a workshop for experimentation and innovation.

She also called for taking advantage of emerging opportunities which enable the youth to develop their capabilities and skills to achieve leadership and creativity, pointing to the important role the government and the local community institutions play in supporting entrepreneurs by providing them with an appropriate environment for establishing their entrepreneurial projects, especially in technology, learning platforms among others.

In this regard, Al-Najjar explained that the required transformation process to face post-COVID-19 era requires a comprehensive and an integrated reconsideration of the Jordanian national development project in all economic, educational, social and cultural aspects, stating that a number of development sectors were affected by the pandemic, while, others proved their efficiency and ability to achieve self-sufficiency and self-reliance in overcoming the crisis.

She further stressed that Jordan, today, is in urgent need for local production, calling on the government to take serious steps towards improving national industries and products and their competitiveness.

At the end of the session, which was moderated by Mr. Fadi Daoud, Executive Director of TAG-KF and Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Global (TAG.Global) Education and Youth Consultant, Senator Najjar confirmed that individuals and institutions are required to be flexible, self-propelled, continuous and committed to the plan during implementation in addition to adapting to any developments, cooperating with others and exchanging ideas transparently.

For his part, Daoud pointed out that the digital virtual session with Senator Al Najjar was organized as part of a series of digital meetings and talks in the time of Coronavirus conducted in a live broadcast through TAG-KF Facebook page.

In a Virtual Session ‘In Times of Crisis’ ‘Abu-Ghazaleh Knowledge Forum’ Hosts Minister of Youth

AMMAN - Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Knowledge Forum (TAG-KF) hosted HE Dr. Fares Al Braizat, Minister of Youth, in a digital session entitled ‘The Role of Youth in Times of Crisis’, conducted in a live broadcast through the Forum’s Facebook page. During the meeting, Dr. Al Braizat said that there are many examples of young Jordanians who have established technology companies that have been recognized all over the world as success stories. “We believe in the Jordanian youth and their capabilities. My message to them is that they can overcome any challenge if they determine to succeed, keeping in mind that determination and persistence are the basis of success.” He said,



Furthermore, Al Braizat emphasized that the Ministry of Youth, in cooperation with Ministry of Education and Ministry of Labor, has a new concept of transforming a number of youth centers into children nurseries to contribute to creating job opportunities and enhancing women’s labor force participation.

Al Braizat also stressed the Ministry’s intention to continue holding the youth training camps via the Internet as part of its annual programs, pointing out its endeavor to develop the sports clubs by converting them to companies to ensure the sustainability of their activities, in addition to rehabilitating youth centers digitally to provide the best services to their members. It is worth mentioning that the meeting has gained great attention and interest from many people. At the end of the session, Al Braizat answered questions and inquiries.

Mr. Fadi Daoud, the Executive Director of TAG-KF and Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Global (TAG. Global) Education and Youth Consultant, who moderated the session, pointed out that the digital virtual session with Minister Al Braizat was organized as part of a series of digital meetings and talks in the time of Coronavirus.

TAG-KF Digital Talks:

<http://www.tag-forum.org/VideoGallery.aspx?lang=en>

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*VAT Included