



Dear Members/ Readers,

The MENAinc Update will be a periodical newsletter issues by the secretary of the network. This will be dedicated to update our members about the recent and upcoming activities in the region in the business incubation, techno parks and entrepreneurship related areas. This issue comes with many recent updates which were gathered from different sources of the network. We wish you exiting time reading this update....

With Best Personal Regards, MENAinc Secretary

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ADU Enterprise and ESCWA to Launch the “Digital Arabic Content Competition”

Abu Dhabi University’s Center of Innovation and Entrepreneurship “ADU Enterprise” in collaboration with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) has launched the “Digital Arabic Content Competition”. This project aims to support young entrepreneurs in the Arab region, to build start-up companies and SMEs that can thrive in the field of developing and innovating Arabic digital content. For more information: [HERE](#), Registration: [HERE](#) Contact Ms. Rima Shaban, Email: rima.shaban@adu.ac



UAE Approves New SME Law

The UAE cabinet has approved a federal law that aims to support and develop small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the country. The new law states that government bodies and government relates entities must allocate 5% of their budget for goods and services provided by SMEs or entrepreneurs. It also calls for establishing an SME board under the chairmanship of the economy minister and constituting representatives of concerned bodies. More info is available [HERE](#)

Lybia, New Technology Incubator

The National Agency for scientific Research have signed a memorandum of understanding with the Arab Science and Technology Foundation (ASTF) to launch the science parks program which include establishing the first technology incubator in Libya. The incubator will focus on Petrochemical and Agricultural and Health related businesses. More information is available [HERE](#)



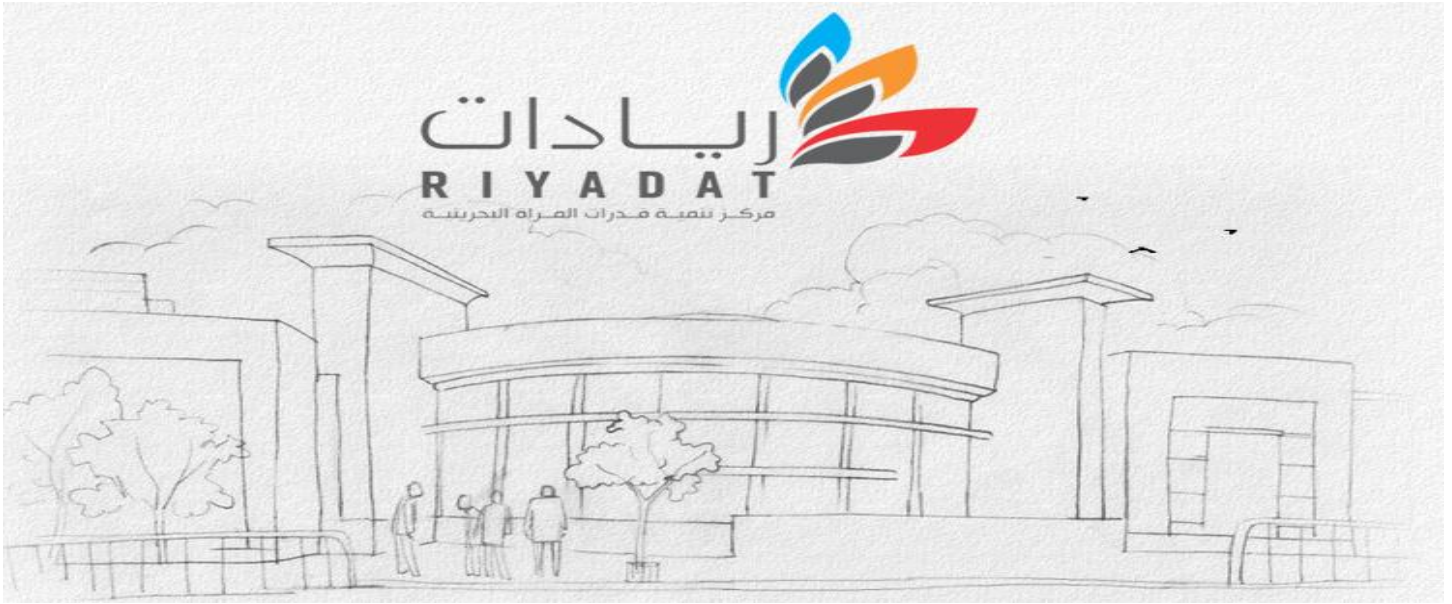
Egypt, New Technology Incubator

The American University in Cairo has recently launched the first university business incubator in Egypt. The business incubator entitled Venture Lab, created by the Faculty of Business Administration, is marketing technologies and innovations created by emerging Egyptian companies to turn them into commercially viable projects. More information is available [HERE](#).



Business Incubator Overview

This section will focus on selected business incubators in the MENA region. If you wish to include your incubator please contact us, contacts are at the end of this issue.



Riyadat, Kingdom of Bahrain

Riyadat is a new business incubation center in Bahrain with the mission to assist Women Entrepreneurs. Officially opened on November 6, 2013 with a ceremony under the patronage of HRH Princess Sabeeka bint Ebrahim Al- Khalifa, President of the Supreme Council for Women.

Founding Partners: Riyadat was established as a joint project between Bahrain Development Bank(BDB), Supreme Council for Women and Bahrain Business Incubator Centre. Such partnership brought the expertise of BDB and BBIC in business incubation and supporting entrepreneurs together with the efforts of the SCW to support women in Bahrain.

Unique Design and approach: Riyadat has a very unique design and approach as it is built as a sector specific incubator with a shopping mall set up! Where the overall design is made to be looked as a normal shopping mall with showrooms and other malls facilities such as restaurants, coffee shops and even a day care unit for children. While it is operated as a business incubator providing the incubation related services to its clients.

Philosophy: Riyadat's philosophy is:

- Development of women's project management skills and self-employment; by providing an appropriate environment
- Provide training and advisory services to support women micro-entrepreneurs.
- Promoting an entrepreneurship culture of creativity and innovation
- Provide a support system for micro enterprises to transform into SMEs



Through their services the Centre aims to support women with an ambition to start and grow their business and to develop women entrepreneurs who can turn their SME into brands known locally and internationally. The Centre offers 60 units on 3 floors and, with the ground floor allocated for showcasing products; the top floor serves as Business Centre with 17 office units for service providers. The incubation period at Riyadat is 3 years. Entrepreneurs are supported in terms of low rent as well as advisory and accounting services. "We hope to establish an entrepreneurship mentality and support Women ready to spread their wings and fly in the direction of their dreams." is the slogan Riyadat's Team is working under. **Contact:** Mrs. Shatha Al-Jalahma **Email:** saljahama@bdb-bh.com website: www.riyadat.com.bh



infoDev Business Incubation Management Training

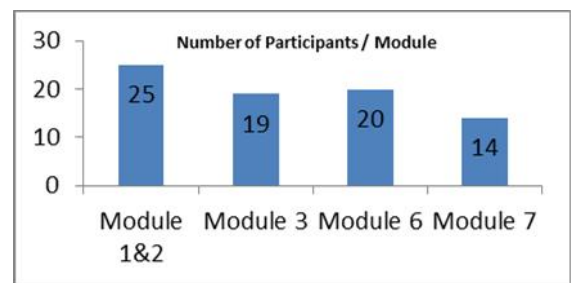
This section will focus on the infoDev training that is offered and conducted by the MENAinc. This can be organized in your country. For more information please contact the network secretary.

infoDev training in Bahrain

The infoDev Business Incubation Management Training was conducted in the Kingdom of Bahrain during the period 26th to 29th January 2014. This training was organized by Bahrain Business Incubator Center (Subsidiary of Bahrain Development Bank Group) in association with MENAinc, the Middle East and North Africa Incubators Network, with the support of infoDev – World Bank. The Training was conducted in the Bahrain Business Incubator Center Conference Room (Tylos Hall).

As a special feature, the participants were invited for a site visit to Riyadat, the recently established women incubator in Bahrain. Participants were briefed about the concept and design of this incubator, where it combines the business incubator with a shopping mall set up. Also, the visit was very helpful in realizing some of the learned concepts during the training such as planning the incubator, selection of clients, anchor tenants concept, etc.

Two infoDev certified trainers have delivered this training. Mr. Omer Oz from Turkey and Mr. Mohammad Allam from Kingdom of Bahrain. The delivered modules were as follows: Module 1&2: Business Incubation Definitions and Principles & Business Incubator Models, Including Success Factors. Module 3: Planning an Incubator, Module 6: Managing the Incubator and Module 7: Monitoring, Evaluating and Benchmarking Business Incubators.



The total number of participants was 35 coming from 6 countries as follows: Bahrain, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Sultanate of Oman, and Libya.



Upcoming Trainings

There are two upcoming trainings to be organized one will be held in Jordan in the second quarter 2014 and the other one in Bahrain in quarter 4 2014. If you find these dates too far / close we can organize this training in your home country. For more information please contact the MENAinc secretary.

Register Now

We kept the registration open form now for the upcoming infoDev business incubation management training programs in the MENA region. You can now register your interest [HERE](#).

Upcoming Events

This section will focus on the members and related partners upcoming events. If you wish to include your event please contact the editor of this newsletter, contacts are at the end of this issue.

TechOman - Technopreneurship & Innovation

Conference 28th-29th April 2014, Muskat, Oman



In line with the Government of Oman's economic vision for 2020, Al Nimr Expo is organizing the 1st TechOman – Technopreneurship and Innovation Conference 2014. The two-day conference will feature inspiring presentations and discussion on subjects such as e-commerce, wireless and mobile applications, software development, etc. The conference will bring together senior government officials, corporate executives, SME's micro entrepreneurs, owners of start-up companies and service professionals from technology based sectors, venture capitalist and angel investors.

E-Mail: contact@alnimrexpo.com Website: www.tech-oman.com

Creating the Right Ecosystem for Knowledge

Valorization: A Case Study of ODTÜ Teknokent

16th -18th June 2014, Ankara, Turkey



Organized by: the European Investment Bank (EIB) through the Marseille Centre for Mediterranean Integration (CMI) in partnership with ISESCO, UNESCWA Technology Centre (ETC) and ODTÜ Teknokent.

This regional workshop will discuss the effective contribution of the Quadruple Helix actors- namely the public sector, the private sector, the financial sector and academia- to value creation and knowledge transfer within Science and Technology Parks (STPs). The event is being at ODTÜ Teknokent, a Park that succeeded in creating an ecosystem where the actors of the Quadruple Helix effectively work together, sharing with the national delegates best practices and lessons learnt during this process. Particularly designed for managers of science parks, the event will bring together practitioners and experts from international and regional organizations such as the IASP and the EIF, as well as representatives of European and MENA parks. Contact Ms. Jihan Hakimi E-Mail: j.hakimi@eib.org website: www.beta.cmimarseille.org

Arab Technoparks and Incubators Network Meeting

The Arab Technoparks and Incubators Network ATECNET (Under formation), will held a meeting in Algeria during the 23-24 June 2014. This new network came as a result of a ministerial meeting of the International Technology Union meeting which recommended supporting jobs creation and entrepreneurship in the Arab countries. the meeting host will be the Agence Nationale de Promotion et de Développement des Parcs Technologiques, ANPT- Algeria. This meeting comes after an initial meeting held in Tunisia in November 2013. Contact: Mr. Slaheddine Maaref E-Mail: slaheddine.maaref@itu.int Website: www.itu.org

IASP World Conference Doha, Qatar



19th – 22nd, 2014 @ the Qatar National Convention Center. The theme for the 31st IASP World Conference, is “Science Parks; Where Technology Goes to Work”. The theme shows the development in the nature of work that should currently be adopted by science parks. It highlights the concept of a space “where constant work is being done” to develop tomorrow’s technology as opposed to a static location for mere research purposes. For more information about the conference [HERE](#), Agenda: [HERE](#)

MENAINC Update is the newsletter of the Middle East and North Africa Incubators and Technoparks Network. News, Articles and upcoming events for publication are invited and will be published under the name of the author. Editor: Mohammad Allam, MENAINC, Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain, Email m3allam@gmail.com / mallam@bdb-bh.com www.menainc.org