



Dear Members/ Readers,

This issue brings variety of news and information about upcoming events in the region. Also it highlights the newly developed MENAinc map that locates the incubators around MENA. We wish you enjoyable journey...

Best Regards..

MENAinc secretary

Inside This Issue

- MENAinc Map
- Info about a new incubator
- Regional Updates
- MENA Incubators Review
- New publications
- Upcoming Events

MENAinc Incubators Map is Now Online

MENAinc have launched new Mapping Service that is currently available for all the Incubators, Accelerators and Techno parks. This will help in promoting the new programs in addition to linking the programs to those who are seeking business opportunity or offering funds to the incubation programs. The only requirement to be added in the map is to provide basic information to be provided for those who are trying to reach you. the map will be available all the time however only the updated profiles will be published. i.e please make sure that you provide information when requested. If your incubator, Techno park, Accelerator is not listed please contact the MENAinc Secretary on the emails provided end of the Update.



Bahrain Updates

Establishing Arts Business Incubator

Bahrani Development Bank Group have announced the establishment of a new sector specific incubator that target Arts businesses. The new incubator is part of the Incubators network in Bahrain which is fully owned and supported by Bahrain Development Bank Group. The network covers, Mixed used incubator, Women incubator and Handicrafts incubator in addition to ICT incubator that is planned to be launched soon. The Arts incubator will host around 15 tenants with total area of around 2000 M² and it is expected to be in operation before the end of 2014. Photo shows the signing ceremony for renting the incubator buildings between BDB Group and the Municipality of Manama. The agreement was signed by Eng. Shaikh Mohammad AL-Khalifa the General Manager of the Manama Municipality and from BDB Group Mr. Adnan Al-Blooshi DGM Financial Services in the presence of Shaikh Hesham AL-Khalifa DGB Non- Financial Services and Mr. Hasan AL-Bin Mohammad Head of PR.



Egypt Updates

AUC Venture Lab Announces Second Incubator Cycle

AUC Venture Lab (V-Lab) at The American University in Cairo's School of Business has announced seven new startups incubated in V-Lab's second cycle. Established by the School of Business, the mission of the V-Lab is to commercialize technologies and innovations developed by Egypt-based startups into commercially viable ventures. After an exhaustive selection process, startups Axology, Bus Pooling, DoubleVee, EduTKs, Madad, SingleClic, and Tatweer were named as the new cohort.



Oman Updates

Start-ups at ITA SAS incubator program to hit 60 by 2015

The Information Technology Authority's (ITA) SAS incubator program has announced an expansion in the incubation capacity by the end of 2015. SAS is a Public Private Partnership project that focuses on the development of an internationally competitive ICT industry, self-employment and new job creation, introduction of new technologies to create innovative products, solutions and services, Generate commercially viable and technology based small and medium enterprises in Oman. For more information about SAS please visit the following Video: [Click HERE](#)



NBC Incubators is Expanding

The National Business Centre (NBC), plans to establish four new business incubators in Oman. NBC is working with the Public Authority for Small and Medium Enterprises Development (PASMED) to operate their four upcoming incubators, two of which will come on stream in 2014. The four incubators being set up include, one at the PASMED building in Ghala with a capacity of 26 office spaces, and one each in Sohar, Muttrah (more of a retail set up) and Salalah.



Saudi Arabia Updates

Establishing the First Women Incubator in the Eastern Province

The Prince Sultan Bin Abdulaziz Fund for Women Development has launched the project of establishing the first women incubator in the eastern area in Saudi Arabia. The 6,000 m2 incubator will be located in Al-Dammam Industrial City and will offer variety of incubation services to the incubated clients such as Business Advisory, Networking, Support for the government related procedures etc.



Morocco Updates

Moroccan Innovation Centre finances Startups

The Moroccan Innovation Centre (CMI) launched the 7th call for proposals for funding under the programs INTILAK and TATWIR carried by the Support Fund for Innovation and developed as part of the national Innovation Strategy for Morocco. These programs are aiming at companies with innovative projects that meet the eligibility criteria. INTILAK covers startups (less than two years old), and offers a zero-interest loan covering 90% of project expenditures (up to 1,000,000 dhs). Applications are initially submitted on the management platform available on the website of "Moroccan Innovation Centre". Once the file is complete, it must be filed in paper format at the headquarters of the CMI website, by October 10, 2014. Contact: CMI team Email: intilak@cmi.net.ma or tatwir@cmi.net.ma Website: [Click HERE](#)



Publications Released

SBIN Launches the first annual guide

The Saudi Business Incubators Network have published the first annual guide to the business incubators and supporting institutions in Saudi Arabia. The guide included information about the members of SBIN in grouped format according to the geographical location in Saudi Arabia. To download the document [Click HERE](#).



ESCWA Launched the “Regional Profile of the Information Society in the Arab Region – 2013”

ESCWA Launched the “Regional Profile of the Information Society in the Arab Region”. The 2013 edition highlights the improvements seen in ICT infrastructure and also addresses the challenges facing the realization of the information society and transition to a knowledge-based economy in the Arab region. It comes to the conclusion that much must be done to reduce the digital divide across the region and also urges Arab policy makers to adopt a framework for formulating policies and strategies beyond 2015. To download the document: [Click HERE](#). Contact Dr Nibal Edlibi Email: idlebi@un.org



MENA Business Incubators Review

KSA-Industrial Development Center @Jubail Technical Institute Royal Commission

By: IDC

The Industrial Development Center “IDC” is a not for profit sector specific incubator focus on supporting industrial businesses. The IDC is located in Al-Jubail Industrial area east of Saudi Arabia with 23 incubation units. The current incubated clients are 14 and the center has graduated 8 projects so far with an average incubation period of three years. The center provides the different incubation services which includes Technical Support, Consultations Support, feasibility study training, Offices Support, Financing etc. Website: www.idc-rc.org contact :Shadi AL-Taweel Email: incubators@jti.edu.sa



Turkey - Atom Business Incubator

Animation Technologies and Game Development Center (ATOM), which is the first and the only market-specific pre-incubation center of Turkey, was established by Middle East Technical University (METU) Technopolis in 2008. The main goal of ATOM is to prevent the loss of creative ideas on video games and animation and to convert these ideas to marketable values. In other words, we aim to convert successful ideas that have no entrepreneurial and financial support into commercial value via experience of METUTECH. Our vision is set as creating a “center of excellence” of video game market in Turkey on regional, national and international levels. ATOM provides: Pre-Incubation Opportunities, Developer Network, University Collaboration, Coaching and Training, Office Space, Hardware and Software, Business Development Guidance in addition to organizing Events and Activities. For more information: www.metutech-atom.org Contact Elif BUĞDAYCIOĞLU Email: atom@odtuteknokent.com.tr



MENAinc Entrepreneurs

Bahraini Team won the third prize in the Microsoft Imagine Cup Seattle

Bahrain's Butterfly team has won the third place in Microsoft Innovation Category of 2014 Worldwide Imagine Cup, which was held from 30 July-2 August 2014 in Washington University, Seattle, USA. The team members, Alla' Abdurraheem and Marwa Bu-Haila, represented Bahrain and Arab region in the Innovation Category finals of 2014 Worldwide Imagine Cup, in which the first place went to Estimeet team of New Zealand, Tep team of Hungary was the runner-up and Butterfly team of Bahrain won the third place, to be the first national team to represent Bahrain internationally. Photo: Reception ceremony for the team in Bahrain Airport.



2 Lebanese Winning Entrepreneurs for the Intel Business Challenge for MENA Countries

By Nicolas Rohana

In the context of the 3rd edition of the "Intel Berytech Innovation Challenge" (IBIC), leading to Intel Business Challenge Middle-East & North-Africa, Intel and Berytech are happy to announce the finalists winning technology entrepreneurs who will represent Lebanon in the regional final in Bahrain scheduled on September 1st- 3rd as part of Intel Global Challenge in Berkeley:

- Ashabona, a platform offering the latest development in modern technology to create adapted games and content for education, targeting Arabic language, engaging with students through an interactive and fun teaching process.
- Planitous, an interactive platform to plan travel trips in a customized approach



Founded in 2005 as collaboration between UC Berkeley and Intel, Intel Global Challenge is the most recognized technology business plan competition that encourages emerging entrepreneurs and rewards innovative ideas that have potential to become a new business or even a new industry. Berytech partnered with Intel in 2011, joining forces with prestigious network of partners in education and entrepreneurship, from across the Middle-East, opening up the challenge track for Lebanese aspiring entrepreneurs. More than 75 applicants applied for challenge and winners will receive a wide array of support to startup their businesses in Berytech incubator including training, capacity building and support in accessing expert networks and funds.

infoDev Business Incubation Management Training Program

MENAinc offers a specialized training program for incubators technology parks managers. This I called the infoDev Business Incubation Management Training which is developed by the infoDev the worldbank program for information development. More information about the program is available in our website [Click HERE](#) Also, you can download the report of our previous training program [Click HERE](#). We kept the registration open for the upcoming infoDev business incubation management training programs in the MENA region. You can now register your interest [Click HERE](#). The next expected training program is expected to be in Bahrain beginning of 2015. Also, you can organize this training in your home country with subsidized training cost. For more information please Mohammad Allam Email: m3allam@gmail.com / mallam@bdb-bh.com

Upcoming Events

7th SA Innovation Summit, Cape Town, 16th – 18th Sep 2014

The theme for the 2014 Summit is “Local Innovation Global Conversation”. Finding solutions lies at the very heart of our motivation for innovation. So, the event will showcase South Africa’s wealth of creativity, origination and ingenuity for developing solutions to unique challenges. As the World Design Capital (WDC), the Cape Town “will be the epicenter of dialogue on design thinking and design development. We are excited to capitalize on the WDC and draw the world’s attention to showcase our innovative capability and to take local innovation into a broader global conversation!” for more information: www.innovationsummit.co.za



Models of Cooperation between Universities and Companies and the Role that STPs Can or Should Play, Tunis, September 23th

As a parallel activity of the ICT4all conference, Elgazalah Technopark is organizing this workshop which will cover the How to create the right ecosystem for different models of Cooperation between Universities and Companies? In addition to Building the gap between academia and industry through the consolidation of STPs. The workshop will be held on the 23th Sept. 2014 at the Conference Room 'COLISE' in SOLARIA Hotel: Yasmine Hammamet, TUNISIA. Contact Monia Jendoubi, Email: j.monia@elgazala.tn



IASP Conference Doha, October 19th to 22nd

The regional technological advancement and development will be organizing IASP 2014, at the Qatar National Convention Centre (QNCC) in Doha from October 19th to 22nd. The theme of this is “Science Parks: where technology goes to work” aims at showing the development in the nature of work that should currently be adopted by science parks.



The 6th Annual Saudi Incubation Conference, October 27th – 29th

This year the conference is titled “Driving Innovation and Entrepreneurship in the MENA region” and aims to promote and raise awareness of business incubation, entrepreneurship and innovation; provide a MENA region forum to enable stakeholders to network and share experiences and best practices in business incubation; enable experts to present and discuss the challenges and opportunities in the development of business incubation and entrepreneurship in the MENA region; and to share developments in policy-making, strategies and future opportunities and the role that incubators should play. The conference will include an Innovation Tour in Riyadh for regional and international delegates to various innovation and incubation organizations. More details on the program are available on the website: www.kacst.edu.sa , Contact: Majed M. Rashad, Email: mrashad@badir.com.sa



Final Note

We hope that you enjoyed reading this issue. We would like to invite you to participate in this update by sending to us your news, upcoming events and activities to publish it in our upcoming issues. Also, please don't forget to check our new map and locate your incubator there. If it is not there please contact us. The registration in the map is open and free for all the incubators in the region.

Best Regards...
MENAinc Secretary

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