



Dear MENAinc'ers/ Readers,

During the first Quarter of 2015, the MENAregion have witnessed many initiatives and events related to Entrepreneurship. This issue covers Two Major Entrepreneurship Competition in the GCC, in Bahrain and Oman. We wish you enjoyable journey.

Best Regards,  
MENAinc secretary

### Inside This Issue

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### Jordan Updates

#### Jordan launches innovative ideas incubator

The Ministry of Public Sector Development began hearing input March 1st from public sector employees in the kingdom as part of its "creativity incubator" to encourage innovation. The incubator was launched under guidance from King Abdullah II to the government to reinforce a culture of excellence and public creativity, said Public Sector Development Minister Khalif al-Khawaldeh at the announcement of the programme on February 2015.

"The goal is to maximize the use of creative ideas from public sector employees in an attempt to translate them into projects that benefit state agencies and institutions," he said, "while minimizing expenditure and improving government services, which would benefit citizens and service beneficiaries [and] improve Jordan's standing in global indicators."



### Qatar Updates

#### ICT Qatar Incubator Center

The ICT Qatar Incubator has announced supporting 15 SME's so far in addition to supporting 14 ideas to develop. The program have created 33 jobs with total beneficiaries of 55 entrepreneurs.



### Tunis Updates

#### Social Business Accelerator

The African Development Bank (AFDB), in collaboration with Yunus Social Business (YSB) launched the iBDA ('ibda' literally means "start" in Arabic) that will be aiming at empowering entrepreneurship and building a social business accelerator in Tunis and will be recreated around the world. The goal of the program is to help beginners gain the necessary skills and tools to manage a successful social business.



### Lebanon Updates

#### Flat6Labs to invest in 100 Lebanese startups



BEIRUT: Regional startup accelerator Flat6Labs is launching a tech program in Beirut, co-founder Hany El-Sonbaty announced during the sixth ArabNet technology conference. The new Flat6Labs accelerator program will provide startups with \$30,000 to \$50,000 of "seed money" in exchange for approximately 10 to 15 percent of equity in the company. It will then provide four to six months of training and guidance, with the goal of securing further funding.

## Berytech launches Berytech Fund II to support the Lebanese knowledge Economy

Berytech launched the second Berytech Fund which is an initiative by Banque du Liban that allows Lebanese banks and financial institutions to invest in Lebanese startups in the knowledge economy and to help them grow their businesses, with 75% of the banks' investments guaranteed by Banque du Liban. The fund aims to contribute to the continuous development of the innovation ecosystem in Lebanon, and will deploy, together with its founders and sponsors, every effort to achieve this goal. Contact Mr. Nicolas Rohana, Email: [Nicolas.rouhana@beryttech.org](mailto:Nicolas.rouhana@beryttech.org)



### Saudi Arabia Updates

## First Innovation and Entrepreneurship Forum

Jazan University hosted its First Innovation and Entrepreneurship Forum held on November 19-20, 2014 at the university auditorium. The forum was inaugurated by HE Mohammad Ibn Nasser Ibn Abdulaziz, Governor of Jazan Province. The opening speech was delegated by Dr. Sultan Hasan Al Hazmi, Vice President for Academic Affairs. The Forum aimed to expose kingdom's youth to the large ecosystem of local entrepreneurs by providing a platform to establish business ideas, gain essential entrepreneurship knowledge & skills, and network to excel in their entrepreneurship careers.



## Aramco Entrepreneurship Center Hosted its 3rd Entrepreneurs Network Event

On March 11, 2014, the Aramco Entrepreneurship Center hosted its Third Semi-Annual Entrepreneurs' Network event, at the Technical Exchange Center in Dhahran. The main purpose of this networking event is to provide a unique level of post-funding support to Aramco's entrepreneurs in the form of a semi-annual Forum where they can meet and interact with other Aramco entrepreneurs as well as with Saudi Aramco managers from relevant functions, Saudi Aramco Tier-1 suppliers (e.g. G.E, Siemens), and local businessmen who could become buyers of their goods and services. In this way, Aramco's entrepreneurs get a golden opportunity to introduce their products and services to a large number of potential customers in less than a day.



**Oman Updates- Special Report**  
**National Entrepreneurship Award**



As a result of the SME support workshop in Saih Al-Shamikat in Oman, it was decided by his Majesty Sulta Qaboos Bin Saeed to establish a high level entrepreneurship award in 2014. Accordingly the award has started with more than 500 applicants have applied to the award and competing to win more than 30 awards in different categories.

The award ceremony was conducted in January in Qaboos University in Oman. 13 entrepreneurs and companies were awarded according to the final results of the Judging Panel.

The Jury panel consisted of 12 experts coming from different background and specialties as follows: Mr. Andrwe Schedmnn (UK), Dr. Mohammad Buhejji (Bahrain), Dr. Nabeel Shalabi (Egypt), Dhua Awayes (UAE), Noora Al-Mannaie (Qatar), Waleed Zaki (Lebanon), Mohammad Allam (Bahrain), Bahaa Barakat (UAE), Dr. Dhafir Al-Shanfari (Oman), Saud Al-Buazizi (Oman), Tariq Al-Aamri (Oman).



For more information [www.theaward.om](http://www.theaward.om) , Contact Fahad Al-Harthy, Award Manager Email: [fahad.harthy@alraffd.gov.om](mailto:fahad.harthy@alraffd.gov.om)

## Bahrain Award for entrepreneurship



The Bahrain Award for Entrepreneurship, the largest entrepreneurship award in the Kingdom, was held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, First Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of Bahrain Economic Development Board. The Award was designed to support Bahraini businesses and recognize the efforts and contributions of businesses and entrepreneurs to Bahrain's economy.

The award was divided into the following categories: Micro-Enterprise of the Year (micro enterprises and productive families), Startup of the Year (companies established for less than 36 months), Enterprises of the Year (SMEs), Enterprises of the Year (Large Companies), and Sustainable Business Award. In addition to these categories, a People's Choice Award was introduced to take the public vote into consideration. This comes alongside the Lifetime Achievement Award, which is aimed at long-standing entrepreneurial pioneers. While businesses will initiate the nominations made on behalf of a third-party or through direct application, a panel of judges will evaluate applicants based on their enterprise growth, economic impact, optimization of talent and diversity, leadership and innovation, business responsibility and entrepreneurial spirit.

The Jury panel consisted of well-respected judges that includes high-profile Bahraini figures and some of the region's most well-known entrepreneurs as follows: HRH Prince Khalid bin Al-Waleed (KSA), Ahmed Nassef (Bahrain), Badr Jafar (UAE), Habib Haddad (UAE), Hala Fadhel (MENA), Nina Curley (UAE), Rama Chakaki (UAE), Rosemary Tan (Malasya), Talal Al Zain (Bahrain), Tony Bury (UK). Contact: [info@BahrainAE.com](mailto:info@BahrainAE.com)

## Technopreneur Program

The Bahrain Development Bank and the eGovernment Authority have announced the start of the first batch of Technopreneur Bahrain. Which aims at supporting and facilitating the growth of the ICT sector in Bahrain. Technopreneur Bahrain offers entrepreneurs with a comprehensive platform that includes capacity building, coaching, mentorship, and funding and other services to support the development of their ICT concepts and transform them into commercial business ventures. The finalists of the program receive an equity investment from the eGovernment Authority as well as a space in the ICT incubator RUKN.The (Under Establishment). Contact: Mr. Salman AL-Khalifa, Email: [salkhalifa@BDB-BH.com](mailto:salkhalifa@BDB-BH.com)



## The Femmes Chefs d'Entreprises Mondiales (FCEM) 63rd World Business Women's Congress

The conference was held under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, Wife of His Majesty the King and President of the Supreme Council for Women (SCW), concluded on the 24th March 2015 with a great success. The three-day event, organized by the Bahrain Business & Professional Women International Federation (BPW) under the theme "Our Bridges to the World", witnessed the participation of more than 500 high-profile businesswomen and entrepreneurs representing nearly 40 countries around the world as well as a group of prominent international figures. At the end of the conference a site visit to Bahrain Business Incubator Center as conducted to explain the incubation program for the participants.



## 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.



## 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](mailto:m3allam@gmail.com) / [mallam@bdb-bh.com](mailto:mallam@bdb-bh.com)

## Upcoming Events

### ARTECNET Workshop

Arab ICT Incubators and Technoparks Association (ARTECNET) meeting and Workshop on promoting youth employment and entrepreneurship, Cairo - Egypt, 7-9 April 2015. The workshop on promoting youth employment and entrepreneurship will be co-organized in collaboration between the ITU, the Arab Networks of Technoparks and Incubators (ARTECNET) and the Smart Village, Cairo, Egypt, on the 7<sup>th</sup> April 2015. Contact Person Mr. Slaheddine Maaraf Email: [slaheddine.maaref@itu.int](mailto:slaheddine.maaref@itu.int)



### Developing Key performance indicators for Science and Technology Parks in the MENA region



The European Investment Bank (EIB) through the Centre for Mediterranean Integration (CMI), ISESCO, UN-ESCWA Technology Centre, and the Elgazala Technopark kindly invite all the MENAinc members for the workshop on Key Performance Indicators for Science and Technology Parks which will take place in Elgazala Technopark, on the 25<sup>th</sup> -26<sup>th</sup> May, 2015, Tunisia. The workshop aims to identify and establish metrics to evaluate the performance and the impact of the different roles and functions that STPs can develop. Measuring the performance of STPs through an appropriate set of performance indicators helps managers to identify areas of improvement as well as taking strategic and operational decisions. For more information: <http://beta.cmimarseille.org/highlights/creating-right-ecosystem-knowledge-valorisation-case-study-odt%C3%BC-teknokent>

### infoDev Business Incubation Management Training

The infoDev Business Incubation Management Training is back. It is planned to be organized in Tunisia during the period between 27<sup>th</sup> -30<sup>th</sup> May 2015 in El-Gazallah Technopark. The training details will be announced soon on the MENAinc website. Pre-registration is open [Click HERE](#). Contact Mrs. Soukaina Rahmani, Email: [s.rahmani@elgazala.tn](mailto:s.rahmani@elgazala.tn) MR. Mohammad Allam Email: [mallam@bdb-bh.com](mailto:mallam@bdb-bh.com), [m3llam@gmail.com](mailto:m3llam@gmail.com).

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Entrepreneurship Forum KSA

The second Entrepreneurship Forum will be held on the 1<sup>st</sup> April in the University of AL-Qaseem in Saudi Arabia. The forum is organized by the college of Business and Economics in AL-Qaseem University. For more info: Saudi Business Incubators Network (SBIN), Mr. Majid Rashad, Email: [mrashad@badir.com.sa](mailto: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...

Mohammad Allam  
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](mailto:m3allam@gmail.com) / [mallam@bdb-bh.com](mailto:mallam@bdb-bh.com) [www.menainc.org](http://www.menainc.org)