

MENA Update #6

June 2015



Dear Members/ Readers,

Starting from this issue we are joining our efforts with ARTECNET in issuing this update. This will definitely enhance our updates coverage and will eliminate duplication of efforts in the region. According to this the name of the update will change to MENA Update

We wish you Eid Mubarak to you and your families...

Best Regards..

MENAINC and ARTECNET

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Bahrain Updates

Launching of the SME's Toolkit

The Bahrain SME Toolkit is launched in partnership with International Finance Corporation "IFC", a member of the World Bank Group, in cooperation with Tamkeen, Bahrain Development Bank and Bahrain Chamber of Commerce & Industry.



The creation of the SME Toolkit of Bahrain came to provide the SMEs with easily accessible and adequate information at one place along with technologically advanced tools & globally relevant knowledge content on how to expand businesses while filling the gaps in the existing services. The local content of the SME Toolkit varies to include guides on starting and registering a new business, regulatory information, schemes of assistance, investment opportunities, mentoring & export advice, business directories, market and trade statistics, tender information & buy-sell bulletin boards amongst other business related information will complement the globally relevant learning content and tools on various aspects of running a business. For more information:

<http://bahrain.smetoolkit.org/>

Morocco Updates

The Menara cluster

An inspiring project to support innovation and contribute to the development of the food and cosmetics industries luxury. Cluster Menara (Marrakech Exclusivity Advanced Network For Research In Art's Living) is a Moroccan association specializing in the food and cosmetics industry of luxury, and the latest addition to the EBN Community!



Cluster Menara is based in Marrakech and has ambitions of pushing their local companies to international markets, both in Europe and beyond. The rationale behind the creation of this cluster is the recent development of the considerable potential of products of the Moroccan territory in new food concepts and luxury cosmetics through a research effort supported by a R & D base.

The Menara cluster transforms the collaborative efforts of R & D work into innovative products, processes and services with high added value in the region. For more information:
<http://www.clustermenara.com>.

Qatar Updates

DIC Mentorship Program Kicks-off with Meet-and-Greet Event

Thirty-five technology veterans from some of the world's leading technology businesses and organizations, such as IBM, Microsoft, and Vodafone, among many others, came together on May 24, to reaffirm their commitment to mentoring young entrepreneurs in ICTQATAR's Digital Incubation Center (DIC).

The meet-and-greet event gave these inspiring thinkers, and thought leaders of the ICT industry an opportunity to learn more about their role in helping young entrepreneurs in Qatar to succeed in growing technology businesses.

Most of the DIC's mentors are volunteers, showing dedication and commitment to the program that helps build new disruptors in Qatar's technology marketplace. Some industry participants also provide the DIC's entrepreneurs access to their technologies. By doing so, these corporations benefit as well from new insights into how third parties can use their APIs and data in innovative ways.



QBIC Demo Day

A video showcasing the different phases our QBICpreneurs went through during the ten weeks LeanStartup Program, along with the special efforts by QBIC's team to help these entrepreneurs reach QBIC's Demo Day with big success stories. Certainly a day to remember! To watch the video: [CLICK HERE](#)



New Publication-ESCWA

Promotion of Innovation and Entrepreneurship in the Arab region

The Technology for Development division at ESCWA have published new leaflet about the digital Arabic content: "Promotion of Innovation and Entrepreneurship in the Arab region". This leaflet summarizes the achievements of our project and it is timely and tightly related to the ARTECNET MENA Update. [DOWNLOAD FROM HERE](#) Contact Dr. Nibal Edlibi Email: idlebi@un.org



Special Review -Sudan

Africa City of Technology, Sudan

(ACT) was established by a presidential decree in 2008 to act as spearhead for harnessing technology with development and production. ACT is planned to encourage investment in various fields of technology, through the dissemination of knowledge and technological culture. ACT is planned to provide the appropriate environment for research and manufacturing technology and the provision of the related basic infrastructures and services. ACT is planned for hosting companies and innovators to help them creating knowledge-based production, providing custody of scientific research, providing advanced technology facilities for projects, and the generation of national benefits out of ICT industry and services and offering smart technology education. ACT is allocated a prime land area of around 5 million square meters in Khartoum).

ACT includes Biotechnology Park, Cyber Park, Hi-Tech Park, Knowledge Park, Business Park, Edutainment Park, Nile Angloville and Technology Business Incubator



Contact: Osama AL-Rayes, Email: rayis@hotmail.com , Website: <http://www.act.sd>

Regional Workshop: “Developing Key Performance Indicators for STP’s in the MENA Region”



CENTER for MEDITERRANEAN INTEGRATION | CENTRE pour l'INTÉGRATION en MÉDITERRANÉE
مركز التكامل المتوسطي



The workshop was organized by the European investment bank (EIB) / center for Mediterranean integration (CMI), Islamic educational, scientific and cultural organization (ISESCO), U.N Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia- Technology center (ESCWA ETC) and El-Gazala Technopark.



More than 40 participants coming from 15 countries have met and exchanged their experience in evaluating Science and Technology parks. Two case studies were presented from El-Gazalah Technopark in Tunisia and from ODTU TEKNOKENT from Turkey. At the end of the



event, a

site visit was conducted inside El-Gazallah Technopark.

MENAinc Incubators Map is Now Online

MENAinc have launched new Mapping Service that is currently available for all the Incubators, Accelerators and Technoparks. 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, Technopark, Accelerator is not listed please contact the MENAinc Secretary on the emails provided end of the Update.

Upcoming Events

IASP WORLD CONFERENCE 2015

September 2015, Beijing, China



Zhongguancun Science Park will host the 32nd IASP Annual World Conference

on Science Parks and Areas of Innovation in September 2015. The conference will bring together experts from STPs (Science and Technology Parks) and other AIs (areas of innovation), technology-based incubators, academia, the public sector and business to discuss and debate in depth the trends in STPs and other areas of innovation as increasingly complex structures for professional innovation support. To serve their companies and communities, STPs and other AIs often collaborate and coordinate activities with different institutions and organizations, such as chambers of commerce, development and funding agencies, industry associations, networks, venture capital, etc. All of these institutions are welcome to make contributions to this conference. For more information <http://www.iasp2015beijing.cn>

ALECSO STP KPIs Event

The Arab League for Culture and Science Organization will organize a workshop Science and Technology Parks. The workshop will address the KPI's of the STPs and will try to come with a unified KPI's for the region. This is planned to be organized in September 2015. Contact: Mr. Hakim Safwan Email: hakim.safwen@gmail.com



EBN 24th Congress - New Frontiers for Innovative Entrepreneurs

28-30 October 2015 Brussels, Belgium

EBN's 24th Congress – New Frontiers for Innovative Entrepreneurs – will explore the new frontiers of the 21st Century - digital, green, bio, creative, open, societal, financial - presenting the latest ideas from thought-leaders, showcasing the entrepreneurs who are opening up these frontiers, allowing you to see the future of innovation. Registration is now open through the event website:



<http://ebncongress.eu/>

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.

Wishing you and your Families Eid Mubarak

Best Regards...

MENAINC and ARTECNET Secretary

MENA Update is a joint newsletter between the Middle East and North Africa Incubators and Technoparks Network and the Arab Technoparks and Incubators 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