

TAGAudit Newsletter

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Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization and UNDP Launch 'UNDP/Private Sector' Partnership Forum

AMMAN----- June 29, 2015----- The Economic Policy Development Forum (EPDF) at Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization (TAG-Org) and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) jointly launched the "UNDP/Private Sector Partnership Forum" during a special meeting held at Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Knowledge Forum.

The UNDP/Private Sector Partnership Forum aims at

providing a sustainable and comprehensive economy to citizens and communities. This joint initiative also seeks to urge businesses to support issues of interest to UNDP, the Government of Jordan, civil society and donors while focusing on team and collaborative effort.

Mr. Edward Kallon, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Jordan, Dr. Zena Ali-Ahmad, UNDP Country Director, and a host of

representatives of the private sector in different areas and fields in the Kingdom attended the meeting.

Supported by the UNDP, TAG-Org will serve as the secretariat of the Forum chaired by the "UNDP-Business Council".

HE Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, Chairman of TAG-Org, stressed that establishing the Forum is a strategic initiative by TAG-Org and the UN that aims at businesses in Jordan

engaged in promoting human development in the country.

«The Forum focuses on the fact that businesses can contribute to the development of markets as well as trade, technology and finance sector development to achieve progression that serves economic and social components in Jordan,» he said.

«Jordan is facing many challenges that it cannot afford alone thus the private sector should undertake its social responsibility. This Forum is an integral part of such responsibility,» he said.

Kallon expressed appreciation for the initiative by Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh as well, his devoted support to the UN projects as

he is perceived by the UN as a decades-long close friend. He added «UNDP focuses on its partnership with the public and private sectors, which it perceived as an important strategy. The UNDP is working with the business community to implement this strategy as it is among the UNDP commitment towards development and strengthening of both economy and human resources in Jordan.»

Dr. Zena recalled areas of cooperation between public and private sectors through the Forum, its membership, meetings and method of operation. She stated that the Forum will be an open community for businesses, associations and chambers of commerce and industry. It will also be co-chaired by

Dr. Abu- Ghazaleh, EPDF Chairman, and Mr. Kallon. The Co-Chairs will report to the UN Secretary General's office and the Government of Jordan on this proposed Forum.

She pointed out that the Forum will hold quarterly meetings and will be hosted at the EPDF, which will provide the required logistic support.

During the meeting, a success story was presented on the UNDP work with the private sector in the north where some utilities, schools, health centers, public places and others were developed within projects decided upon after several meetings and discussions with the government on needs of those places.



TAGI-Auditors and UNDP Sign an Audit Agreement

NEW YORK----July 29, 2015----- On behalf of Talal Abu Ghazaleh Organization (TAG-Org), Talal Abu-Ghazaleh & Co. International (TAGI-Auditors) / Palestine signed an audit agreement with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in the Arab states.

According to the agreement signed at New York offices of the UN by Mr. Jamal Melhem, the Executive Director of TAG-Org in Palestine and Mr. Helg Austiften, Director of the UN Office of Audit and Investigations (OAI), TAG-Org will audit UNDP programs in 15 countries in the region.

Melhem said "Signing this agreement is to reinforce previous agreements on audit and consulting services concluded between TAG-Org and UNDP in the Arab region and the world. It also signals and emphasizes TAG-Org leading position in services it renders to international institutions as the Group is characterized by reliability, professionalism and profound experience over several

decades of operation all over the world."

Moreover, Melhem visited the World Bank offices in Washington and met with officials and discussed cooperation in several areas. In another visit to the International Federation of Accountants, the current professional status of accounting in Palestine and prospects for its development were discussed.

UNDP works in more than 170 countries, helping to achieve the eradication of poverty, and the reduction of inequalities and exclusion. UNDP helps countries to develop policies, leadership skills, partnership abilities, institutional capacities and build resilience in order to sustain development results.

TAG-Org is a professional services group that was established in 1972 and currently has more than 83 offices around the world that offer a variety of services mainly in the area of audit and consulting, intellectual property, education and qualification.



IAASB issues exposure draft over auditor public interest drive



MOUNTING PRESSURE on auditors to perform their role in the public interest and provide a unified global approach when they unearth suspected illicit activity has led the IAASB to issue an exposure draft.

The powerful regulator says amendments need to be made to its own international standards to enable auditors to operate in unison with the IESBA's standards and avoid the confusion of operating in multiple jurisdictions that use both.

Arnold Schilder, IAASB chairman, said: “The IESBA’s exposure draft proposes a framework for professional accountants in deciding how best to act in the public interest when they come across an act or suspected act of non-compliance with laws and regulations, which will be highly relevant for auditors.

“The IAASB therefore believes that

amendments are needed to the IAASB’s international standards in the public interest to enable them to operate in concert with the IESBA standards and without confusion due to the many jurisdictions that utilize both.”

The core thrust of the exposure draft - open for comment until 21 October - is the proposed amendments to the International Standard on Auditing 250, Consideration of Laws and Regulations in an Audit of Financial Statements, with less extensive changes proposed to seven other standards. The limited amendments, “do not explicitly duplicate in detail all the specific requirements in the IESBA Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants”, in order to “allow for flexibility when ethical codes other than the code are applied”.

<http://www.accountancyage.com/aa/news/2419166/iaasb-issues-exposure-draft-over-auditor-public-interest-drive>

IAASB Proposes Limited Changes to Auditing Standards in Response to the IESBA's Project Addressing Non-Compliance with Laws and Regulations

The International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board® (IAASB®) today released an Exposure Draft, Proposed Amendments to the IAASB's International Standards—Responding to Non-Compliance or Suspected Non-Compliance with Laws and Regulations, to propose limited amendments to the IAASB's International Standards in response to the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants® (IESBA's®) May 2015 Re-Exposure Draft, Responding to Non-Compliance with Laws and Regulations.

"The IESBA's Exposure Draft proposes a framework for professional accountants in deciding how best to act in the public interest when they come across an act or suspected act of non-compliance with laws and regulations, which will be highly relevant for auditors," explained Prof. Arnold Schilder, IAASB Chairman. "The IAASB therefore believes that amendments are needed to the IAASB's International Standards in the public interest to enable them to operate in concert with the IESBA standards and without confusion due to the many jurisdictions that utilize both."

The focus of the Exposure Draft is proposed amendments to International Standard on AuditingTM (ISATM) 250, Consideration of Laws and Regulations in an Audit of Financial Statements, with less extensive changes proposed to seven other standards. The amendments, which are limited in nature, do not explicitly duplicate in detail all the specific requirements

in the IESBA Code of Ethics for Professional AccountantsTM (the Code), as this allows for flexibility when ethical codes other than the Code are applied. Rather, the IAASB's proposals seek to acknowledge the enhancements that will be made by the IESBA in the Code and clarify and emphasize key aspects of the IESBA's proposals in the IAASB's International Standards.

The IAASB's Exposure Draft is open for comment through October 21, 2015, noted Kathleen Healy, IAASB Technical Director.

"The IAASB has issued its proposals with a 90-day comment period in hopes that stakeholders will consider them alongside the IESBA's re-Exposure Draft," she added. "The IAASB intends to continue to coordinate with the IESBA as both Boards move forward on this important topic."

About the International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board (IAASB)

The IAASB develops auditing and assurance standards and guidance for use by all professional accountants under a shared standard-setting process involving the Public Interest Oversight Board, which oversees the activities of the IAASB, and the IAASB Consultative Advisory Group, which provides public interest input into the development of the standards and guidance. The structures and processes that support the operations of the IAASB are facilitated by the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC).

About IFAC®



IFAC is the global organization for the accountancy profession, dedicated to serving the public interest by strengthening the profession and contributing to the development of strong international

economies. It is comprised of more than 175 members and associates in 130 countries and jurisdictions, representing approximately 2.8 million accountants in public practice, education, government service, industry, and commerce.

<https://www.ifac.org/news-events/2015-07/iaasb-proposes-limited-changes-auditing-standards-response-iesba-s-project>

Talal Abu Ghazaleh & Co International (TAGAudit) finalizes the Project of development of Organizational structure for Palestine Investment Promotion Agency (PIPA)

Ramallah, August 10, 2015, Talal Abu Ghazaleh & Co. International has accomplished the project of developing the organizational structure for the Palestine Investment Promotion Agency (PIPA), the closing meeting was held at PIPA to ensure the successful completion of TAGI to the project in presence of the PIPA CEO Mr. Haitham ALWheidi and representative of the DAI, PMDP. The project included studying and development of PIPA's Organizational structure to be appropriate for its mandates and responsibilities and according to PIPA's Strategic Plan, also the project included developing the job descriptions for each position on the new organizational structure, assessment and analysis of the status of current employees in reference to new developed job descriptions and to the civil services laws and Improve and develop PIPAs



main working procedures by restructuring the procedures in order to improve performance and effectiveness, and deal with the changes that might occur due to the new organizational structure.

In this context, Mr. Jamal Milhem, the executive director of TAGI said that this project

has been completed within concerted efforts from all involved parties, and the great cooperation from PIPA's staff with the project team, and Mr. Milhem hoped that this project will help the PIPA to develop and improve the quality of its work to serve the private sector and promote the investments in Palestine

Mr. Haitam ALwheidi, expressed his appreciation to the team who worked hard to accomplish the objectives and expressed his appreciation for TAGI team for the efforts made during the past 4 months and for the PMDP project for the support of the project, Mr. Alwhiedi also briefed the PIPA vision and future plan to develop the investments in Palestine to contribute to the development of national economy

This project was supported and funded by the Palestinian Market Development Programme (PMDP), which is funded by UK Department for International Development (DFID) and European Union (EU) in-cooperation with the Ministry of National Economy and implemented by DAI Europe over a period of five years in the OPT, with offices both in Ramallah and Gaza.

The programme has been

designed to improve market systems and improve the competitiveness of the Palestinian private sector. PMDP aims to improve private sector competitiveness through technical assistance and matching grants. Additionally, PMDP will work on strengthening trade and investment linkages as well as linkages with the Palestinian Diaspora to play an active role in economic development in the OPTs.

TAG Knowledge Society Opens New Branch at Palestine Technical University- Kadoorie in Tulkarm



TULKARM, Palestine ---- August 9 - 2015-- Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Knowledge Society (TAG Knowledge) has established a new branch at the Palestine Technical University- Kadoorie (The Entrepreneurship Center for Accounting Sciences) in Tulkarm governorate under the patronage of the President of the University Dr. Marwan Awartani.

Opening the Center aims to develop the Accounting Information Systems program, funded by the World Bank in Palestine Technical University in partnership with Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization (TAG-Org), with financing provided by the Quality Development Fund.

Mr. Jamal Milhem, executive director of Talal Abu-Ghazaleh

& Co. International, stated that the Center aims at enhancing the strategy of TAG-Org of investment in knowledge and developing human capacity.

"TAG-Org aims to establish several other centers in Palestine for the professional development of Palestinian youth. Such projects enable Palestinian youth to achieve their educational aspirations of applying to TAG Graduate School of Business," he said.

Milhem added that establishing such a center at the University will enhance cooperation in other fields such as in awarding Cambridge International Diploma in Information Technology and

other international certificates and qualifications such as the International Arab Certified Public Accountant (IACPA) and International Arab Certified Management Accountant (IACMA).

Dr. Awartani , expressed gratitude to TAG-Org for its support in establishing the center at the University and stressed on the importance of introducing modern teaching methods as a means of raising the academic level of institutions in Palestine to improve the standards of the educational environment and the study methods of this area. It also gives support to the extra curriculum needs of students.

Dr. Nafe Assaf, the project manager, gave an overview of the society, its objectives, the standards as well as services provided to students mainly the high-speed wireless Internet services, classrooms, training courses and modern computer laboratories in addition to a library and a cafeteria.

The opening ceremony was also attended by Engineer Eyad Jallad, mayor of Tulkarm municipality, Dr. Ihab Qubbaj, dean of the Faculty of Business Administration as well as a group of university staff, representatives of local community institutions, private sector and university students.

IAASB Proposes Changes for Reporting on Summary Financial Statements

The International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board® (IAASB®) released an Exposure Draft proposing changes to International Standard on Auditing™ (ISATM) 810, Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements. ISA 810 deals with the auditor's responsibilities relating to an engagement to report on summary financial statements derived from financial statements audited in accordance with ISAs by that same auditor. The IAASB is proposing limited conforming amendments to ISA 810 as a result of the issuance of its new and revised Auditor Reporting standards, which address auditor reporting on general purpose financial statements.

"In light of its overall efforts to enhance auditor

reporting, the IAASB believes it is also in the public interest to provide users of summary financial statements with greater transparency in circumstances when additional information, such as key audit matters, are communicated in the related auditor's report on the audited financial statements," explained Prof. Arnold Schilder, IAASB Chairman. "The proposed changes to ISA 810 represent a balanced approach considering the objective of an engagement to report on summary financial statements and the report that is required to be issued."

"The board's approach also recognizes that the manner in which summary financial statements are prepared and presented may vary on a national basis depending on the

criteria used, and therefore national auditing standard setters may further tailor ISA 810 in their jurisdictions,” noted Kathleen Healy, IAASB Technical Director. “The board is therefore particularly interested in hearing from stakeholders in those jurisdictions where ISA 810 reports are frequently issued to understand whether its proposed changes will be capable of being implemented and would be expected to benefit users of these reports.”

The IAASB has issued its proposals with a 90-day comment period in order to finalize them on a timely basis and align the effective date of ISA 810 (Revised) with the effective date of the new and Revised Auditor Reporting Standards (i.e., for audits of financial statements for periods ending on or after December 15, 2016).

How to Comment

The IAASB invites all stakeholders to respond to this Exposure Draft, which includes specific questions for respondents on key aspects of the proposals and highlights areas of focus for various stakeholders in responding to the Exposure Draft. To access the Exposure Draft and submit a comment, visit the IAASB’s website at www.iaasb.org. Comments on the Exposure Draft are requested by November 2, 2015.

About the International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board(IAASB)

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<http://www.ifac.org/news-events/2015-08/iaasb-proposes-changes-reporting-summary-financial-statements>