



**The American Chamber
of Commerce in Jordan**

Annual Bulletin 2017



Letter from the Chairman

It gives me great pleasure to welcome our readers to the American Chamber of Commerce in Jordan's annual bulletin for 2017. This year has been quite an exciting year for us, with lots of activities and achievements that we are proud to share.

In 2017, we continued to strengthen our organization and service member businesses, accelerate cooperation and partnerships and further sharpen our organizational structure. These steps are ongoing and are primarily designed to help us enhance our technical and operating capabilities. They are also intended to help us address with our members and partners the economic challenges of the rapidly changing regional and global landscapes, as well as improve our ability to develop important programs and solutions.

Guided by a strong team led by our CEO, we launched new programs and services, stepped up public-private sector collaboration, and paved the way for future gains following the expansion of our departments and technical and service functions, whilst integrating a number of tasks and activities. The US\$600,000.00 grant that was generously provided to AmCham-Jordan by the USAID Jordan Competitiveness Program (JCP) in 2016 is now nearing its end and I would like to take this opportunity to express the Chamber's deepest gratitude to the US Embassy in Amman, USAID and JCP for their invaluable support. It goes without saying that their support has assisted us in meeting a substantial number of the objectives set forth in the grant, and this has propelled the growth and development of our services, and in effect, the benefits provided to our members.

As part of our efforts to accelerate collaboration amongst stakeholders, and in cooperation with the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Supply and the US Embassy in Jordan, we have relaunched the National Tijara Coalition. The level of cooperation and accord between the various National Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Business Associations and sectoral committees comprising the Coalition is exceptional, and we are confident and excited at the prospects that this collaborative effort presents. We have also made encouraging progress with the establishment of the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) Unit and Business Development Department at our offices.

The strength of the JUSFTA and the resilience of the Jordanian economy and business community will without a doubt see us through these difficult times and we will succeed in repositioning the Kingdom as a gateway to neighboring markets and a hub for global businesses looking to work within the Region, whilst simultaneously expanding our presence in the US markets.

To remain at the forefront of developing market needs, technologies and innovation, we are also expanding our partnerships with leading academic, research and business institutions, with the aim of moving forward with the Technology Transfer: Commercialization of Innovation program that targets Jordanian SME's in the fields of innovation and technology, further supporting them to expand their reach within the Kingdom and beyond.

Improving access to the US market for Jordanian businesses is a priority for us, and we are playing our part in helping to achieve this. We are refocusing on trade missions, both incoming and outgoing. Our first trade mission to the US took over 25 Jordanian manufacturers from export ready industries such as food, chemicals, plastics and Dead Sea products to three key States in the US with a substantial population of the Arab diaspora. I am pleased to note that many of these companies were able to establish linkages with leading agents and distributors in these locations and are now selling a number of Jordanian made products in areas which they had previously not accessed. We have also hosted a number of visiting US delegations in a number of Forums and B2B meetings with Jordanian counterparts and many of our members are reaping the fruits of these networking opportunities.

We constantly evolve our corporate governance in an open dialogue with our stakeholders. And as a result of the latest elections, we welcomed three new Members into the AmCham-Jordan Board. In this newsletter, you will find a profile of our newest Board Members. Our thanks go out to all AmCham-Jordan Board Members, old and new, for their unwavering support and cooperation.

I am honored and humbled to serve as Chairman of an association bringing together so many inspiring Jordanians. As a Chamber, we are also privileged to have amongst our partners and sponsors some of the leading Jordanian and US companies representing the best of what Jordan has to offer. The AmCham-Jordan team and Board, and I as its Chairman, will do our utmost to stay in touch with you, and to jointly work on many important issues to be tackled during the forthcoming period.

We hope you enjoy reading this issue of our bulletin and share it with your friends and colleagues so that together we can grow our AmCham-Jordan community of members and partners. More importantly, we would like you to share your ideas, resources and concerns so that we may address them promptly.

I thank you for the confidence you have placed in AmCham-Jordan.

Mohammed S. Bataineh,

Chairman,

The American Chamber of Commerce in Jordan (AmCham-Jordan)

Jordan US Trade Mission 2017

The American Chamber of Commerce in Jordan (AmCham - Jordan) conducted a Jordanian Trade Mission to the US running from the 31st July until the 7th of August, 2017.

The Trade Mission was led by the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Supply and was conducted in cooperation with ASEZA, ADC, USAID-JCP, the Jordan Chamber of Commerce, and the Amman Chambers of Commerce and Industry. The Delegation also included a number of National Jordanian manufacturers and exporters who visited three key locations of Chicago, Washington DC and Detroit, with the aim of promoting the growth and diversification of Jordanian exports to the US in a number of selected manufacturing sectors including food and chemicals as well as select industries such as plastics, packaging and Dead Sea products. The mission also aimed at promoting US investments in Jordan in targeted sectors.

The Trade Mission included Business Forums, B2B meetings as well as a number of networking events held in each State.



Series of Orientation Meetings

Throughout the month of July, a series of meetings and sessions were held at AmCham - Jordan offices to orient members of the US Jordan Trade Delegation heading to the US in August of 2017.

Supported By:



November

Tuesday 28/11/2017

In Cooperation with the Zarqa Chamber of Industry, AmCham Jordan Holds Workshop on the US Jordan Free Trade Agreement (FTA)

The Free Trade Agreement Unit at the American Chamber of Commerce in Jordan (AmCham), and in cooperation with the Zarqa Chamber of Industry held an awareness workshop for ZCI members on the US Jordan Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and business support mechanisms titled "Accessing the US Market – The FTA and National Support Mechanisms" on Tuesday November 28, 2017 at the premises of the Chamber of Industry in Zarqa.

The FTA Workshop comes as part of our ongoing capacity enhancement and know-how dissemination activities provided within the scope of work of the TIJARA Coalition, and is designed to increase Jordanian industries' ability to export to the US market under the preferential arrangement provided to Jordanian products pursuant to the US-Jordan Free Trade Agreement (FTA). Subsequently, a number of follow up workshops and capacity building activities will be provided to our Members which will address, among a number of related issues, technical requirements of exporting to the US, legal and financial considerations, rules of origin, health requirements, and standards and product registration.



Monday 20/11/2017

AmCham-Jordan held on the afternoon of Monday November 20th, 2017 elections for the Board of Directors for the term 2017-2020. Congratulations to the three candidates who won seats to serve on the AmCham-Jordan Board for the coming term Mr. Samer Juddeh for Jordan Wind Power Co, Mr. Tareq Taba'a for Advanced Automotive Trading Co, and Mr. Ehab Saadi.

Our deepest gratitude goes out to outgoing Board Members Engineer Omar Ali from Petra Engineering Industries, Mr. Ahmad Al Hanandeh from Zain Jordan, and HE Ms. Nadia Al Saeed from Bank Al Etihad for their valuable support.

The following organizations were re-elected:

- Jordan Sustainable Agriculture Co. (BADR Developments) - Eng. Mohammed S. Bataineh
- Mawared Investments Jordan - Eng. Khaled Kanaan
- Jordan Bromine Company Limited - Eng. Ahmad Khalifeh
- Hammoudeh Group Jordan Feed Co. - Mr. Fares Hammoudeh
- Coca Cola Bottling Company Jordan - Ms. Mariam Khan
- Abu Khader Group - Mr. Nicola Abu Khader

Current Chairman Eng. Mohammed Bataineh was re-elected to continue serving as Chairman of the Board of the Chamber.



October

25/10/2017

Meet the Expert – MetLife

At AmCham-Jordan, we value knowledge sharing and dissemination of information. The Chamber's "Meet the Expert" series of events is designed to tap into our Members' expertise and regularly provide our network with important, timely and relevant resources that are beneficial to their businesses. As part of this series, a half-day session titled Unlocking the Opportunities of the Jordanian Life Insurance Market was held at our offices on Wednesday October 25, 2017. The session was conducted by MetLife and covered a number of key topics including the Growing Life Insurance Market, Current Opportunities and Trends of the Life Insurance Market. 25 AmCham Jordan members attended the session.



23/10/2017

Meet the Expert – ABPA

AmCham-Jordan held a round table session hosting Talat M. Othman, President of the Arab-American Business & Professional Association (ABPA) at our offices on Monday October 23, 2017.

During the session, Mr. Othman covered a number of key topics and concerns related to doing business with the US, in addition to discussing the Trade by State Program currently under way. Mr. Othman, a prominent community leader and successful businessman, is chair and advisor of various organizations and associations and currently serves as the President of the Arab-American Business & Professional Association.

Talat Othaman

Mr. Othman served as Independent Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Amana Mutual Funds, Bellingham, Washington, and has previously served as Chairman of the Board of Dansk International Design, Ltd., Mt. Kisco, New York; Chairman, Goodson Polymer Corp. Dayton, OH; Board of Bank One Wisconsin Corporation; Tejas Power Corporation, Houston; E Z Serve Corporation, Houston, Harken Energy Corporation, Dallas; Hartmarx Corporation, Chicago; Pathogenesis Corporation, Skokie, IL and the Advisory Board of Ovation Pharmaceuticals, Deerfield, IL; President of the Arab Bankers Association of North America in New York; founding President of the Mid-America Arab Chamber of Commerce in Chicago, and founder - Midwest Chapter of the Forex Association of North America.

Mr. Othman's diverse experience also includes Honorary Member of the Center for Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Chicago; Advisory Board of the Catholic Theological Union, Cardinal Bernardin Center, Chicago, and the Hashemite Association for International Economic Co-operation, Amman, Jordan. He has served as Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee that founded the Council of Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicago (CIOGC); Board of Industrial Areas Foundation; the Dean's Council of the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University and on the Board of Directors of the Kahlil Gibran Centennial Foundation, the Board of Trustees for the Center for Excellence in Education, Washington D.C., the Advisory Board of the Greater Middle East Studies Center at RAND (California), Board of Directors of the Middle East Policy Council, Washington, D.C., an Emeritus member of the board of Governors of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and is a past Chairman of the Board of Directors of ALSAC, the hospital's fund-raising arm.

The Arab-American Business & Professional Association (ABPA)

The Arab-American Business & Professional Association (ABPA) is a business organization that promotes networking opportunities among the Arab American Community and trade and investment between the U.S. and the Arab World. Additionally, ABPA present cultural programs for a better understanding of the Arab Culture and how to be successful in doing business in such an important and affluent region. Moreover, the Association welcomes business delegations from the Middle East and assists affiliated Chambers of Commerce and Business Councils in organizing trade and investment delegations to the region.



Tuesday 17/10/2017
Press Dinner

AmCham-Jordan held a dinner for representatives of leading Jordanian press and media outlets aimed at building on our strong media relations. Attended by a number of journalists from local newspapers, business magazines and television channels, the dinner allowed the Chamber to communicate our achievements over the past year in addition to plans for growth in services and programs over the coming year.

Sunday 22/10/2017
Utah Delegation Conference

In cooperation with the U.S. & Foreign Commercial Service and the US Embassy in Amman and supported by USAID Jordan, AmCham-Jordan held a half-day, high-level business forum on Sunday October 22, 2017 to promote trade and investment between the Kingdom and the U.S. state of Utah. The Jordan Utah Business Forum, billed as “a partnership for the future,” included a State delegation led by Utah Governor Gary Herbert and hosted H.E. Muhannad Shehadeh, Minister of State for Investment Affairs and Jordan Investment Commission Chairman, as well as Jim Barnhart, Acting Deputy Chief of Mission (ADCM) at the U.S. Embassy in Amman. Also in attendance were representatives of 12 Utah-based firms, a number of public-sector representatives from both sides, and Jordanian businessmen and women.

The Forum, which was held at the Four Seasons Hotel in Amman, began with a high-level panel discussion featuring leading Jordanian business representatives and government officials, who presented the opportunities offered by the Jordan-US Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and the two countries’ Bilateral Investment Treaty. The panel explored various means for supporting linkages and cooperation channels between Jordanian and Utah businesses as a first step to creating lasting and mutually beneficial economic ties. Panelists also shared their insight and experiences with utilizing the FTA to grow their businesses and foster international business partnerships. The panel discussion was followed by three breakout sessions focused on different sectors, including infrastructure/energy, ICT, media, and business services such as finance, safety and security, and insurance. The event closed with an executive lunch.



Tuesday 3/10/2017

Executive Lunch Hosting Minister of State for Investment Affairs

Our Executive lunches and dinners are valuable, highly anticipated events that facilitate both networking and exchange of ideas amongst our members and guests. At AmCham-Jordan we focus on presenting our audiences with engaging topics led by guest speakers who can address issues of greatest importance and relevance to the Jordanian business community.

The latest American Chamber of Commerce in Jordan executive lunch, which was titled "JIC Rising to the Challenge", hosted the Minister of State for Economic Affairs/Chairman of the Jordan Investment Commission (JIC) HE Muhannad Shehadeh as keynote speaker and was held on Tuesday October 3rd at the Sheraton Amman Hotel.

The Event provided our members and guests with an interactive platform for dialogue and exchange of ideas, with JIC's leadership presenting to the leaders of the Jordanian private sector and to U.S and international investors the Commission's new direction and approach to attract green field investments and position Jordan as a regional business hub.

His Excellency addressed issues related to the Investment Commission's ease of doing business to attract global businesses and the its promotion pillars to support the internationalization of Jordanian Products.



September

Meeting with New Members - AmCham-Jordan Chairman and Team

Keeping in contact with all our members is key to tapping into their needs and requirements as well as keeping us updated with their latest achievements. In addition to conducting site visits and needs requirements assessments, the AmCham-Jordan team frequently hold meetings with new and existing members.



Tuesday 26/09/2017

Awareness Session on "Accessing the US Market – The FTA and National Support Mechanisms"

In cooperation with the Irbid Chambers of Commerce and Industry, AmCham-Jordan held an awareness workshop for the members of the Chambers on the US Jordan Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and business support mechanisms titled "Accessing the US Market – The FTA and National Support Mechanisms" on Tuesday September 26, 2017 at the premises of the Chamber of Commerce in Irbid.

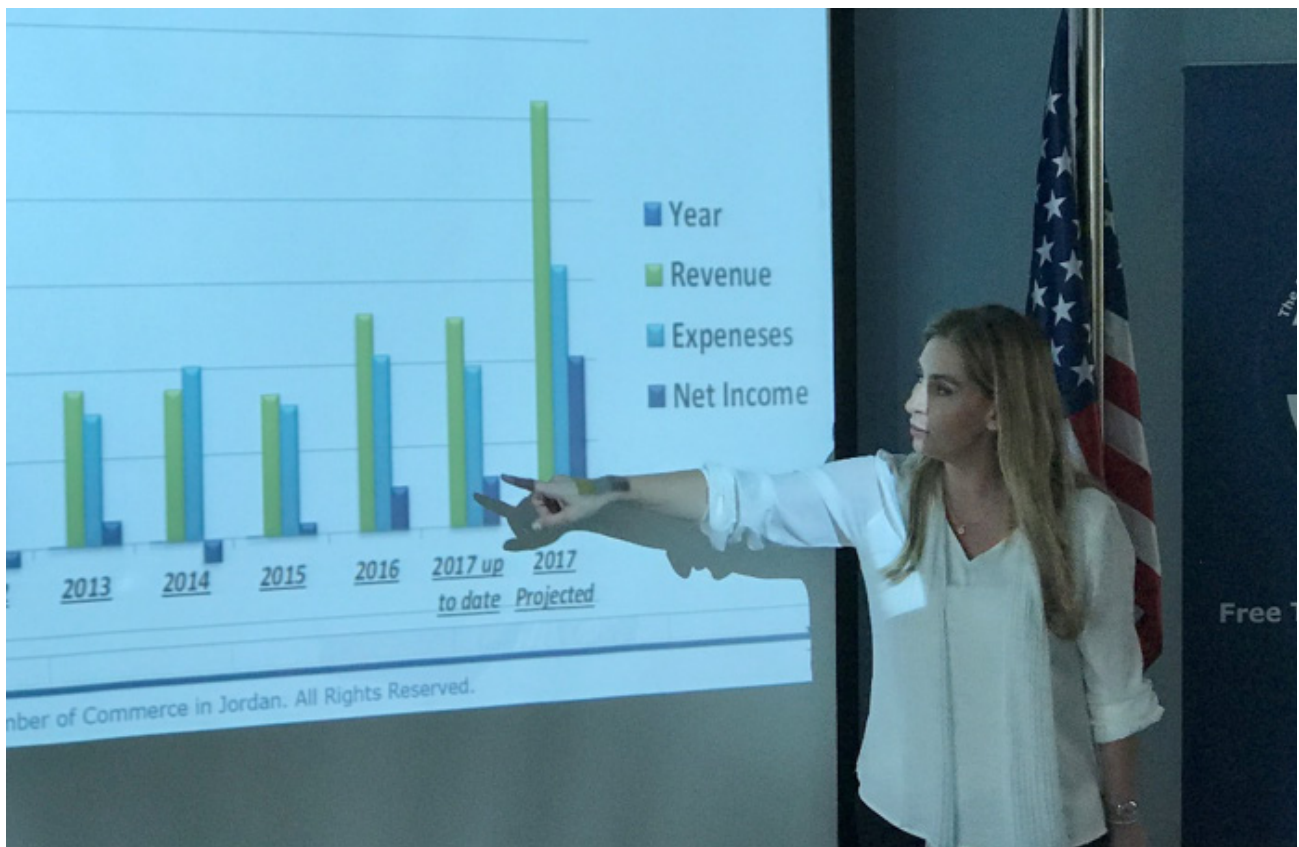
The FTA Workshop comes as part of our ongoing capacity enhancement and know-how dissemination activities provided within the scope of work of the TIJARA Coalition, and is designed to increase Jordanian industries' ability to export to the US market under the preferential arrangement provided to Jordanian products pursuant to the US-Jordan Free Trade Agreement (FTA). Subsequently, a number of follow up workshops and capacity building activities will be provided to our Members which will address, among a number of related issues, technical requirements of exporting to the US, legal and financial considerations, rules of origin, health requirements, and standards and product registration.



August

23/8/2017

AmCham-Jordan's General Assembly Meeting



July

Thursday 20/7/2017

Launch of the National "TIJARA Coalition" Under the Patronage of HE Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply

Under the Patronage of HE Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Eng. Yarub Qudah, The National "TIJARA Coalition" was launched at the premises of the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Supply on Thursday July 20, 2017. The "TIJARA Coalition", which is an alliance of National chambers of industry and commerce, key Jordanian business associations and government agencies led by the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Supply, is dedicated to promoting the US Jordan Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and bilateral trade and investment opportunities, particularly under the preferential arrangement provided to Jordanian industries and services pursuant to the FTA.

The launch ceremony was attended by the Chargé d'Affaires of the United States of America Henry T. Wooster, heads of key National chambers of industry and commerce, and representatives of a number of business associations, in addition to representatives from the US Embassy in Jordan, the USAID Jordan Competitiveness Program (JCP) and the American Chamber of Commerce in Jordan team.

The Coalition was created as a National initiative following the full implementation of the Jordan US FTA (JUSFTA) in 2010, whereby the Agreement provided for the elimination of duties and removal of commercial barriers on investment and trade in goods and services between Jordan and the United States, achieving significant liberalization across a broad spectrum of sectors, goods and services. With 36 members representing the Government, the US Agency for International Development (USAID) and National public and private sector organizations, the "TIJARA Coalition" acts as a focal point and strategic platform for all relevant entities, facilitating dialogue, strategy development and capacity building, and policy forums which can further advance Jordan US business relations and trade. Focusing on the implementation of the JUSFTA, the Coalition reflects the strong public-private partnership for economic development that has emerged in the Kingdom, and illustrates the importance that this partnership renders to trade and investment capacity building and the effective collaboration between relevant parties, which is based on dialogue and cooperation that can lead to building an environment conducive to trade and investment growth, and uniting efforts to promote the adoption of diligence systems and building the institutional trade capacity of Jordanian public and private institutions.



Wednesday 12/7/2017

Meet the Expert – ISO 9001:2015

As part of AmCham - Jordan's "Meet the Expert" series of events, a full-day session titled Understanding, Knowledge, and Awareness of ISO 9001:2015 was held at the Chambers offices on Wednesday July 12, 2017. The session was conducted by Clarity CQC-Jordan* and covered a number of key topics including Transition and Audits and Implementation arrangements; Harmonization of ISO's management system standards (Background and inputs to the new revision of ISO 9001:2015; ISO 9001:2015 – what to expect; What is the New structure; What are the New requirements; Unchanged requirements; Deleted requirements).

25 AmCham - Jordan members attended the session, which was appraised favorably.

*CLARITY Quality Systems Certification Services is an Organization in Jordan, engaged in providing quality & productivity enhancement implementation training programs & Quality Systems Certification Services.

Monday 12/6/2017

AmCham - Jordan Holds Annual Iftar for Members

AmCham - Jordan hosted its annual iftar for its partners, members and friends at the Kempinski Amman Hotel on Monday June 12, which was attended by over 140 of AmCham's colleagues and friends.



Thursday 8/6/2017

AmCham - Jordan Holds Information Session for Dead Sea Products and Cosmetics Manufacturers

AmCham - Jordan held on the morning of Thursday June 8, 2017 an information session for manufacturers and exporters from the Dead Sea and cosmetics industries on AmCham - Jordan's Trade Mission to the US.

Attendees at the session included Jordanian manufacturers and industry experts, who discussed some of the most pertinent industry issues, challenges and opportunities of exporting to the US market. Following the session, a number of manufacturers chose to allow AmCham - Jordan to represent them during the Trade Mission, promoting their products in the US and communicating on their behalf with agents and distributors.

Following the session, AmCham - Jordan will assimilate feedback from participants to develop and provide relevant, practical and targeted training and capacity building activities.

May

Wednesday 24/5/2017

AmCham - Jordan Holds an Awareness Session in Sahab on the US Jordan Free Trade Agreement (FTA)

The Free Trade Agreement Unit at the American Chamber of Commerce in Jordan (AmCham - Jordan), held an awareness session in Sahab on the US Jordan Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and business support mechanisms available to national manufacturers on Wednesday April 24, 2017 at the premises of the Association in Marka.

The session came as part of the ongoing capacity enhancement and know-how dissemination activities provided within the scope of work of the TIJARA Coalition, and is designed to increase Jordanian industries' ability to export to the US market under the preferential arrangement provided to Jordanian products pursuant to the US-Jordan Free Trade Agreement (FTA).

Monday 22/05/2017

The American Chamber of Commerce in Jordan's Executive Lunch for Visiting Delegation of US Businessmen

With support from the United States Agency for International Development's (USAID) Jordan Competitiveness Program (JCP), the American Chamber of Commerce in Jordan (AmCham - Jordan) held at the Intercontinental Hotel Amman an executive lunch on Monday May 22, 2017 in honor of a delegation of American businessmen visiting Jordan to attend a U.S.-Jordan Business Forum aimed at promoting and facilitating bilateral trade and investment.

The lunch followed morning sessions that were held as part of the U.S.-Jordan Business Forum organized in cooperation with the Jordan Investment Commission and the American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham) in Jordan, to promote bilateral private sector trade and investment. The Forum was opened by the Chargé d'Affaires of the United States of America Henry T. Wooster in the presence of Minister of Planning and International Cooperation H.E Imad Fakhoury, Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply H.E Yarub Qudah, Chief Commissioner of the Aqaba Special Economic Zone Authority H.E Nasser Al Shraideh and Jordan Investment Commission Chairman H.E Thabet Elwir, in addition to representatives of 20 U.S. firms and a number of representatives of Jordanian businesses and the public sector.

Following the executive lunch, attending US companies held Business to Business (B2B) and Government to Business (G2B) meetings with Jordanian businessmen and representatives from relevant public sector institutions. Visiting US companies covered a diverse range of sectors and industries including aviation, banking, chemicals, communications and information technology, construction, defense, energy and renewable energy, engineering, environment, mining, petrochemicals, security, vehicles, and water.



Wednesday 17/05/2017

AmCham - Jordan Holds a Marketing Training Workshop for the Food Sector

Conducted by AmCham - Jordan CEO Ms. Rose Alissi, the workshop focused on packaging, marketing and promotion of products for food products.



Tuesday 16/05/2017

AmCham - Jordan Holds Farewell Reception for Counsellor for Public Affairs & Counsellor for Political Affairs at the US Embassy in Jordan

The American Chamber of Commerce in Jordan held on Tuesday May 16th a farewell reception for Ms. Ragini Gupta; Counsellor for Public Affairs at the US Embassy in Jordan and Mr. Rohit Nepal, Counsellor for Political Affairs at the US Embassy in Jordan. The reception was attended by a number of US Embassy staff, representatives from several USAID projects, and representatives from the Integrity and Anti-Corruption Commission, in addition to several AmCham - Jordan members from the business community.



Tuesday 9/05/2017

In Cooperation with the Aqaba Special Economic Zone Authority (ASEZA), AmCham - Jordan Holds Workshop on the US Jordan Free Trade Agreement (FTA)

The Free Trade Agreement Unit at the American Chamber of Commerce in Jordan (AmCham - Jordan), and in cooperation with the Aqaba Special Economic Zone Authority (ASEZA) held an awareness workshop for local businesses in Aqaba on the US Jordan Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and business support mechanisms available to export oriented businesses on Tuesday May 9, 2017 at the ASEZA premises in Aqaba.

The Aqaba Workshop comes as part of the ongoing capacity enhancement and know-how dissemination activities provided within the scope of work of the TIJARA Coalition, and is designed to increase Jordanian industries' ability to export to the US market under the preferential arrangement provided to Jordanian products pursuant to the US-Jordan Free Trade Agreement (FTA). Subsequently, a number of follow up workshops and capacity building activities will be provided to the businesses in Aqaba which will address, among a number of related issues, technical requirements of exporting to the US, legal and financial considerations, rules of origin, health requirements, and standards and product registration.

Monday 08/05/2017

The American Chamber of Commerce in Jordan and Caterpillar Jordan Sign a Partnership Agreement

A one-year partnership agreement was signed between the American Chamber of Commerce in Jordan (AmCham - Jordan) and Caterpillar Jordan at AmCham - Jordan offices on Monday May 8th, 2017.



Thursday 04/05/2017

AmCham - Jordan Holds the First Tijara National Taskforce Meeting

The first Tijara National Taskforce meeting was held at AmCham - Jordan offices to set the work-plan and committees and initiate the functions of the Tijara Coalition.

April

Wednesday 05/04/2017

In Cooperation with the Eastern Amman Investors Industrial Association, AmCham - Jordan Holds Workshop on the US Jordan Free Trade Agreement (FTA)

The Free Trade Agreement Unit at the American Chamber of Commerce in Jordan (AmCham - Jordan) in cooperation with the Eastern Amman Investors Industrial Association (EAIIA) held an awareness workshop for EAIIA members on the US Jordan Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and business support mechanisms titled "Accessing the US Market – The FTA and National Support Mechanisms" on Wednesday April 5, 2017 at the premises of the Association in Marka.

The EAIIA Workshop comes as part of the ongoing capacity enhancement and know-how dissemination activities provided within the scope of work of the TIJARA Coalition, and is designed to increase Jordanian industries' ability to export to the US market under the preferential arrangement provided to Jordanian products pursuant to the US-Jordan Free Trade Agreement (FTA). Subsequently, a number of follow up workshops and capacity building activities will be provided to the Members of the Eastern Amman Investors Industrial Association which will address, among a number of related issues, technical requirements of exporting to the US, legal and financial considerations, rules of origin, health requirements, and standards and product registration.



Tuesday 04/04/2017

Jordan Education For Employment (JEFE) and Partners Convene "Youth Employment & the Future of Work" Event and Launch Regional FirstJob Campaign

Attended by HRH Princess Rym Ali, Jordan Education For Employment (Jordan EFE), one of Jordan's leading youth employment organizations and an affiliate in the Education For Employment (EFE) Network, and co-hosts Jordan Hotel Association and the American Chamber of Commerce in Jordan, convened over 200 leaders in the private, public, education and civil society sectors for a keynote luncheon at the Amman Intercontinental Hotel focused on innovative solutions for youth employment amid changes to the nature of work.

The event was sponsored by the Jordan Hotel Association, the American Chamber of Commerce in Jordan and Zain Jordan in addition to Said Murad & Sons Co., Consolidated Contractors Company, Pharmacy One, and Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization, and Etihad Bank, and it served as the central event of the EFE Networking & Learning Meeting. Supported this year by the US Middle East Partnership Initiative and Alwaleed Philanthropies, the EFE Networking & Learning Meeting has grown to become one of the region's largest annual events dedicated to knowledge-sharing and innovation around youth unemployment.



March

Wednesday 22/03/2017

The American Chamber of Commerce in Jordan Launches the US Jordan Free Trade Agreement (FTA) Unit

The American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham) in Jordan inaugurated the US-Jordan Free Trade Agreement Unit (FTA Unit) on Wednesday at its offices. The ceremony was attended by H.E. Eng. Yarub Qudah, Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply, and H.E. Alice G. Wells, U.S. Ambassador to Jordan, in addition to a number of representatives from the U.S. Embassy and U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) programs in Jordan, public sector institutions, leading Jordanian business executives, manufacturers, and entrepreneurs, and the AmCham - Jordan Board and team.

The FTA Unit focuses primarily on facilitating greater bilateral trade and investment through the United States Jordan Free Trade Agreement. The FTA, which was signed in 2001, provides for the elimination of duties and removal of commercial barriers on investment and trade in goods and services between Jordan and the United States, achieving significant liberalization across a broad spectrum of sectors, goods and services. It represents a unique opportunity to boost private sector-led economic growth through increased bilateral trade and investment.



Tuesday 21/03/2017

The American Chamber of Commerce in Jordan (AmCham - Jordan) Hosts Dinner for Visiting Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) Delegation

The American Chamber of Commerce in Jordan (AmCham - Jordan) hosted a dinner at the Rotana Abdalli Boulevard Hotel on the evening of Sunday March 19, 2017, in honor of an Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) delegation (Structured Finance and Insurance Department) in the Kingdom visiting a number of OPIC supported projects. The dinner was attended by a number of representatives from the U.S Embassy in Amman, relevant public sector institutions and business representatives from relevant industries, as well as AmCham - Jordan board members.

The Overseas Private Investment Commission is the U.S. Government's development finance institution. OPIC services are available for new and expanding business enterprises in more than 160 countries worldwide. Its pipeline portfolio varies across sectors from finance, insurance, food services, healthcare, to energy, and utilities.



Thursday 16/03/2017

AmCham - Jordan Awarded AmCham MENA Council Chairmanship

Prior to the close of the AmCham Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Council Annual Forum on "SMEs, Unlocking Economic Potential" in Bahrain, the AmCham MENA Regional Council (MENA Council) Chairmanship for the period 2018 through 2020 was awarded to AmCham Jordan. The MENA Council was established in 2005, and comprises the American Chambers of Abu Dhabi, Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia. The objective of the Council is to foster increased collaboration and cooperation amongst its Members, and to work on promoting greater business opportunities between the United States and the Middle East North Africa Region. The Council works on effectively linking the various Members, and institutionalizing their ongoing coordination with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. It also works on promoting Free trade agreements (FTAs) between MENA countries and the U.S., and on fostering increased awareness among MENA region manufacturers and producers of export opportunities to the U.S. through such agreements. The AmCham MENA Council holds elections for its Chairmanship every two years. AmCham Bahrain is the current Chair of the Council for the period 2016-2018.



Wednesday 15 - Thursday 16/03/2017

AmCham - Jordan Represented at the AmCham MENA Council Forum in Bahrain on "SME's Unlocking Economic Potential"

The American Chamber of Commerce in Jordan (AmCham - Jordan) was represented at the AmCham - Jordan Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Council Annual Forum on "SMEs, Unlocking Economic Potential" which was held in Bahrain on the 15th and 16th of March 2017.

Leading business executives, entrepreneurs, thought leaders, and decision and policy makers from the United States and MENA region gathered at the Ritz-Carlton Bahrain for the 2017 AmCham MENA Council Forum, which represents the nine Regional AmChams of Abu Dhabi; Algeria; Bahrain; Egypt; Jordan; Lebanon; Morocco; Palestine and Tunisia. This year's event, which was hosted by AmCham MENA Council Chair Bahrain, provided a platform to strengthen business ties between MENA markets and the U.S, with a focus on Small and Medium Enterprises (SME's), and featured three key interactive sessions led by top industry executives on the Regional SME Ecosystem, SME Financing and Support Programs, and Integrating Regional SME's into the Supply Chain of US and Multinational Companies, with a keynote address by the United States' highest ranking diplomat for the MENA region, Ambassador Stuart E. Jones, Acting U.S. Assistant Secretary for Near Eastern Affairs in Washington DC.

The Forum featured Senior Officials from regional Trade and Investment Ministries, Senior U.S. Government Officials from the Region, Presidents and Chairs of MENA region AmChams, heads of multinationals, angel investor networks, venture capital and private equity institutions as speakers.

Representing Jordan were AmCham Jordan Chairman Eng. Mohammed Bataineh and CEO Rose Alissi, in addition to a number of AmCham Jordan partners and members from the private sector.

Forum discourse also revolved around the promotion of trade and investment between the United States and the MENA region, and means of advancing cooperation between these countries and the U.S, fostering increased collaboration amongst members, as well as institutionalizing their ongoing coordination with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. In addition to the three main panels, there were a number of workshops on doing business with the US Government, a guide to US and International Trade Fairs and Breaking into the US Market, and Unlocking the Power of Women Led SME's.

The Forum also featured direct B2B engagements with peers, potential partner and investors across a range of sectors including financial services, real estate, retail, manufacturing, F&B, travel and leisure, and technology and transport, among others. Alongside such meetings were a B2B pitch session, allowing pre-selected SME's the opportunity to directly present business cases to a jury of potential investors.



Monday 13/03/2017

Under the Patronage of HE Yarub Qudah Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply the American Chamber of Commerce in Jordan (AmCham) Holds a Workshop on “Understanding Jordan’s New Investment Ecosystems: Meaning & Model”

Under the patronage of HE Yarub Qudah, and in cooperation with the Jordan Investment Commission (JIC) and in the presence of HE Alice G. Wells, US Ambassador to Jordan, the American Chamber of Commerce in Jordan (AmCham) held on Monday March 13 a workshop titled “Understanding Jordan’s New Investment Ecosystems: Meaning & Model” at the Landmark Amman Hotel.

Recognizing the importance of the need for thorough understanding of the current investment legislation and relevant public sector support services, the event hosted a number of leading experts and practitioners in the field of investment and investment promotion from both the public and private sectors, as well as a number of Jordanian business representatives, and included panel discussions and presentations in addition to keynote speeches by the US Ambassador to Jordan H.E Alice G. Wells, Secretary General of the Jordan Investment Commission (JIC) H.E Dr. Muhkalad Al Omari, and Chairman of AmCham Jordan Eng. Mohammed Bataineh, as well as a special address by H.E. Dr. Yousef Mansour, CEO of Envision Consulting Group, and contributions by H.E Dr. Khair Abdullah Abu Seilek, MP-Chairman of the Economic & Investment Committee as a panellist.



Thursday 09/03/2017

The American Chamber of Commerce in Jordan Hosts a Farewell Dinner in Honor of Departing US Ambassador Alice G. Wells

The American Chamber of Commerce in Jordan (AmCham - Jordan) hosted a farewell dinner on the evening of Wednesday March 8, 2017 in honor of H.E. U.S. Ambassador to Jordan Alice G. Wells at the Rotana Abdalli Boulevard Hotel. The ceremony was attended by over 250 guests, including H.E Omar Malhas, Minister of Finance; H.E Imad Fakhoury, Minister of Planning and International Cooperation; H.E Aqel Biltaji, Mayor of the Greater Amman Municipality; H.E Mohammed Allaf, Chairman of the Integrity and Anti-Corruption Commission; and H.E Dr. Hayel Obeidat, Director General of the Jordan Food and Drug Administration, in addition to a number of representative from the public and private sectors as well as colleagues from the US Embassy in Amman.



Thursday 02/03/2017

AMCham Jordan hosts a session on "The Legal Aspects of Doing Business in the US"

The American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham) in Jordan held on the afternoon of Thursday March 2nd, an interactive session on the legal aspects of doing business with the US.

The session hosted Ms. Mais Abbas Abousy, who is an Attorney-Advisor with the International Commercial Law Development Program (CLDP) in the Office of the General Counsel of the United States Department of Commerce. Ms. Abousy primarily advises governments in the Middle East and North Africa on legal reform and economic development issues.

Ms. Abousy's session focused on legal and financial matters, contractual obligations, and corporate culture, among other important considerations for businesses looking to grow their exports.

February

Thursday 23/02/2017

AmCham - Jordan, the Jordan Food and Drug Administration (JFDA) and the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA) hold a half day Workshop on "Preparing the Ecosystem to Encourage Innovation and Investments in Clinical Trials in Jordan"

In a collaboration with the Jordan Food and Drug Administration (JFDA) and PhRMA LAWG Jordan, AmCham - Jordan held on the 23rd of February a half day Workshop titled "Jordan Investment Ecosystem for Global Innovative Pharma companies"

The event brought together a number of leading experts and practitioners in health and pharmaceuticals from both the public and private sectors, as well as key stakeholders influencing the attraction and execution of clinical studies in Jordan, and included keynote speeches, panel discussions, and presentations aimed at facilitating knowledge exchange and communication, leading the discussion towards a facilitated research ecosystem in Jordan.

Workshop sessions drew attention to the value of clinical studies from an investment perspective, presenting an overview of the current research environment in Jordan and the Middle East, and highlighting public policies and regulations that support foreign investors in clinical research, steps taken by Jordan in attracting investments in the field, and the role of Global bio pharmaceutical industry in Jordan.



Sunday 19/02/2017

The American Chamber of Commerce in Jordan and MetLife Jordan Sign a Partnership Agreement

A one-year partnership agreement was signed between the American Chamber of Commerce in Jordan (AmCham - Jordan) and MetLife Jordan. Hosted at AmCham - Jordan offices on Sunday February 19th, 2017, the Agreement was signed by Ms. Maria Angeles Amezcua, General Manager of MetLife Jordan and Ms. Rose Alissi, CEO of AmCham - Jordan.

MetLife will be the only AmCham - Jordan partner from the insurance sector. AmCham - Jordan members will benefit from the suite of life insurance, healthcare and retirement products offered by MetLife, as well as the experience and expertise the insurer brings in using employee benefits to drive productivity and wellbeing at employers. MetLife is currently the only international insurer operating in Jordan.



Wednesday 15/02/2017

Sector Specific Meetings

Feedback from local industries is critical to AmCham's provision of relevant, practical and targeted training and capacity building activities. Within this scope, AmCham - Jordan systematically holds meetings with industry experts and practitioners to set out training plans based on the needs and requirements of the local market.

The first of such meetings for 2017 was held at AmCham - Jordan offices on the afternoon of Wednesday February 15th in cooperation with the Zarqa Chamber of Industry, and was attended by a number of manufacturers from the Chemicals and Cosmetics sectors. Subsequently, the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) Unit at AmCham set out as part of its Export Diversification Program a schedule of training activities that cater to the needs of the Chemicals sector, including cosmetics, which addresses in particular how local manufacturers can overcome key obstacles to accessing the US market.

Monday 13/02/2017

AmCham - Jordan Office Warming Reception

AmCham - Jordan held an office warming reception on the evening of Monday February 13, 2017. The reception was well attended, with colleagues from National public institutions and chambers, the US Embassy, and various member and partner institutions joining the AmCham - Jordan team to celebrate the Chambers move.



January

Tuesday 31/01/2017

Reception for Deputy Administrator and Head of the Global Capacity Building Program at the US Foreign Agricultural Services

AMCham - Jordan hosted Ms. Joslyn Brown, Deputy Administrator and Head of the Global Capacity Building Program at the Foreign Agricultural Services of the United States Department of Agriculture at a reception for the Chambers Members and Partners, held at AmCham - Jordan offices on the evening of Tuesday January 31, 2017.

Ms. Brown discussed previous cooperation arrangements between the Government of Jordan and the USDA, namely capacity building activities for Jordanian farmers, as well as the need for more training and capacity building aimed at supporting agricultural development in Jordan and trade between the two countries.



Monday 30/01/2017

AmCham - Jordan Holds the "Diversification of Exports under the Jordan-US Free Trade Agreement - Food Sector" "Behind the Border: Getting your Product to the Market" Workshop for the Food Sector

The American Chamber of Commerce in Jordan (AmCham - Jordan) held an executive workshop, "Getting your Product to the US Market" on Monday January 30, 2017 at the Sheraton Amman Hotel. Aimed at empowering Jordanian food manufacturers with the practical and functional information on how to successfully export to the US, the "Getting your Product to the US Market" Workshop came as part of the ongoing capacity enhancement and know-how dissemination activities designed to increase the ability of Jordanian manufacturers to export to the US market under the preferential arrangement provided to Jordanian products pursuant to the US-Jordan Free Trade Agreement (FTA).



Monday 23/01/2017

Technology Transfer Roundtable

Building on the success of the American Chamber of Commerce in Jordan's "Technology Transfer-Commercializing Innovation" workshop, which was held on October 12th, 2016, AmCham - Jordan held a follow up meeting to discuss the recommendations that stemmed from the Workshop. AmCham - Jordan formulated a recommendations document to form the basis of a comprehensive follow up program of activities and events intended to support local industries in their efforts to commercialise their products and broaden their market reach both in Jordan and across the Atlantic.

The meeting was held on Monday January 23, 2017 and was attended by experts and practitioners from a number of relevant National institutions such as Al Hussein Fund for Excellence, Intaj, i-park, Jordan University (JU), Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST), M-PAC, Oasis 500, Product Design Innovation Studio, Regional Environment, Science, Technology & Health Office of the US Embassy, and USAID.

Sunday 22/01/2017

Re-establishing the TIJARA Coalition

The American Chamber of Commerce in Jordan (AmCham Jordan) held a working dinner to re-launch the Tijara Coalition, on the evening of Saturday January 21st, 2017, at Le Meridien Amman Hotel.

The Tijara Coalition was established in 2001 following the signing of the Jordan US Free Trade Agreement (JUSFTA) as a coalition of key Jordanian business associations, government institutions, and semi-governmental trade organizations alike working in partnership, with the aim of capitalizing on the JUSFTA through the formulation of strategies and national action plans to promote enhanced bilateral trade and investment, and ultimately, economic development.

Attended by representatives from national Chambers of Commerce and Industry, the Government, Jordan Investment Commission (JIC), and Jordan Enterprise Development Corporation (JEDCO), in addition to representatives from a number of relevant industry associations such as EDAMA, the Information Technology Association of Jordan (Int@j), Jordan Strategy Forum, and the Jordanian Association of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers (JAPM), among others, the Tijara Coalition was reestablished earlier this year following directives by HE the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Supply. The Coalition acts as a focal point and strategic platform for all relevant entities, facilitating dialogue, strategy development, capacity building, and policy forums which can further advance Jordan US business relations and trade. Focusing on the implementation of the Jordan US Free Trade Agreement (JUSFTA), the Coalition reflects the strong public-private partnership for economic development that has emerged in the Kingdom, and illustrates the importance that this partnership renders to trade and investment capacity building and the effective collaboration between relevant parties, including international trade and development communities.



Wednesday 18/01/2017
Visa Awareness Session

AmCham - Jordan held on the evening of Wednesday January 18th a business and investor visa awareness session for members. The session, which was conducted by Mr. Darren Wang, Deputy Consular Chief at the US Embassy in Jordan, was held at the Kempinski Amman Hotel, and came in response to numerous queries the Chamber receives frequently with regards to requirements and regulations of obtaining entry permits to the US for the purpose of business.



Monday 02/01/2017
AmCham - Jordan Relocates Offices

AmCham - Jordan relocated to new offices on the First Floor of JordInvest Building #68, Abed Al Min'em Riad Street, 3rd Circle.

AmCham - Jordan Member News



The United States has begun expanding on its temporary Tax Amnesty program, whereby holders of US passports or green cards residing outside the United States are eligible for amnesty upon submission of their tax reports.

According to Ms. Reem Badr from US Champion Tax Service, US citizens residing abroad can now learn more about the Program and obtain all the necessary information to benefit from the Program through free consultancy services provided by US Champion Tax Service office in Dubai, thus avoiding any penalties that may go so far as revoking of the US passport.



The US Internal Revenue Service tracks all US citizens and legal permanent residents living abroad not in compliance of the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FAT-CA), whether by failing to file tax reports on income or bank accounts, or by withholding payments.

PartnerPlusBenefit



PartnerPlusBenefit, the free Lufthansa corporate bonus programme for small and medium-sized enterprises, has been offering more services than any other similar programme for 15 years — from the largest number of partner airlines to the largest choice of awards. With PartnerPlusBenefit you will not just earn valuable BenefitPoints for your company every time you fly for business, but you can also expect profitable BenefitPoints promotions and the chance to win lots of prizes. To Register:

www.partnerplusbenefit.com



Foreign Direct Investment Awards has announced Magenta Private Investment Club as the winner of Foreign Investment Advisor of the year, which recognizes a full-service advisory that provides an outstanding and comprehensive service to their clients and, by consistent application of best practice and the highest standards of professional ethics, has been a market leader in facilitating high-value immigration into the UK.

Chairman of the Judging panel, and Executive Chairman of InvestUK, Rupert Gather, said: "Magenta's one-stop approach in sourcing, vetting and packaging suitable dealflow into the UK market to its Middle East clients draws on its extensive private equity and real estate experience. It is consequently making a real difference in the purpose-built student accommodation and private residential accommodation sectors in London."

The Foreign Direct Investment Awards are presented to individuals, companies and organizations who have facilitated foreign direct investment into the United Kingdom.



CrossFit Crescent's world class coaching and management team are proud to announce they are moving to a newly renovated facility at the Ahli Club. Over 1500m of world class space for CrossFit Classes, Personal Training, MMA, and boxing along with a café, leisure area and spacious locker rooms. The location is perfect for busy executives and offers flexible class times throughout the day. We will continue to offer unparalleled service and results to our members. If you've been waiting to try the world's fastest growing sport and fitness regimen- now is your chance! Soft Opening May 2017 with Grand Opening July 2017



During 2016/2017 Dead Sea Gift Enterprise Ltd - Bloom, participated in several exhibitions and forums such as Jordan forum held in Japan, Jordan Industries Exhibition in Qatar, Cosmoprof - Exhibition in Bologna / Italy, and we will visit Beauty Eurasia Exhibition in Turkey - Istanbul.

At the local level, the company participated in The Turkish forum held in Amman, the Exhibition (Jordan Made) held in Jordan University, Jordanian Saudi Economic Forum at Royal Hotel, and a lot of Bazaars and local exhibitions.

Also we have launching two Bloom Relax Foot & Body care centers, one is located at the Queen Alia International Airport - Departures Terminal in front of gates 204-208, and the second one is at Kalbounh Plaza next to City Mall, 2nd. Floor.

Finally, it is a very important things to know about Bloom that it became so blessed after starting a special CSR story, through the Woman E- mall that we will start to establish right away and the Permanent Bazaar called Woman Mall in addition to the main responsibility which is the full support to Pilot Yazan Charity association, who support thousands of Families all around Jordan in different aspects such as: Empower Women through capacity building and training, Increase less fortunate students' opportunity, Yazan free medical clinic,etc.



Jordan Tractor are looking forward to the opening of their new facility, near Madaba Bridge, early this summer.

Located on a land area of 24'000 sq. meters, the new premises total buildings area is over 11'000 sq. meters, half of which is for state-of-art specialized workshops, laboratories and component rebuild center. A 3000HP Dynamometers, a Transmission and Hydraulic Test Bench, a Track Press, an Oil Analysis Lab. and a certified machine condition monitoring system are just few of the special tools and services which makes this facility among the best in the region for servicing machines and components of heavy equipment and generator sets.

Energy and Water conservation solutions were incorporated in the design. The facility has skylight roof windows backed with LED lights, besides 160kW PV system, rain water harvesting and a waste water Bio-recycling unit for the machines washing bay.

The new facility will support Caterpillar's machines and generator sets owners, as well as enhancing JTEC future business, especially in view of the expected growth in the Jordanian mining sector during the coming decade.

What's New

الجرارات الأردنية
Jordan Tractor



Jordan Tractor launched the newest Caterpillar "Microgrid - Solar Power" product line in Jordan in Q3 2016 in an event that hosted about 350 people representing over 260 Jordanian companies.

Built on Cat legacy and market leadership in diesel & gas power generation, Cat Microgrid - Solar Power products and solutions provide up to 11% more efficient solar systems being based on CdTe PV panels rather than traditional solar systems have been proven through over 2500 MW solar systems installed all over the world.

Better performance in shading, dusty environment & high ambient temperatures, in addition to shorter pay-back periods & high return on investment (ROI) are just few competitive benefits that make Cat Microgrid - Solar Power solutions an attractive renewable cost-effective power source.



PHILIP MORRIS INVESTMENTS B.V. JORDAN

Philip Morris Jordan concludes first phase of its Youth Skills Development Program (Amman, Jordan – June XX, 2017) – In the presence of the Vocational Training Institute General Manager, Ra'ed Hammad, and the Naour Commissioner, the Vocational Training Institute celebrated the graduation of 50 young participants of the Youth Skills Development Program launched last month by Philip Morris Jordan in cooperation with the "Kollona Al Ordon" charity association, training sessions were held at Al Ajarmeh Council, Um Alshawamer Center, and the Naour Vocational Training Institute.

121 of 200 intended trainees have completed the program, which provides opportunities for the Kingdom's youth to develop their personal, practical, and life skills in order to help them better compete for jobs in the Jordanian market. During the training sessions, participants were able to grow their capabilities in areas such as communication, positive thinking, self-confidence, rules of success, effective dialogue, CV writing, and successful job interview techniques.

Mr. Hammad, expressed his gratitude for the partnership between the institute, adding that he appreciates Philip Morris continuous efforts in launching community initiatives, which enables youth to develop their skills and enter the job market, concluding that Philip Morris sets an example to private companies towards developing local communities.

One of the participants, Hanan, expressed her excitement regarding her participation in the program, saying: "The course helped me strengthen confidence in myself and in my ability to reach the goals that I have set. One of the most important things that helps someone secure a job is learning how to write and submit a CV, which is an area that we covered and benefited from during the training."

Mohammad, Al-Masri, another participant said: "Such courses help us understand the proper way of introducing ourselves during job interviews. This kind of skill, as well as learning how to prepare for the interview before it takes place, plays a big role in actually getting the job."

The launch of this program comes as part of Philip Morris Jordan's efforts to effectively participate in the local community and support the economy, which stems from the company's comprehensive and long-term corporate social responsibility strategy through which it aims to empower several sectors and segments, especially youth and education.

AmCham - Jordan Partners



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