



MENA Network at the 2nd Global Forum on Business Incubation

What MENA incubators say

"Although there is reluctance towards entrepreneurship because people prefer steady revenue, we have to stress the significance of entrepreneurship as a tool for national economic drive."

Morocco MITC

"The infoDev project has changed three potential competitors into three major partners who share their experiences and resources for the Incubation programs."

Iran ISTT

"Networks from the entrepreneurial community and industry are a valuable source of intelligence, mentorship, finance, and networking."

Jordan NACTIB

The iDisc website will be a crucial tool to facilitate the knowledge sharing process for MENA, as well as other regional networks. More information can be found on www.iDisc.net/mena.

Business Incubation in the Middle East and Northern Africa (MENA)

infoDev's Business Incubator Initiative

The Incubator Initiative has supported more than 60 business incubators in countries worldwide with financial and technical assistance, leading to the establishment of five regional networks in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Middle East and Northern Africa. Within the framework of the Incubators Initiative, *infoDev* services include:

- Financial and technical assistance
- Knowledge-sharing and networking
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Research on challenges and opportunities

MENA^{inc}

Over the past year, countries active within the Initiative have strengthened their commitment to the incubator network to further foster innovation and entrepreneurship as well as development of small and medium enterprises in the region. MENA^{inc} – the MENA Business Incubation Network – is already active and will be formally launched in **September 2007 at the MENA regional workshop in Bahrain**. We encourage countries and organizations in the region to join the event and the MENA^{inc} network to mark this significant step towards the future of incubation in the region!

infoDev also operates the *infoDev* Incubator Support Center (iDisc) website dedicated to strengthening the Incubator Initiative, and to serve as a virtual platform for interactive knowledge-sharing and networking among incubator professionals. More information can be found on www.iDisc.net/mena.

MENA^{inc} is dedicated to supporting its members through facilitating communication, sharing experience and enabling training and learning. In the long-run, MENA^{inc} intends to act as an advocate of business incubation, impact the regional entrepreneurship and innovation policies, disseminate good practices, knowledge, and individual country experiences, rally an effective community of stakeholders, and ultimately serve as a springboard for international business activities of MENA enterprises.

How to get involved

- ✓ Get to know about activities on www.infoDev.org/businessincubation
- ✓ Latest advice and event updates on www.iDisc.net
- ✓ For regional developments e-mail the *infoDev* team at infodev@worldbank.org and for MENA^{inc}, e-mail Mr. Omer Oz, MENA^{inc} Coordinator, at omeroz1@gmail.com

Incubators currently active in MENA^{inc}

Country	Incubator & Mission	Contact information
Bahrain	<i>Bahrain Business Incubator Center (BBIC)</i> BBIC is the "starting point" for developing a business incubation system. The incubator has developed well and now is preparing for expansion to offer more space for growing tenants and new clients. Based on the positive BBIC experience the Government of Bahrain is considering to set up more incubators in specific technology areas (e.g. medicine)	Mr. Omer Oz, MENAinc Coordinator, e-mail: omeroz1@gmail.com Website: www.bbic.bh
Iran	<i>Isfahan Science and Technology Town*</i> Operational grant to provide enhanced incubation services to the growing number of tenants and non-tenants and SMEs across geographical and gender barriers to contribute to successful knowledge-based businesses and job creation. <i>Rooyesh IT Incubator (RITI)</i> Technology Business Incubator began operation in 2003 focused on ICT (including ICT in agriculture) and at this time has 16 client firms. Further 19 companies already graduated from the incubator.	Mr. Mehdi Keshmiri, VP for R&D, e-mail: mkeshmiri@istt.org Website: www.incubators.ir
Jordan	<i>iPARK Jordan's Technology Incubator*</i> Operational grant to increase the use of the existing RTD center's resources in helping Jordanian entrepreneurs and start-up companies to succeed, enhance their contributions to national economy provide job opportunities for the labor force.	H.E. Dr. Taker Kanaan, Secretary General, NACTIB, e-mail: omar@hcst.gov.jo Website: www.hcst.gov.jo
Libya	<i>ELITE Project – Libyan Incubator for Technology and Innovation</i> The ELITE project is intended to contribute to the development of the private SME sector in Libya. The incubators will focus on supporting existing SME as well as on stimulating the creation of new companies and Entrepreneurship in general.	Mr. Omar Annakou, Project Manager, e-mail: omar@eliteproject.net Website: www.eliteproject.net
Morocco	<i>Casablanca Technology Park*</i> Capacity building grant for the integration of ICT, for monitoring tenant progress and knowledge sharing, as well as marketing and networking for tenants. <i>Al Akhawayn University Incubator*</i> Capacity building grant to develop sustainable and replicable incubation through the capitalization of knowledge and know-how through training, consulting, and experience. <i>Morocco Incubation and Spin-off Network (RMIE)</i> The RMIE promotes business creation and development, innovation and knowledge sharing between enterprises and universities, especially in the evaluation and selection of tenant projects	Mr. M. Abderrafie Hanouf, General Manager, e-mail: a.hanouf@casablanca-technopark.ma Website: www.casablanca-technopark.ma Mr. Rachid Benabdellah, e-mail: r.benmokhtar@aui.ma Website: www.aui.ma Mr. Said Belcadi, e-mail: belcadi@cnrst.ma Website: www.rmie.ma
Qatar	<i>Qatar Science and Technology Park</i> QSTP's vision is to be an internationally recognized hub for research and commercialization by providing world-class infrastructure and services to tenant organizations, and supporting programs that foster the creation and growth of young technology companies.	Ms. Lindsey Jones, e-mail: ljones@gstp.org.qa Website: www.gstp.org.qa
Syria	<i>ICT Incubator of the Syrian Computer Society (ICTI)</i> The Syrian Computer Society (SCS), a non-governmental, non-profit organization aimed at introducing IT into Syrian economy, education, and administration established the first ICT incubator in Syria that is meant as a pilot project for a series of incubators throughout Syria and a first step towards building science and technology parks.	Mr. Rima Shaban, Director, e-mail: director@ti-scs.org Website: www.ti-scs.org
Tunisia	<i>Elgazala Park of Communication Technologies*</i> Capacity building grant to develop a process manual for incubation steps and strategies, improve management skills of incubator staff and tenants, use selection pools for selecting tenants, and develop and marketing plan.	Ms. Aicha Essedika Ennaifar, e-mail: ae.ennaifar@elgazalacom.nat.tn Website: www.elgazalacom.nat.tn
Turkey	<i>ODTU - KOSGEB Technology Development Center</i> <i>In Turkey technology incubators (TEKMERS) are service centers of "KOSGEB", a governmental organization (affiliate of Ministry of Industry and Trade). Operation of these incubators started in 1991; now 20 incubators are working in Turkey.</i>	Mr. Hayri Beygu Solmaz, e-mail: hayri@kosgeb.tekmer.gov.tr Website: www.kosgeb.gov.tr
West Bank & Gaza	<i>Islamic University of Gaza*</i> Capacity building grant to improve management skills, raise awareness of concept and importance of business incubation, provide training, and create a website and database for knowledge sharing. <i>The Palestine ICT Incubator*</i> Capacity building grant to develop Palestinian Micro, Small and Medium Organizations as a means to generate new jobs, attract investment, and improve the overall economic situation.	Dr. Mahir Sabra, Assistant Professor, e-mail: mahir@mail.iugaza.edu Website: www.iugaza.edu.ps Mr. Laith Kassis, Acting General Manager, e-mail: laith.kassis@picti.ps Website: www.picti.ps

Note: Projects marked with an asterix (*) have received infoDev grants for their incubation activities.