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‘Abu-Ghazaleh Knowledge Forum’ Holds Specialized Meeting to Discuss Traffic Congestion



AMMAN – Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Knowledge Forum (TAG-KF), a member of Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Global (TAG.Global), held a specialized meeting to discuss the traffic congestion problem in Amman. The meeting convened under the patronage of HE Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, founder and chairman of Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Global (TAG.Global), with the participation of a host of officials, specialists and representatives of private and public sectors. The Public Security Directorate, the Traffic Department, concerned ministries, professional associations, the Greater Amman Municipality and civil society representatives also participated.

The purpose of the meeting was to identify the causes of the unusual



traffic problems in Amman, and to come up with ideas and recommendations for resolving the issue, to be submitted to the concerned executive and legislative authorities, and to compose a specialized follow-up committee.

In his opening remarks, Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh stressed the fact that the traffic congestion constitutes a major burden for the Jordanian government structure and the economy in particular; in addition to its psychological, economic and environmental impact on the citizens and the society.

Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh urged the necessity for introducing solutions and proposals that could help solve the problem or at least alleviate its negative effects through the available tools of the Knowledge Revolution and Information and Communication Technology which proved successful in different cities around the world.



Further, Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh highly praised the efforts of the Public Security Directorate and the traffic police in carrying out their duties under difficult circumstances, urging all those concerned to lend them all the cooperation, the appreciation and the support they need.

For his part, Senator Issa Murad, head of the Labor and Social Development Committee at the Jordanian Senate, stated that the business sector is negatively affected by the traffic problems which leads to raising the cost of transport and shipping, and ultimately reflects negatively on the consumers' cost of living.

Additionally, General Manager of Jordan Express Touristic Transport Company (JETT), Mr. Malik Haddad, said that some regulations and laws in the transport sector are frustrating and need comprehensive revision to attract investments. He advocated the activation of the Transportation Law for the year 2017 which was issued and published in the Official Gazette but has not been enforced yet.

Furthermore, Vice President of Jordan Engineers Association, Eng. Fawzi Masad, stressed the need to toughen penalties on citizens and vehicles that violate traffic laws, calling for establishing interconnected systems in cities, shifting to smart cities and paying more attention to the environment by encouraging the use of electric vehicles.

In the same context, Eng. Reyad Al-Kharabsheh, the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project director at the Greater Amman Municipality, said the transport sector suffers numerous problems including bureaucracy and lack of interaction and coordination among government institutions, highlighting the need for more investments in the infrastructure and mass transport projects.

Colonel Raed Al-Assaf, Director of the Capital's Traffic Department, representative of the Public Security Directorate, pointed out that the bad driving habits are the major cause of traffic congestion, referring to the Traffic Department 2019 report which indicated that human error accounted for 98.2% of auto accidents, not the roads or the vehicles.

In the meantime, Director of Transport Safety & Environment Directorate at the Ministry of Transport, Mr. Majdi Barakat, affirmed that the transport sector suffers from the lack of administrative and regulatory stability and overlapping jurisdictions, calling for the preparation of a traffic impact study before permitting and granting building permits to any enterprise.

On the other hand, Executive Director of Road Safety Directorate at the Minister of Public Works and Housing, Eng. Sana Rawashdeh, referred to the importance of introducing educational material into the school curriculum to educate and raise awareness of road ethics and code of conduct.

The President of the National Forum for Awareness and Development and the National Youth Conference, Dr. Mohammad Al Badour, emphasized the importance of involving the youth in traffic awareness issues so that they can contribute to promoting a culture of compliance with traffic laws and rules.

To sum up, TAG-KF Executive Director and TAG.Global Education and Youth Consultant, Mr. Fadi Daoud, drew attention to the statistics that have been recently published by Numbeo which showed that Jordan ranked 14th worldwide, 2nd in the Arab world in terms of traffic congestions out of 85 countries, while Amman was ranked 41st out of 250 world cities on the traffic index.

It is worth mentioning that Numbeo is the world's largest database that provides current and timely information on world living conditions including cost of living, housing indicators, health care, traffic, crime and pollution.

'Abu-Ghazaleh Knowledge Forum' Organizes "Visual Disability in Jordan - Reality and Aspiration" Panel Session



AMMAN - Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Knowledge Forum (TAG-KF), a member of Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Global (TAG.Global), organized a digital panel entitled "Visual Disability in Jordan - Reality and Aspiration" , in collaboration with the Higher Council for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, through live streaming on the Forum's Facebook page.

During the session, held in conjunction with the World Braille Day, TAG-KF hosted the Secretary General of the Higher Council, Dr. Muhannad Al-Azza, Ms. Rawan Barakat, founder and manager of Raneen Foundation and Dr. Osama Al-Sayyed, president of Shams AlamalSociety for the Rights of Persons with Disability.

Dr. Al-Azza stated that the establishment of the Council aimed at becoming the institutional and legal umbrella for persons with disabilities in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan as well as to provide them with a decent and sustainable life based on equity and equality.

Furthermore, Dr. Azza highlighted the Council's role in drawing strategic policies and plans for disability related issues in Jordan, in addition to the provision of technical support to government entities to help them enforce the Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, referring to the annual report issued by the Council on the extent of commitment and recommendations.

For her part, Barakat shed light on the great challenge that the persons with visual disabilities are experiencing in schools and universities in the absence of integrated education, Braille-written curricula or audio-books which enable financially capable people to acquire better quality of education compared with the underprivileged segment in the society.

Barakat underscored the importance of making schools a friendly-environment for persons with disabilities, as well as providing them with qualified teachers to deal with them properly, calling at the same time for their integration in school classes along with students without disabilities to provide them equal opportunities in education and integration.

For his part, Dr. Al-Sayyed stressed the importance of changing society's negative perceptions of and attitudes toward persons with disabilities, by enforcing the existing laws and granting them equal opportunities, pointing out that disability lies in the surrounding environment which hinders individuals from practicing their life normally.

He further highlighted the importance of qualifying and training persons with disabilities to give them the opportunity to compete for jobs and take part in economic life, in addition to turning them into productive people who will benefit their families, their society and the national economy.

For his part, TAG-KF Executive Director and Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Global (TAG.Global) Education and Youth Consultant, Mr. Fadi Daoud, who moderated the session, pointed out that the digital virtual sessions conducted by the Forum are considered the best way to easily communicate with the audience and followers.

Daoud also pointed out that TAG-KF takes the responsibility of advocating all social and economic issues including persons with disabilities by raising awareness on the challenges that face them, as well as by offering recommendations that contribute to improving their conditions.

Statistics provided by the World Health Organization (WHO) indicate that there are 39 million blind people worldwide, 7 million out of them live in the Arab region.

To view the video, please [click here](#)

'Abu-Ghazaleh Knowledge Forum' Organizes Panel on 'Economic Media: Reality and Aspirations'



AMMAN – Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Knowledge Forum (TAG-KF), a member of Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Global (TAG.Global), organized a digital panel entitled 'Economic Media: Reality and Aspirations' through livestreaming on the Forum's Facebook page.

During the meeting, TAG-KF hosted Ms. Isra Tbishat, business news presenter at Al-Mamlaka TV, Mr. Ibrahim Mubaidin, editor at Al Ghad Daily Newspaper, and Dr. Fathi Aghawat, a journalist at Al Ra'i Newspaper.

Participants discussed various topics including the role of the media: the Fourth Estate, the challenges it is experiencing especially the newspapers and the impact of social media on the credibility of information. They also assessed the extent of journalists' commitment to professional code of ethics, as well as their role in delivering information to recipients in an easy way, particularly in the economic press .The debated other relevant topics as well.

Ms. Tbishat affirmed that the most prominent challenge that faces the economic media is the ability to adhere to the professional ethics and fundamentals of professional journalism, pointing out that the business and economic press relies on figures, facts and documents that can't tolerate any kind of errors; thus it has an important role as the Fourth Estate. That is in addition to its educational objective represented in providing recipients with accurate information, Ms. Tbishat said.

She also emphasized the need to establish harmony and coordination in the media sector between media organizations and professionals by promoting principles of professional competition and respect for differences that stimulate creativity and media development.

Mr. Aghawat expressed his belief that the lack of transparency, on the part of some government officials with the media and their unwillingness to provide correct information leaves the media in the dark, and accordingly it, the media, would be accused of incorrect reporting. He also warned that the performance and behavior of some intruders on the profession reflects badly on the profession and its reputation.

Aghawat pointed out that the Jordanian printed press suffers from the same problems that is facing printed press all over the world; because of the digital transformation, the technological development and the decline of the number of advertisers in the printed papers.

He also expressed the need for developing newspapers with the government support to keep pace with global developments and to preserve its moral and national value.

Ibrahim Mubaidin confirmed the importance of facilitating the delivery of economic and business news to the recipients by simplifying specialized terminology and explaining the impact of figures; indicating at the same time the importance of turning social media networks into tools that serve the media and reveal the whole detailed real picture, not just a distorted one.

He also stressed the importance of the economic and business media in highlighting economic success stories mainly the entrepreneurial ones that would strongly stimulate and boost national economy by providing the youth with a platform to share their ideas and proposals.

For his part, TAG-KF Executive Director and TAG.Global Education and Youth Consultant, Mr. Fadi Daoud, who moderated the session, pointed out that the digital virtual sessions conducted by the Forum are considered the best way to easily communicate with the audience and followers.

Daoud also pointed out that TAG-KF organized a series of digital meetings and talks in the time of Coronavirus (COVID-19), in conformity with Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Global's digital transformation plans and strategies.

To view the video, please [click here](#)

TAG-KF Digital Talks:

<http://www.tag-forum.org/VideoGallery.aspx?lang=en>

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