

MEDREGION UPDATE

Regional Office Tunis

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

The Arab Forum for e-Waste Management 1

New U.S. - North Africa Public-Private Partnership 1

Grant \$ at Work 2

Welcome to New MEPI Staff 2

Needs & Requirements: Taking the Next Step in Business 4

About MEPI 4

MEPI Medregion Update Newsletter is produced by the Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) Regional Office at the U.S. Embassy in Tunis, Tunisia.

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We welcome your comments and suggestions.

The Arab Forum for e-Waste Management

Electronic waste is currently one of the most rapidly growing environmental problems in Lebanon and the Arab region, due to the fast pace of technological evolution and planned obsolescence. E-waste produces more than 1000 toxic substances that are potentially harmful to humans and their environment.

With the aim of finding solutions for e-waste on a regional and local level, Beatoona, a Lebanese non-governmental organization, conducted a three-day workshop



A workshop on e-waste Management

in Beirut, Lebanon, to discuss the proper management of e-waste. The workshop was part of a MEPI funded project “e-Waste

and Battery Recycling for a Better Environment”

(Continued on page 3)

New U.S. - North Africa Public-Private Partnership

The Office of the Middle East Partnership Initiative (NEA/PI) announces an open competition for projects that support a new public-private partnership developed by the State Department’s Bureau of Economic, Energy and Business Affairs (EEB) in cooperation with the Bureau of Oceans, Environment, and Science to foster economic opportunities in North Africa. The U.S. government has underscored the need to engage youth, support economic opportunities, and develop new partnerships. As President Obama stated in Cairo on June 4, 2009, “all of us must recognize that education and innovation will be the currency

of the 21st century.” President Obama made clear that we must broaden our engagement with Muslim-majority countries, countries with significant Muslim populations, and their people. On September 22, 2009, the President underscored the need for “...partnerships between businesses [and] entrepreneurs to advance prosperity and opportunity for people everywhere.” Consistent with this vision, NEA/PI seeks applications to support the launching of a new public-private partnership between the United States and North Africa. This new public-private partnership aims to inspire youth and aspiring

entrepreneurs of all ages to play a role in job creation in the Maghreb region by becoming the next generation of entrepreneurs and regional business leaders, as well as encourage partners from business, foundations, civil society, business associations, and private entities in the Maghreb and in the United States to work more closely together to promote greater economic opportunity, a greater spirit of partnership and closer links between private sector organizations in the United States and North Africa. For more information on this competition visit:

<http://mepi.state.gov/opportunities/146092.htm> ■

Welcome to New MEPI Staff



Patrick Boland

Patrick Boland joins MEPI to serve as MEPI Coordinator in Embassy Cairo. Before joining the Department of State, he worked at an international government affairs firm active in Latin America and Eastern Europe where he helped clients develop comprehensive approaches to building public-private partnerships. Prior to

his work in Washington, Patrick worked at the American Chamber of Commerce in Cairo, where he advocated for a U.S.-Egypt Free Trade Agreement through the USAID funded Trade Related Assistance Center. He has also worked and studied in Mexico, Spain, Jordan, and Yemen on issues ranging from EU expansion, to rural public health in Latin America, to market liberalization in the Middle East North Africa region. He graduated with distinction in Foreign Affairs and Middle East Studies from the University of Virginia and speaks Arabic, Spanish and French.



Rafa Ragebi

Rafa Ragebi joins the MEPI team as a Local Grants Administrator in Libya. Rafa will be managing and monitoring MEPI programs and activities in Libya as well as developing and managing program initiatives that advance MEPI goals. Rafa earned a Bachelor degree

from Al-Fatah University, Tripoli, Libya in English language and literature. Prior to joining MEPI she worked at the Academy of graduate studies, Janzour, Libya and at Al-Fatah University at the English Department. She taught general English, presentation skills and oral practice courses. She is also a Fulbright Alumna and spent time in Albany New York. She was part of the Foreign Language Teacher Assistant (FLTA) program, teaching Arabic to American students as well as studying applied linguistics and social counseling.

Submit Your Grant Applications Now!

Funding is available now for Local Grants. Please contact your country's U.S.

Embassy MEPI Committee and see the guidebook available on our [website](http://www.medregion.mepi.state.gov) for step-by-step instructions in English and Arabic.

www.medregion.mepi.state.gov



Notice of Award –Making It Official

By MEPI Grants Unit

A Notice of Award is the final step in the grant approval process and represents the signature phase of the grant. This step follows the Pre-Award procedures, Statement of Work development, and Budget Negotiations.

Upon final approval of the Grants Officer, the MEPI office sends the grantee the Notice of Award for final approval and signature. There are 4 basic components to the Notice of Award.

The first component is the DS-1909, which is the Award Coversheet for all grants and cooperative agreements in the Department of State. The DS-1909 is the portion of the grant which shows the final approved costs of the grant, the project title and purpose, the period of performance for the grant (start and end dates), and the Recipient's DUNS number or U.S. Federal Tax Identification Number.

The Grants Officer references all other guiding documents that may pertain to the grant in Sections 16 and 17 of the DS-1909. Upon signature, the grantee agrees to comply with all of these documents. It is important for grantees to realize that it is incumbent on them to comply with each of the annotated documents. Failure to do so may result in non-reimbursable expenses or termination of the grant.

While the DS-1909 is the official obligating document for legal purposes, it does not stand alone as a Notice of Award to a recipient. There are 3 additional components.

The second component of the Notice of Award is the Award Specifics, which provides the agreed upon purposes and scope of work, method of payment, authorized budget, and reporting/monitoring requirements. All these data elements must be fulfilled and are mandatory.

The third component of the Notice of Award is the Post Specifics. These specifics are in addition to, or those that differ from, requirements set forth in the Department of State Standard Terms and Conditions. This document allows the Grants Officer to stipulate the level of involvement of MEPI representatives or how to dispose of program income. Acknowledgement of United States Government support and prescribed branding language for activities and products is provided here, and require Grants Officer approval to be waived. .

The final component of the Notice of Award is either a Standard Domestic Terms and Conditions or a Standard Overseas Terms and Conditions. Recipients may download them from the internet site or be given them by MEPI. While most organizations MEPI Regional Office works with are non-US organizations, we do have some state-side organizations (meaning the headquarters of the organizations is located in the United States), and we use the appropriate document for each organization. This document contains guidance, policies, and standards for the award and administration of Department of State assistance agreements to individuals, institutions of higher education, hospitals, non-profit, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), public international organizations (PIOs), public voluntary organizations (PVOs), and host country governments.

We encourage the Grantees to read all 4 of these documents carefully before signing the DS-1909. If there are any questions, please let us know, and we will do our best to assist you. By regulation, we must use English versions of these documents, though we can help explain if needed to ensure you understand what you are signing. ■

Continued from page 1

The Arab Forum for e-Waste Management

The opening ceremony, held on May 27th, 2010, was attended by various key figures, among them: Eng. Sana Sairawan representing the Lebanese Minister of the Environment Mr. Mohamed Rahal, Dr. Antoine Karam, a former minister of the environment, M.P. Nabil Nicolas, Col. Nagy Aramouni representing the Chief of the Lebanese Armed Forces Brig. Gen. Jean Kahwaji, Col. Pierre Hayek representing the General Manager of the Lebanese Internal Security Forces Gen. Ashraf Rifi; along with representatives of local and international NGOs and environmental activists.

Mr. Maroun Charabati, President of Beeatoona, opened the ceremony by thanking MEPI for their valuable contribution in support of the country's reform, and by highlighting the rapidly expanding size of electronic waste, pointing out that "everyone is responsible for the safety of the environment, and our duty is to come up with solutions for environmental problems that are growing each day".

Eng. Sairawan spoke next declaring that the Lebanese Ministry of the Environment's plan includes the proper management of hazardous and non-hazardous waste, and emphasizes the need to develop legislation and guidelines concerning e-waste management.

To underline the involvement of the Lebanese private sector in the e-waste issue, Mr. Ali Harake, Marketing Manager of Microsoft - Lebanon, spoke about their partnership with

Beeatoona, which focuses on encouraging the reuse of computers before recycling, by providing licensed software that is compatible with refurbished computers.

To expose the regional experience in e-waste management, Eng. Baker Abbadi, Director of the Planning and Budget Department in the Greater Amman Municipality in Jordan, emphasized the importance of cooperation between civil society organizations and the public sector, and how optimal action plans for e-waste management are currently being successfully applied in Jordan. Mr. Khaled al Hajiri, Chairman of Green Line, a Kuwaiti environmental group, endorsed civil society-public sector cooperation and hoped that the regional training could be a gateway for regional cooperation between all stakeholders to find a permanent solution for the e-waste threat.

To mark a milestone in the e-waste cause, Dr. Tarek El Ruby, representative of the Egyptian Ministry of Environment, declared that during year 2010, strategies and operational business plans will be developed in Egypt, in order to ensure a better management of e-waste.

During the three-day workshop, participants and experts from various Arab countries, including Jordan, Kuwait, Egypt, Bahrain, Oman and Tunisia exchanged information and experiences about e-waste management in their respective countries. The workshop aimed to come up with a joint action plan for



Participants in the e-waste Management Forum

better management of e-waste in the region.

The workshop was concluded on the third day by establishing the "Arab Forum for the Proper Management of e-Waste." The newly formed forum's secretariat will be located at Beeatoona-Lebanon.

The participants also came up with a list of recommendations to address to the Board of the Arab Ministries, for further advocacy and included the following:

- Enacting and amending legislation to conform with the needs of e-waste management;
- Preparing national action plans that tackle the e-waste issue;
- Applying and disseminating internationally approved guidelines for the sensible management of E-waste, and procedures to adjust them to suit situations in the participating countries;
- Building the capacities of relevant institutions (Government, private sector, civil society, and media) on e-waste hazards and proper management;
- Raising the level of awareness and knowledge among producers, importers and wholesalers of electrical and electronic devices, and establishing a mechanism to communicate with them through Chambers of Commerce;
- Strengthening the partnership between the public and the private sector and civil society organizations for e-waste management;
- Creating coordination mechanisms between civil society institutions; and
- Introducing e-waste awareness in school, technical institute and university curricula. ■

Spotlight on MEPI Alumni

Needs & Requirements: Taking the Next Step in Business

As part of MEPI's economic programs focusing on entrepreneurship, the MEPI Alumni Network/Jordan chapter held a training session addressing economic and employment growth driven by private sector expansion and entrepreneurship. Participants discussed different kinds of economic opportunities and methods that help create more stable business growth. The training helped participants improve their communication with the public sector and find ways to create safe forums to voice their concerns and needs.

The training was conducted by Maali Qasem, a MEPI Alumna, and a member of the Responsible Business Roundtable established by Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in 2007, and founder of She Schema, a consultancy specialized in corporate governance and corporate social responsibility services. Maali addressed the participants on failed businesses and how failure can be leveraged as part of the equation that leads to success. She also spoke about

promoting entrepreneurship to create new private sector jobs referencing to how improving legal and regulatory transparency will enhance business growth and competitiveness.

The session also addressed issues related to the culture, of entrepreneurship and the current economic situation. Specific discussion covered the need of job seekers to make their own way rather than depend on the government for civil service jobs. Further topics included descriptions of new initiatives that encourage innovation, creativity and self dependence for economic growth and development, as well as the changing needs and demographics of the country.

Participants interacted in discussions focusing on concerns and challenges facing their businesses and business-planning. To provide real-life examples, six participants who were business owners also introduced their businesses, provided insights to opportunities, and challenges and lessons learned through their start-up journey. ■



Participants interacting with each other during the training session

The MEPI Alumni Network in Jordan-sponsored "Needs & Requirements: Taking the Next Step in Business" training focused on tangible and useful tips entrepreneurs should know to develop their businesses .



During the training session



Middle East Partnership Initiative

The Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI), located within the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs at the U.S. Department of State, is a unique program designed to engage directly with and invest in the peoples of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). MEPI works to create vibrant partnerships with citizens to foster the development of pluralistic, participatory, and prosperous societies throughout the MENA region. MEPI partners with local, regional and international non-governmental organizations, the private sector, academic institutions, and governments.

MEPI Regional Office, Tunis

Housed in the U.S. Embassy in Tunis, the MEPI Regional Office Tunis administers MEPI local projects in Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia and West Bank/Gaza and accounts for more than \$5 million in program funding in 2010. In addition to coordinating with U.S. Embassies throughout the region, Tunis RO provides a variety of funding opportunities (such as the MEPI Local Grants program and Civil Society Grants) as well as supporting visits, seminars and training programs to advance the formation of communities for tomorrow.

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