

U.S. ASSISTANCE TO TUNISIA

For a Better Future

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Inside this issue:

“Education for Employment” Helps a Woman from Kasserine Get a Job **2**

National Democratic Institute supports women in upcoming elections **2**

MEPI Student Leaders Alumna Member of United Nations Global Advisory Board Meeting **2**

Exchange Program for Tunisian Students of Journalism **3**

Global Innovation through Science and Technology **3**

MEPI Student Leaders Alumna Selected as Sole Tunisian Participant in First Global Forum on Youth Policies **3**

Announcements **4**

CONNECT JOBS FAIR 2014

The Confederation of Tunisian Citizen Entreprises (CONNECT), the Tunisian Ministry of Vocational Training and Employment, and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) held CONNECT Jobs Fair on October 2, 2014 in the “Palais des Congrès” in Tunis. The purpose of the fair was to strengthen the crucial link between employers and prospective employees by providing an opportunity for direct contact.

During this edition, 82 companies attended the fair which offered over 1,350 jobs in key sectors like ICT, engineering, finance, marketing, export, and marketing and distribution networks. According to a statement released by CONNECT, the number of visi-

tors to the fair exceeded 2,200.

U.S. Ambassador Jake Wallis attended the fair and reaffirmed during his speech that, *“Together, we can ensure that the Tunisian workforce is getting the skills, coaching and resources they need to build their careers and to drive sustainable economic growth and job creation.”*



U.S. Ambassador Jake Wallis reaffirmed, during the opening of the Jobs Fair, the commitment of the United States to support Tunisia’s democratic transition

Education for Employment Joined Souk At-Tanmia Entrepreneurship Project

With the support of the Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI), Education for Employment (EFE)-Tunisie has joined the partners network of the second edition of the African Development Bank (AfDB) Souk At-Tanmia entrepreneurship project, launched on April 30. EFE-Tunisie conducted online and “face-to-face” selection of candidates, provided capacity building and entrepreneurship training for the preselected candidates to help them elaborate a

good business plan, and coaching and business development services to the finalists that will receive funding from the project.

To ensure the success and impact of this training program, EFE-Tunisie and Microsoft collaborated to customize the “Build your Business” Curriculum content to the Tunisian context and entrepreneurship ecosystem.

“Education for Employment” Helps Kasserine Woman Get Job

Wided was born in Kasserine, a region in the center of Tunisia suffering from high youth unemployment, and offering limited opportunities for young job seekers. She moved to the capital, 300 miles away from her family to earn her bachelor degree in Business English from the Faculty of Human and Social Sciences of Tunis. Graduating in 2012, she grew anxious about her chances of finding a job especially as her older sister was still struggling to find a suitable position, still jobless after 7 years.

Wided remained unemployed for over one year. *“I lost hope, I felt desperate and pessimistic”*. She got sound advice on how to prepare a CV and answer questions over a job interview from the Education for Employment organizations (EFE). However, she just was not getting job interview opportunities in Kas-



Wided Fakhraoui

serine and could not afford to travel to the capital to apply for positions. Finally, she got an invitation to attend a recruitment assessment center held in Kasserine by an American company, and she made it through the interview rounds and had the chance to join Vistaprint as a customer care representative. *“That immediately changed my life and restored my enthusiasm”*. Wided attended an additional training offered by EFE called ‘Workplace Success’ which prepared her for the challenges she was looking forward to face in her work environment. *“My participation in the EFE program changed my life outside of work, too. After the training not only did I start to believe in myself and become more energetic, but I also started to offer financial support to my parents and I’m helping my father pay off our family debts”*.

National Democratic Institute Supports Women in Upcoming Elections

The National Democratic Institute (NDI) in partnership with the Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) support for women in the upcoming elections spans from support for female candidates to voter education for rural and/or illiterate women. MEPI partner NDI has trained women candidates on campaign planning, self-confidence, and public speaking, equipping them to run effective

campaigns for legislative office. In August, NDI led a multi-party training for 50 women candidates

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during which they honed campaign skills and shared experiences across party lines. NDI is also supporting local partners to conduct get-out-the-vote (GOTV) efforts encouraging women and youth participation in the elections, particularly in governorates where their turn-out was low in 2011.

MEPI Student Leaders Alumnus Member of United Nations Global Advisory Board Meeting



Mohamed Ali Amri

Congratulations to 2014 MEPI Student Leaders Alumnus Mohamed Ali Amri for being selected for the United Nations Global Advisory Board Meeting to represent Tunisia. Mohamed also received a \$10,000 grant from the National Democratic Institute (NDI) to implement and develop his personal "Rise your Voice Initiative" designed to encourage youth and women participation in the 2014 elections, specifically in rural areas in Tunisia, and to be an active citizen.

Exchange Program for Tunisian Students of Journalism

We are proud to welcome home to Tunisia nine students of journalism from the Institut de Presse et des Sciences de l'Information (IPSI) who participated this summer in an exchange program for future Tunisian journalists organized through the American Embassy in Tunis in cooperation with IPSI and the International Center for Journalists in Washington, DC. As students in the new Masters Degree program in Investigative Journalism at IPSI, our nine student journalists traveled to the USA where they met with representatives from media outlets broadcasting from Washington NGOs working to promote freedom of the press and other



Group photo in front of the Congress

American and international journalists reporting from the USA. Following one week in Washington each of the students traveled to a different region of the country where they worked alongside American journalists to learn about how news is gathered and reported in different media outlets and contributed their own reporting projects. We are proud of their success and wish them luck in their continued studies at IPSI and their future careers in journalism.

Global Innovation through Science and Technology

Congratulations to Amine Chouaieb, one of the top three winners of the State Department's GIST (Global Innovation Through Science and Technology) Green Startup Boot Camp, held on September 30 in Morocco! Amine presented a unique internet-based automation system for monitoring and reducing energy usage in homes. We applaud Amine's entrepreneurial initiative to create a more sustainable envi-



Amine Chouaieb presenting his system for energy-efficient homes

ronment and boost investment in Tunisia. As Chouhaieb said, *"If we Tunisians don't invest in our country, then who will? By investing, we will be sending a strong message to foreign investors reassuring them and regaining their confidence in our economy."* The Embassy also congratulates all of the impressive Tunisian entrepreneurs who participated!

MEPI Student Leaders Alumna Selected as Sole Tunisian Participant in First Global Forum on Youth Policies

Congratulations to 2014 MEPI Student Leaders Alumna, Meriam Meddeb, for being selected as sole Tunisian participating in the First Global Forum on Youth policies to be held between 28 and 30 October, 2014, in Azerbaijan. The Forum will be convened by the United Nations Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth together with UNDP, UNESCO and the Council of Europe, and will bring together 700 youth policy experts from governments and parliaments, youth networks and movements, and research and development communities.



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Since the January 2011 revolution, the United States has provided approximately \$550 million to support Tunisia's transition, focusing on technical and financial assistance to Tunisia's economic growth, support for peace and stability, and support for civil society and democratic practices. The U.S. government plans to allocate more than \$60 million in Fiscal Year 2014 funding, building on assistance programs initiated after the revolution.

Announcements



Welcome Nosra Ayari to the MEPI Family

Nosra Ayari is the new MEPI Alumna Chapter Coordinator in Tunisia. She is a MEPI Alumna herself who participated in the Student Leaders Program in 2007 at Dickinson College and later partook in the MEPI Alumni Public Persuasion and Persuasive Speaking Program at the University of Delaware in 2011. She has been a member of the MEPI Alumni Chapter Steering Committee since 2012. Before joining "Le Centre d'Etudes Maghrébines à Tunis" (CEMAT), she worked for Mercy Corps in Tunisia and has brought with her 10 years of volunteering experience with Tunisian NGOs.

Leaders for Democracy Fellowship Program

The Middle East Partnership Initiative is pleased to announce the ninth year of its Leaders for Democracy Fellowship (LDF) program to advance reform efforts in the Middle East and North Africa by providing emerging civic leaders and democracy activists the opportunity to spend several months in the United States (for English speakers) or Lebanon (for Arabic speakers).

The application deadline is November 30, 2014 .

For more information about the program and how to apply, please visit our website at:

<http://tunisia.usembassy.gov>

Professional Fellows Program

The U.S. Embassy announces the "Professional Fellows Program" for 2015 for Tunisian NGOs and civil society leaders. Tunisia will be able to send nine Fellows to the USA to learn about effective NGO management and program outreach by working alongside leaders with American NGOs and civil society groups.

The application deadline is December 1, 2014.

Find more information and the application at:
http://photos.state.gov/libraries/tunisia/231771/PDFs/pfp_ngo.pdf