



Expert Group Meeting on Innovation and Technology for Advancing the Knowledge-based Economy (KBE) in the Arab region

3-4 June 2015, Kempinski Hotel, Amman, Jordan

Under the patronage of Her Excellency, the Minister of ICT, Jordan

Preliminary Agenda

Day One		Wednesday, 3 June 2015	
08:30 – 09:00	Registration		
09:00 – 09:15	Opening Remarks ESCWA welcoming remarks		Nibal Idlebi & Fouad Mrad, UN-ESCWA
09:15–11:00 Session I - Opening Session <i>Chairperson: Haidar Fraihat, UN-ESCWA</i>			
	Change towards Knowledge Society in the Arab Region, What, Why, How and Who? The priority of innovation and technology		Mohamed Mrayati, Senior Advisor, Saudi Arabia
	Challenges for technology and Innovation policy: Observations from a development perspective		Angel Gonzalez-Sanz, UNCTAD
	Discussion		
11:00 – 11:30 <i>Coffee break</i>			
11:30–13:00 Session II - Embracing the KBE: The role of innovation and technology <i>Chairperson: Nashaat Mansour, Lebanese American University, Lebanon</i>			
	Innovation and Technology for advancing KBE (ESCWA Background Paper)		Souheil Marine Consultant, UN-ESCWA
	Incentive for private sector to invest in R&D for Arab countries		Ufuk Batum, Consultant, UN-ESCWA / ETC
	Discussion		
13:00 – 14:00 <i>Lunch break</i>			
14:00–15:30 Session III - Sustaining the Innovation process in the Arab region <i>Chairperson: Angel Gonzalez Sanz, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development</i>			
	Technology and Innovation for development: Why policy matters		Michael Lim, UNCTAD
	MENA Innovation Scoreboard		Fouad Mrad, ESCWA / ETC
	Developing an R&D Commercialization Policy for Birzeit University		Adnan Yahya, Palestine
	Discussion		
15:30 – 16:00 <i>Coffee break</i>			
16:00–17:30 Session IV - National Initiatives for promoting Innovation in the Arab region <i>Chairperson: Rakan Razouk, Syrian Computer Society</i>			
	The Role of Scientific Research Support Fund in Advancing Research in Jordan		Abdallah Al-Zoubi, Jordan
	Funding of KBE in Lebanon		Nicolas Rouhana, Lebanon
	Discussion		



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Day Two		Thursday, 4 June 2015	
09:00–11:00	Session V - Key Enablers for Building the Knowledge-based Economy <i>Chairperson: Slaheddine Maaref, International Telecommunication Union (ITU) – Arab Regional Office</i>		
	Internet's potential for National innovation and development		<i>Samia Melhem, World Bank</i>
	Mobile Governance in the Arab Region - From Policy to Impact		<i>Elsa Estevez, United Nations University</i>
	Social Innovation in a Complex World		<i>Jennifer Colville, UNDP</i>
	Discussion		
11:00 – 11:30	<i>Coffee break</i>		
11:30–13:00	Session VI - Transformation towards Knowledge Based Economy in the Arab region <i>Chairperson: Ashraf Shalaan, President of the National Research Center, Egypt</i>		
	Configuration of an Innovation Ecosystem		<i>Marwan Awartani, Palestine</i>
	Building Knowledge Management Systems in Scientific and Technology- Based Institutions		<i>Assef Diab, Syria</i>
	National Strategic Plan : Digital Tunisia 2018		<i>Mohamed Ben Amor, Tunisia</i>
	Towards building knowledge economies in ISESCO member states		<i>Maha Merezak, ISSESCO</i>
	Discussion		
13:00 – 14:00	<i>Lunch break</i>		
14:00–15:00	Session VII - Case Studies from selected Arab countries <i>Chairperson: Mohammad Saidam, Royal Scientific Society, Jordan</i>		
	Innovation Status in Palestine		<i>Adnan Samara, Palestine</i>
	Oman Initiatives in Science, Technology and Innovation		<i>Sharifa Alharthy, Oman</i>
	Some Mature Technologies in the National Centre for Research as Initiative to Transfer Towards Knowledge-based Economy		<i>Hashim A. Fadlalla, Sudan</i>
	Discussion		
15:00 – 15:15	<i>Coffee break</i>		
15:15–16:00	Session VIII - Recommendations and Conclusion <i>Chairperson: Nibal Idlebi, UN-ESCWA</i>		
	Proposed recommendations		
	Discussions		