1. GIFT-MENA upcoming venues

Book your calendars now!

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| GIFT-MENA Annual Meeting on "Coaching and Career Development for Senior Civil Servants in MENA " | 1. Directors of Training Schools and Institutes in MENA  
2. Heads of HR and Training Departments  
3. Capacity-building experts | October, 14-15, 2009 | Lebanon |
| Regional seminar on "Building the Capacities of our Trainers" | 1. Heads of HR and Training Departments  
2. Training coordinators  
3. Trainers | November, 2009 (TBC) | Jordan |

2. Continued technical cooperation among GIFT-MENA members

Bilateral exchange for technical cooperation is increasing among GIFT-MENA members. In this regard:

- Mr. Omar Faraj, Director of Administrative and General Affairs at the Ministry of Economy and Finance of Morocco visited the Basil Fuleihan Institute of Finance of Lebanon in April 2009 for discussing future collaboration venues in areas related to human resources development, customs' training and information systems.

- Ms. Mona Masri, Deputy Minister of Finance of the Palestinian Authority, also visited the Ministry of Finance of Lebanon and the Institute to get acquainted with main reform initiatives as well as concurrent capacity building efforts. This visit was organized in the framework of the project supported by ADETEF for the creation of the Institute of Finance of Palestine (May 2009).

- A delegation from the Basil Fuleihan Institute of Finance of Lebanon held in June 2009 an expert mission to the Finance Institute of Yemen to agree on the action plan for establishing cooperation in all technical and operational aspects of training engineering, communication and networking.

3. Updates regarding on-going projects and services

- The National Institute of Administration of Palestine and ADETEF have submitted the first draft of the quality charter for the sharing of training modules, expected to facilitate the exchange of training modules using a set of standards and parameters to promote best practices. The product will be discussed among members at the next GIFT-MENA venue.

- The French version of the e-learning module on Performance Budgeting is being finalized by the Ministry of Economy and Finance of Morocco, in partnership with the World Bank. Next steps for testing,
4. GIFT-MENA recommendations

The GIFT-MENA Secretariat encourages you to consult the following websites, reports and publications:

- **The Governance Assessment Portal**: [www.gaportal.org](http://www.gaportal.org)
- **The Regional Capacity-Building Initiative (EU initiative for countries of the Mediterranean Sea Basin)**: [www.rcbi.info](http://www.rcbi.info)
- **The Report on "Networking research, development and innovation in Arab Countries"** published by the UN-ESCWA (Copy of Arabic version attached).

5. International venues to which GIFT-MENA members participated

- Ms. Jinane Doueihy and Mr. Georges Boulos (from the Basil Fuleihan Institute of Finance of Lebanon) as well as Mr. Ibrahim Abu Sief and Mr. Omar Darwish (from the Dubai School of Government) and Ms. Zohra Bouras (from ENA-Alger) participated to the regional seminar on **Performance Budgeting and Fiscal Transparency** organized by the CAFRAD and the WB in Tangier-Morocco between April 21 and 26, 2009.

- Mr. Afif Hendaoui (from ENA – Tunis) and Ms. Rania Abi Habib (from the Basil Fuleihan Institute of Finance of Lebanon) respectively represented Tunisia and Lebanon at the first Scientific Committee Meeting for the development of the “Euro-Mediterranean Senior Civil Servant” pilot course, held in Italy in May 2009.

- Ms. Rania Abi Habib (from the Basil Fuleihan Institute of Finance of Lebanon), Prof. Mustapha Taimi (from ENA-Morocco), Mr. Ashraf Almimi (from the National Institute for Administration of Palestine) and Ms. Olfa Zeribi (from ENA-Tunis) participated to the Second Scientific Committee Meeting held in Italy in July 2009 for the development of the “Euro-Mediterranean Senior Civil Servant” pilot course headed by the Italian Superior School of Public Administration.

- Mr. Nadim Abboud and Ms. Hadia El Khoury participated to the **Summer School course on Managing for Integrity: Strategies and Approaches**, that was jointly organized by the Central European University, TIRI and the Center for Policy Studies in Budapest, Hungary, from June 29 to July 8, 2009.

For sharing your news with network’s members, kindly send by mail to the GIFT-MENA Secretariat the information you wish to disclose and we will include it in our next GIFT-MENA Activity Report.

Looking forward to hearing from you soon,

On behalf of the GIFT-MENA Secretariat

Sabine Hatem

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For more information, please contact the GIFT-MENA Secretariat:

- IoF: 01-425 147/9 or contact@if.org.lb

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