



Our mission is to build upon King Hussein's lifelong commitment to human security, social equity and peace in Jordan, the Middle East and beyond through programs that promote education and leadership, sustainable development, participatory decision making and cross-cultural exchange.

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Welcome to the twelfth issue of the King Hussein Foundation quarterly e-newsletter.

Please feel free to forward to a friend or colleague who might also be interested.

IN THIS ISSUE

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Jubilee Institute's National Educational Center for Robotics Wins Award for Scientific Excellence

The Higher Council for Science and Technology presented the El Hassan bin Talal Award for Scientific Excellence to the **Jubilee Institute's** program, the **National Educational Center for Robotics (NECR)**. The Award for Scientific Excellence, which was designated this year to educational institutions, granted the first prize, valued at JD7,000 to the **NECR** during a ceremony at the Royal Cultural Center in Amman on April 14, under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince El Hassan bin Talal, chairman of the Higher Council for Science and Technology. [Click here to read more.](#)



Tamweelcom shortlisted for Financial Times/IFC Sustainable Finance Awards 2011

The **King Hussein Foundation (KHF)** is proud to announce that **Tamweelcom** has been shortlisted by the Financial Times/International Finance Corporation, a member of the World Bank Group, for the FT/IFC Sustainable Finance Awards 2011 in the category of "Achievement in Financing at the Base of the Pyramid". This year the FT/IFC received 187 entries across 5 categories from 161 institutions in 61 countries. Tamweelcom made the list of 7 nominees in the category of "Achievement in Financing at the Base of the Pyramid", out of 37 entries in this category which recognizes "groundbreaking financial transactions and initiatives that address the Base of the Pyramid, the more than 4 billion people who live on less than US \$2 a day" according to the FTC/IFC website.

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Her Majesty Queen Noor paid a visit to the **Noor Al Hussein Foundation's** sustainable development programs in northeastern Badia Wednesday morning, visiting three income generating projects in the village of Sabha and Subhia, in the Mafraq Governorate. **Queen Noor's** first stop was the East Mafraq Agricultural Cooperative which was established in 1995 by the community and has 45 members. **NHF's** Qudorat program helped the cooperative launch a fodder production income generating project in 2007, with funding from the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MOPIC). A new grant from the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECI) will help the cooperative expand its fodder production. [Click here to read more.](#)



Her Majesty Queen Noor Visits Economic Empowerment Initiatives in Aqaba Governorate

April 23, 2011 Aqaba Governorate – **Her Majesty Queen Noor** on Saturday visited the **Noor Al Hussein Foundation's (NHF)** Tahini factory in Quwaira, in the Aqaba Governorate. The Tahini income generating project was initiated by **NHF's** Poverty Pockets Program, and funded by the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MOPIC). The factory began operating in May of 2010. A model private and CBO partnership agreement between **NHF** and businessman Mustaf Turk, owner of a similar factory, allows the businessman to run the CBO's factory for five years while providing technical training and marketing skills to its employees and management committee. [Click here to read more.](#)



A Celebration of Motherhood

The **Noor Al Hussein Foundation's Institute for Family Health (IFH)** is getting ready to present its second campaign to better integrate Iraqi families within the host community in Jordan, in cooperation with the UNHCR Jordan Community Services Program.

On June 15th and 16th, **IFH** will invite Jordanian and Iraqi families in the community to participate in a health campaign comprised of three components: improving the social welfare, psychological and physical well-being of families. The event, which will take place over two days at the **IFH** in Sweileh, in north Amman, is designed to coincide with World Refugee Day on June 20th. [Click here to read more.](#)

National Center for Culture & Arts hosts 3rd Annual Amman Contemporary Dance Festival

The **National Center for Culture and Arts (NCCA)** recently hosted six renowned contemporary dance companies from the 20th of April through the 2nd of May 2011 as part of the 3rd annual Amman Contemporary Dance Festival (ACDF). The festival is part of the Masahat Dance Network, a regional network comprised of Maqamat Dance Theatre in Lebanon and Sareyyet Ramallah – First Ramallah Group in Palestine; Tanween Dance Theatre in Syria and the **NCCA** in Jordan. [Click here to read more.](#)



Musicians Connect at Euro Arab Youth Music Forum

Forty youth representatives from European and Arab countries came together April 19-22 in Amman to establish a network of youth musicians, bridging the gap between east and west. 90% of the participants were professional musicians between the ages of 20 – 35. The musicians came



from Jordan, Cyprus, Egypt, Palestine, Tunisia, Qatar, Lebanon, Sudan, Yemen, Macedonia, Germany, Finland, Sweden, France and Belgium. [Click here to read more.](#)

"Phoenix" Team from the Jubilee School named F1 Champion



F1 Champions the "Phoenix" team from the Jubilee School pose with Brig. Gen. Mufareh Tarawneh, Vice CEO of KADDB at closing ceremony

On Saturday evening the five-member "Phoenix" team from the **Jubilee School** was named the overall F1 Champion of "The Formula One Technology Challenge in Schools Jordan Competition 2011".

Their model F1 car clocked 1.21 seconds along the stretch of a 20-meter track and they scored the highest overall number of points from categories which included teamwork, presentation, research, design and speed.

The "Phoenix" team was sponsored by Cofran Lubrication. The team, which is comprised of 4 boys and one girl, is now qualified to represent Jordan in "The F1 in Schools World Finals Malaysia 2011" in September.

The "Need 4 Speed" team from the Amman National School placed second overall in "The Formula One Technology Challenge in Schools Jordan Competition 2011". They were sponsored by Fine (Nuqul Group).



Competitors from the Amman National School & the Positive Thinking Center stand at the track

And the **Jubilee School's** "Sabeg La7eg" team placed third overall. They were sponsored by Toyota Jordan Central Trade and

Auto Company.

In individual categories, the "Geeks of Speed" team from the **Jubilee School** won "best time" after clocking the fastest time on the track on Saturday at 1.15 seconds. They were sponsored by Americana Group.

The award for "best research" went to the **Jubilee School's** "McLaren" team and the "best design" award went to "Team F6" from the King Abdullah II School for Excellence in Salt. They were sponsored by Orange.

The Jubilee Center for Excellence in Education (JCEE) of the **King Hussein Foundation** organized the first ever "The Formula One Technology Challenge in Schools Jordan Competition 2011" at the **Jubilee School** in Amman on Saturday, May 28.

11 Teams were registered for the event which allowed students, ages 14-to-17, to race miniature balsa wood F1 cars they designed themselves.



"F1 in Schools" model cars line up before the start of competition

Those registered to compete in the event included 8 teams from the **Jubilee School**, 1 team from the Amman National School, 1 team from the King Abdullah II School for Excellence in Salt, and 1 team from the Positive Thinking Center.

The competition provided each team which participated with four attempts to clock the fastest time along the stretch of a 20-meter track using the "automatic launch" mode and at least one attempt in which a team member depressed the launch mode manually.



Jubilee School competitors all smiles before the start of competition

The **JCEE** secured the franchise for “F1 in Schools - The Formula One Technology Challenge” in 2010 and is the official center for running the “F1 in Schools” competition in Jordan.

Participating teams had to try to secure “sponsors” in order to learn how to market their cars and projects.

His Excellency, Brigadier General Mufareh Tarawneh, Vice CEO of the King Abdullah II Design and Development Bureau (KADDB) officiated the opening ceremony at 10:00am, under the patronage of His Excellency, Mr. “Shadi Ramzi” Majali, Chairman and CEO of KADDB.

The competition continued all day, with teams judged in different categories including teamwork, research, design, presentation, and speed.

“F1 in Schools” is an international program designed to encourage students to learn more about science and technology in a fun environment. The program is part of the enhanced educational program at the **Jubilee School**, where students select 12 out of more than 40 elective courses. At least 6 of these courses must be in science, math, design, and technology.

Please note the **King Hussein Foundation's Jubilee School** educates some of the brightest students in the country. King Hussein continuously strove to create an atmosphere of security and equality in Jordan, where every individual, regardless of his social or economic background was made to feel encouraged to explore his potential. Since opening its doors in 1993, more than 1,200 students have graduated from the Jubilee School, and the majority of its students have received either partial or full scholarships. The **King Hussein Foundation's Jubilee School** has established a scholarship fund to ensure that the next generation of Jordan's scientists, engineers, and innovators succeed. Please visit our homepage at www.kinghusseinfoundation.org and click on "Donate" to learn more about how you can help.

[Back to top](#)

Students Learn by Living Life in the Fast Lane

It's one o'clock on a spring Saturday afternoon but 16-year old Tala Ramadan isn't out shopping or catching a matinee with her girlfriends at the mall.

Instead the 10th grader from the **Jubilee School** in Amman, Jordan is hard at work in the **Jubilee Center for Excellence in Education's (JCEE)** "F1 in Schools" lab. Ramadan carefully aligns a block of light-weight balsa wood under the powerful drill of the lab's CAM machine, while checking to make sure that the model's design specifications correspond with the model Formula 1 car the large 3D printer is about to carve out of her block of wood.

Ramadan and fellow teammate Shorouq Ahmad explain that as team "designers" a lot of work went into preparing for this step in creating their model "Formula 1 in Schools" car.

"Before we make any design, we have to look at many designs of cars," Ramadan said, "maybe some real cars, [we] study aerodynamics, [we] study air friction, and other variables."

The design is created by using the 3D CAD software in the "F1 in Schools" lab in the **Jubilee School**.

The miniature balsa wood F1 cars weigh only 55-60 grams, are 50 millimeters tall, 65 millimeters wide and 170-210 millimeters long.

The goal is to create a model "F1 in Schools" car that will clock the fastest time along the stretch of the 20-meter track during "The Formula One Technology Challenge in Schools Jordan Competition 2011" on Saturday, May 28.

After the CAM machine carves the car, there is still plenty of work to be done; the wood has to be sanded down, the model has to be painted, the wheels have to be added and stickers applied if the team is able to secure sponsors.

15-year old Shorouq says she's learned a lot while trying to design the ideal racing car.

"I learned a lot about physics, about aerodynamics," she said, "and I learned how to work with a team that I never knew before." Shorouq also remarked that the project has taught her how to manage her time more effectively.

Their "Zero Gravity" team is made up of four girls and two boys.

While they experienced some problems with the carving of this particular model F1 car, they both seemed pleased with the design they created:

"It looks almost like the real Formula 1 cars," said Ramadan, holding the light-weight model in her hand, "it's very very thin from the front, and it has wings that take away air resistance when it comes to the wheels, and it has these things on the side, they're almost like wings...when it moves it's supposed to make its movement more smooth."

They ended up carving a 3rd model based on the same design for Saturday's competition and Shorouq says she hopes their F1 car will clock a time of 1.5 seconds or less.



"Zero Gravity" team with earlier F1 model car continues to prepare for Saturday's Competition

Both girls say they are excited about their team's chances in the competition, and they've completed one of the most difficult aspects of the project; securing sponsors for the team. They actually managed to secure four sponsors. So whose name gets top billing?

"The one who pays us more gets his name on the car, on the tee-shirts," explained Ramadan.

The miniature model F1 cars are powered by tiny silver cylinders of CO₂ placed inside the body of the car. The canister is pierced by depressing the start button, which launches the car down the track. There is also an "automatic" launch mode.

Tala and Shorouq aren't the only ones hard at work in the "F1 in Schools" lab on Saturday; three teens from the Positive Thinking Center are also busy at work painting the model Formula 1 car they designed.

16-year old Ali Said says he likes spending Saturdays working on the project.

"I like things that relate with engineering," he said, "I like cars, I like Formula 1...and maybe I'll need it in college or in my work, I'm planning to be an engineer in the future."

Said says his favorite Formula 1 driver is seven-time world champion Michael Schumacher, who currently drives for Mercedes. He says he and his teammates hope to clock a time that's "close to one second" during Saturday's competition.

Program director, Ismail Yasein, hopes the excitement of the sport will translate into practical knowledge for students who participate in the competition.

"The 'F1 in Schools' competition is a true example of knowledge production which helps students learn to produce and implement creative projects and be involved in national and international competitions," he said. "It is also an excellent tool to train students in research and perseverance, while providing them with hands-on training in the areas of design software, engineering, electronics, physics, and mathematics."

The **JCEE** purchased the franchise to run "F1 in Schools - The Formula One Technology Challenge" in 2010 and **the Jubilee School** houses the only lab and official track to be used by teams registered for the competition.

The **JCEE** develops innovative curricula and training programs for students and teachers and administrators in public and private schools in the use of advanced educational technology.

11 teams are registered to participate in the Jordan competition; 8 teams from the **Jubilee School**, 1 team from the Amman National School, 1 team from the King Abdullah II School for Excellence in Salt, and 1 team from the Positive Thinking Center in Amman.

Winners will be judged on teamwork, research, design presentation, and speed of the model Formula 1 car they designed.

The winning team will secure a 1,000 JD prize and qualify to represent Jordan in "The F1 in Schools World Finals Malaysia

2011" in September.

"F1 in Schools" is an international program designed to encourage students to learn more about science and technology in a fun environment.

This program is part of the enhanced educational program at the **Jubilee School**, where students select 12 out of more than 40 elective courses. At least half of the elective courses must be selected from the fields of math, science, design and technology.

[Back to top](#)

Jubilee Center for Excellence in Education aims to launch Math and Chess Clubs in Jordan Schools following first-ever Math and Chess Competition



Mohammad Salah Ma'aita seated next to 6th grade winner Tameem Shatnawi

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75 students from schools in Amman, Madaba and Salt recently spent an entire day sharpening their math skills by competing in the **Jubilee Center for Excellence in Education's (JCEE)** inaugural "Math and Chess Competition" hosted by the **Jubilee School** under the patronage of the Royal Jordanian Chess Federation.

The all-day event consisted of completing a problem solving quiz, and chess matches. Students were divided into two groups; 5th and 6th graders were given white tee shirts to separate them from the older competitors, the 7th and 8th grade students who were attired in black tee shirts.



8th Grade Math and Chess Champion Laith Al Musa deep in concentration, Saturday May 7, 2011

All participants played seven games of chess after completing the problem solving portion of the competition. 6th grader Tameem Shatnawi, from the Al Balqa Islamic School in Salt won the overall math and chess competition representing the younger group, while 8th grader Laith Al Musa from the Baptist School in Amman won the overall competition from the older group of students.

But the competition was about much more than fun and games. The **JCEE's** Math and Chess Program Director Rana Alabed says she hopes the competition will motivate the students and teachers to convince their principals to launch Math and Chess clubs at their schools as an extra-curricular activity.



7th & 8th Grade competitors prepare for the Chess Competition, Saturday May 7, 2011

The Math and Chess Program was developed by Frank Ho in Canada. It's an educational program that integrates math and chess in workbooks for kids in kindergarten through grade 8. The program is designed to teach children math through chess, providing young students with a creative and innovative way to learn math basics.

Chess is integrated into math worksheets and mathematical chess puzzles to let students explore the interrelation of chess and math. According to the official Math and Chess Program workbook, children build confidence in math learning by using patterns, spatial relations, and rules of logic and memorization techniques.

JCEE's Math and Chess Program Director Rana Alabed, a former math teacher, believes that offering extra-curricular activities for children is very important, especially in math.

"Math is a rigid subject," explains Alabed, "and not all the students in class will get the idea or get what the teacher wants immediately, they need help."

Alabed, who has already offered basic training on the principles of the program to the 94 students from 19 different schools from four cities who registered for the competition on Saturday, hopes the event will motivate schools to launch Math and Chess Clubs in their own schools.

Both public and private schools can start a club. The only stumbling block, for public schools, according to Alabed, may be the initial start-up fee of 650JDs which the schools must pay to train teachers and purchase the 10 workbooks and 10 chess boards required to launch each club.

But Alabed says she's not letting that stand in her way of promoting a program that she believes is a "good tool" for teaching math to the students in a fun environment.



7th & 8th Grade competitors prepare for the Chess Competition, Saturday May 7, 2011

The **JCEE** purchased the franchise for the Math and Chess Program for two years, beginning in 2010, as the Center continues to invest in developing tools and curricula which incorporate math, science and IT into the everyday lives of students, stimulating interest in the subjects.

Alabed created introductory manuals in English and Arabic to provide basic training on the principals involved to 9 teachers and 94 students from private and government schools in Tafileh, Madaba, Salt, and Amman.

So far, she says the response has been positive from students, parents, and teachers but ultimately it's up to the principals to decide if clubs will be launched at their respective schools.

Alabed's son, Mohammad Salah Ma'aita, while only in the 4th grade, participated in the Math and Chess Competition at the Jubilee School on Saturday. He explained that learning math from chess is different from learning math in class.

"In chess, each piece has a value, and we use this value in addition and subtraction," he said.

The 10-year old added he hopes his school will soon offer a Math and Chess Club so that his peers will learn more about the game and he'll have someone to play with at his own school. An idea his mother supports wholeheartedly.

[Back to top](#)

Jubilee Institute's National Educational Center for Robotics Wins Award for Scientific Excellence



Their Royal Highnesses Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath with winners of the 2011 El Hassan Bin Talal Award for Scientific Excellence on Thursday (Petra photo)

The Higher Council for Science and Technology presented the El Hassan bin Talal Award for Scientific Excellence to the **Jubilee Institute's** program, the **National Educational Center for Robotics (NECR)**.

The Award for Scientific Excellence, which was designated this year to educational institutions, granted the first prize, valued at JD7,000 to the **NECR** during a ceremony at the Royal Cultural Center in Amman on April 14, under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince El Hassan bin Talal, chairman of the Higher Council for Science and Technology.

The **NECR** was launched as a program of the **JCEE** in 2004 and has helped 120 private and public schools in Jordan develop robotics labs and provided a curriculum in Arabic for students. In addition it has helped schools in 7 other Arab countries develop their own robotics labs.

NECR Director Ismail Yasein said that the first place award signifies recognition of important work in the field of robotics:

"It represents the accumulation of seven years of hard work to promote and introduce robotics science to public and private schools in Jordan and in schools throughout the region."

Yasein adds that for the students the award is a "great acknowledgement of their hard work and investment of their time in the field of robotics which represents the technological revolution."

The prize money will be used to advance **NECR's** work in robotics by furnishing a new advanced lab at the Jubilee School to help the students and teachers advance their skills in robotics.

[Back to top](#)

Tamweelcom shortlisted for Financial Times/IFC Sustainable Finance Awards 2011



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The award highlights the "development and delivery of innovative, viable and replicable financial products and services that engage and empower the poor."

The winners will be announced at the FT/IFC Sustainable Finance Conference & Awards 2011, "Where Innovation Meets Impact" in London on June 16, 2011.

[Back to top](#)

Boosting Self-Sufficiency in Northeastern Badia

Her Majesty Queen Noor paid a visit to the **Noor Al Hussein Foundation's** sustainable development programs in northeastern Badia Wednesday morning, visiting three income generating projects in the village of Sabha and Subhia, in the Mafraq Governorate.

Queen Noor's first stop was the East Mafraq Agricultural Cooperative which was established in 1995 by the community and has 45 members. **NHF's** Qudorat program helped the cooperative launch a fodder production income generating project in 2007, with funding from the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MOPIC). A new grant from the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECI) will help the cooperative expand its fodder production.



Queen Noor examines model of a fodder production unit during visit to East Mafraq Agricultural Cooperative

Queen Noor also visited the Green Fields Agricultural Cooperative, which was established in 2009 by the community and has 40 members. The cooperative started a vegetable farm which has helped create job opportunities for women. The grant from AECI will allow **NHF** to begin to provide the cooperative with agricultural tools and tractors to expand the farm. The tools and tractors can also be rented out to other farmers.

Her last stop was the Fertile Crescent Agricultural Cooperative which was established in 2006 by members of the community. It has 45 members and manages a goat fattening project which was initiated by **NHF's** Qudorat program in 2007 with funding from MOPIC. The cooperative also plans to expand its agricultural activities through the grant from the AECI which will provide its farmers with agricultural tools and tractors.



Fertile Crescent Agricultural Cooperative members meet with Queen Noor

While in the field, **Queen Noor** talked about the importance of working with people who can achieve extraordinary things

with a little faith and local investment:

"Our strength lies in 30 years of integrating social, economic, and environmental solutions with public, private, and international partners, but most of all, it is listening to what people have to say."

After visiting the three income generating projects, the **King Hussein Foundation's Information and Research Center (IRC)** briefed **Queen Noor** on the findings of a new socioeconomic study on Dair Al Kahef, Sabha and Subhia.

The **IRC** mapped and assessed the social, economic, and environmental conditions of the target areas.

Based on the **IRC's** findings, **NHF** plans to expand its sustainable development program in northeastern Badia, with the two-year grant from the AEI. The **IRC's** socioeconomic study marks the first phase of the two-year project.

The second phase of the project, which ends in 2012, involves the funding of small income generating enterprises and creating awareness of environmental issues in cooperation with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

On Wednesday **NHF** announced the 8 selected CBOs that will launch income generating enterprises for their respective communities.

"The selection process was a competitive one," remarked Mousa Al Saifi, program manager for **NHF's** sustainable development programs in northeastern Badia. "After considering all 15 proposals, we selected the 8 projects we believe will respond to the needs of the community and be the most financially viable and sustainable."

The projects selected include the previously mentioned plan to provide tractors and agricultural tools to cooperatives which can also be rented out to others, benefitting an estimated 100 farmers, and around 120 goat owners in Sabha and Subhia, and Dair Al Kahef will benefit from two fodder production units which will provide an alternative to natural habitats which have been damaged as a result of overgrazing.

A fertilizer treatment project will benefit around 150 farmers, and an estimated 15,000 residents will benefit from a water filtration and bottling project. About 50 children will benefit from a model kindergarten project, while the establishment of the first youth gym in the area, open to males 13-years of age and over, will benefit the community at-large.

NHF's field coordinator Hussein Al Zawahi says he's excited about the new youth gym:

"Sports equipment in the gym is an important way for youth to spend leisure time, providing them with healthy bodies and increasing their awareness [of a healthy lifestyle] and most importantly it provides them with a place to meet instead of hanging around [the streets] and for sure it will be a non-smoking area."

The **IRC's** socioeconomic study identified social problems among male youth as smoking and hanging out in the streets.

The combined population of Dair Al Kahef, which has been identified as a poverty pocket, and Sabha and Subhia is around 25-thousand according to numbers provided to the **IRC** by the municipalities.

The 8 selected CBOs will begin their projects in May, 2011.

[Back to top](#)

Her Majesty Queen Noor Visits Economic Empowerment Initiatives in Aqaba Governorate

April 23, 2011 Aqaba Governorate – **Her Majesty Queen Noor** on Saturday visited the **Noor Al Hussein Foundation's (NHF)** Tahini factory in Quwaira, in the Aqaba Governorate. The Tahini income generating project was initiated by **NHF's** Poverty Pockets Program, and funded by the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MOPIC). The factory began operating in May of 2010. A model private and CBO partnership agreement between NHF and businessman Mustaf Turk, owner of a similar factory, allows the businessman to run the CBO's factory for five years while providing technical training and marketing skills to its employees and management committee.

In four years Mr. Turk will turn over the operation of the factory to the CBO. Profits are shared by more than 270 members of the community to contribute to their family income and generate future economic growth in the region. The factory employs 8 Jordanians and produces 3 tons of Tahini daily. It recently landed two tenders with the Civil Service Consumer Cooperation and Military Consumer establishment outlets in the region.

Queen Noor also visited **NHF's Aqaba Micro-Business Incubator (AMBI)** hosted at **NHF's** Community Center, which began as a vocational training center for women in 1987 and was renovated in 2008 to become a hub of activity for business entrepreneurs in the community.



Queen Noor meets AMBI Incubatees

At the **AMBI**, **Queen Noor** attended part of the "Start Your Business" training session, and met with some of the beneficiaries. While inside the Center she also toured the IT station and the Aqaba sewing workshop. She visited the Center's Tamweelcom branch, and stopped by the small nursery which was opened to accommodate children while their mothers are working.

The **AMBI** is open from 8am until 10pm and offers beneficiaries access to business development services, micro-finance services, and office technology. The center also conducts comprehensive business training in addition to vocational training. The **AMBI** started operation in October 2008, in partnership with the Aqaba Community and Economic Development (ACED) program, funded by USAID. The overall goal of the incubator is to enhance the socioeconomic development of Aqaba through the delivery of specialized business services to micro and small businesses in Aqaba city.

Community Development Program Manager Muhammad Al Zoubi says the distinctive aspect of the **AMBI** is that it provides its beneficiaries with all the services they need under one roof, saving them time and money.

"The concept is to provide our beneficiaries with one-stop shopping, if you will," remarked Al Zoubi. "Everything they need to start their own businesses is located in one place and includes everything from IT services, product development, and micro-finance services, to awareness sessions and business training workshops."

Since its inception in 2008, the **AMBI** has launched 33 awareness sessions on entrepreneurship development for more than 2,000 members of the community, and conducted 8 start-up business training cycles for 172 participants. 78% of those participants were women. Consequently, 30 entrepreneurs started their own businesses.

AMBI has also conducted 6 training cycles on improving existing businesses for 112 participants, 66% of those participants were women.

Finally **Queen Noor**, honorary president of SOS Children's Villages Jordan, visited the SOS Children's Village of Aqaba.

Her visit included meeting the children and their caretakers or 'SOS moms', accompanied by Reem Habayeb, chairperson of the Board, and Lina Mola, SOS Children's Villages Jordan director.

Queen Noor then dropped into the SOS Children's Villages Jordan community center where she attended a performance by the children.

The community center is equipped to provide educational and entertainment activities to the children. The center hosts a library with computers, a small music room, and an art room, open for the residents of the SOS village and the larger community in Aqaba.

[Back to top](#)

A Celebration of Motherhood

The **Noor Al Hussein Foundation's Institute for Family Health (IFH)** is getting ready to present its second campaign to better integrate Iraqi families within the host community in Jordan, in cooperation with the UNHCR Jordan Community Services Program.

On June 15th and 16th, the **IFH** will invite Jordanian and Iraqi families in the community to participate in a health campaign comprised of three components: improving the social welfare, psychological and physical well-being of families.

The event, which will take place over two days at the **IFH** in Sweileh, in north Amman, is designed to coincide with World Refugee Day on June 20th.

In March IFH hosted 80 women and 60 children during another outreach event at the **IFH** center designed to coincide with Mother's Day.

The two-day campaign on March 21st and March 22nd introduced the mothers to workshops on parenting, healthcare, and improving the social role of women in society.

The sessions also gave participants the opportunity to share from their own personal experiences.

Two child specialists and a child psychologist provided recreational activities for children in the child care unit on site at the **IFH** premises.

At the conclusion of the two-day campaign, participants received gifts, meals and chocolates along with educational materials to take home and share with their families.

Participants included Iraqi and Jordanian mothers, along with other beneficiaries from the community. Mothers and their children from the Ministry of Social Development's Al-Wafaq Al-Usary, a shelter for women, were also invited to attend the two day event.

IFH Director Dr. Manal Tahtamouni described the campaign as a "social event", through which the staff and health professionals at the IFH were also able to convey health information and educational materials regarding mental and physical health.

"The main desired outcome is enhanced social integration of Iraqis within the Jordanian community," Tahtamouni remarked.

The campaign is one of several activities **IFH** designed with the UNHCR offering Iraqi and Jordanian families workshops and services on refugee rights, gender based violence and child protection, mental health, marriage and family counseling and building capacities of 15 community based organizations in Amman, Zarqa and Salt.

[Back to top](#)

National Center for Culture & Arts hosts 3rd Annual Amman Contemporary Dance Festival

The National Center for Culture and Arts (NCCA) recently hosted six renowned contemporary dance companies from the 20th of April through the 2nd of May 2011 as part of the 3rd annual Amman Contemporary Dance Festival (ACDF).

The festival is part of the Masahat Dance Network, a regional network comprised of Maqamat Dance Theatre in Lebanon and Sareyyet Ramallah – First Ramallah Group in Palestine; Tanween Dance Theatre in Syria and the NCCA in Jordan.



Promotional Photo of 'Maps', a production by Nats Nus Dansa from Spain
(Photo courtesy of Nats Nus Dansa)

Rania Kamhawi, Director of the ACDF comments on the timing of this year's festival:

"As the region witnesses momentous events," said Kamhawi, "it seems more important than ever that we promote creative forms of expression that are able to portray thoughts and aspirations, challenges and reflections of societies."

Kamhawi added she hopes the ACDF provided audiences with the opportunity to further their appreciation of the aesthetics and techniques of contemporary dance. Another goal of the festival was to provide artists with the opportunity to benefit from the experience of artists worldwide by attending various workshops in contemporary dance offered by the visiting companies.

This year's festival included the participation of six renowned contemporary dance companies in a variety of performances; Chunky Move from Australia, Yoshiko Chuma and the School of Hard Knocks from Japan, the El-Funoun Dance Troupe from Palestine, Cie Linga from Switzerland, Panta Rei from Norway and two performances for children from Nats Nus Dansa from Spain and De Stilte from the Netherlands.

The festival falls in line with the **NCCA's** mission to promote social development and cross-cultural understanding through the utilization of the performing arts through national and international training and exchange programs.

[Back to top](#)

Musicians Connect at Euro Arab Youth Music Forum



Amman Symphonietta, Amman Arab Music Ensemble & Mahabish Ensemble Perform at Forum

Forty youth representatives from European and Arab countries came together April 19-22 in Amman to establish a network of youth musicians, bridging the gap between east and west.

90% of the participants were professional musicians between the ages of 20 – 35. The musicians came from Jordan, Cyprus, Egypt, Palestine, Tunisia, Qatar, Lebanon, Sudan, Yemen, Macedonia, Germany, Finland, Sweden, France and Belgium.



Opening Ceremony of the Euro Arab Youth Music Forum

The Euro Arab Youth Music Forum, organized by the Arab Academy of Music (League of Arab States) and Jeunesses Musicales International, in cooperation with the Cultural Movement of Limassol "Epilogi" and Jordan's **National Music Conservatory (NMC)**, of the **King Hussein Foundation**, provided participants with the chance to "dialogue" about music as part of cultural diplomacy and policy, approaches of youth towards creativity and industry, and to discuss the opportunities and challenges of employment and mobility across the Mediterranean.

NMC Head of Preparatory Division and Extension program Dana Sakkijha remarked that the participants learned a lot from each other.

"Mobility of musicians is a challenge regardless of their nationality," said Sakkijha, "so this was an important way for the west and the east to meet to discuss these challenges. What was surprising to learn was that even musicians from the west experience problems regarding mobility."

Compensation was also an issue for some musicians from the west, surprising news to some participants who met only to

discover that they had a lot more in common with each other than they had originally thought. Another issue of concern to the Arab participants was the lack of music education in the schools and the lack of support for the profession.

Recommendations from participants included establishing uniform standards of music teaching among music conservatories, schools, and colleges in the east and the west.

The outcome of the four-day event will be a manifesto that will be published and officially distributed to various cultural networks, on behalf of all partner organizations.

The project was funded with support from the European Commission and is part of a two-year grant. The Arab Academy of Music (League of Arab States) was another supporter.

Kifah Fakhouri, the director of the **NMC**, who is also the Secretary General of the Arab Academy of Music, said that while the **NMC** has hosted international gatherings in the past, this is the first time it has hosted an international gathering specifically geared towards young professional musicians.

"The participants were able to identify the challenging similarities and differences facing both young European and young Arab musicians," said Fakhouri. He added: "the forum has paved the way for further discussion on issues that address the difference in cultural identities between young western and Arab musicians".

The next project, "Chorale Crossroads", will be held in Cyprus in September and includes a choir from the **NMC** along with around 600 choir members from other countries.

[Back to top](#)

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