

**The Board of Directors' Message:****Dear Members;**

**First of all,** Happy Eid everyone; May Allah bring you and your families joy, happiness, peace and prosperity on this blessed occasion. It is our pleasure to present you the first edition of our monthly newsletter, which is among the current board of directors' policies, the main goal of it is to communicate with the members and rebuilding the trust and strengthen the relationship among all of them. In addition to re-activating the incorporation of all companies in the sector under PITA's control, so we can have a strong representative that is able to present the sector and its needs locally and internationally.

Under the remarkable growth of the ICT sector, we believe that the challenges Palestine is going through are not simple especially in terms of the economic deterioration and constraints. This is where the importance of the PITA comes to light; through focusing on issues related to the sector, reducing difficulties, and finding new ways to meet the different challenges to ensure the sustainability and development of the companies.

PITA continues to strive to communicate effectively with the official and the private stakeholders, and provide all the possible facilities for the companies in order to create a better environment for business, investment and the sector growth. For this to happen, PITA calls on all members to reunite and work and put all their efforts to strengthen the role of PITA as a representative of the sector.

This newsletter will be distributed as a soft copy every month on all members, official bodies, donors and partners; to highlight the role of this sector, its achievements, its success stories and the local and the international events concerning the sector. We trust that your active participation whether in reports or articles, will help us enriching the newsletter and make it a vital one that can reflect the sector and its achievements.

Finally; we hope that all employees in the sector will benefit from this newsletter, we also welcome any suggestion that can help improving it.

**May you celebrate this every year. Blessed Eid!**



ANNIVERSARY

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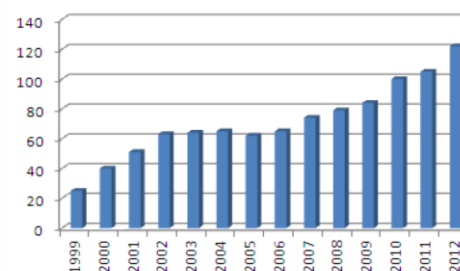
**PITA; 20 Years of Establishment !**

The Palestinian Information Technology Association of Companies is celebrating 20 years of its establishment. **PITA** represents many major ICT companies in Palestine's emerging technology and startup ecosystem. **PITA** has become the driving force in advancing the ICT sector's interest, and the leading information source about this sector in Palestine. **PITA** was founded in 1999 by a group of Palestinian entrepreneurs with the vision of creating a non-profit organization to advance the interests and positive societal impact of Palestine's Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Sector. Through its mandate, content, events and global outreach, **PITA** is able to continue advancing its mission towards innovation, and serves as the region's drive for its start-up ecosystem.

**PITA's** members have increased since its establishment, **PITA** had approximately 20 registered ICT companies as members under its umbrella. Along a period of 20 years, the number of registered ICT companies in Palestine under **PITA's** umbrella reached 160. **PITA** offers its members a wide range of exclusive services that help leverage members' investments and facilitate information exchange among them. Through its varied programs, **PITA** provides a multitude of services which are aimed at promoting and facilitating the exchange of knowledge, information and deal flow with its members. We also recognize the need for capacity-building where we help companies with technical skills, soft skills training,

access to markets as well as legal and HR services. In addition to strengthening women's ICT leadership and capacity building. **PITA** through its 20 years of consistent work, has been able to provide local guidance and insight for **PITA's** member companies while acting as a key driver in helping to spearhead the drive for innovation and embrace the next generation of entrepreneurs; who are the future. **PITA's** management team has its pulse on Palestine's emerging ICT and startup economy. In doing so, it helps to promote a culture of collaboration, mentorship and education – all aimed at advancing our region's economic and social capital.

So, we can sum up that **PITA** created such an impact in its contribution in the local and regional marketing study. **PITA's** companies participated in developing universities curricula: many different academic programs are included in this development. It accomplished a detailed implementation plan for the private sector and regional sector for competition centers, and participated in a business trip to regional countries in order to strengthen the networking between the private sector and regional sector.





EID MUBARAK

كل عام و انتم بخير



## PITA's Specialized Committees

### Telecom & ISPs Committee

- Adel Dwaik
- Amjad Ghosheh
- Khaled Abu Hasna
- Ibrahim Kharman
- Osama Abo Zebida
- Usaid Shanti

### Hardware Committee

- Islam Al-Taweel
- Mohammed Tamimi
- Munif Subeih
- Haitham Al-Amassi
- Khaled Sabr
- Ibrahim Jaffal
- Tamer Baransi
- Ahmad Abu Alaoun

### Software Committee

- Mohammad Fseifes
- Ramez Al-Saqqa
- Aref Hanaysheh
- Fawwaz Al-A'lami
- Tarek M. Eslim
- Mustafa Dalool
- Hussam El Kurd
- Mohanad Shurrab
- Nahed Eid
- Alaa Mabhouh

### Members Communcation

#### Committee

- Ameen Herzallah
- Ibrahim Jaffal
- Ahmad Abu Alaoun

### Startups Committee

- Rana Al-Husseini
- Tarek M. Eslim
- Hussam El Kurd
- Haitham Al-Amassi
- Khaled Abu Hasna
- Aref Hanaysheh
- Munif Subeih
- Yasser Al-A'lem
- Mohannad Zalloum
- Kamal Ratrouf
- Maher Kamel



## **The General Policy for the Board of Directors (2019- 2020)**

- The Board is committed towards the principle of transparency and integrity and non-conflict of interests in all of the PITA's activities.
- The Chairman has to involve all of the other members in the Board activities and assigning tasks to them. In addition to informing and sharing with them any kind of activity in which he participates.
- The Chairman shall consult the Board members in all of the activities that relate to the union and communicate with the local and international community as well as preparing monthly reports regarding these activities.
- The Board shall provide the other members with a report concerning any travel mission outside the country which includes the goals, the outcomes and the future steps of the union; on the condition of taking the Board of Directors approval and deciding who is the best candidate to go based on the goal of the mission .
- The Board shall announce all the board of directors' decisions and activities and minutes of meetings.
- The Board is committed in providing the committees with the needed support; through re-arranging their priorities and working to include their issues and making progress in achieving their goals within the Board regular meetings.
- The Board shall make a monthly bulletin about the union's activities.
- The Board members shall not participate in any evaluation committee of any projects that the members are benefiting from, in order to achieve the principles of transparency and integrity and non-conflict of interest. Provided that the evaluation committees shall be formed by members of the union with experience in the suggested subject
- The Board is committed in distributing the benefits of the union services in a fair manner among all the sectors involved; including companies in both of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.
- The Board shall provide a brief quarterly financial report.
- The Board is committed in working together towards unity in addition to re-inclusion the members who withdrew or failed to pay, and registering new members from all regions.
- The Board shall care and give full attention for all members wherever they are especially the companies outside Ramallah and Gaza.
- The Board is committed in strengthening the role of the executive staff of the Union and involving them in all of the activities to promote the principle of governance and the segregation of duties.
- The Board shall document all the transactions, the official papers and the correspondence in an organized archive.

## **PITA's Mission**

“To lead the ICT sector towards an innovation-based economy.”

## **PITA's Vision**

“A Palestinian nation nurturing innovation and contributing to world knowledge.”

## **PITA's Strategic Goals**

- Institutional building of PITA.
- Enterprise and Start-up Development: Building, Developing and Empowering the Capabilities of the Companies.
- Research and Development – Human Development: Strengthening the Relationship with the Academic Sector.
- Policy and Advocacy: Advocating and Engaging with the Public Sector.
- ICT Sector Branding: Networking and Penetrating the ICT sector in Palestine.





### Why Participating is important ?

- Knowledge-sharing
- Keep pace with the changing world
- Strengthen the professional ties
- Challenge and grow
- Identify needs and challenges in ICT sector
- Essential factor for economic growth
- Creating Opportunities and enhancing capacity and understanding

## Upcoming Events

1. **CEBIT, Hannover Germany, Jun 26 - Jun 28;** A leading business event in the digital industry. This event defines the latest trends and presents product innovations from all over the world and focuses on the IT innovations that are revolutionizing the business world and puts the spotlight on most important startups.
2. **GITEX, Dubai, 6- 10 October;** It is a must attend event for who believe in the power of innovation, and event where the world's ICT leaders, experts, enterprises, startups, technology enthusiasts, students and consumers gather to present the future of business and converging sectors and industries that will impact our lives.
3. **GSMA MWC19, Shanghai, 26-28 June and GSMA MWC19 Los Angeles 22-24 October;** It boasts and represents the interests of mobile operators worldwide and companies in the mobile ecosystem. The GSMA works on projects and initiatives that targets the collective interests of the mobile industry (handset and device makers, software companies, equipment providers and internet companies).
4. **GESS, Indonesia 18 – 20 September 2019 / Istanbul, 2 - 4 April 2020 / Dubai, 25 - 27 February 2020;** A platform to launch products and ideas in the Middle East education market and reach out to the widest target audience. It is a 3 days of inspirational talks dynamic, hands-on workshops from global industry leaders and influential local experts to enable educational suppliers to access and make connections with decision makers in the education sector.

## PITA Latest Activities

### - 23/5/2019, Ramallah

The Board of Directors held a meeting with a delegation from the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology in order to set the headlines and prioritize the work between the parties, it included activating the joint cooperation committee.

### - 22/5/2019 Gaza

20th anniversary event of the founding of the Palestinian Information Technology Association (PITA) in the same time celebrating the World Telecommunication and Information Society Day.

### - 11/5/2019, Gaza

PITA held a meeting with the Palestinian Businessmen Association members and managers in Gaza, for the aim of cooperation and partnership within the Palestinian private sector to point at the role that businessmen and the private sector can play and the need for concerted efforts to achieve an integrated partnership and an advanced economic development.

### - 11/5/2019, Gaza

Completion of the training program “Hands on Training”, which aims at eliminating boundaries and the gap between the private and the academic sector and empowering women in the ICT sector. Interviews were conducted to provide the women who passed with hands – on training experience and expose them to business mechanism in companies in the private sector.

### - 5/5/2019, Ramallah

Finishing Google Skills Training Program in partnership with Google MENA - Dubai DIC Officers; 90 participants (programmers, entrepreneurs and students that are graduating; attended the workshop. The training was carried out at the Caesar Hotel in Ramallah and it covered the following topics: Digital Opportunities and Jobs, Social Media Channels, etc.



## First Meeting Summary

The new Board of Directors held their first meeting with the presence of its members and his excellency the Minister of Telecommunication and Information Technology Ministry- Isaac Seder. In this meeting; the new members of the board were selected and distributed after discussion.

## Second Meeting Summary

1. Setting the general policy plan of the board through 14 items approved by all members of the board.
2. The approval of 6 specific objectives the board will work towards achieving.

And those objectives are:

- Strengthening the relationship between all the members of the union, rebuilding trust and re-communicating with all non-active members.
  - Registering start-up companies in PITA, and providing a vision of how these companies can join and benefit from PITA.
  - Improving and strengthening the relationship with the government in order to serve the members more effectively.
  - Re- building the trust with the donors.
  - Maintaining the financial stability of PITA.
  - Having EXPOTECH in an innovative and creative way.
3. The Board shall provide a Financial report quarterly.

## Third Meeting Summary

1. Extension of the board previous decision until 1/9/2019 regarding the exemption of the members companies from the unpaid membership fees by the half for the last years. Providing that this decision does not include this year fees – 2019.
2. The board approved on 50% exemption for those who pay their subscription fees for the next year- 2020 before the date 1/9/2019.
3. Starting a campaign of activating and facilitating the the start-up companies to join PITA; as stated in the revised and approved bylaws during the last general assembly.
4. Encouraging the accession of the non-affiliated companies to pay membership fees only for the first year.
5. Activating an honorary member of the Union.
6. The members seek to implement reciprocal visits between the West Bank and Gaza Strip in order to strengthen the relationship between the both parties and to give the companies the opportunity to cooperate.
7. The Board approved on nominating members to represent the union in different committees.

Be A Member ! <http://home.pita.ps/wp/join-pita/>

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