

Message from the Chairman:

Dear all; Members of The Palestinian Information Technology Association of Companies- (PITA) and all the affiliated companies working in the ICT Sector.

One of the important things to point at is the constant effort that this Board and its' affiliated companies have provided and still providing in developing the ICT Sector because PITA's main strategy is to promote and enhance this sector at all levels; locally and internationally. The Board is aware of the importance of this sector and the major role it plays in optimizing and cultivating the Palestinian Economic and Social Growth, and in developing the Palestinian Infrastructure and other Economic and Developmental Sectors.

We realize the importance of this sector in creating job opportunities and opening new fields for graduates and helping entrepreneurs in developing their innovative ideas of different social and economic issues. In addition to the opportunities that this sector is providing in building new companies and initiatives in all aspects.

We truly appreciate **H.E Dr. Mohammad Shtayyeh thoughtful contribution** in the Fourth Edition of PITAtimes. We as a Board of Directors consider this Newsletter as a voice and a platform for members, companies and all workers in the ICT Sector, we trust that your active participation whether in reports or articles, will help us reaching out to the widest possible target and will help us enriching this Newsletter and make it a vital one that can reflect and promote this sector.

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Opening Statement from The Palestinian Prime Minister,

H.E Dr. Mohammad Shtayyeh

Dear all; Chairman and Members of The Palestinian Information Technology Association of Companies- (PITA) and all the affiliated companies under PITA's umbrella.

First of all; I would like to thank you for giving me such an opportunity to share my message with the talented entrepreneurs and businessmen from a field that is considered nowadays one of the most important fields in the **Palestinian Economic Development** and considered to be a shield that can stand against all the difficulties that our steadfast society faces in which it needs from all of us to reunite as a one force to overcome this crisis.

One of the Government's most important priorities and strategies is to empower the national products and expanding the production base to resist the Occupation's Economy and help the **Palestinian Economy** to be self-reliance. Through developing the ICT Sector, we can overcome the obstacles and the constraints that the Israeli Occupation impose; since investing in this sector and promoting its products locally and internationally contribute in building an independent National Economy, and in creating different job opportunities for graduates and using the **Palestinian** human capital especially under the global demand of all sectors on the modern technological tools and applications.

Opening Statement from The Palestinian Prime Minister - Cont.

Thus; the **Government** realize the importance of this promising sector in helping the **Palestinian Economy** to be an independent economy from the Israeli Economy, and realize the role that entrepreneurs play in enhancing and improving the quality of the provided services in both the private and the public sector.

We as a Government, provide our full support for the sake of developing the ICT Sector. We seek to help the companies working in this sector through providing incentives and encouraging investments. We also urge the public sector and its related institutions such as Palestine Monetary Authority, the Ministry of Telecommunications and Information Technology, the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Entrepreneurship and Empowerment to work jointly and effectively with the private sector to create and develop special applications regarding **FinTech** and **BlockChain** and their uses especially the digital currency as a step to be **economically independent** , and develop other applications for protecting the **Palestinian citizens** .

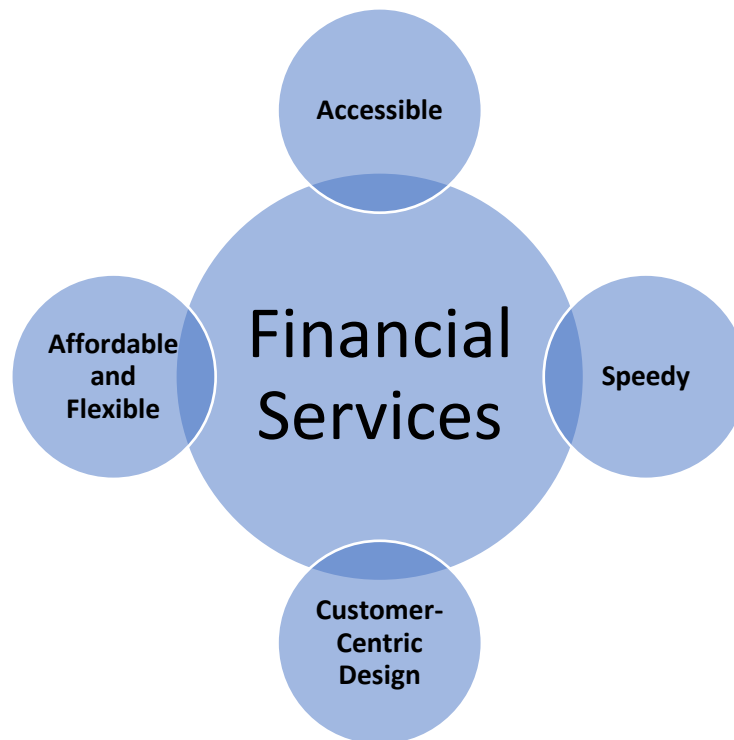
As the Prime Minister, it is my duty towards the **Palestinian people** to provide the **Government's** full support and commitment for developing and promoting the use of latest technologies and applications, and to harness the efforts of both the **Governmental** and the international bodies to achieve this national goal. We truly appreciate PITA's dedication towards this matter by spotting the lights on **FinTech** and **BlockChain** in **Expotech 2019**; which the **Government** will play a major role in by supporting these trends to develop the **Palestinian Economy** and find new innovative solutions to gradually liberate from the economic dependency of the Israeli Occupation.

The Government welcomes any kind of contribution that can improve the national growth and can help in providing new services and opportunities for all the talented **Palestinian Entrepreneurs**. We also hope that we will move from just a technology consumer to a producer and become a destination for exporting technology, and so we will be able to create a name for us in the world of technology that can compete at an international level. I reiterate my thanks and appreciation; wishing you all with more success and achievements; and look forward to building new and effective partnerships for developing the **Palestinian National Economy** and helping our country to be in the forefront.

FinTech – Digitally Disrupting Financial World

Over the past few years, the financial services industry has been technologically-led. Thanks to mobile and cloud computing, customers are embracing on-demand finance, through which they feel more comfortable in managing their money and business online. Nowadays, Banking, Financial Services and Fintech companies are the beneficiaries that stand to gain tremendously by demonstrating innovation in their business conduct and the services they provide, thus making them highly profitable over the years.

Innovators in this sector consistently work hard and try to realize new business models that provide efficient and accountable financial services in a speedy nature. Such models are unlocking the creation of entirely new products and services and are including people more in the formal financial system. As technology behind FinTech is growing fast, the financial sector is changing worldwide. Thanks to FinTech, access to financial products and services has never been easier.



Local Context

FinTech indeed has changed the way business is done in an effort to bring more financial inclusion to the table. The Prime Minister; H.E Dr. Mohammad Shtayyeh, stated in a press release *“We will not let the occupation stand in our face from being pioneers in the field of cryptocurrency.”*

He also added that the Palestinian government is consistently working on developing a payment mechanism other than the Israeli currency in order to avoid problems linked to the surplus of the shekel in the local market.

He also added that the Palestinian government is consistently working on developing a payment mechanism other than the Israeli currency in order to avoid problems linked to the surplus of the shekel in the local market. Over and above, the Palestine Monetary Authority (PMA) recognized the importance of advancing financial inclusion and the driving benefits from global experience through formulating a National Financial Inclusion Strategy (NFIS) in joint leadership with the Palestine Capital Market Authority (PCMA); which will cover the period between 2018 – 2025. Subsequent to the formulation of the NFIS, PMA created several steering committees to oversee the formulation of the strategy, amongst them is the FinTech Committee that is headed by the Palestinian Information Technology Association of Companies (PITA). This committee is dedicated to discuss the importance of FinTech, its policies, procedures, rules, regulations, benefits, etc., thus recognizing its vital role in the rise of the Palestinian society in front of the Israeli Occupation as an independent body.

Results of the committee's work shall be reflected during Palestine Tech week 2019! Stay tuned!

The overarching goal of the NFIS is to *“increase financial inclusion from the current level of 36.4% of adults to at least 50% of adults by the end of 2025.”* This goal will be achieved through promoting &

improving financial capability among students in schools/universities, women, youth, unemployed people, increase access to and usage of financial services, strengthen and protect the right of consumers of financial products and services, and most importantly strengthen the role of information and communication technology to expand the access to and usage of formal financial services.

The governor of Palestine Monetary Authority, Dr. Azzam Shawwa, stressed the importance of being up-to-date with developments in FinTech and to provide developed and safe technological infrastructure for those engaged in FinTech businesses. He also emphasized the importance of encouraging innovation and creativity in the development of services in the financial sector, in which such development is accompanied by regulatory environment to protect the rights of consumers and to launch awareness-raising campaigns about the risks and use of such technology.

The PMA has been lately working on changing the Palestinian society from relying on traditional cash methods in daily transactions to relying on modern technology for conducting transactions. Therefore, Palestine Monetary Authority has improved the level of financial services delivered to the Palestinian society by actual implementation of the National Financial Inclusion Strategy in Palestine.

Palestine Monetary Authority shall also be working, in the future, on an experimental environment (sandbox) in cooperation with technical parties. Mr. Shawwa said that Palestine Monetary Authority was working on launching electronic clearance system for cheques and had started to authorize companies to deliver payment services in Palestine.

Fifth Meeting Minutes

- **Expotech 2019:**

The Board discussed the theme and orientation of Palestine Tech Week – Expotech 2019. Expotech events will include a Gala Dinner and ICT Conference day which will focus on FinTech as well as conducting workshops at universities and special platforms so different companies can highlight and offer any solutions and services regarding FinTech. In addition to discussing the importance of reaching out and contacting with the key sponsors.

- **The Incentive Package :**

The Board discussed the regulation of the incentive package for the purpose of encouraging the investment in the Information and Communication Technology Sector. It was agreed on conducting a workshop in order to promote for this incentive package and its advantages. Note that the incentive package was extended.

- **ISPs :**

The Board discussed “Tamkeen Line” plan which the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology has implemented in cooperation with Paltel; which aims to enhance the resilience of the Palestinian citizens and enable them to have a full access to high-quality services at the lowest prices. In addition to discussing all the obstacles that the Israeli Occupation impose on the Telecommunications Sector. Furthermore, PITA will hold a workshop with the Ministry and all the involved parties to discuss this issue.

Going Digital: Palestinian Strategic Thoughts, Initiatives, and projects

By : Dr. Muntasser Khater

The Palestinian economy may have better improvements if the private sector considered as a key driver for economic growth. Along with NGOs, they contribute to more than 50%. Private sector accounts for more than 50 percent of employment. So, the private sector is the way that leads to sustainable development.

A well-developed private sector supports creativity, innovation, entrepreneurship, creates job opportunities, and contributes to national economy development. Startups and SMEs play vital role in solving economic problems. They are companies that are fast growing, innovation-driven and enabled by information technology.

Palestinian national economy is rich with successful startups which demonstrate outstanding entrepreneurship. They get benefits from government, public sector, private sector, NGOs, and international development agencies and organizations. However, entrepreneurship ecosystems are vital to make startups grow.

The crucial issue is the collaboration of the public and private sectors in the fields of digital development, especially in education, industry learning & development, and entrepreneurship using information and telecommunication Technology.

The development of the national economy depends on the educational Palestinian system. Its outputs should meet the needs and the requirements of the labor market. By bringing academia, industry, and technology together, the educational system outputs will be enhanced dramatically. Furthermore, special attention should be given to corporate learning and development programs through providing high quality service in line with the best industry practices and standards using up-to-date technology.



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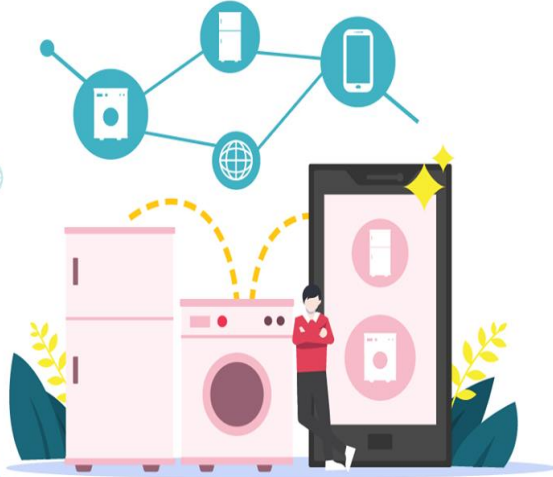
The most important initiatives in the field of improving the educational infrastructure lies in the digital development and digital transformation. This requires re-engineering process of the educational system, transition to digital education, and developing digital learning contents. This can be achieved by establishing virtual schools, virtual vocational training centers, and digital (virtual, smart) universities.

This requires government support, a wise vision and ambitious courageous initiatives to improve the quality of education, corporate learning & development, and radical changes to cope with the developments and challenges faced by Palestine in the field of professional development and rehabilitation of future generations.

The twelve articles to come on monthly basis, will address strategic thoughts, initiatives, and projects important topics on digital development, e-Government, e-Economy Center (e-Business Apps Center), virtual education (school, vocational and university alike), ... etc.

The way Forward: We need to switch from the traditional to digital format of thinking: Going Digital!

ماذا تعرف عن إنترنت الأشياء؟



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Internet of Things (IoT)

Let's start with understanding few things.

We are living in an era where Broadband Internet is become more widely available, the cost of connecting is decreasing and technology costs are going down and more devices are being connected to the Internet. The Internet of Things means taking all the things in the world and connecting them to the internet. The Internet of things (IoT) is a computing concept that describes the idea of everyday physical objects being connected to the internet and being able to identify themselves to other devices.

This is the concept of basically connecting any device with an on and off switch to the Internet. This includes everything from cellphones, coffee makers, washing machines, headphones, lamps, wearable devices and almost anything else you can think of. In other words, with the internet of things; the physical world is becoming one big information system.

A Special Invitation for ICT Start-Ups

If you have a start-up in the ICT sector and have been licensed for less than a year; we invite you to join the Palestinian Information Technology Association of Companies – PITA. In which you can have the membership advantages which in turn will help you in reaching project developers, funders, investors as well as experts who can provide you with consultancies and guidance.

To learn more about the benefits of becoming a member; you can click on this [link](#)

Terms of Accession:

- The company license shall not exceed more than one year.
- The company should be specialized in ICT field.
- Membership fees are paid for the first two years for 100\$ per year.

So come and join us, be a member with all major players in the Palestinian Digital Sector!



دعوة خاصة

للشركات الناشئة في
مجال تكنولوجيا المعلومات

يدعوكم اتحاد شركات أنظمة المعلومات الفلسطينية

بيتا

للانضمام إليه

شروط الانضمام إلى الاتحاد:

- 1 ألا يزيد ترخيص الشركة الناشئة عن عام واحد
- 2 أن تكون الشركة متخصصة في مجال تكنولوجيا المعلومات

يتم دفع رسوم عضوية لأول سنتين بقيمة 100\$ لكل سنة



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Upcoming Events

1. The Forth National Forum for the Forth Industrial Revolution, 9-10 September, Ramallah ; The HCIE is organizing the 4th National Forum about the 4th Industrial Revolution, under the auspices of H.E. Mr. President of the State of Palestine "Mahmoud Abbas". The forum aims to raise awareness of the Palestinian community about 4IR and the importance of keeping update, exchange of national and international experience on the use of the technologies that related to the 4IR, follow up the methods, strategies and mechanisms related to the 4IR and its implementation in Palestine, and analysis of the existing situation and bridge the current gaps.

2. The First Palestinian Conference Regarding the Palestinian Environment for incubating Entrepreneurship, 17th of September, Bethlehem. The Ministry of Entrepreneurship and Empowerment is organizing the First Palestinian Conference regarding Entrepreneurship that will be held in Bethlehem. The Conference will include all official institutions and stakeholders in the field of Entrepreneurship from the private and the financial sector, Business incubators, NGOs, talented entrepreneurs and international companies. The Conference aims to show the current status of the Palestinian Entrepreneurship in order to raise awareness and build new partnerships and networks on both the Palestinian – Palestinian level and the Palestinian – International level.

3. GITEEX, 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.

4. 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).

5. Expotech, Palestine 4 - 5 November 2019; EXPOTECH is an event that is dedicated to the information and communication technology in Palestine, hence spotting the lights on the latest technological trends and opportunities happening on both local and global levels. For its 16th anniversary, EXPOTECH technology week made itself a great platform to learn about new

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

6. 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

- 22/8/2019, Ramallah, The Board met with the a delegation from The American Near East Refugee Aid (ANERA) represented by its chairman Mr. Sean Carroll to discuss the prospects of the project RBK and ANERA in which it will be implemented in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and Jerusalem. The project aims at developing the personal and the ICT skills of the trainers through using modern technological tools and techniques.
- 19/8/2019, Ramallah, The Central Team of the E-Government held its regular meeting to discuss its achievements and challenges. The meeting was attended by The Undersecretary of the Ministry, the Minister's Advisor, The Director General of The E-Government, and members from different governmental and private and academic sectors. The meeting pointed to reforming The Ministerial Committee of The E-Government by Dr. Isaac Sider in which he assured the government's full support of the E-Government. Furthermore; the meeting reviewed The E-Government's last developments, its accomplishments and challenges and how to respond to such challenges.



- 14/8/2019, Ramallah, The third meeting of the national team for economic development was held by the Prime Minister H.E Dr. Mohammad Shtayyeh. During the meeting; the team discussed different ways to adopt for promoting and enhancing the renewable energy sector in Palestine which is a part of the government's strategy for resisting the occupation and to be self-reliance since most of the energy sources consumed locally are imported from Israel. It is worth mentioning that the meeting discussed different aspects for expanding and developing this sector, in addition to discussing the most dominant challenges and constraint which are mainly the Israeli legislations. The Prime Minister stressed on the importance of taking into consideration all the recommendations and the laws on the renewable energy sector and how to develop it.
- 9/8/2019, Gaza, PITA held a meeting with The Minister of Communications and Information Technology Dr. Isaac Sider with the presence of the Minister of Entrepreneurship and Empowerment Mr.Osama Al-Sa'dawi to discuss the status of the Palestinian ICT Sector; its challenges, last developments, success stories and ways of developing this sector. Dr.Isaac pointed first to PITAs' constant efforts since its establishment in developing the ICT sector and supporting its companies and employees despite all the difficulties, and he also pointed to the role of this sector in building innovative success stories that enable the Palestinian Economy in terms of self-reliance
- 6/8/2019, Gaza, A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between The Palestinian Information Technology Association of Companies –PITA and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) as a part of the “Temporary employment - money for work” Project; since a part of PITA's objectives is to support its members and the ICT graduates and to provide them with the needed skills to enter the labor market.
- 4/8/2019, Gaza, A delegation from the Employment, Educational and local vocational and technical training council has visited PITA headquarters in Gaza Strip to emphasize the joint work and enhance the cooperation. The meeting affirmed the importance of the permanent partnership between the two parties and pointed to the role that PITA has and still playing since its establishment in helping and developing the Palestinian society.





<p>شركة صبري البريم وشريكه عبد الله البريم</p> <p>اضغط هنا</p>		<p>Advanced Technologies for Business</p> <p>اضغط هنا</p>	
<p>Auxilium Technology</p> <p>اضغط هنا</p>		<p>Synergy Company</p> <p>اضغط هنا</p>	
<p>HYPER TECH</p> <p>اضغط هنا</p>		<p>ORCAS</p> <p>اضغط هنا</p>	
<p>Rwad Al Tayseer Company</p> <p>اضغط هنا</p>		<p>Wegroup</p> <p>اضغط هنا</p>	
<p>Tatwer</p> <p>اضغط هنا</p>		<p>Hexa For Information Technology</p> <p>اضغط هنا</p>	
<p>Inspire IT Solutions</p> <p>اضغط هنا</p>		<p>Tweets Tec</p> <p>اضغط هنا</p>	
<p>IT Venue</p> <p>اضغط هنا</p>		<p>Shift ICT</p> <p>اضغط هنا</p>	

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

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