



# GAID eNewsletter



**MR. SHA ZUKANG**  
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**GAID CAMPAIGN ON  
DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY**  
Training one million teachers in  
technology literacy

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Training one million teachers in technology literacy per year

## UNDESA-GAID Partners Open Campaign on Digital Technologies for Poor-Country Schools

MONTERREY, Mexico — An alliance bringing together the UNDESA-GAID network, Silicon Valley, UN agencies and the educational community is taking measured aim at the digital divide in global education — avoiding the errors of early attempts to force-feed personal computers on schools ill-equipped to put them to use.

The action plan was adopted at the Global Forum on ICT (information and communication technologies) in education in the northern Mexican city of Monterrey, an industrial and high-tech powerhouse in its own right.

Among the objectives of the partnership are to train and certify one million teachers annually at the “technology literacy” level; one-quarters of a million at the “knowledge-deepening” level; and 100,000 teachers per year at the level of “knowledge creation”.

“The first generation of digital aid to education concentrated on shipping as much hardware as possible to developing world institutions,” said Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, Chairman of UNDESA-GAID.

But in many cases computers are under-utilized by educators without necessary training or tech support, and/or are discarded because of technical glitches, creating hazardous waste situations.

“While continuing to find ways to make hardware available where it is of most benefit, the partnership will stress sustainability, in terms of helping governments to develop supportive

infrastructure and human resource development,” said Mr. Abu-Ghazaleh. “This approach is in line with our philosophy that the drivers of development must be grassroots population, local governments, local institutions and local businesses.”

Among the partners joining GAID in the “Monterrey Consensus on ICT in Education” are the Global e-Schools and Communities Initiative, the International Commission on Workforce Development, the Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization, Intel, Cisco Systems, the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, International Research and Education Organization, and NComputing.

Partners are developing frameworks for action with host governments, based on agreed principles and clear goals and targets, and formulated in terms of demand-driven country programmes.

For more information, contact Laura Tedesco at [tedescol@un.org](mailto:tedescol@un.org)

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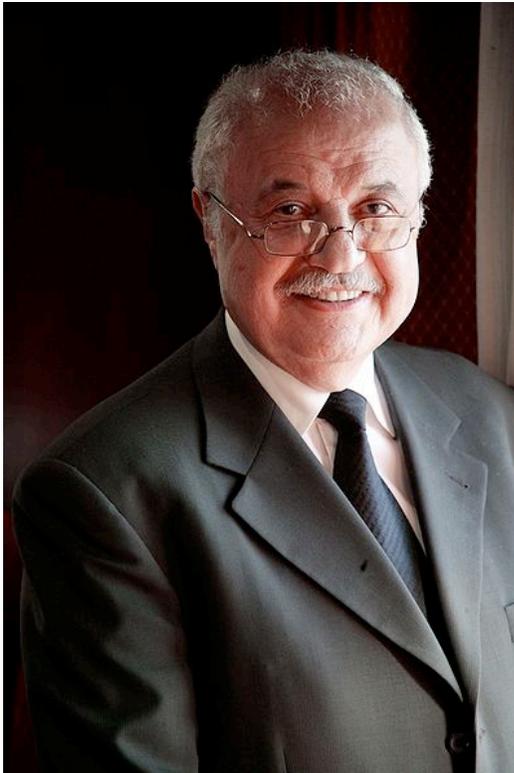
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# Feature Biogr@phy

## TALAL ABU-GHAZALEH

UNDESA-GAID Chairman; Founder and Chairman of Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization



**A BUSINESS PIONEER** in the Arab region and beyond, Mr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh has a long and acclaimed career. As Chairman and Founder of the international Jordan-based group, [Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization](#), and as a visionary contributor to socioeconomic development worldwide, his wide-ranging interests and contributions defy easy summary. However, a glance at his past reveals an engaging career with international development organizations and progressive business projects in the Arab world and globally.

With an accounting degree from the American University in Beirut, Mr. Abu-Ghazaleh began his career as an accountant. Founding his own accounting firm in the early

1970's, he quickly rose to a position of regional and international leadership, serving as a member of the boards of the International Auditing Practices Committee (IAPC), the International Federation of Accountants (1987-1990), and the International Accounting Standards Committee (1988-1990).

During the same decade, Mr. Abu-Ghazaleh formed the Arab Society of Certified Accountants (ASCA), the first professional organization for Arab accountants, which led to a career-long commitment to building infrastructure for the development of Arab professional services. He later created the Arab Society for Intellectual Property, Arab Knowledge Management Society, Licensing Executives Society - Arab Region, and other regional organizations to provide educational and regulatory support to Arab professions.

His business empire has developed in parallel with his commitments to Arab socioeconomic development and these two tracks have closely followed and complemented each other throughout his endeavors. Even prior to the popularity of corporate social responsibility initiatives and the UN Global Compact—where he is Deputy Chairman—, Mr. Abu-Ghazaleh has created a unique hybrid of a for-profit, private firm with a mission statement to “contribute to the socioeconomic development of the Arab world”.

It would not serve as a proper introduction to this peripatetic visionary and man of action to refrain from mentioning his love and sponsorship of the Arts. Mr. Abu-Ghazaleh has sponsored a wide range of musical events in London, Salzburg Amman, and Beirut, supporting international musicians like famed Arab pianist Ramzi Yassa, the Mozarteum Orchestra of Salzburg, and others.

Mr. Abu-Ghazaleh can best be understood through the eyes of his friends and colleagues who describe him as an Arab “Renaissance man” with an endless love, fascination, and commitment to not only economic enterprise, but also socioeconomic development.

Leadership Forum on Climate Change

## UN-backed Negotiations on Climate Change Pact Pick Up Pace

Climate change negotiations are picking up pace as they enter their final stretch towards the December conference in Copenhagen, Denmark, where countries are expected to wrap up talks on a new agreement to curb greenhouse gas emissions.

Some 4,000 people – including government delegates from 177 countries and representatives from the private sector and environmental organizations – have gathered on 28 September in Bangkok, Thailand, for the two-week penultimate round of negotiations ahead of the meeting in the Danish capital.

The Bangkok talks come on the heels of the recent high-level summit – the largest ever on climate change – convened by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon at UN Headquarters in New York.

The event drew some 100 heads of State and government who issued a call for a comprehensive pact to be reached in Copenhagen. The leaders also underscored the need to boost action to help the world's most vulnerable and poorest adapt to global warming, as well as the importance of industrialized countries agreeing on ambitious emissions reduction targets.

“Your words have been heard around the world. Let your actions now be seen. There is little time left. The opportunity and responsibility to avoid catastrophic climate change is in your hands,” Mr. Ban said at the end of the New York summit.

The negotiations in the Thai capital are expected to centre on the five areas discussed by world leaders in New York during the summit: adaptation action, technology, capacity building, finance, and REDD (reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries).

“Developing countries in our region have the potential to achieve a resource-efficient, low-carbon development pathway, but they cannot be expected to do this alone,” Noeleen Heyzer, who heads the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific ([ESCAP](#)), told the participants today.

She urged those in attendance to endeavor to achieve a “breakthrough on the arrangements and provisions for finance and technology for developing countries, which is key to unlocking the current impasse.”

The last round of negotiation before the the Copenhagen conference will take place in Barcelona, Spain in November.

*Information provided by UN News Centre.*



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GAID Participation in Climate Change

## Global Compact & GAID

UNDESA-GAID collaborated in the selection of participants for the UN Leadership Forum on Climate Change that took place on 22 September, 2009 at the UN Headquarters in New York.

Among the speakers and chairs for discussion were members of our GAID community, including Mr. Michael Landau, Chairman of MAP International and Mr. Mohsen Moazami, Managing Director at Cisco Systems.

Over 100 delegations at the Ministerial level attended the Forum. Plenary sessions were observed by the delegations via video feed and a facilitated discussion focused on what Governments can do to promote climate action by business and investors.

To download the 2009 Global Compact agenda, click here: [http://www.unglobalcompact.org/docs/issues\\_doc/un\\_business\\_partnerships/UNLF09\\_Agenda\\_Final.pdf](http://www.unglobalcompact.org/docs/issues_doc/un_business_partnerships/UNLF09_Agenda_Final.pdf)

22nd Annual ICT For Development Conference Series

## GreenTech & Sustainability

The Global Highway to Sustainable Business and Economic Development, UNDESA-GAID, and AIT Global organized their Annual GreenTech Conference at the UN Headquarters in New York on October 7, 2009.

The event was designed for Business and Government Executives, CxOs and direct reports, who want to leverage GreenTech for Sustainability. GreenTech Topics presented at the conference include: Energy Efficient Data Centers, Corporate Environmental Vision & Responsibility, and more.

More information regarding the conference can be downloaded at: <http://aitglobal.com/images/stories/greenconf/conferencebrochurefinal.pdf>



## ICT CALENDAR:

### OCTOBER

- Conference on Development & Information Technologies: Mobile Phones and Internet in Latin America and Africa
  - Barcelona, Spain; Oct 23-24
  - [http://www.infodev.org/en/Event\\_363.html](http://www.infodev.org/en/Event_363.html)
- 3rd Global Forum on Innovation and Entrepreneurship
  - Florianópolis, Brazil; Oct 26-30
  - <http://www.gf-bns.net/ingles/>

### NOVEMBER

- The Annual Ministerial Meeting of UNDESA-GAID Network of Transition Economies
  - Baku, Azerbaijan; Date: TBA

### DECEMBER

- Roundtables for Enhancing Governance with Applications of ICT for Achieving the MDGs
  - Bangkok, Thailand; Dec 8-9
  - Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; Dec 14-15

### NEW UNDESA-GAID Publication

## 'Best Practices' on ICTs for Development



UNDESA-GAID presented a new forum for young people to showcase their experiences in using information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) for community development projects. Best practices, innovations, success stories and more were shared in the new e-Leaders ICT4D Best Practices Forum, powered by TakingITGlobal.

The UNDESA-GAID Committee of e-Leaders for Youth and ICT have selected the best of the best, and awarded the innovators with the most creative and impacting projects at the UNDESA-GAID Global Forum on ICT and Innovation for Education in September 2009 in Monterrey, Mexico.

These and other exceptional case studies have been published and presented at the Global Forum in Monterrey. This publication will be distributed to governments, civil society, academia, and private sector organizations around the world.

By highlighting and summarizing the 'Best Practices', the e-Leaders seek to promote these types of initiatives to improve pre-existing ventures or inspire the creation of new ICT-related projects.

To download 'Best Practices' on ICTs for Development click here: <http://unpan1.un.org/intradoc/groups/public/documents/gaid/unpan036084.pdf>

### ICT In Education for Development

## UNDESA-GAID WHITE PAPER



UNDESA-GAID collaborated with the Graduate Programme in International Affairs at The New School University on a research project examining the impacts of information and communication technologies (ICT), and their innovative characteristics, on the achievement of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In the framework of this research, teams of students at The New School were assigned to develop a series of white papers, one for each MDG cluster, to explore, in detail, how ICTs can contribute to the MDGs and make recommendations for policy-makers, government, donors and international development agencies. The aim of the research is to reinforce the case of ICTs as a crucial instrument for socioeconomic development.

The first White Paper, published in August 2009, is the first of the series. This paper focusing on 'Education' was prepared by: Brian Gutterman, Shahreen Rahman, Jorge Supelano, Laura Thies, and Mai Yang; and advised by Ambassador Rafat Mahdi.

The next group of six New School students have been selected to develop the second White Paper, focusing on Health. UNDESA-GAID will release this paper in December 2009.

The final White Paper on Education can be downloaded at: <http://unpan1.un.org/intradoc/groups/public/documents/gaid/unpan034975.pdf>

## ABOUT GAID: OUR MISSION & PUBLICATIONS

The Global Alliance for ICT and Development, an initiative approved by the United Nations Secretary-General in 2006, was launched after comprehensive worldwide consultations with governments, the private sector, civil society, the technical and Internet communities, and academia to promote policy dialogue and multi-stakeholder partnerships for action for the use of ICT and advancing the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

While the WSIS and the 2005 United Nations World Summits emphasized the importance of ICT in achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs, there was a need for a truly global forum that would comprehensively address cross-cutting issues related to ICT in development.

Recognizing that no single actor is capable of achieving the MDGs in isolation, the creation of an open and inclusive platform that can broaden the dialogue on innovative ways of harnessing ICT for advancing development is crucial.

The Global Alliance is a direct response to this need. With its multi-stakeholder approach, the Alliance reaffirms the belief that a people-centered and knowledge-based information society is essential for achieving better life for all. Help us empower the world's most disadvantaged people by getting them connected to the world economy and take advantage of the new opportunities created by ICTs.



Foundations of the Global Alliance for ICT and Development (2007)



Our Common Humanity in the Information Age: Principles and Values for Development (2007)



iGuide: ICTD Resources in Silicon Valley and the San Francisco Bay Area (2008)



RIOS Working Paper - Building Common Ground: United Nations Connecting with Silicon Valley

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