
Angel Investment Delegation to Jordan

November 8th – 12th, 2012

Objective

To help enhance the angel investment and venture capital industry in Jordan and facilitate partnerships between investors and entrepreneurs in the U.S. and the Middle East

Context

Amman is increasingly becoming home to a growing number of Internet startups, receiving support from investors like Intel Capital, Cisco Systems, Microsoft, Tiger Global Management, Hummingbird Ventures, Lumia Capital, Invus Financial Advisors, Abraaj Capital, GrowthGate Ventures, 500Startups, Wamda Ventures and Accelerator Technology Holdings, to name a few. Jordan ranks 10th globally and first in the Middle East and North Africa region on a measure for creative outputs, which includes per capita statistics on trademark registrations, use of technology and communications in business, creative goods exports and other such determinants.

However, Jordan and the MENA region more broadly do not have a culture of angel investing. There are limited funds that cater to the needs of seed, start-up and early stage companies. Angel investors are needed to help support the overall investment eco-system and to address the gap in financing. Supporting a professional angel investment network in the region is essential to creating and expanding companies, generating jobs and developing the investment ecosystem as a whole. **This delegation will take place November 8th- 12th.**

Delegation: Activities and Purpose

The delegation, consisting of 10 investors and serial entrepreneurs, will visit Jordan for 3-4 days and meet with partners from Jordan and the region. The program includes a startup tour of Amman, networking sessions with entrepreneurs and roundtables for the delegates to meet with established business leaders and VCs to discuss the entrepreneurship and angel ecosystem. The main anchor of the visit is the **Angel Networking Event** in Amman.

Angel Networking and Mentoring Sessions

This event is hosted by Oasis 500, the MENA region's premier education and counselor-driven seed investment program based in Jordan. Oasis 500 helps accelerate the transformation of ICT, mobile and digital media ventures. Since part of Oasis 500's mission is to create a new ecosystem to stimulate the creation and success of a large number of startups, it has led the movement to create a culture of angel investing in technology startups. Oasis 500's angel network events have become a regional destination for networking and pitching new ideas.

Angel Network Benefits and Outcomes

Investors will have the opportunity to explore investment opportunities in a fast-growing market and meet high quality, pre-screened early-stage companies, boosting Jordan's position as MENA's emerging venture capital hub;

Mentor young entrepreneurs, who will benefit immensely from the experience of American investors and entrepreneurs;

Delegates will meet with Jordanian business leaders and government stakeholders to discuss ways to support Jordan's angel investment ecosystem.