

Toukan Khaled

Minister of Education



Born in 1949, Mr. Khaled Toukan holds a B.E. degree in Electrical Engineering from the American University of Beirut, a M.Sc. degree in Nuclear Engineering from the University of Michigan, and a Ph.D. from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He took part in academics activities at the MIT in Cambridge MA, in Saudi Arabia, and in Karlsruhe in Germany. In 1990, he was appointed Chairman of the Department of Industrial Engineering at the University of Jordan, and Acting Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Technology (1995-1997). He subsequently became in 1997 President of the Al-Balqa Applied University. Mr. Khaled A. Toukan has received awards and scholarships for research from various foundations, among which the Deutsche Akademische Austauschdienst and the Theos J. Thompson Memorial Fellowship. He has published 23 articles in academics

journals. In 2000, he was appointed as Minister of Education.

Towards constructive strategies to use information and communication technologies for learning to live and work together

On the eve of holding the 46 th of International Conference on Education, the International Community is experiencing increasingly tremendous pace of changes brought about by growth of Information and Communication Technology and globalization which are accelerating the changes in the global economy and transforming the world into a global village.

This growth is accordingly, transforming the people live and work, and presenting us with imperative challenges we must meet through identifying and practicing ways and to build and live in a peaceful global community based on respect of the differences among us and appreciation of social and cultural diversity.

As a consequence, governments in both developed and developing countries are undertaking steps to upgrade their Information and Communication Technology network and incorporating it as an integral component of their social and economic development strategies.

No one doubts that the most effective way to meet these challenges is through education. Education is a fundamental role to play in forecasting and identifying the future needs of society and working towards fulfilling these needs. It should establish the type of education that will enable all individuals to be fully aware in realizing their humanity and develop their creativity and be able to live in harmony with themselves and within the terms of their world. Education should prepare people to succeed in guiding their life in a more complex world. It must take the lead in facilitating an environment in which individuals grow to become productive knowledgeable citizens, ready to interact with the information age revolution and access, synthesize and apply information at the right form. The educational systems should bear the primary responsibility for achieving these goals. Clean – sighted constructive strategies aiming at the improvement of the quality of education through the integration ICT into it should be identified. A shared vision should contribute towards achieving e-learning systems, facilitating the acquisition of knowledge skills and abilities required in the information age; encouraging creative thinking and lifelong learning; enhancing schools linkages to the outside world; generating innovative processes in education and developing effective administrative systems.

I truly believe that we, as Ministers of Education, with our partners in the International Community, should work together to bear our responsibilities in this regard and continuously endeavor to make vigorous initiatives in creating ideas and opportunities which would contribute in realizing a better future for our people and the coming generations. ✍