



League of Arab States

**The League of Arab States & The Council of Arab Ambassadors in Washington, D.C.
invite you
to**

U.S.-Arab Entrepreneurship & Innovation Forum

“A Look Forward”

and

The Fourth Annual

ARAB-AMERICAN DAY



Friday, December 4, 2015

Conference : 1:00pm - 6:00pm

Reception & Gala : 6:00pm-9:00pm

Registration for Forum starts 12 :00pm- and for Reception & Gala starts at 6:00pm

Annually, the Arab-American Day, brings together the diplomatic community, businesses, government, Arab-American leaders and community to celebrate the achievements and professional advancement of the Arab-American community. This year, Arab-American Day will feature a program aimed at celebrating Arab entrepreneurship and innovation at the nexus of government relations, public-private partnerships and community development.



ABOUT:

Arab-American Day 2015 will bring together industry leaders, entrepreneurs, investors, incubators, public sector officials, investors, and thought leaders from across the Arab region and Arab-American communities, to exchange ideas and resources with the goal of building a collaborative ecosystem to foster economic growth, promote job-creation, and inspire innovation and social impact.

ENTREPRENEURIAL FORUM OVERVIEW:

The Forum panels and workshops will bring together key stakeholders for in depth discussions to brainstorm, tackle challenges, and produce a roadmap for action to improve the Arab innovation and entrepreneurial ecosystem and explore how to connect it to the larger global ecosystem. The Forum will feature an Innovation Marketplace to showcase best practices, facilitate networking opportunities and highlight success stories.

GOALS:

1. Inspire the Arab, Arab-American, and general public with stories of entrepreneurial and innovative successes across a variety of sectors that have created transformative businesses and technologies with significant long-term impact in their respective fields;
2. Provide a space for Arab and Arab-American entrepreneurs to share their resources, stories, challenges, and ideas, so as to build bridges of opportunity between these two communities; and
3. Highlight the work of Diaspora capacity-building organizations, investors, public sector officials that are interested in facilitating the work of Arab and Arab-American entrepreneurs and to discuss how this work may be done more effectively over the coming 5 years.



PROGRAM - 2015
U.S. -Arab Entrepreneurship & Innovation

1:00pm-2:00PM - PANEL1

Trends in Entrepreneurship in the Middle East and North Africa

Expert panel including practitioners, government representatives and investors on trends in entrepreneurship in MENA. Panel will provide an overview of the ecosystem and will showcase trends, developments and challenges.

2:00-3:00 PM - PANEL 2

Tools for Development: Entrepreneurship & Social Issues

An interactive exploration of how entrepreneurship and innovation can be at the forefront of addressing social challenges faced in the Arab region and its Diaspora including: social inclusion, gender rights, human rights, taboos around disability, Immigration/Refugees

3:00-3:30 PM - LIGHTNING TALKS

Lightning Talks & Interactive Discussion: Behind the Scenes of Failure, Success and Opportunity

5 brief presentations by entrepreneurs and innovators on their entrepreneurial journeys.

3:30-4:30 PM - PANEL 3

A Success Ecosystem: The Role of the Private-Public Sectors in Facilitating Entrepreneurship

This interactive conversation with industry leaders. Panel will explore current trends in access to capital and financial resources. It will discuss corporate public-private partnerships and how to leverage the private sector & government to better support Arab Innovation & Entrepreneurship. The panel will focus on an exploration of opportunities.

4:30-5:30pm - SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

Fostering Innovation: From Education to Job Creation

Addressing the status quo, and finding effective and innovative solutions for illiteracy, learning challenges and unemployment, especially in post-war zones. Building a Knowledge-generating and innovation-driven nations in key sectors that address regional and global challenges.

5:45-6:15 PM - CLOSING PANEL

A Look Forward: A Roadmap for Action

Closing remarks & defining a way forward based on Forum conversations & outcomes. Session led by keynote speaker with inputs from topic based rapporteurs .

5:30-9:00pm - Marketplace Exhibition

Capacity building organizations showcase who they are, what they do, resources they provide, and how to connect with them.

*****END ENTREPRENEURIAL FORUM*****

Arab -American Day Reception 2015

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6:00 pm: REGISTRATION

6:15-7:00PM: ARAB-AMERICAN DAY COCKTAIL RECEPTION

Marketplace - Exhibition on Arab-American History & Photography by Lily Bandaq.

7:00-7:05PM: Presentation on Arab League 70th Anniversary

7:05-7:30PM : REMARKS

- **Ambassador Salah A. Sarhan** - Chief Representative of the Arab League in D.C.
- **Ambassador Antoine Chedid** - Ambassador of Lebanon in Washington, D.C.
- **Ambassador David Thorne** -Senior Economic Advisor to Secretary of State.
- **Mr. Ralph Nader** - Author, lecturer, attorney, and political activist. A four-time candidate for President of the United States.
- **Mr. David Hamod** - President & CEO | National U.S.-Arab Chamber of Commerce.

7:30-7:45PM: LIVE MUSIC

With Egyptian "OUD" Composer Ramy Adly & First Syrian Opera Singer Lubana AlQuntar.

7:45-9:00PM: BUFFET & RECEPTION

****END ARAB-AMERICAN DAY 2015****
