IDEAS
ACCELERATE
GROWTH.

Monday, October 7, 2019

To the Kind Attention of:

Mr. Emre Gurkan
CEO – Touch

Mr. Nadim Khater
CCO - Touch

| Subject | Requesting your kind contribution to the **Bawabat Al Ibtikar** (Innovation Gate) Pilot Program |

Dear Sirs,

> *Close to **500,000 students** in Lebanon are enrolled in public schools where tech-ability is not part of the curriculum. In the absence of Internet connectivity, computer labs or technology orientation at public schools, about 50% of Lebanon's school student body may not be technologically prepared through basic, early training for Lebanon's future knowledge economy.*

It is with great pleasure that we at IDEAS reach out to your esteemed organization for supporting the **Innovation Gate** initiative that should change the interaction of Lebanese public school students with the world outside their school walls.

IDEAS is a citizen-centric, knowledge-driven organization working to unleash creativity and innovation nationwide. We aim to establish Lebanon as a regional hub and exporter of innovation by working with academia, researchers, entrepreneurs, business leaders in Lebanon and globally, as well as the government. We work to leverage technology and innovation for rapid economic growth.

Our **Innovation Gate** program, otherwise known as **Bawabat Al Ibtikar**, aims to establish early cognitive capabilities for public school students by creating innovative spaces that integrate technology with education through STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) activities. Innovation Gate adds a necessary progressive dimension to learning that is totally absent from the Lebanese public school system.

Having created the makerspaces at 5 schools representing the Innovation Gate pilot, and while awaiting the Ministry of Telecommunications to provide fiber-optic connections at these schools (as attached), we hereby call upon Touch to bridge the gap ahead of the launching of the program in November 2019 and provide each of the 5 schools with **4G connectivity and a 100 GB bandwidth for up to 40 users**, until such time as the Ministry of Telecommunications provides the permanent fiber-optic solution.

By supporting the tech-ability of these spaces, your organization would be at the forefront of change and capacity building in the quest to improve technological awareness amongst public school students and teachers in Lebanon. The Innovation Gate and IDEAS look forward to bringing your name across various media, from TV shows to newsletters, social media as well as through recognition events as a token of appreciation for your efforts.

Sincerely Yours,

_____

Ghiath Al Barazi
Chairman
IDEAS Accelerate Growth

The Project

Stimulating **Critical thinking, Communication, Collaboration, Creativity & Coding** *in Lebanon's public schools*

The Association of Ideas that Accelerate Growth (IDEAS) is working in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE), the Ministry of Telecommunications as well as a host of training and content delivery partners to **create innovative spaces in Lebanese public schools that integrate technology with education through STEAM** (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) activities.
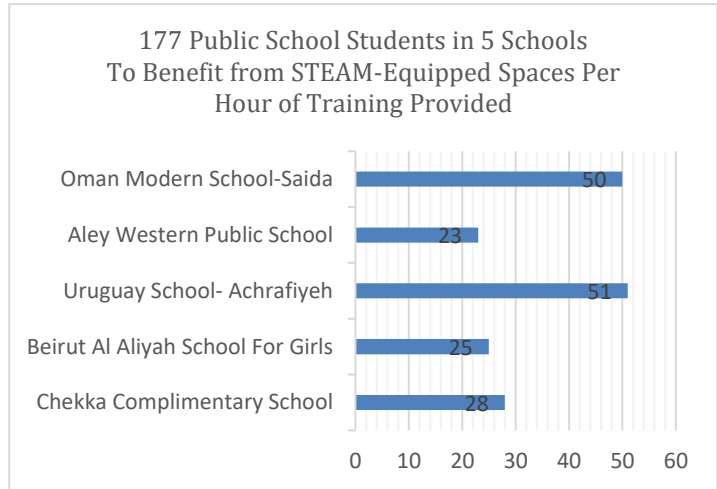

Space Capacity & Furniture	Equipment	Fittings
o Minimum 36 m² o Capacity of 20-25 Students o Large square table and chairs (mobile furniture) o Whiteboards, Glass-boards o Shelves and Lockable Cabinets	o 20 Laptops o 24/7 Internet Connection o Wi-Fi and Switch o HDMI TV Screen o Video Conferencing Camera o 1.5 KVA UPS o Server, Firewall, and Licenses o Network Cables & Access Point o 3D Printer o Scanner and Printer	o Climate Control o Optimal Lighting o Tile Flooring o Surveillance Camera o Electric Sockets, Extension Cords, Power Sources o Basic First-Aid Kit

By engaging such institutions as the **American Community School (ACS), ESRI Lebanon, Teens Who Code, Injaz and many others** on the training side, public middle-school students, who are currently technologically disconnected, are expected to be connected through fiber-optic networks and exposed to the technology environment from basic introduction to systems and software all the way to coding and robotic skill sets. In addition, public school staff will also be exposed to training by capable partners on aspects such as coding, gaming, 3D design, robotics, as well as other design thinking components within a capacity-building program administered by the American Community School (ACS).

The Pilot

The Lebanese MEHE has nominated 5 schools across the country to represent the Innovation Gate's pilot. In each school:

- 5 fully equipped technology spaces will be created by this IDEAS fundraising campaign, supplied with computers for up to 20 students at a time, peripherals and high speed internet connectivity.

- The program's training partners will provide an average of 72 hours of training per school in a given academic year.

177 Public School Students in 5 Schools To Benefit from STEAM-Equipped Spaces Per Hour of Training Provided

School	Value
Oman Modern School-Saida	50
Aley Western Public School	23
Uruguay School- Achrafiyeh	51
Beirut Al Aliyah School For Girls	25
Chekka Complimentary School	28

- Outside of the essential training hours, facilitators at the public schools themselves, being capable personnel with ICT backgrounds and ex-USAID trainees at these schools, will be trained to run and manage the spaces for the benefit of the student body throughout the year

- The training partners' platforms will be installed permanently at these schools, amongst other programs.

- The American Community School (ACS) will work on training public school staff (being facilitators, principals and members of DOPS) on design thinking components within a capacity-building program during the first scholastic year.

- All training partners are providing their time, content and expertise free of charge for this pilot program. Future sustainability of the developed spaces will be funded through a formula that engages the key public sector stakeholders in this program with the private sector content delivery partners.

- DOPS[1] representatives, schools principals and selected facilitators will be trained to monitor the quality and level of content delivery at the technology spaces through to the future.

- IDEAS will have a hands-on monitoring role throughout one scholastic year, during which it will be ensured that each school is provided with all the tools, skills, and human resources needed to operate the space independently – thus creating a modular system that is easily replicable.

---

[1] مركز الإرشاد والتوجيه في وزارة التربية - *Direction d'Orientation Pedagogique et Scolaire (DOPS)*

Some of Our Content Delivery Partners

Agreements are being discussed, customized and finalized with the below potential content delivery partners:

Codi is a combination between a coding boot-camp and a leadership program whose aim is to get underprivileged youth to participate in the growing needs of the local ICT and Software sectors (www.codi.tech).

An online platform that teaches robotics and coding in a fun and attractive way using real-life missions, Cherpa provides youth with soft and technical skills to help them access better jobs in the future.

Cranium is an educational platform that exposes young people to STEAM activities through a fun learning experience. CRANIUM delivers science, tech, coding and robotics, math and arts activities that build self-confidence, teamwork, investigative skills, as well as project management skills using well-structured programs.

Established in 2007, Esri Lebanon is a service company providing Geographic Information System (GIS) software, training, support and consultancy. The company supports organizations working in conservation, education, environmental management, ocean science, green energy, sustainable development, and humanitarian affairs.

A non-profit organization aiming to educate and prepare Lebanon's youth to become qualified and successful employees and entrepreneurs in a growing regional and global economy, Injaz actively engages the business community through a volunteer-based model that allows independent professionals and corporate volunteers to share their experiences within educational programs that focus on entrepreneurship, work readiness and financial literacy.

TeensWhoCode is the first Lebanese programming academy offering computer science education to students between the ages of 9 and 18 years. Their flagship "Unleash Your Potential" Summer Camp offers programming & entrepreneurial education. Their goal is to introduce coding and computer science education to every student in Lebanon.

The local daily newspaper An Nahar will be providing workshops on writing and publishing articles, as well as learning about current events.

Lebanese Alternative Learning is an NGO which aims to develop alternative educational resources through technology and creative interventions that would limit or avoid school dropouts. Through a network of educators, education technology experts, artists and communication specialists LAL works to enhance teaching methods and practices in Lebanon, empower vulnerable communities and ensure all children receive an engaging and effective learning experience.

ACS is an accredited, not-for-profit, independent and secular American College Preparatory School serving a multi-cultural international student body. ACS provides internationally-enriched, standard-based curricula, preparing students for the International Baccalaureate, the Lebanese Baccalaureate, and the American College Preparatory Diplomas.

Dot is a Canadian charitable organization and social enterprise that delivers technology, entrepreneurship and leadership training programs to young people in East Africa, the Middle East, and Latin America.