

TAKREEM Award Ceremony awards Arab champions



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Following Beirut, Doha, Manama, Paris, Marrakesh, Cairo, and Amman, the 2018 TAKREEM Award Ceremony was held in Kuwait on Saturday 17 November under the Patronage of the Emir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. The ceremony took place at the Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Cultural Center and was attended by more than 1000 invitees from different parts of the world.

TAKREEM was founded to celebrate such Arab men and women who are each making history in their own way.

This year, the following laureates were recognized for their achievements:

-Dr. Ahmed Mater – KSA for the Cultural Excellence Award

- Dr. Sami Hourani – Jordan** for the Young Entrepreneur Award
- Dr. Nadine Hachach Haram – Lebanon** for the Young Entrepreneur Award
- Mrs. Magda Gobran – Egypt** for the Humanitarian and Civic Services Award
- Mrs. Fareah Al Saqqaf – Kuwait** for the Outstanding Arab Woman Award
- Prof. Tahar Ben Lakhdar – Tunisia** for the Excellence in Education Award
- Dr. Majdah Aburas – KSA** for the Environmental Development and Sustainability Award
- Prof. Rachid Yazami – Morocco** for the Scientific and Technological Achievement Award
- American Near East Refugee Aid; ANERA – USA** for the International Contribution to Arab Society Award
- Mr. Emile Haddad – Lebanon** for the Corporate Leadership Award
- Dr. Nadia Sakati from KSA** received the Special Distinction Award.
- The Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah** was bestowed a Lifetime Achievement Award. The “Legacy Award” was given to the memory of **The Late Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah**.



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Among the winners, Dr. Nadine Hachach Haram, who received the Young Entrepreneur Award, spoke to *AMEinfo* about her revolutionary AR technology Proximie. Proximie allows surgeons to conduct medical operations from across the globe through the use of AR and other online and physical technology, to bridge the skill gap found in several struggling countries. It gives surgeons the ability to interact visually and practically with an operation, from start to finish.

Dr. Sami Hourani, the Jordan-hailing winner of the Young Entrepreneur Award, discussed with *AMEinfo* his two online platforms: for9a.com, an education online platform, and Souq Fann, the MENA’s number one e-commerce portal for handicrafts and local art products.

“For9a.com was a blog where we posted opportunities related to education, capacity building, career transformation... Then it started growing – it started in Jordan – gradually it started growing to the region,” Dr. Hourani said. “We currently reach 8 million young people in the Middle East and North Africa. We connect them to educational opportunities that vary from scholarships, training, conferences, exchange programs, and other curricular and extra-curricular educational activities.”

“We started Souq Fann 3 months ago,” he continued. “The [e-commerce] market is still growing in the region. Online payment and shipping are our main challenges for e-commerce in the region.”

Souq Fann currently only ships inside Jordan, and Dr. Hourani is planning to ship to the rest of the Middle East very soon.

READ: Beirut Digital District wants to “put Lebanon on the global map”

The **TAKREEM 2018 Jury Board** is composed of Sheikha Paula Al Sabah, Dr. Nouha Alhegelan, Mr. Aziz Mekouar, Mr. Carlos Ghosn, Dr. Akef Maghraby, Lady Hayat Palumbo, Dr. Farida Allaghi, Dr. Ahmed Heikal, Mr. Khaled Janahi, Mrs. Nora Joumblatt, Shaikha Hala Al Khalifa, Mr. Riad Al-Sadik, Mr. Raja Sidawi, Dr. Elyès Jouini, Princess Alia Tabbaa and Sheikh Saleh Al-Turki.

TAKREEM 2018 Honorary Board, presided by HM Queen Noor Al-Hussein, includes HE Dr. Hilal Al Sayer, HE Dr. Barham Salih, HE Dr. Lakhdar Brahimi, HE Mr. Farouk Hosny, Dr. Suad Juffali, HE Sheikha Mai Al Khalifa, HRH Princess Banderi AlFaisal, Mr. Samer Khoury, HE Mr. Amre Moussa, and Mr. Marc Levy.

Mrs. Laila AlShaikhli hosted the Award Ceremony that was followed by a gala dinner.

TAKREEM was given support by the following strategic partners:

Renault-Nissan-Mitsubishi Alliance, Nesma, Barclays, Consolidated Contracting Company CCC, Kuwait Banking Association, Omnicom, Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait, Kuwait Red Crescent Society.

Agility, Ali Abdulwahab Al Mutawa Commercial Co., Zain Kuwait, Fouad Alghanim & Sons, Kuwait Airways, Mohamed Abdulrahman Al-Bahar, Kuwait Banking Association, and Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah Foundation sponsored the Award night.