



PRESS RELEASE

UNDP Assists in Establishing e-Learning Portal

Jerusalem, September 10th 2003: With constant closures of cities and villages by the Israeli military, there is perhaps no area in the world where information technology (IT) provides such great potential for overcoming real barriers.

One excellent example of this is a new project launched by the Information Technology and Communication Centre of Al-Quds Open University, which is one of the largest universities in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt), and supported by the Palestinian Development Gateway and UNDP's Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People (UNDP/PAPP). The objective of the project is to establish an e-learning portal where students from across the oPt can review their course material and even have personalized learning sessions.

The portal would allow students and instructors to communicate, exchange ideas, and questions in a virtual classroom. It will also facilitate the activities of the University such as course management, assignments and examinations. The system will also form a repository of the University's resources required for both student and instructor.



With 41,000 students spread across the West Bank and Gaza, and the severe restrictions on movements of Palestinians, the benefits of this project for student and instructor are immeasurable.

This project could not have seen the light of day were it not for the commitment of the University to the idea of using information technology solutions to overcome real problems, and were it not for the expertise of the Palestinian Development Gateway and assistance of UNDP. The Palestinian Development Gateway is a not-for-profit institution that has the objective using information and communication technology to support sustainable development in the oPt.

"We are extremely pleased to be part of this important initiative as it fits into our vision of electronic learning and are keen and committed to utilize this platform not just for E-learning but for all our activities". Said Dr. Younis Amr, President of Al-Quds Open University. Mr. Saleh Majaj, Director of Palestine Development Gateway continued by saying that this centre has a lot of potential not just to serve the university but other sectors as well as it is considered as one of the best equipped centers in the West Bank and Gaza.



“We are happy to provide this modest assistance that will go a long way not only in relieving the students and instructors from the severe restrictions on their movement, but also by establishing the foundation for the use of ICT to posit creative solutions for education” said Sufian Mushasha, Head of the Human Development unit at UNDP/PAPP.

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