



Overview

MIT Enterprise Forum
About the MIT Enterprise Forum Inc

The MIT Enterprise Forum Inc is located on the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) campus in Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA. The Forum is founded by the MIT Alumni Association in 1978 as a non-for-profit and volunteer-driven organization that builds connections to technology entrepreneurs and to communities in which they reside as well as produces a series of educational programs about entrepreneurship through its

network of 24 worldwide chapters.

The MIT Enterprise Forum for the Pan Arab Region (Lebanon) Launched in Beirut, where a strong and active alumni community is concentrated, the MIT Enterprise Forum for the Pan Arab Region (Lebanon) is the 6th International Chapter and the first one in the Arab world.

The MIT Enterprise Forum for the Pan Arab Region (Lebanon) aims at furthering economic and technological growth and competitiveness of Lebanon and the Pan Arab region covering North Africa, the Middle East, and the Gulf. Its main objective is to develop and nurture a culture of entrepreneurship by providing the necessary opportunities to new as well as seasoned entrepreneurs to learn, hone their skills, network with all relevant business constituencies, and interact with the global entrepreneurship culture.

Activities

The MIT Enterprise Forum for the Pan Arab Region (Lebanon) organizes and manages a set of activities targeted at achieving its objectives. These activities are centered on: Hosting Global Broadcasts organized by the MIT Enterprise Forum Inc.

These events are unique informative programs, discussions, or debates, that engage global business leaders from around the world in a televised program simultaneously broadcasted or replayed by DVD to all Forum chapters across the globe.

Organizing and sponsoring a yearly business plan competition modeled around the MIT 50k MIT Entrepreneurship Competition. Assisting the MIT Sloan School of Management in marketing and developing the Sloan Fellows Program and Entrepreneurship Development Program in the Arab region and Lebanon. Providing networking opportunities to the local members as well as establishing networking connections with the other Chapters and their members. The networking activities would be fostered through technical meetings, social events, and a newsletter published by the Chapter.

Members of the Board

The MIT Enterprise Forum for the pan Arab Region (Lebanon) is directed by a volunteer Board who donate time and services and whose members are mainly MIT alumni

Chair: Hala Fadel, MBA 2001

Vice Chair: Ziad Ferzly, MBA 1997

Treasurer: Ziad Younes, SM 1997

Secretary-General: Salam Yamout

Member: Maha Yahya, PhD 2004

The Board is in process of assigning a Pan Arab Board of Advisors. It has designated the Honorary President of the MIT Club of Lebanon, Mr. Nicolas Chammas, SM 1986, to act as the first Chair of the Board of Advisors.

About the MIT Arab Business Plan Competition:

The MIT Arab Business Plan Competition is the first of its kind in the Arab world. The Competition is designed to encourage all entrepreneurs in the region to start their own company and, ultimately, create a nest of leading firms in the Arab world. It also brings to the Arab world all the MIT expertise in entrepreneurship and in running such competitions. The equivalent of the MIT Arab Business Plan Competition in Boston is called the MIT 50K Entrepreneurship Competitions and has created a number of leading firms and thousands of jobs.

How to Apply :

Teams interested in joining the Competition must secure a username and password per team by clicking on the "Apply Now" button on the home page of the website. The website will be open for registrations starting Monday, November 10, 2008. Using their credentials, users are required to fill the online application form consisting of 16 questions that summarize their business idea and the means of implementing it. The application is available in English language only and should be filled in English too.

The user may save the application as many times as necessary to fill it. Once duly completed, the application will be considered for grading by pressing the "Submit" button. The deadline for submitting the applications is Thursday, January 22, 2009 at 23:59, Beirut time.

Eligibility:

The Competition is open to all Arab nationals with a business idea. The only requirement is to be part of a team. You cannot enter the Competition as one person. We believe that a viable team should comprise minimum 3 individuals.

- 1) At least 2 members of the team should be citizens of the Arab world - see eligible countries below
- 2) The business concept should be implemented in a country within the Arab world - see eligible countries below

List of Eligible Countries:

Lebanon (host country), Algeria, Bahrain, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, UAE, Yemen

Awards:

The winner of the Competition will receive prize money of USD 50,000.

The check will be issued in the name of the company. , the members of the winning team will be given the opportunity to attend the MIT Global Startup Workshop (GSW).

The first and second runner-ups will receive a check of USD 10,000 and USD 5000 respectively.

Besides the financial reward, the winning teams will be provided with coaching/mentoring from the members and network of the MIT Enterprise Forum who will also help the winners get their businesses up and explore further funding opportunities by introducing them to business development centers, financing institutions, and similar organizations.

Competition Rounds

Round I:

Website Opens for Registrations, 10 November 2008:

Teams interested in joining the Competition must secure a username and password per team by clicking on the "Apply Now" button on the home page of the website. The website will be open for registrations starting Monday, November 10, 2009. Using their credentials, users are required to fill the online application form consisting of 16 questions that summarize their business idea and the means of implementing it. The application is available in English language only and should be filled in English too.

Submitting the Applications, 22 January 2009:

The user may save the application as many times as necessary to fill it.

Once duly completed, the application will be considered for grading by pressing the "Submit" button. The deadline for submitting the applications is Thursday, January 22, 2009 at 23:59, GMT.

Announcing First Round Winners, 23 February 2009:

On Monday, February 23, 2009, thirty teams will qualify for the second round of the Competition. The names of the winning teams will be posted on the Competition's website. Teams are then advised to do thorough research on business planning, acquire as much knowledge possible about their business field, and develop at least a first draft of their business plan. They can make use of the material available in the "Help Center".

Round II:

Meeting & Workshop in Beirut and Access to Mentors, 21-23 March 2009:

After 6 weeks of preparations on their own, the 30 teams will be invited to Beirut on 21-23 March 2009 to attend a workshop lead by Ken Morse, Managing Director of MIT Entrepreneurship Center in Cambridge, MA.

Each team will also be designated a mentor who can help on the business plan. Teams will have the chance to ask questions and get answers that are specific to their concept all over the period preceding the deadline of submission.

Submitting Business Plans, 13 April 2009:

The deadline for submitting the full business plans is Monday, April 13, 2009 at 23:59, GMT.

Announcing Second Round Winners, 19 May 2009:

On Tuesday, May 19, 2009, 9 teams will qualify for the third round of the Competition. The names of the winning teams will be posted on the Competition's website.

Round III:

Oral Presentations in Dubai, 11 June 2009:

The 9 teams will be invited to Dubai to present their business plans on Thursday, June 11, 2009.

Awards Ceremony in Dubai, 12 June 2009:

The 3 winning teams will be announced in a ceremony in Dubai on Friday, June 12, 2009.