



OOREDOO ORGANIZES 24-HOUR CHALLENGE FOR PROTÉGÉS

TO ENCOURAGE CRITICAL THINKING AMONG THE PARTICIPANTS

KUWAIT: Ooredoo, Kuwait's fastest network, organized a 24-hour challenge to the Protégés students last week in the company's head office, aimed at encouraging students' critical thinking and team work efforts.

The 24-hour challenge included a number of presentations by Ooredoo Kuwait representatives from a variety of departments, in addition to workshops and inspirational talks by guest speakers. The challenge culminated in a presentation prepared by the students demonstrating their understanding of the telecom market in Kuwait, where they were asked to launch a mock product with a full-fledged campaign.

Commenting on this initiative, Ooredoo Kuwait's CSR, Sponsorship and Social Media manager Yousef Al-Shallal, noted the success of the 24-hour challenge, lauding the commitment of the students and the dedication of the organizers from the Protégés program. "We're always seeking new ways to challenge youth, and provide them with tools that empower them. We had a successful partnership with the Protogés, who embody a number of great values that we strongly believe in, such as challenging and connecting."

He added: "The program focuses on a number of core values and skills such as tolerance, critical thinking, and creativity, which are important assets in creating future leaders. It has achieved unparalleled success throughout the years, and we look forward to meeting the graduates of 7th generation of the Protégés."

Shallal also reiterated that Ooredoo is keen on supporting initiatives aimed at youth development, and emphasized on the importance of the partnership with various state sectors to accomplish this target. Ooredoo has recently announced renewing its sponsorship of the Protégés youth development program in its seventh season. The unique program, which focuses on developing and training a cohort of 25 students between the



ages of 16 - 24, will include a trip to the European cities of Prague and Berlin.

Eman Al-Rasheed, Executive Manager of the Protégés expressed her pride in partnering with Ooredoo for a second consecutive year, which underscore Ooredoo's commitment to supporting youth and providing them with skills that create unique leaders. "We look forward

for more partnerships and support in creating a more aware generation of young innovative and creative thinkers," she added.

The Protégés program was launched in 2010 to mentor youth between the age of 16 and 24 by local iconic figures in different fields. For more information about the program, please visit www.theprotoges.org.



84.7% OF RESPONDENTS FIND INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH ONLINE JOB SITES

DUBAI: The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) area is large, vibrant and diverse and attracts many young job seekers and recent graduates every year who rigorously compete for internships and entry level jobs. In order to measure the market and availability of internships in the region, Bayt.com - the Middle East's #1 Job Site - conducted a poll titled "Internships in the Middle East and North Africa," in which more than eight in ten respondents (84.7 percent) claimed that they are able to find many internship opportunities using online job sites.

Availability of internships

From the companies' perspective, more than four out of five (86.9 percent) respondents claimed that their companies "always have interns", this was followed by a small number (5.4 percent) who said they do have interns but "not always", 3.3 percent said they don't have interns but are "planning to start", and only 4.4 percent said they are "not interested" in having interns.

Nearly eight out of 10 respondents surveyed (78.1 percent) said that there are "enough internship opportunities available" in the Middle East region. Only 21.9 percent of respondents disagree with this statement. In fact, more than seven out of ten respondents (73.1 percent) found an internship in their country of residence "easily" as students, compared 26.9 percent who felt that it was difficult to find an internship.

There is always room for improvement, nonetheless. Almost all (98.8 percent) of those surveyed believe companies should work with universities to create more internship programs, compared to just 1.2 percent who disagreed.

Governments seem to have a big role as well. 97.4 percent of those surveyed agreed that local governments should encourage and support developing internship programs, compared to just 2.6 percent that disagreed.

The value of internships

The majority (88.2 percent) of respondents in the region believe that interns are "very useful" to their businesses. 9.2 percent of respondents believe that interns are "somewhat useful" and only 2.6 percent said that interns are "not useful."

Those surveyed said there were several benefits for having an intern. More than seven out of ten respondents (73.6 percent) stated that internships allow them to identify talent for future positions. Other benefits that were discussed include the ability to "quickly fill temporary and seasonal positions" and "providing extra help for small teams or departments."

Job Seekers' views on internships

More than seven out of ten (71.5 percent) respondents said that, while at university, it was required for them to complete an internship or any type of practical training. At the same time, respondents understand the value of internships for the intern. 56.2 percent of respondents said it helps them "gain hands-on work experience", 4.6 percent said it helps them "develop new skills and knowledge", 4.2 percent said it helps them "explore their field of interest and career potential", "1.4 percent said it helps them "network and build professional connections", and more than a third (33.6 percent) said it provides all of these benefits.

On top of that, more than three quarters of respondents (76.2 percent) agree that internships "increase the job candidate's chances of getting hired." When it comes to what makes an internship more attractive, nearly two thirds of respondents (65.2 percent) said that the "type of company / field of work" was the main factor, 29.4 percent said that it depends on the "type of projects and job responsibilities", and 2.6 percent said that it depends on the "ability to obtain university credit."

Only, 2.8 percent said that compensation was the most attractive factor for an internship. In fact, 79.3 percent of those surveyed said that they are willing to complete an unpaid internship, compared to only 20.7 percent who disagreed.

"Young talent and fresh graduates looking to secure their first role should take advantage of the many internships, entry level jobs, as well as the job search tools and information available on Bayt.com," said Suhail Masri, Vice President of Employer Solutions, Bayt.com. "Internships are a great asset for those trying to start and grow in their career and should be a priority when it comes to gaining experience and standing out in the competitive job market. Today, and on any given day, over 10,000 jobs are available on our job site, nearly 5,000 of which are suitable for young job seekers and fresh graduates. We are also launching a new job section of Bayt.com that is fully dedicated for students and fresh graduates to help them get an early start on their career planning and job hunting."

Data for the 2017 Bayt.com 'Internships in the Middle East and North Africa' poll was collected online from May 24th, 2017 to July 30th, 2017. Results are based on a sample of 9,250 respondents. Countries that participated are the UAE, KSA, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain, Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Yemen, Iraq and others.

