



## **MECC Update: June 2014**

### **SAVE THE DATES!**



### **MECC Technology Forum (MECC Tech)**

#### **November 19-20 - Istanbul, Turkey**

The MECC will host the MECC Tech Forum on November 19-20 in Istanbul, Turkey to bring together all of the key stakeholders needed to support an ICT startup ecosystem, including entrepreneurs, venture capital funds, limited partners, incubators, accelerators, angel investors, policy makers, regulators, academia, and legal and accounting firms. On this occasion, the MECC will launch a new association which will dramatically build capacity to drive the development of ICT innovation and business in the region. Some 150 collaborators from across the Middle East as well as the international technology community will be invited to participate in this new project.

*For more information about this forum, contact Josh Kram, Executive Director of the Middle East Commercial Center, U.S. Chamber of Commerce, at [jkram@uschamber.com](mailto:jkram@uschamber.com).*

### **MECC Task Force Update**

#### **MECC launches work on Middle East Trade Facilitation and Logistics Modernization Report**

MECC begins work on a Middle East Trade Facilitation and Logistics Modernization Report, in partnership with FedEx, DHL, UPS, the International Roadways Union, and other stakeholders. This report will assess major infrastructure needs, customs, and regulatory issues and identify targeted solutions to improve the movement of goods throughout the region. This report will outline and advance solutions to the long-standing challenges of high costs of trade, lack of infrastructure, regulatory, procedural, and customs barriers that are major impediments to intra-regional economic trade. Click [here](#) to read a description of this report. To get involved with this task force and the report, contact Susan Zimmerman, Assistant for the Middle East Commercial Center, U.S. Chamber of Commerce, at [szimmerman@uschamber.com](mailto:szimmerman@uschamber.com).

## **New Women in Business Task Force is Created**

A newly-established MECC Women in Business Task Force has begun its work of advancing stronger women representation on boards of organizations in the Middle East by promoting women in leadership roles, educating the business community on the benefits of board diversity, create a policy-level dialogue to create gender parity on corporate boards. This task force is establishing its leadership team, mapping out partnerships, and beginning to develop a work plan. Click [here](#) to read the concept paper on the Women in Business Taskforce. To get involved, contact Dina Nawar, Director of Planning and Communications, American Chamber of Commerce in Egypt, at [dnawar@amcham.org.eg](mailto:dnawar@amcham.org.eg).



Chairs of MECC's Entrepreneurship Task Force present their ideas for the New Middle East Venture Association at the Doha Forum in May 2014

## **Get Involved**

**Join a Task Force.** MECC's task forces consist of business leaders from across the Middle East working together on a common agenda. [Click here](#) to learn more about their work and sign-up to participate in their efforts.

**Refer a Colleague.** If there are other people in your networks that should know about the work of MECC and can contribute to our common agenda, please forward this email to them and encourage them to connect with our team.

## **About the Middle East Commercial Center**

The MECC is a private-sector led alliance of business leaders across the region that are working together to promote greater intra-regional trade and investment and collectively address the most critical economic challenges and opportunities of our day. For more information, contact:

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