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Oasis500 6th Angel Network Event and Global Thinkers Forum 2012 Celebrate Entrepreneurship and Excellence

Amman, October 2012 - **Oasis500**, the MENA region's premier early stage and seed investment company, hosted its 6th Angel Network Event together with Global Thinkers Forum 2012 (GTF 2012), in an evening aimed at celebrating excellence.

Taking place at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Amman, the **Oasis500's** 6th Angel Network Event's activities were attended by H.R.H. Princess Sumaya Bint El-Hassan, H.R.H Princess Rym El Ali, as well as Dr. Usama Fayyad, Executive Chairman of Oasis500 and former Executive Vice President and Chief Data Officer of Yahoo! Inc. and Elizabeth Filippouli, Founder and Director of GTF 2012, who celebrated leaders, entrepreneurs and luminaries. The Event was also attended by the Minister of ICT, H.E. Eng. Atef Al Tell; the Minister of Education, H.E. Fayez Al Saudi; US Ambassador to Jordan, H.E. Stuart E. Jones; British Ambassador to Jordan, H.E. Peter Millett; Kuwaiti Ambassador to Jordan, H.E. Dr. Hamad Saleh Dueij; and Pakistani Ambassador to Jordan, H.E. Attiya Mahmoud.

Also present at the 6th Angel Network Event were a group of local, regional and international investors, **Oasis500** partners and mentors, in addition to a number of media representatives. Since 2010, **Oasis500's** Angel Network Events have become a leading platform for start-ups to share their projects and pitch for investment opportunities.

The 6th Event showcased the presentations of three fast-growth and investment-ready entrepreneurial start-ups within the Information and Communications Technology (ICT), digital media and mobile technologies sectors across Jordan.

The start-ups pitching their ideas included *Feesheh.com*, the first online music store in the Middle East offering enthusiasts a wide range of music instruments at competitive prices; *Abjjad.com*, a social network for book enthusiasts that allows avid readers to create reading lists and share book reviews and recommendations with friends; and *Ekeif*, an online platform for free short how-to videos in Arabic.

"We are excited to have co-hosted the GTF 2012 Awards Ceremony with our 6th Angel Network Event, as it offers additional value to attending entrepreneurs and investors. Our Angel

Network Events have consistently proven to be crucial in helping entrepreneurs from across the region overcome challenges related to securing capital and expanding their businesses. We are proud of the quality of showcased start-ups and remain dedicated to extending our support by offering the advice and guidance they need” commented Dr. Fayyad.

In turn, Elizabeth Filippouli, Founder and CEO of Global Thinkers Forum, said, “It was a very special evening that saluted excellence, progress and leadership in the faces of some absolutely marvelous pioneers, trailblazers and thought leaders. We are honored that Her Majesty Queen Rania Al Abdullah and H.R.H. Princess Rym embraced the GTF Awards for Excellence along with other leading ladies such as Arianna Huffington, Zaha Hadid, Deema Bibi and Dr. Hayat Sindi. The GTF vision and mission is to promote productive initiatives, and empower and create a new ecosystem for Excellence in Leadership.’

The GTF 2012 Awards Ceremony’s honorees were nominated by the GTF Board of Advisors who select leaders with a proven track record of excellence in life, ethical thinking and actions. Honorees included: Her Majesty Queen Rania Al Abdullah of Jordan for Excellence in Global Thinking; Arianna Huffington, President and Editor-In-Chief of AOL Huffington Post Media Group, for Excellence in Life; Ms Margery Kraus, CEO of APCO Worldwide, for Excellence in Leadership; Mrs Marianna Vardinoyannis, UNESCO Good Will Ambassador, for Excellence in Philanthropy; and HRH Princess Rym of Jordan, Founder of Jordan Media Institute, for Excellence in Media. The list also comprised: Dr. Hayat Sindi, Founder and President of i2Institute, for Excellence in Science; Deema Bibi, CEO of INJAZ, for Excellence in Positive Change; Sonja Lokar, President of European Women’s Lobby at the European Union, for Excellence in Gender Equality; Khalid Alkhudair, CEO of Glowork.net, for Excellence in Entrepreneurship; Nabila Ramdani, Journalist, for Excellence in Innovation; Zaha Hadid, for Excellence in Pioneering; and Dalia Mogahed, Executive Director and Senior Analyst of Gallup Center for Muslim Studies, for Excellence in Cultural Understanding.

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Oasis500 is the first development and investment company of its kind in the MENA region. It aims to support entrepreneurs by providing them with funding and training in an effort to accelerate the transformation of business ideas into start-up companies in the ICT, digital media, and mobile technologies and content sectors. **Oasis500** aims to facilitate the launch of 500 start-up companies within the next five years, which will create an incentive for aspiring entrepreneurs and generate job opportunities within the world’s fastest growing sectors. Since commencing its operations in September 2010, **Oasis500** has successfully secured investments for 55 technology companies, in addition to a number of other investments that were unmatched by any investment fund in the region.

Global Thinkers Forum (GTF) is a non-profit initiative and a platform to create dialogue and bring current and future leaders together to discuss governance, society, progress and the future. GTF has been created to reposition perceptions about governance through a global perspective. GTF 2012 was held in Amman, Jordan, (October 7/8) and focused on the role of the modern MENA woman, in the region and globally. This is a turning point for MENA and many preconceived ideas are changing across Politics, Governance, Business and Society. GTF

promotes the extensive participation of women as a necessary imperative for our world and the creation of just societies. GTF encourages the participation of young people and welcomes students for free.

Global Thinkers Forum was founded by CEO Elizabeth Filippouli, a Strategy and Development expert and former journalist with CNN International and Al Jazeera English. Elizabeth was educated at the Universities of Athens, London City, Harvard and Oxford.

www.globalthinkersforum.org

This press release has been distributed by Bidaya Corporate Communications on behalf of Oasis500 and Global Thinkers Forum.

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