

Global Action Institute: Arab and American Dialogue

An initiative towards bridging the divide

– In partnership with and support through The Dow
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Moderated by:

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This session aims to build knowledge and recommendation on strategically-critical issues related to the vision and mission of the Young Arab Leaders towards the establishment of the Global Action Institute (GAI) in the US.

Building on the momentum created by the last Global Action Forum: Arab and American Dialogue in New York in 2006, GAI aims to promote mutual understanding and cooperation between the two regions through initiatives to:

- a. Support a generation of young leaders who share strong connections between the Arab world and the U.S.

- b. Encourage and celebrate entrepreneurial ideas and creativity in the Arab world today.
- c. Make available to young Arabs and Americans innovative education and training opportunities that promotes Arab-American understanding and exchange.

The newly formed entity will be a catalyst—for visibility; issues-specific and action-based initiatives; and platform of dialogue. It will also be a vehicle to limit liability and to be capable of accepting tax deductible charitable contributions from individuals, corporations, government sources, and foundations as an U.S.-registered not-for-profit organization.

A review of organizations currently operating in the U.S. with mandates and activities that are similar or related to that of the Global Action Institute (GAI) reveals several key areas in which GAI has the potential to fill gaps and to play a leading role through its initiatives in leadership, entrepreneurship, and education. It also highlights a number of potential synergies,

linkages, and networking opportunities for GAI, as well as several successful models of relevant programs and activities. These include:

- a. Partnership and collaboration with non-profit organizations that are focused on high-level leadership development and dialogue, in order to develop projects focused particularly on Arab-U.S. dialogue.
- b. Promotion of Arab-U.S. dialogue focused on strictly non-political issues, which distinguishes it from the occasionally political nature of many existing organizations' programs.
- c. Support for two-way education and knowledge exchange, from the U.S. to the Arab world and from the Arab world to the U.S.
- d. Support for joint and integrated programs for Arabs and Americans in the areas of leadership, entrepreneurship, and education that support the organic development of Arab-American networks in the course of joint action, work, and study.

The main objectives of GAI are to develop and support sustainable initiatives in the areas of leadership, entrepreneurship, and education, as outlined below:

- e. Leadership Initiative aims to position GAI as a catalyst to foster a generation of young Arab leaders. GAI is committed to promote dynamic platforms of dialogue through seminars, policy programs, conferences, and leadership

development initiatives with international nonprofit organization dedicated to fostering enlightened leadership and open-minded dialogue.

- f. Entrepreneurship Initiative aims to position GAI as a catalyst to build an international dynamic "market-place" where Arab and U.S. stakeholders bring innovative ideas into financially viable ventures. GAI is positioned to facilitate in working with leading U.S. institutions (e.g., International Council for Small Business, MIT Enterprise Forum, Harvard University, etc.) to stimulate entrepreneurship in the Arab world.
- g. Education Initiative aims to position GAI as a catalyst to educate Americans about the Arab world and Arabs about the U.S. by promoting sharing and cross-pollination of knowledge in various fields including economics, management, medicine, history, cultural studies, language, and the arts. GAI targets collaboration with U.S. institutions with an interest in continuing education and training to bridge gaps between to cultures.

The governance of GAI is mandated by the Board of Directors which will be responsible for the overall strategic direction of GAI, the ratification of all programs, and the appointment of the Audit Committee, which will be responsible for the auditing of GAI accounts. Executive Board will be appointed by the Board of Directors and will be responsible for the day-to-day management of GAI.