

# **YEP Wednesday Event**

## **Event: Closing Ceremony 2009**

*Celebrating the Successful Completion of the 2009 Wednesday Events*

### **Activity Report**

December 2009

#### **1. Scope of evaluation report**

1.1. This Report is the 13th due under the contract between the Friedrich Naumann Stiftung (FNF) and the Young Entrepreneurs of Palestine (YEP) of September 2007. It covers the closing ceremony held with FNF and YEP.

1.2. The YEP is contracted to create public awareness about entrepreneurial businesses in Palestine through conducting a number of workshops. The ultimate goal is to provide young Palestinian people (women and men) with the opportunity to learn about the business culture and business opportunities as well as to make them more familiar with the behavioural competencies of successful entrepreneurs, strengthen and enhance those behaviours in their own businesses.

#### **2. Background**

2.1. The Closing Ceremony is a celebration of a year of successful collaboration between FNF and YEP and the completion of the Wednesday Event Workshop Series, implemented by YEP with the generous support of FNF.

2.2. The Wednesday Event is an way to provide support for young entrepreneurs in Palestine and assist them in overcoming the difficulties they meet to establish their businesses and compete in the market. Because young entrepreneurs often are inexperienced and lack appropriate skills, YEP has designed the Wednesday Event to train them, provide them with the tools they need to move forward with their business ideas, and instil confidence in their abilities and a belief in their future. The Wednesday Event is also a forum for policy input through engaging Palestine's business community in a constructive dialogue with policy makers.

2.3. The following is a comprehensive list of the Wednesday Events held during 2009:

Date	Seminar / workshop
19.03.2009	1 <sup>st</sup> entrepreneurship seminar "Promoting entrepreneurship and access Micro-Finance" - Birzeit University
29.04.2009	2 <sup>nd</sup> entrepreneurship seminar "Promoting entrepreneurship and access Micro-Finance" – Hisham Hijjawi College, Nablus
24.05.2009	3 <sup>rd</sup> entrepreneurship seminar "Entrepreneurship Seminar"- Ramallah men's Training center, Ramallah
02.06.2009	4th entrepreneurship seminar "Win-Win solutions"– Avenue, Ramallah
18.06.2009	5 <sup>th</sup> entrepreneurship seminar " B-to-B Cooperation between Palestine and the Netherlands" – YEP, Ramallah <i>Financial report still not sent</i>
02.07.2009	6th entrepreneurship seminar "start-up business lecture" – Jabal al Narr, Nablus <i>Finances until here</i>
05.08.2009	7th entrepreneurship seminar " Planning a Successful conference" YEP, Ramallah
02.09.2009	8th entrepreneurship seminar " start-up new business" – Al-Najah University in Nablus
05.10.2009	9 <sup>th</sup> entrepreneurship seminar "The Economic Relationship between Palestine and the UK" Darna, Ramallah
17.11.2009	10 <sup>th</sup> entrepreneurship seminar "From School to Business" The Union of Social Workers Hall, Nablus
02.12.2009	11 <sup>th</sup> entrepreneurship seminar "From School to Business" - Bet El Roush, Hebron
03.12.2009	12 <sup>th</sup> entrepreneurship seminar " 3 Entrepreneurship researches" – Best Eastern, Ramallah
09.12.2009	Final Ceremony – Vatche, Ramallah

### 3. The event's content and outcomes

3.1. The Closing Ceremony was held at the Vatche Restaurant in Ramallah in the presence of more than 50 guests.

3.2. The Closing Ceremony was opened by YEP Chairman Mr. Hazem Kawasmi who extended his warmest gratitude to the the Naumann Foundation for

being there when YEP started out as a small baby, for being there when YEP took its first steps, and for continuing to be there now that YEP walks on two legs, faster and faster. He said that it is their generous support that has made the Wednesday Event an unbroken success since it first started in 2005. Mr. Kawasmi also stressed the important role young entrepreneurs play for the economic development of Palestine, and said that with the Wednesday Workshop Events, he wants to see every single fresh graduate in the West Bank take their future in their own hands and start their own business and become successful entrepreneurs.

- 3.3. Dr. Hans-Georg Fleck, in his turn, thanked YEP for their long and valued cooperation with the Naumann Foundation. He said that YEP is an important partner that helps fulfill their objective to spread liberal values and ideas throughout the world. Dr. Flick went on to defend Liberalism with a capital L as the only way to achieve a healthy, prosperous democratic society, with a strong market economy. YEP contributes to this with the work they do to train and promote young entrepreneurs in Palestine, and he said he hoped that YEP and the Naumann Foundation would continue to work together in the future. He mentioned several events that he hoped YEP would participate in in the coming year.
- 3.4. Ms. Rebeccah Kaufmann, program development officer of YEP, held a brief presentation that introduced YEP and the workshops that YEP held in 2009. She called the Wednesday Event one of the most interesting projects YEP has, and said it contributes to fulfilling YEP's goal to strengthen the position of young entrepreneurs in Palestine. She added that even though YEP has achieved much together with the Naumann Foundation, there is still much to be done and expressed hopes that 2010 will see continued cooperation between YEP and the Naumann Foundation to further empower Palestinian entrepreneurs in their business endeavors.
- 3.5. As a token of YEP's appreciation, Arwa AbdelRahman, the director of YEP, presented Dr. Hans-Georg Fleck, Suleiman Abu Dayyeh and Rana Alami with a commemorative plaque each.
- 3.6. After the three speeches and the presentation, the guests of the event were invited to a light lunch buffet and then a big cake was brought in.