

PRESS RELEASE

Jordan gives a greenlight to girls in science with the support of HRH Princess Sumaya Bint El Hassan

Amman, 13 September 2014: With the support of HRH Princess Sumaya Bint El Hassan, the Jordan Education Initiative, Cisco Systems and other key sponsors, 130 girls from local schools in Amman, Jordan participated in a full day dedicated to learning science, engineering, technology and math with the objective of inspiring the future studies and careers of these young women. Greenlight for girls (g4g), an international non-profit, has held its very first event in the Middle East on 13 September 2014, hosted at the Amman Baccalaureate School in Amman. A dedicated g4g Jordan project team, 60 volunteers and 10 sponsor organisations have helped to bring this event to life. In the speech of HRH Princess Sumaya, delivered by Dr. Wejdan Abu-Elhajja, Dean of King Abdullah II Faculty of Engineering at Princess Sumaya University for Technology, she exclaimed, "What a great occasion this is for empowerment and inspiration of our wonderfully talented and imaginative young girls. I feel honoured to be a part of his marvellous event."

The idea to create this greenlight for girls' day in Amman began with g4g project manager, Aurelia Takacs, who works for Cisco Systems Technical Services organization. "Having the opportunity to work with people here in Jordan in the technical field, specifically engineering, and seeing both the positive increase in the hiring of females in these engineering roles, while at the same time hearing of ongoing challenges and pushback these women get from family, friends, and colleagues of having taken on a very "male-oriented" educational and career path, inspired me to propose to launch our first-ever Greenlight for Girls Day event not only in Amman, Jordan, but the first-ever in the Middle East region. I have always been welcomed with open arms when I travel and work in Jordan, and I wanted to give something back to their amazing community and, hopefully, inspire and encourage the girls there to consider STEM-related fields of study in the future, and to show them what amazing and fun opportunities may come their way when they do."

The goal of this greenlight for girls event was to make a difference for the girls in Jordan and to see the sparkle in their eyes when they'll be meeting other girls their age from different schools, while working and playing "hands-on" in the workshops, while listening to female role models speaking about their experiences and success in different STEM-related fields. Based on the feedback of these 130 girls, this mission was more than accomplished. Getting so many local and global sponsors in Jordan to be part of this exciting event, to work in partnership to make the g4g day event happen, also demonstrates the success of this initiative and all organisations look forward to making this a recurring event.

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greenlight for girls, asbl
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"The story of greenlight for girls began a little more than three years ago," explains Melissa Rancourt, g4g Founder and Chairman. "Our very first event brought 200 girls from all over Brussels and nearby cities came together to have a fun-filled day of science workshops. The success of the day gave us the confidence to create our events world-wide and each opportunity continues to reach more and more children globally. Now, three years in, we operate on 5 continents and have reached more than 8000 students and engaged more than 800 volunteers. Today's event in Jordan marks our launch in the Middle East region. The young women we have met today are simply amazing. They are an important part of the future of this region and an incredible addition to our growing greenlight girls' network."

About our g4g Jordan Team and Sponsors

The g4g Jordan project team was composed of 3 other project coordinators working with Ms. Aurelia Takacs on the full event planning: Ms. Rana Itani, Project Manager at Estarta Solutions, Mrs. Wasan Talhouni, SRA Manager at Estarta Solutions, and Mrs. Ro'ya Hatamleh, Team Leader Engineer at Estarta Solutions. The Jordan Education Initiative (JEI) was a key partner for the event, assisting with the approvals from the Ministry of Education, gathering the participant schools, and working with their partners groups for Workshop Leaders for the day. Key sponsors for the event include: Cisco Systems, estarta solutions, Jordan Hospital, Amman Bacallaureate School, Al-Dur Al-Manthour Schools, Maysalward, The Alchemist Lab, Orange and The King Abdullah II Fund for Development.

For press inquiries for the sponsors and the g4g Jordan event, please contact the g4g Jordan project manager, Ms. Aurelia Takacs, autakacs@cisco.com.

About greenlight for girls

Greenlight for girls, asbl is an international organisation dedicated to inspire girls of all ages and backgrounds to pursue STEM subjects by introducing them to the world of science in fun and exciting ways. Headquartered in Brussels, Belgium, the organisation has grown immensely since its inception in 2010 now covering 5 continents, more than 800 volunteers and touching the lives of more than 8000 girls. The greenlight for girls Board of Directors is a dedicated group of science and technology professionals, gender equality experts and international educators, located in Europe, North America, India and Africa. Greenlight for Girls partners are individuals and organisations who share a common vision to make a positive difference in our children's and our society's future.

For press inquiries, please contact the g4g Founder and Chairman, Melissa Rancourt, melissa@greenlightforgirls.org.